



# Georgia Athletic Trainers Association

Fall 2009

[www.athletictraining.org](http://www.athletictraining.org)

Volume 20, Issue 2

## GATA Executive Council

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## A Message From The GATA President:

Greeting Fellow Athletic Trainers!

This has been an eventful 10 months since our meeting in January. Your officers have been quite busy.

We are proud to announce that **Diane King, ATC** has agreed to chair our Honors and Awards committee as Greg Marr, ATC has stepped down after leaving the state to take a civilian ATC job at Camp LeJune in North Carolina. We also are proud to announce that **Paul Higgs, ATC** has agreed to continue his involvement with the leadership of the GATA as chair of our PR committee. Paul replaces Kim Wynn, ATC who asked to step down. We are very grateful to Kim for her involvement in the leadership of the GATA.

We have worked with both the Georgia Legislature and the Georgia High School Association to protect our Athletic Training law against a potential harmful situation like the one that occurred in Kentucky last year. We met with representatives from the National Sports Safety Council to listen to what they were proposing for the high school coaches of Georgia. As a result of our efforts, we were able to advise the Legislature and the High School Association and the NSSC of our concerns with what happened in Kentucky and to date have been successful in not repeating the incident in Kentucky.

The Executive Board and your Legislative Affairs chair have been busy working with the Georgia Legislature to monitor any attempts to undo the changes in our law that were

passed last year or any other damaging legislation. This included field trips to an Atlanta Braves game and a day trip to The Atlanta Falcons practice complex in Flowery Branch to educate legislators on our profession. We would like to thank our colleagues with the Braves and Falcons who helped out tremendously. Our efforts were also coordinated with the National office of the NATA, during the time of the lawsuit against the APTA. For details of the settlement of that lawsuit, please see the associated article in this newsletter.

The Executive Board met with representatives of the Department of Education in Georgia and worked with them to revise a healthcare curriculum that hopefully will allow ATs to teach sports medicine-type classes in the high schools and a potential track for them to obtain the necessary credentials. We are hopeful that this will lead to increased employment opportunities for ATs in the state. As a result we will be providing an educational session at the upcoming HOSA conference in Atlanta later this month.

The Executive Board has been working with the Georgia Board of Athletic Training as the GBAT updates its rules and definitions that are used by the Board to regulate our profession and the individuals who practice athletic training in the State of Georgia. For the GATA is being asked to offer its opinion is a high honor for the GATA to be recognized as resource for the Board to gauge the members' concerns and wishes. Some of these updates regarded CEU requirements

and bring these in line with the BOC requirements. Also included were updates on who is qualified to call themselves an Athletic Trainer and the skills allowed to be exercised regardless of setting as defined by our last legislative efforts.

Unfortunately, we have lost a dear friend and leader with the untimely passing of **Lori M. Groover, ATC** this past August. I personally was not able to attend her service, however the GATA was represented by **Tom Bair, ATC** and **Paul Higgs, ATC**. The Executive Board of the GATA just recently announced that the GATA scholarship program has now be renamed the **Lori Mobley Groover Leadership Award** as a tribute to her memory and in honor of her many years of service and leadership to the GATA.

I am also pleased to announce that our own **Tom Bair, ATC** has been elected to fill the unexpired term of Lori M. Groover as Secretary of SEATA. At this time, we are currently awaiting to hear word on whether Tom has been elected to serve a term as Secretary of SEATA of his own.

The Executive Board has voted to fund two research projects, one in heat research and one in research on concussions. The Executive Board has set forth a goal to be more active as an agent of education for the Athletic Trainers of the state of Georgia. We hope to be a source for promoting research being generated by our ATEP programs in the state, whether thru direct funding, as we are able to or providing man-



GCSU Athletic Training Student, Sarah Davis, provides treatment to a GCSU Women's Tennis Player.

power. The Executive Board also has worked with the Education committee to facilitate increased involvement by the Athletic Training curriculums in the state. As a result of the increased participation and involvement of the ATEPs of Georgia and partnership with the Emory Sports Medicine program, I am proud to announce that we will be able to offer multiple track educational programs at the upcoming annual GATA meeting, with high school and undergraduate tracks as well as the main program.

On a personal note, I work with Brenau University as part of my outreach efforts in Hall County. A young lady named **Tori Fobb**, who played softball and served as

team captain for Brenau and graduated in May, is currently hospitalized in Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta with Encephalitis. She has lost 30 pounds and is currently on a feeding tube. She is unable to move or talk due to the potential fatal brain infection. With her graduation, she was taken off her parents insurance; her medical bills are growing exponentially. If any are interested in contributing to a fund that has been started, please contact **Michael Lochstampfor** (Brenau Athletic Director) or myself. For more information, please visit the Brenau Athletic website:

[www.brenautigers.com](http://www.brenautigers.com)

I also ask that you would keep this outstanding young lady in your thoughts and prayers as she will face many months of rehab to recover a quality of life.

I look forward to seeing everyone **January 15 & 16** in Peachtree City for our annual meeting. I encourage everyone to come remember and celebrate our memories of Lori. Lori's parents will be in attendance on Saturday as we announce the first recipients of the first Lori Mobley Groover Leadership award winners.

Sincerely,

*Michael Clanton*

## Get Your Nominations in Now!

With the GATA Annual Meeting just around the corner, it's time to get your nominations in now for GATA Scholarships and Honors/Awards.

Each year, the GATA recognizes hard working students by offering 3 scholarships:

The **High School Scholarship**, for \$250, is awarded to a deserving high school student who has a desire to further his/her education in college in the field of athletic training. Last year's winner was **Carol Jabaley** from LaGrange, GA.

The **Undergraduate Scholarship**, for \$500, is awarded to a junior or senior student currently enrolled in one of the five ATEP programs in Georgia. Last year's winner

was **Anna Shealy** from NGCSU.

The **Postgraduate Scholarship**, for \$750, is awarded to a student who graduated with an athletic training degree and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in a related field. Last year's winner was **Christina Fox** from Clayton State.

Also up for grabs are three prestigious awards the GATA hands out each year to qualified Athletic Trainers, Physicians, and those who work in close affiliation with the athletic training profession. Details and requirements for the **Jerry Rhea Athletic Training Person of the Year**, the **Warren Morris Sports Medicine Person of the Year**, and the **Dr. Jack C.**

**Hughston Physician of the Year** Awards can be found on the GATA website ([www.athletictraining.org](http://www.athletictraining.org)).

Applications and nominations for GATA Scholarships and Awards are due by **December 20, 2009** so don't wait! Apply today!

Please send all completed applications and nominations, as well as letters of recommendations, to:

**Diane King,**  
MS, RD, CSSD, ATC  
328 Rhodes House Court  
Suwanee, GA 30024  
(404) 354-  
[performnutrition@bellsouth.net](mailto:performnutrition@bellsouth.net)



**Deadlines for  
GATA  
Scholarships  
and Awards  
are coming up  
fast! Get your  
applications in  
by December  
20, 2009!**

## GATA Scholarship and Awards Program To Be Renamed

The GATA Executive Board has unanimously decided to rename the GATA Scholarship Program in honor of the late Lori Groover. Lori's parents, Bobby and Sandy Mobley, will be in attendance at the 2010 GATA symposium in Peachtree City this year as the GATA honors and celebrates the life of Lori Groover by renaming the scholarship program **The Lori Mobley Groover Leadership Awards**. Of the renaming honor, Mr. Mobley had this to say: "Sandy and I are really moved beyond words at this wonderful remembrance and

honor in Lori's memory. We are truly amazed as we learn almost on a daily basis of the positive influences that she had on so many others; we had no idea."

It is only fitting that Lori's name be forever attached to the GATA, as her many years of dedicated service helped pave the way for the organization. Lori served as a member of the GATA Executive Board from January 2003—December 2006, spending January 2005—December 2006 serving as GATA President. She most recently held

the SEATA Secretary position from 2007-2009.

Lori's short yet heroic battle with cancer came to an end on August 8, 2009.

To honor and celebrate Lori's life in a special celebration at the GATA meeting, we are asking for any photos you may have of Lori. For more information please contact:

**Eva Beaulieu,**  
GATA Secretary,  
[eva.beaulieu@gcsu.edu](mailto:eva.beaulieu@gcsu.edu)



GATA will honor the life of **Lori Groover** at this 2010 meeting in January in Peachtree City.

## Education Committee Announces Plans for Free Communications Session

The Education Committee of the GATA is pleased to announce a **Free Communications Session** at the 2010 GATA Clinical Symposium & Meeting. The maturity of the athletic training profession is dependent upon its quality of scholarly activity and its timely presentation at professional meetings. The GATA Education Committee encourages and promotes scholarly research and its dissemination by GATA members via the use of free communication sessions at the GATA Clinical Symposium and Meeting. The committee looks to foster the growth of research and scholarship of its **student** and **professional** membership through an *annual poster presentation session*.

The Call for Abstracts has been posted on the GATA Website (links included below), including guidelines and instructions for formatting

and submitting abstracts to the Education Committee by **5:00PM (EST) on December 1, 2009**. Abstracts submitted for consideration in the GATA Free Communication session will be evaluated using a blind review process. Applications shall be evaluated using a standardized evaluation rubric that will be completed for each abstract (original research and clinical case study) where reviewers will identify whether the Free Communication is acceptable for presentation. Authors will receive notification of acceptance and presentation expectations no later than **December 17, 2009**.

**Original Research Abstract Guidelines:** <http://www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu/~phiggs/GATA/Call--AbstractsOriginalResearch2009.doc>

**Case Studies Abstract**

**Guidelines:** <http://www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu/~phiggs/GATA/Call--AbstractsClinicalCaseReport2009.doc>

Please consider this opportunity to share your scholarly activity and the activities of your students with the members of the GATA. The GATA Free Communication guidelines are parallel with the NATAREF guidelines, and the GATA encourages dual submission to the GATA and NATAREF.

Respectfully,

Kirk Armstrong, EdD, ATC, LAT  
Georgia College & State Uni.

Thomas Buckley, EdD, ATC  
Georgia Southern University

(Co-chairs for the GATA Research Subcommittee)

Deadlines for  
submitting  
abstracts for the  
Free  
Communications  
Session is  
December 1,  
2009 by 5:00 pm  
(EST).

Region Representatives:**Region I (North) ~**

Ken Wells, ATC  
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kwells@phrehab.com

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The state of  
Georgia  
currently has **847**  
licensed Athletic  
Trainers, as  
reported by the  
Georgia Board of  
Athletic Trainers.

\*As of 11/09/09

## A Message From the Education Committee

The GATA Education Committee invites each of you to join us at the **2010 GATA Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium**.

Each of the committee members is very excited about the program for this year. Our goal for this year was to include more of the athletic training education programs in the state of Georgia and hopefully get students more involved at the state level. The Education Committee has grown this year to include **Susan Wehring** and **Erin Jordan** as well as Subcommittee members **Thomas Buckley**, **Kirk Armstrong**, and **Chuck Conner**. Susan Wehring and Erin Jordan from Georgia Southern have

been implemental in putting together the program for this year. With their help the symposia will be having concurrent sessions during the Saturday afternoon program. Members may choose from a combination of lectures and labs to suit your interests. Each lab will include some practical skills that you may find useful in your practice. The labs have registration caps, so if you are interested, register as soon as possible so that you can secure the lab session(s) that you want.

Thomas Buckley and Kirk Armstrong from Georgia Southern and Georgia College and State University respectively, have been working on a

new process for the case studies. This year, they put out a *Call for Abstracts* and will have poster presentations available for the membership to visit on Saturday afternoon. From these poster presentations, case studies will be chosen and presented at the meeting. The Committee is very excited about opening this avenue for more undergraduate and graduate students from the state's CAATE accredited programs, as well as the membership to be a part of the annual meeting.

We will be able to offer the membership **13 hours in CEUs**, so we hope that you will join us January 15 and 16 in Peachtree City. See you there!

## To Catch an Imposter: Reporting an Unlicensed Athletic Trainer

In an effort to protect our profession, the GATA Executive Council would like to remind people to remain up to date on our practice act and check the Board website often for the very latest in our profession. I think everyone can agree that we have worked very hard to earn the credentials we have and our profession continues to gain respect within the health professional world. That being said, there are still some individuals who think they can do what we do, that all we "do" is tape ankles and pass out band-aids. If you know of anyone practicing athletic training and/or calling themselves an athletic trainer or "trainer" without the proper credentials, take action! Follow these simple steps to

anonymously report an individual you believe may be guilty of practicing without a license:

Log on to the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers website (<http://sos.georgia.gov/plb/trainer/>) and perform a search by clicking on the *License Verification* box. You will then be prompted to enter information about the person in question.

If there is no record of the person in question or if their license has lapsed, you can put a formal complaint in writing and send it to:

**Anita Martin**  
**Executive Director of the Healthcare Division**  
[aomartin@sos.ga.gov](mailto:aomartin@sos.ga.gov) **OR**

**Jeanette Leeks**  
**Licensing Analyst**  
[jleeks@sos.ga.gov](mailto:jleeks@sos.ga.gov)

The complaint is then registered and sent to the Board for action. At the next Board meeting, the complaint is reviewed and the Board investigates the charges.

If the charges are proved factual, the Board will issue a Cease and Desist Order first. If the order is ignored, fines may be issued and the matter taken to court.

Confidentiality of the reporting individual is maintained throughout the process, however, the Board attorney may deem it necessary for you to testify if the matter is taken to court.

## NATA Fair Practice Lawsuit Reaches Settlement

After a lengthy battle, the NATA and APTA finally agreed to an out-of-court settlement for the NATA's Fair Practice Lawsuit on September 21, 2009. According to the NATA website, "The NATA filed suit against the APTA for antitrust violations that unfairly restricted athletic trainers from practicing manual therapy and gaining access to continuing education courses on manual therapy."

NATA President Marje Albohm, MS, ATC, feels the settlement "will allow us to continue to advance the profession while ensuring patient safety." To hear what else President Albohm had to say regarding the settlement, follow the link below:

<http://nata.org/fairpractice/index.htm>

At the center of the settlement is the Joint Statement on Cooperation between the NATA and APTA, which is signed by the president of each association's board of directors. Some highlights of the Joint Statement include:

- \* That physical therapists are neither the exclusive providers of manual therapy nor the exclusive providers of physical medicine and rehabilitation services. The APTA agrees with NATA that athletic trainers are qualified to perform these services.
- \* That decisions related to reimbursements are to be decided by the public and private insurers, state and federal legislators and regulators, patients and other stakeholders.
- \* That athletic trainers are qualified to pursue continuing education in manual therapy, and that APTA's internal policies regarding continuing education does not apply to athletic trainers in the 47 states where ATs are licensed or regulated.
- \* That the scopes of practice of athletic trainers and physical therapists overlap.
- \* That athletic trainers are qualified to pursue continuing education in manual therapy, and that APTA's internal policies regarding continuing education does not apply to athletic trainers in the 47 states where ATs are licensed or regulated.
- \* APTA recognition of athletic trainers as health care professionals qualified to assist their patients.
- \* That APTA will not make false or misleading statements about athletic trainers, including improper references to them as "unqualified," "not qualified," or "non-qualified" or any variation of these terms. The APTA agreed that it will not make false or deceptive statements that mislead patients, employers, or others regarding athletic trainers.
- \* That APTA will not make false or misleading statements about athletic trainers, including improper references to them as "unqualified," "not qualified," or "non-qualified" or any variation of these terms. The APTA agreed that it will not make false or deceptive statements that mislead patients, employers, or others regarding athletic trainers.
- \* That athletic trainers are qualified and authorized to

provide interventions within their state scope of practice and licensure.

- \* That athletic trainers are qualified to pursue continuing education in manual therapy, and that APTA's internal policies regarding continuing education does not apply to athletic trainers in the 47 states where ATs are licensed or regulated.

The Joint Statement can be viewed in its entirety at:

[Joint Statement on Cooperation](#)

To further explain the Joint Statement and help members fully understand what this document means, the NATA has provided an interpretation of the Joint Statement, which can be found here:

[FAQ For The NATA/APTA Joint Statement on Cooperation](#)

**"THIS SETTLEMENT  
WILL ALLOW US TO  
CONTINUE TO  
ADVANCE THE  
PROFESSION WHILE  
ENSURING PATIENT  
SAFETY."**

**- NATA PRESIDENT  
MARJE ALBOHM**

## So....Did We Win?

While I would like to say it isn't about winning or losing, the competitor inside me begs to differ. But for the sake of the argument, I will say yes, I do believe this is a win for the NATA and the profession of athletic training.

Although the initial complaint of the Fair Practice Lawsuit dealt with teaching and performing manual therapy, the issues clearly go much

deeper. Many ATs feel like the attitude of the physical therapy profession has been (and continues to be) that athletic trainers are unqualified and uneducated PT wanna be's, despite many ATs working successfully alongside their physical therapy colleagues every day in an environment of mutual respect and trust.

Because we live in a country where advocates are allowed to

make their case before our legislative bodies, we expect the state PT associations to continue to fervently represent their profession just as our state associations will continue to fervently represent athletic training.

So, yes fellow ATs, this is a definite win for our profession and the people it serves, as it allows us to continue to do our jobs and spread awareness of our profession.



To read the NATA's response to questionable FAQs posted on the APTA's website, click on the above picture. The NATA had no choice BUT to write a rebuttal after the APTA seemed to negate the recently signed Statement.



**Tom Bair grabs the SEATA Secretary position in a thrilling run-off election.**



Have an interesting story to share with your fellow GATA members? Maybe an exciting announcement? An interesting case with a patient that you'd like to share? Or do you just need some advice on how to treat a tough case? Log onto the GATA Listserve now and submit your comments and or questions!

## GATA's Own Tom Bair Wins SEATA Secretary Run-Off Election

In what can be called a thrilling election, Tom Bair has been appointed SEATA Secretary and will take office immediately to finish the term (ends June 2010) of Lori Groover, who recently lost her battle with cancer in September.

Tom brings plenty of experience to the plate, as he has served as GATA Secretary/Treasurer (1987-1993), and GATA Vice-President, President, and Past President (1996-2006). Bair continues to serve as the Chairman of Governmental Affairs

and was just recently appointed to serve on the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers by the Governor of Georgia.

Bair's Athletic Training career has fared very well, as Tom has been awarded several prestigious honors including the NATA Service Award (2005) and the SEATA Clinical/Industrial/Corporate Athletic Trainer of the Year (2007). Tom was even honored to serve on the Sports Medicine Staff inside the Olympic Village during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Tom is currently the Regional Director of Industrial Client Solutions for Progressive Health Aviation Service, as well as partnering an outpatient rehabilitation facility, The Morris Center, in Griffin, GA.

Tom has been highly instrumental in the recent legislative battles the GATA has won and continues to be a leader in our profession. We look forward to having Tom serve us once again in this capacity. Congratulations from the GATA, Tom!

## Call For Nominations for GATA Treasurer

Are you good with money? Do you know your way around a calculator? Well then the GATA has an offer for you!

Current Treasurer, **Daniel Hinely**, will finish his one year term at our meeting this January.

The deadline for nominations is **November 20, 2009** by **Noon**.

The GATA Treasurer is responsible for all financial

business of the GATA. This includes:

- \* Maintaining an accurate record and documentation of all financial transactions
- \* Submitting a financial report to the Executive Board and the GATA membership at the annual meeting
- \* Monitoring the financial status of the GATA

- \* Preparing a yearly budget

If you know of anyone who may be interested in filling the position, please submit them in writing via email or snail mail to:

Jeff Hopp  
GATA Vice President  
1171 Whitlock Ave.  
Marietta, GA 30064

[JHopp@marietta-city.k12.ga.us](mailto:JHopp@marietta-city.k12.ga.us)

## Faces In The Crowd



GATA Members (from L to R): Mandy Jarriel, Tom Bair, Kirk Armstrong, Tyler Snow, and Dean Crowell at the Capitol Building in Washington, DC for Hit the Hill Day on February 23, 2009.

## GATA Annual Meeting Comes to Peachtree City

Ladies and Gentlemen, once again it's that time to get your calendars out and write down these important dates: **January 15-16, 2010.**

That's right! The GATA will once again convene at the beautiful Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center in Peachtree City, GA.

This year the GATA has partnered with **Emory Sports Medicine Center** to bring you some great speakers and topics. As mentioned previously, this year's meeting

offers you a few choices (lectures and labs) so be sure to check out the tentative schedule and reserve your seat early for the labs.

Register for the meeting online at the GATA website or print out the registration form and send it to:

**Eva Beaulieu**  
**GATA Secretary**  
**Georgia College & State Univ.**  
**Campus Box 65**  
**Milledgeville, GA 31061**

Registration forms must be post-marked by **December 31, 2010.**

Online registration will be open until **January 8, 2010** and onsite registration will also be available.

To access the registration form, as well as hotel information, click on the icons to the right.

We hope all of you can take the time to attend the meeting this year, as the Education Committee has worked extremely hard to put together another amazing meeting!



### GATA 2010 Meeting Tentative Schedule

Friday, January 15		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:30am-5pm	Registration	
9am-10am	Management of Massive Rotator Cuff Tears	Spero Karas, MD
10am-11am	ACL	John Xerogeanes, MD
11am-12pm	Diagnostic Ultrasound	Kenneth Mautner, MD
12pm-1:30pm	Lunch (on your own)	
1:30-2:30pm	Introduction to Evidence Based Medicine	Cathy Brown, PhD, ATC
2:30-3:30pm	Mental Health Assessment and Approaches	Deenie Tarver, PhD & Jeffery Henderson, PhD
3:30-4pm	Visit Vendors	
4pm-5pm	TBD	
5pm-6pm	Evaluation and Management of Common Low Back Injuries	Ross Brakeville, DPT, STC, TPI-CFI
7:00pm	GATA Social	
Saturday, January 16		
7:30am-12pm	Registration/Exhibits Open	
8:30-9:30am	Prolotherapy	Amadeus Mason, MD
9:30-10:00am	Visit Vendors	
10am-11am	The Adolescent Athlete: Biological Considerations	Terry Parker, PhD, ATC, CHES, FASHA
11am-12pm	Business Meeting	
12-1:30pm	Luncheon	
1:30-2:30pm (Choose one)	Lecture: Cervical Spine Immobilization Update	Mary Beth Horodyski, EdD, ATC
	Lecture: Biomechanics of Alternate Ankle Taping	Paul Mills, ATC
2:30-3pm	Visit Poster Presentations	
3:00-4:00pm (choose one)	Lecture: The Athlete with Disabilities	Ashley White, ATC
	Lab: Alternate Ankle Taping Techniques	Paul Mills, ATC
4:00-5:00pm (choose one)	Lecture: TBD	
	Lab: Emergency Oxygen Certification (2-hr session)	Erin Jordan, ATC & Sarah Ritchie, DHSc, ATC, NASM-PES, CES
5:00-6:00pm (Choose one)	Lecture: Case Studies	Top 2 Poster Presentations
	Lab: Emergency Oxygen Certification (2-hr session)	Erin Jordan, ATC & Sarah Ritchie, DHSc, ATC, NASM-PES, CES
6:00 PM	Closing	



[www.athletictraining.org](http://www.athletictraining.org)

Created in 1986, the GATA is an organization committed to education of its members and enhancement of the profession of athletic training, leading to better healthcare for the population which it serves. The GATA is proudly composed of licensed athletic trainers in many different settings. Over 700 licensed athletic trainers from professional, collegiate, and high school teams to industries, physician offices, and rehabilitation clinics all work together to promote and practice the profession of athletic training within the state of Georgia.



Click on the Twitter logo above to access GATA's Twitter page

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