

ISPE Welcomes New Mentor, Douglas Doman

by Kathy Kendrick, RFSPE

As all of our Thousanders likely know, a Mentor within ISPE is defined as “a distinguished individual from outside the Society whose accomplishments for the benefit and betterment of humanity are in consonance with the Society’s ideals and will reflect favorably upon the Society.” What you may not be aware of, however, is that ISPE recently had the honor of welcoming an additional Mentor, Mr. Douglas Doman.



parents to teach their babies to swim.

Douglas’s early years on the staff of the Institutes were spent creating the School of Human Development, a school for brain-injured young adults. He and his staff created the world’s first human-development course, a circuit utilizing physical activities that promote brain

Douglas Doman is the founder and chairman of Doman International Institute, a Philadelphia-based international non-profit. He is also the president of the Istituti per il Raggiungimento del Potenziale Umano (IRPUE), Europa ETS in Europe, where he is responsible for IRPUE’s operations and families. He also serves on the board of directors of Doman International in India and Colombia, where courses and lecture series are presented annually.

As the son of Katie and Glenn Doman, Douglas grew up on the Institutes’s campus with the brain-injured adults and children. He accompanied the Institutes’s research teams on three expeditions to study indigenous people while he was still in his early teens: in 1965, Douglas studied the Navajo in Arizona; in 1967, he went to the Arctic to study the Inuit; and, in 1969, he went to the Kalahari Desert, located in Botswana, to live and study the Bushmen. As part of his undergraduate study at Bard College, Douglas joined the Experiment in International Living. He also studied child development among the Guambiano of Colombia, South America.

In 1975, at the invitation of the Sony Corporation, Douglas went to Japan to teach English to young Japanese children. After living in Japan, Douglas went to Melbourne, Australia, to work with Tim and Claire Timmermans, world authorities in the techniques of instructing

organization and development. Douglas and his staff have made repeated breakthroughs in the field of children’s physical development, both for well babies and for brain-injured children, with one of the most important breakthroughs being the qualification of children’s physical development. He also worked in collaboration with NASA’s Ames Research Center on the design and creation of the vehicle for initial crawling.

Douglas has worked for more than four decades with thousands of families to help their children with special needs, and he has lectured to professionals and parents in over 40 countries around the world. He is the author of many books, including *How to Teach Your Baby to Swim*. Douglas also co-authored (along with his father, Glenn Doman) *Fit Baby*, *Smart Baby*, *Your Baby!* and co-authored (along with his son, Spencer Doman) *Answering Autism: The Doman Method Plan for Autism, ADD and Neurodevelopmental Delays*, which has been translated into ten languages.

Douglas is married to Rosalind Klein Doman, Clinical Director of Doman International Institute, and he is a co-founder of Doman Learning, along with his sons—Marlowe, Spencer, and Noah—and his daughter, Morgan.

ISPE is truly honored to welcome Douglas Doman as our newest Mentor, and we are already beaming with pride to call him a fellow Thousander. Ω