

JOHN A. SPARKS

Address: 1824 Woodward Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 (616) 914 6452 e-mail: jas59@calvin.edu

MISSION STATEMENT:

To teach human motion and wellness accurately and enthusiastically, exciting and motivating students to explore the realities and potentials of the human body, equipping them to serve in the greater community.

EDUCATION:

Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA

M.S. in Exercise Science; May, 2000

Thesis: EMG Analysis of Back Muscles During Variations of the Chin-up

Grove City College, Grove City, PA

B.A. in Literature and Religion; May, 1995

GPA 3.81/4.00 Magna Cum Laude; Highest Honors in Literature and Religion

Omicron Delta Kappa Senior Man of the Year - the highest honor a graduating senior is awarded by the College.

National Strength and Conditioning Association,

Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist; September, 2005-Present

Functional Movement Screen,

Certified January 2015-Present

COLLEGIATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

*Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
Aug.2007-Present*

- Have currently taught 18 different course offerings in the past 8 years
- Developed new curriculum for, and taught KIN 214 “Applied Kinesiology”, as well as KIN 241 “Muscular Assessment and Leadership” (both new to Exercise Science Major in Fall of 2011)
- ***Courses taught in core PE:***
 - PE 101 Jogging
 - PE 103 Road Cycling
 - PE 106 Aerobic Cross Training
 - PE 107 Weight Training
 - PE 108 Aquatic Fitness
 - PE 112 Special Topics (Spinning)
 - PE 124 Swim I
 - PE 132 Golf I
 - PE 133 Golf II
 - PE 137 Bowling
 - PE 135 Volleyball I
 - PE 173 Basketball
 - PE 177 Slow Pitch Softball
 - PE 186 Gymnastics

- ***Courses taught in major:***
 KIN 212 Anatomical Kinesiology
 KIN 214 Applied Kinesiology
 KIN 240 Aerobic Assessment, Prescription, and Leadership
 KIN 241 Muscular Assessment, Prescription, and Leadership

Advisor for Exercise Science Majors (Spring 2010-Present)

- Currently advising 30-40 Exercise Science Majors per semester.

Assistant Professor of Physical Education, Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS

Aug. 2001-2007

- Responsible for helping shape “Wellness Concepts” course, vital to Tabor’s Physical Education Core Curriculum.
- ***Courses taught:***
 PE 339 Coaching Baseball and Softball
 PE 216 Personal and Community Health
 PE 245 Nutrition for Performance
 PE 100 Wellness Concepts
 PE 112 Tennis and Badminton
 PE 113 Tumbling
 PE 115 Rhythmic Movements
 PE 118 Physical Conditioning

COACHING EXPERIENCE:

***Head Varsity Baseball Coach Calvin College (NCAA D3) Grand Rapids, MI
 2007-2014***

- 152-133 Record (115-81 MIAA), 2008 MIAA Champions, NCAA D3 Regional Qualifier, 2009 Runner-up.
- 29 players named to “All MIAA” 1st team or 2nd team.
- Initiated “leadership team”; a group of 6-8 players who meet weekly and are mentored in leadership models and tactics.
- Originated weekly recess/mentoring partnership at Congress Elementary School, enabling team members to participate in over 200 service learning hours the past 2 years.
- Primary recruiter, proactively building relationships with high school players, resulting in 15-20 new student athletes the past three seasons.
- Developed annual High School Skills camp, drawing 25-35 potential baseball recruits to campus each November.
- Raised an additional \$3,000-\$4,000 for baseball 21 account the past 2 seasons through camps and fund raisers.

***Head Varsity Baseball Coach (NAIA), Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS
Aug. 2001-2007***

- Achieved most wins in 10 years while setting many single season team records including hits, runs, and RBI's. In doing so earned the 2005 KCAC "Coaches Coach of the Year Award."
- Coached and developed two 2006 NAIA All Americans.
- Primary recruiter, consistently delivering large recruiting classes of between 8 and 12 per year.
- Primary fundraiser, raising \$6,000-\$12,000 per year for the baseball program.
- Displayed responsible oversight and control at fall and winter athletic events as game day site supervisor.

***Head Varsity Baseball Coach, Brookfield High School
Dec. 2000 - May 2001***

- Demonstrated the ability to oversee, organize and run a successful Varsity and J.V. baseball program including efficient practices, budgetary concerns, additional staff and field management.

***Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, Grove City College
January 1997 – 2000***

- Achieved first winning season in seven years (1999) and school record for most wins in a season (24).
- Coached an infield that led the conference in defense two years in a row (1998, 1999).
- Coached third base, which included making all offensive calls, resulting in one of the highest team stolen base percentages in the nation.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

***Clinical Manager – Special Needs Unit George Junior Republic, Grove City, PA
Nov. 2000 - July 2001***

- Displayed compassionate leadership and mentoring skills while redirecting the lives of ten deprived, dependent or adjudicated youths entrusted to my care.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate long-term vision, helping individuals in the unit become successful, well adjusted adults capable of a higher degree of citizenship and a better understanding of their responsibility to society, family and themselves.

***Head Resident, Department of Student Affairs, Grove City College, Grove City, PA
1996 – 1999***

- Oversaw 220-person male residence hall, producing a healthy environment of respectful friendship among students.

- Oversaw and evaluated six resident directors, instilling a commitment to loyal service as they governed their halls.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/ACTIVITIES:

Calvin College:

- Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (NSCA, re-certified summer 2011)
- Director of High School Skills Fall Baseball Camp (2008-present)
- Primary Instructor at “West MI Baseball Showcase” (2009-present)
- Primary Instructor in Grand Valley State Fall and Winter Skills Camp (2010-present)
- Summer Camp Committee (2007-present)
- American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) National Convention 2009, 2012
- Wellness Committee (2007-2009)
- Curriculum Committee (2008-2009)
- Enrollment Management Committee (2009)
- Director of Summer Baseball Camp (2008-2009)
- Chair MIAA Baseball Player of the Week Committee (2011)
- MIAA Player of the Week Committee (2009-2011)

Tabor College:

- Dean of Students Search Committee (2004)
- AQUIP Initiative committee (2005)
- Began “Adopt a Grandparent” program (2003-2004)
- ABCA National Convention (2003, 2005)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

- American Baseball Coaches Association (2002-2014)
- National Strength and Conditioning Association (2011-Present)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- Member of 5th Reformed Church
- Weekly Tutor for “Kid’s Hope USA” at Congress Elementary School” (2009-2014)

