



www.freestyledisc.org
info@freestyledisc.org

December 26, 2015

Aloha FPA members,

As we celebrate the holidays, recognizing the far reaches of our freestyle family as well as the end of the year, I wanted to share some thoughts as the Executive Director for the Freestyle Players Association, especially since my second term is over as of the end of 2015.

First, I want to thank all of you for supporting the FPA as we've gone through many changes since I began as a board member and Executive Director in January 2010.

Some of the projects/activities that the FPA has either started or continued since 2010:

- The initiation of the Spread the Jam grants, which has supported several US, South American and European educational clinics; as well as the highly enjoyable Spread the Jam videos by James Wiseman and Ryan Young.
- We've also started a new Facebook page and launched the new FPA website from start to finish. By the way, there's no shortage of opportunities for people to volunteer to assist us in continuing to keep freestyledisc.org a dynamic and primary source of information about freestyle disc.
- The FPA judging system has also been updated and fine-tuned so we now have a viable judging system that reflects our sport more accurately.
- There's been the creation of two incredibly helpful electronic systems – a seeding/tabulation counting system by Florian Hess and an inputting/tabulation system by Ryan Young; both methods are proving to be valuable tools for tournament directors to use for different freestyle tournaments.
- Several of the major tournaments sponsored by the FPA have also been live streamed over the past 5 years, due to the efforts of Jake Gauthier and Chris Bellaj. This team of live streamers, affectionately known as the Stream Team, have allowed all of us who are unable to attend tournaments to still enjoy the event and cheer for those who are competing. I can't say enough about what a great thing it is to be able to "tune in" to an event that's six times zones away!
- For those of you who participated in this year's FPA elections, you know that we have switched our election process to online voting which appears to have been quite successful and likely to continue.
- The FPA also reconnected as an active member of the World Flying Disc Federation, (WFDF) which opens the door for freestyle to be part of more international sporting events over the next several years; a prospect further boosted by WFDF recently being formally recognized by the International Olympic Committee.
- FPA Board members (Daniels, Sanchez) participated in the first Disc Summit in 2011 at Ft. Collins, CO, which brought together representatives of all disc disciplines to collaborate more proactively with our respective activities. Since then, disc golf, overall and ultimate have all been part of us working more closely together and publicizing our major freestyle events and our live-stream.

- We've also expanded our FPA-sanctioned tournaments to include the newly initiated American Freestyle Open, as well as expanded the competitor eligibility for the European Freestyle Open. This will allow for all freestylers eligibility to compete in different continents and further the growth of freestyle in different communities.
- The locations of the past several FPA World Championships also demonstrates the continued worldwide expansion of freestyle, since the most recent FPA Worlds have been located in Germany (Karlsruhe), Czech Republic (Prague), Italy (Riccione), West Coast USA (Santa Cruz CA, Seattle WA), and South America (Medellin Colombia).
 - We also look forward to this trend of international FPAWs with the next two located in East Coast USA (New York City, 2016) and Italy (Bibbione). This is truly amazing!

These are just a few of the highlights from the past 6 years working with the FPA Board of Directors. And it goes without saying that all of these efforts have been volunteer-only and I have a great deal of gratitude toward everyone who has served in some capacity on the FPA Board of Directors since 2010; without their commitments of time and energy, none of our accomplishments over these past six years would have happened. We've worked hard together and I can't thank these folks enough. It's no wonder that two very capable individuals stepped up to run for the Executive Directorship, both of who know this role well, have a true passion for jamming and are visionaries.

As we enter into 2016, I encourage everyone to support Paul Kenny as he transitions into his role as the next Executive Director (which is not the always-glamorous job that some may imagine it is). And with your support and continued membership with the FPA, we can maximize his efforts, those of the FPA Board, and Your (FPA Member) success toward the organization's mission to expand Freestyle Disc through education and competition worldwide.

Thank you to all the Jammers who have shown me in the past six years how much you care about freestyle, supported me within my job as Exec Director, and understood the efforts of our organization. Thank you also to those who've approached me throughout the years with great ideas, shared your appreciation, or volunteered to contribute in some capacity to the growth of jamming or freestyle activities. I feel privileged to have been elected into this role and that so many of you trusted me to oversee the FPA in pursuit of our organizational goals. Truly, it has been my humble pleasure to serve as your FPA Executive Director for six years.

I look forward to seeing many of you again - somewhere in the world (yay!) - with a disc nearby, ready for some Zs!

Until then... May your new year be filled with friends, laughter, perfect wind, good music, and lots of Jamming!

Lori Daniels
FPA Executive Director (2010-2015)

