Service Excellence Award Committee Report
NASSS 2018

Committee members: Theresa Walton-Fisette (Chair), Seongsik Cho, Marques Dexter, Victoria Paraschak, Amanda Paule-Koba and John Singer

Award Criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Service to NASSS as an organization
- Scholarly impact on the field through the discipline of the sociology of sport

Process:

Nomination letters were accepted via email. Four nominees were submitted. The committee carefully reviewed the letters and the stated accomplishments of the nominees. The members then ranked the nominees and provided a rationale for the ranking.

Selection:

The Committee agreed on the winner after sharing of ranking and rationales. All four nominees were exceptional and accomplished. There were several qualities that set the winner, Dr. Mary McDonald, apart.

First, Dr. McDonald has demonstrated a tremendous impact on NASSS and the field of sport sociology. As one committee member noted, "The four nominees have shown their excellence regarding services and academics, but I considered the relatively strong contributions to NASSS and our sport sociology communities [of Mary McDonald]." Another wrote, "as articulated by the nomination letter, the impact Dr. McDonald has had on not only NASSS, but the profession as a whole from her leadership, development and progression of the organization, coupled with the international impact/reach of her scholarship cannot be denied. She exemplifies service and mentorship as a form of true leadership."

Related to that, some of the biggest contributions have been in the areas of diversity, inclusion and mentorship. As noted, "Dr. McDonald is a former NASSS President and has held multiple roles on the executive board. She has strong mentorship of many current NASSS scholars. Dr. McDonald has worked hard to make NASSS more diverse and inclusive. The conversation she started in 2004 is still ongoing and she has made it a priority to make the organization welcoming to all individuals."

Another member of the committee argued, "All of these candidates are worthy in their own right, but I lean toward **Mary McDonald** for the following reasons:

1. Her selfless service to NASSS and noteworthy 'presence' over decades now
2. Her scholarly acumen and the impact her work has had in sociology of sport and beyond
3. Her effective mentorship of students over the years

4. My familiarity with her work.

While I think all the candidate have done great work, it is Mary's work which stands out most to me."

Lastly, another committee member summed up the difficulty in making the selection and why Dr. McDonald rose to the top of the nominees: "In terms of the nominees for the Service Excellence Award, first I'd like to comment on how outstanding each one is – I think they all bring amazing skills to Sport Sociology, and are outstanding role models of possibility. I would be fine if we gave out four awards this year. In terms of trying to rank order the four individuals, I feel it depends on which qualities of NASSS we most want to exemplify through this award. I do believe that we speak to our values through those we recognize for this award. I am thus going to suggest that my priorities for the ranking are based on features in the nominations that distinguished the various individuals. I would say that all equally excel in their scholarly impact and global reach. I feel Mary McDonald is outstanding in the 'service to NASSS' category of my ranking (I gave from 1-3 for each category, and she was the only one I gave a 3). Given that all of them are outstanding scholars, I am thus suggesting that in this case, her outstanding contribution to NASSS specifically sets her above the others."