

Greetings!

The Panhandle Tiger Bay Club welcomes Chris Nowinski, Leading Expert on Sports Injuries and Concussions as our August guest speaker. The meeting will be held at New World Landing on Friday, August 19th. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**Panhandle Tiger Bay Club
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September Annual Dinner Meeting



August Meeting: Chris Nowinski, Leading Expert on Sports Injuries and Concussions



Chris Nowinski is co-founder and executive director of the Concussion Legacy Foundation (CLF), formerly Sports Legacy Institute (SLI), a non-profit organization dedicated to solving the sports concussion crisis. He serves as a co-director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University School of Medicine (BU CSTE). Mr. Nowinski also serves on the Ivy League Multi-Sports Concussion Committee, the National Football League Players Association Mackey/White TBI Research Committee and on the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of America. He was named an Eisenhower Fellow in 2011, and is a Ph.D. candidate in behavioral

**We are proud to
announce that
Juan Williams of Fox
News
will be our featured
Annual Dinner Speaker
on
September 16, 2016.***

**We will provide additional
event information and
sponsorship opportunities
as it becomes available.*



Panhandle Tiger Bay Club gives you what you can't get anywhere else! The quality speakers we have been bringing you cost the Club. We have established a Sponsorship Committee to find sponsors to help fund these esteemed guest speakers. If you are interested in your business being a sponsor, please contact Glenda Raines, Sponsorship Committee Chairman at 850-995-0769. We offer 4 sponsorship packages:

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neuroscience at BU School of Medicine.

A former Harvard football player and WWE professional wrestler, he was forced to retire after he suffered from a series of concussions in 2003. He debuted on WWE's flagship program Monday Night RAW in 2002, when he was named "Newcomer of the Year" by RAW Magazine, and was the youngest male Hardcore Champion in WWE history.

Diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome, Chris began a quest to better understand this condition. It wasn't until he visited the renowned neurosurgeon Robert Cantu that Chris was first exposed to medical research that revealed to him that concussions and brain trauma were misunderstood in the sports world. Chris realized that this lack of awareness among athletes coaches, and even medical professionals not only cost him his career, but also threatened the health and well-being of athletes of all ages. This led him to write the critically acclaimed book *Head Games: Football's Concussion Crisis*, published in 2006, in an effort to educate the world about this serious public health issue. The book was adapted for the 2012 documentary film, *Head Games*, directed by Steve James, and *Head Games* the book was updated and rereleased.

Through his continued advocacy and investigative work, Chris has raised this issue into the national consciousness. It began in November 2006, when Chris led the investigation that found 44-year-old former NFL star Andre Waters was suffering from Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease caused by trauma, when he committed suicide. Chris obtained permission from the Waters family to study Mr. Waters' brain tissue. The story ran on the front page of *The New York Times* in January 2007.

To continue this groundbreaking research, Chris co-founded SLI with Dr. Cantu, and partnered with BU to create the BU CSTE in 2008. As of 2012, the CSTE has studied the brains of over 140 athletes post-mortem and has redefined our understanding of CTE, proving the disease extends into college and youth football, hockey, and other sports. Nowinski is a co-author on over ten academic publications, including the seminal 2010 paper by Ann McKee et. al. establishing that CTE can contribute to motor neuron disease.

Chris and his team's research has been featured in such print outlets as *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, *Sports Illustrated*, *USA Today*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Time Magazine*, and *ESPN the Magazine*. He has been featured on *ESPN*, *ABC Nightline*, *CNN*, *Fox*, *NPR*, and more. His profile in May 2007 by HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* won the Emmy for Sports Journalism. A second HBO *Real*

media coverage prior to specific luncheon.

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Sports episode aired in January, 2010, a third in August, 2010 and a fourth in November, 2012. In 2012, Mr. Nowinski received the United States Sports Academy Distinguished Service Award and the Sport at its Best Award from Ralph Nader's League of Fans as a Player Safety Advocate, and was named with five other concussion experts by the Canada's Globe and Mail to the Power 50 list of people affecting Canadian sports, ranking number three. In 2011 Chris received the Presidential Medallion from Western New England College, the school's highest honor, in 2011, the Zach Lystedt Angel Award from Sarah Jane Brain Foundation in 2011, and was named by Hockey News as one of the 40 most powerful people in hockey under 40. In 2010 he was named a finalist by Sports Illustrated for Sportsman of the Year and received the Patrick Brady Award from the Brain Injury Association of Illinois. In 2008 he received the CoBI Award from the Council on Brain Injury and a PETA Compassionate Action Award for launching the BU CSTE brain donation program.

The increased awareness forced a radical change for how sports approaches brain trauma, from NFL, NHL, and NCAA, to high schools and youth sports. The NFL gave a \$1 MM unrestricted gift to the CSTE in 2010. Chris' work in the field of concussion research and advocacy has made him a sought-after voice for awareness. Since 2004 he has spoken over 200 times at medical conferences, school, and sports organizations around the world on the issue of concussions in sports.

Chris was a three-year letterman and two-year starter at defensive tackle for the Harvard University football team, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in sociology in 2000. A member of the 1997 Ivy League Championship team, he was named Honorable Mention All-Ivy after his junior season, and 2nd Team All-Ivy as a senior. He played four sports in high school, and captained the football and basketball teams his senior year.

[Click Here to Reserve Your Seat](#)

**July Meeting Recap: First
Congressional District Candidates
Forum and Panel**



On July 15th, Panhandle Tiger Bay Club held the first meeting of its kind, a forum and panel for the First Congressional District Candidates. We hosted a panel of 7 candidates, Rebekah Johansen Bydlak, Cris Dosev, Senator Greg Evers, Brian Frazier, Steven Specht, Mark Wichern and James Zumwalt.

The evening began with each candidate introducing themselves and giving the audience some of their background. Almost every candidate mentioned the troublesome state of our country. Four of the panel members are military veterans. All of which agree that we need more veterans in Congress to help make a difference for those who have served and fought for our country.

Many important topics were discussed, such as, why is the approval rating of Congress at an all time low, offshore drilling, the coup in Turkey, the future of the US Military and taxes. All candidates gave strong arguments as to how they will help many of these situations and why they are best suited for this position.

The one point that everyone was in agreement, was that we need change to get America back on track. We need strong individuals in Congress that are accessible to the people and that listen to the people.

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