

Physics At Work

A. Dean Bell

Writer/Director; New York, NY

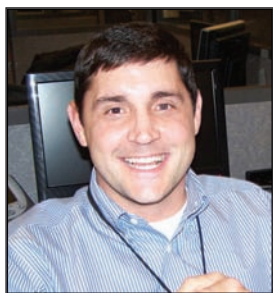
A. Dean Bell is an award-winning filmmaker, television writer, director, and producer. He wrote and directed the highly acclaimed show *SportsFigures* that aired on ESPN for 12 years.

SportsFigures is an educational television series designed to teach the principles of physics and mathematics through sports. Bell, having never even taken physics in high school while growing up in Rochester, New York, said he was not worried that he lacked a physics background when it came to writing and directing the show. “I was learning physics from the show’s advisors and I felt that my discovery process could be translated into the show,” he said.

SportsFigures won four Clarion Awards for best children’s television program, and a number of Parents’ Choice Awards. Bell knew that when *SportsFigures* was awarded these crowning achievements, his aim to combine education and entertainment had been achieved.

SportsFigures may have taped its last season, but it is still shown in reruns on *Cable In The Classroom*. “It is also used and available in school libraries across the country,” said Bell.

Bell is also an assistant professor at SUNY Purchase, New York, his alma mater, where he has been teaching directing and screenwriting since 1995. “I tell my college students that as writers, don’t hesitate to take that science course. You just might need to do something like write and direct a television series that teaches physics someday.”



Rick Angelo

Producer, ESPN; Fairfield, CT

Rick Angelo began his career in sports television in 1995. Today, Angelo produces games for all college sports for ESPN.

Angelo believes physics plays a phenomenal role in his job. “Everything with sports has something to do with physics,” he said. Producers use graphics and animation of the players to show a viewer the athleticism of the athlete. “We will use graphics to show the speed of a ball and what makes it the perfect pitch, to show the viewer what phenomenal athletes they are watching,” said Angelo. “Physics enhances our stories about the athletes.”

Sandra Giddins

Community Center Director and former Professional Athlete & Coach; Queens, NY

Sandra Giddins grew up in Yonkers, New York and started playing basketball at the age of nine. She played Division I basketball at Cheney University in Pennsylvania on a four-year scholarship. Her athletic career lasted less than two years after suffering a knee injury while playing in Brazil. “I went up for a rebound and came down and my whole knee just twisted,” recalled Giddins. Giddins stated that physics and athletics go hand-in-hand. For example, many female basketball players often injure their knees while jumping, due to their low center of gravity. To avert injury, female athletes need to pay attention to their body’s center of mass.

