Dear GATA Members,

It is my honor to represent the athletic trainers of Georgia as the president of the GATA. I am excited to have **Diane King** (Vice-President), **Jamie Tortorice** (Secretary), and **Matt Daniel** (Treasurer) working with me.

We need to thank **Mike Clanton** (outgoing President), **Eva Beaulieu** (outgoing Secretary), and **Daniel Hinely** (outgoing Treasurer) for their years of service. They have done a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes that most people never see. It has been my pleasure working with them over the last couple years.

We had another great meeting in Peachtree City in January and it was great to see everyone who attended. We had over 100 members benefit from a great educational program put together by our education committee and 20 vendors showcasing their products. I would like to say thank you to our education committee for their hard work in putting together another successful meeting.

We have been working closely with the Brain and Spine Injury Trust Fund Commission over the last 5-6 months on potential concussion legislation in the state of Georgia. That legislation hit some speed bumps during this legislative session and did not make it through this year but we are hopeful that they will be able to move forward with that in next years session. Our working relationship with the Brain and Spine Injury Trust Fund Commission has also led to meetings with the Child Injury Prevention & Control Policy Advisory Group. They are beginning to look into injury prevention in adolescent athletics and they have approached us looking for advice. The first couple of meetings have been very promising and I am hopeful that we will be able to work with them in an effort to not only prevent injuries but to also create opportunities for athletic trainers in the state.

**Mike Clanton**, **Tom Bair**, and I had the pleasure of meeting with representatives from the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia this past winter. Everyone agreed that both associations could benefit from a closer working relationship and we are looking for ways to foster that and possibly open up educational opportunities for members of both associations.

We have many exciting opportunities in front of us in the state of Georgia right now that we will continue to work on and keep you updated on the progress. If you have any issues or questions that need to be addressed please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeff
2011 GATA Scholarship and Award Winners:

High School Scholarship –

Shelby Duren, Mt. Zion HS
Shelby is a senior at Mt. Zion High School in Mt. Zion Georgia. She has worked with the program for four years and has been a student manager for football, wrestling and baseball.

The head football coach and athletic director, Bill Bailey says of Shelby he never had to worry about things getting done. First Aid kits were always where they needed to be. Hydration was her specialty. This year when asked what she wanted for her birthday she responded new water bottles and carrying trays for the football team, and when she received them she was more proud of them as any gift she could have ever received.

Her question at the end of the day to the coaches was “Coach is there anything else that I need to do?”

She is described as a self-motivated young lady and in addition to working in athletics; she serves as the class president for her senior class
Shelby has already been accepted to Georgia Southern University and plans on majoring in Athletic Training.

Undergrad – Sarah Davis, GA College and State University
Sarah says the profession of athletic training is not only the career path she has chosen but considers it a way of life. Working with young people gives her joy and a sense of accomplishment, especially when she sees an athlete return to the sport they love after a serious injury.

She states that her goal is to not only treat the injury, but treat the athlete as a whole. Whether it’s on the field or in the classroom, “To be able to help people return to what they love doing and to see the joy and excitement on their face when they do” is what keeps her motivated and passionate about pursuing her goal to become an Athletic Trainer.

By her supervisors at school, she is described as a top notch student all-around. It’s her ethic, attitude and initiative that allow her to communicate so effectively with the athletes and staff. The development of her interpersonal skills enables her to be successful in a variety of clinical settings with diverse patients.

Grad – Marie Kirby, GA Southern University
Marie has worked in a variety of settings since she has been at Georgia Southern University. Currently assigned to women’s basketball, she is also completing analysis for the results of a study she conducted on the effects of dynamic balance training on stable and unstable surfaces. She will be defending her work in mid spring of 2011.

In addition to her goals of becoming a certified athletic trainer, she also aspires to becoming an approved clinical instructor (ACI). She is firmly convinced that for career of athletic training to grow, future generations need to possess the same inspiration and dedication she has for her profession.

Brandy Clouse, director of Sports Medicine and head athletic trainer at Georgia Southern University says of Marie, “As a graduate student in athletic training, these individuals have to endure long hours, decision making that affects the outcome of stressful situations, difficult classroom and thesis challenges, a lack of sleep and the tasks of keeping up with the latest medical research to maintain the knowledge to treat athletes effectively. Marie has exhibited all of the traits completely and takes nothing for granted.
2011 GATA Scholarship and Award Winners:

ATC of the Year – Laura Horsley

Horsley, who is in her first year on the athletic training staff at Clayton State, has the attention for detail, a respect for the profession and the work ethic that exemplifies this award.

"Through my time at Clayton State, I have been honored and privileged to have worked with some very bright and very good athletic trainers," said Clayton State head athletic trainer John Zubal. "Laura brings so much positive energy, education and personality to us. She is a credit to the athletic training profession as well as an ambassador of Clayton State.

Her colleague Christina Fox says of Laura "Laura always takes initiative and suggesting ideas and ways to make the athletic training room more efficient. She is always researching for a better way of doing things. Laura wants to not only know how decisions are made but why they are made as well. With the success of the Clayton State athletic program, we are fortunate to have Laura on our team. She brings a unique stability and attitude in all that we do. Laura certainly has made a contribution to the sports medicine and athletic programs here at Clayton State."

Horsley came to Clayton State after serving as head athletic trainer last year at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. The previous year (2008 -09), she served as an athletic training intern at her alma mater – Lenoir-Rhyne.

Sports Medicine Person of the Year – Katie Caughell

Perhaps many of you are familiar with the story of Katie Caughell from last fall.

Jerry Carnes wrote this article for 11Alive News.com. ATLANTA, Ga -- Doctors say 17-year old Josh Haddock is well on his way to recovery after a brain injury playing football. The North Forsyth High School senior collapsed while on the practice field on August 25th. At first, his mother was told to expect the worst. Natalie Roth, Josh’s mom now wants to use Josh's story of survival to urge high schools throughout Georgia to place athletic trainers at football practices.

Doctors at Shepard Spinal Center, where Josh endured therapy, say the outcome could have been much different if not for a series of events that started with trainer Katie Caughell.

Derek Suranie, the Athletic Training Program Coordinator at North Georgia College and State University said that "Katie’s prompt action and ability to remain calm during this time was what ultimately saved Josh’s life. Her ability to maintain composure during interviews in the days that immediately followed reinforced the professionalism she displays on an ongoing basis. And her actions continue to help educate the public about the profession of athletic training.”
Hit the Hill Day

Capitol Hill Day 2011 was a huge success!

More than 225 athletic trainers and 150 students from 42 states conducted 588 legislative meetings. The Georgia crew each represented their voting district when they visited their Congressmen and the group went to visit Senators Johnny Isaakson's and Saxby Chamblis' offices.

Topics that were discussed this year were legislative and health policies covering topics on concussion (H.R. 469), access to athletic training services under Medicare, advocacy to includes athletic trainers in all definitions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and committing our support to the reintroduction of the Healthy Choices Act, the Fitness Integrated with Teaching Kids Act, and the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Act.

Early Bird Rates are in effect for the 62nd Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium this summer in New Orleans. Sign up before May 1st to get the best pricing.

Are looking to save additional money on registration? You can volunteer your services at the meeting. Go to the NATA website for more information.

The NATA website has all the information you need to find out anything you need to know about the meeting.

Think New Orleans is just for adults? Think again! New Orleans offers family-friendly fun for people of all ages. With alligator farms, aquariums, museums and swamp tours, you’re sure to find something your family will love.

So why are you still sitting there? Go to the NATA website today to register!

(Picture and information courtesy of Nata Website)
The 2011 Athletic Training Educators’ Conference focused on “Creating a Culture of Evidence-Based Practice” where educators and clinicians from across the U.S. came together for the common goal of creating and promoting a culture of evidence-based practice (EBP) in athletic training. Evidence-based practice (EBP) means integrating the best available clinical evidence from systematic research with individual clinical expertise of the athletic trainer. Dr. Chad Starkey, Coordinator of Graduate Athletic Training at Ohio University, presented the opening keynote address that set the tone for the entire conference, indicating that the evidence is there for us [athletic trainers] to use, or it will be used against us! Namely, he emphasized that as health care professionals, we need to move away from the “trial and error” model of clinical practice, to clinical practice behaviors that are grounded in empirically supported evidence. With that evidence, combine our clinical expertise to make a decision that will bring about the best outcomes in our patients.

What does EBP mean for clinical practice? It means that we, as a profession, need to be more deliberate about our therapeutic interventions and must do a better job of documenting our patient outcomes to support the interventions we provide. It also means that interventions that have no evidence to support their use (like contrast bath), should not be our first choice when providing care to our patients. It does not mean that each athletic trainers’ clinical expertise is not valid. We must integrate our clinical expertise with the best evidence to guide our patient care.

As we examine the 5 domains of athletic training outlined in the 6th edition of the Role Delineation/Practice Analysis, we can see that the athletic training profession continues to grow and evolve to better meet the needs of the patients we serve. In each of these domains (Injury/Illness Prevention and Wellness Protection; Clinical Evaluation and Diagnosis; Immediate and Emergency Care; Treatment and Rehabilitation; Organizational and Professional Health and Well-Being) we see that EBP serves as the cornerstone for our practice, whether to prevent injuries/illness or to provide rehabilitative exercises. In all that we do, EBP should begin to or continue to be an important consideration for how we practice athletic training and promote better outcomes for our patients.

The GATA is excited about the 50/50 Program this year. For those of you who do not know about it, the 50/50 Program is an incentive program aimed at helping the GATA generate money so that we can in turn protect and improve our profession. The GATA is challenging 50 members to donate $50 each. If 50 people donate $50, this will result in a revenue of $2500 that can be used for various legislative efforts. Those who donate $50 will get special recognition on the GATA website and their name will be entered into a drawing for free registration to the annual GATA meeting. If you decide to donate $100 or more, you gain entrance to the Century Club and your name is entered into the drawing for free registration twice!

Don’t delay; donate today!
Checks can be sent to:
Matt Daniel, M.Ed, ATC, LAT
GATA Treasurer
82 College Circle
Memorial Hall
Dahlonega, GA
30597

Don’t forget to follow the GATA on:
facebook

Twitter
Physician of the Year – Dr. Jeff Traub

Dr. Traub has practiced with Excel Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in the Dekalb and Gwinnett area for almost 10 years. Dr. Traub actively participates as team physician with Collins Hill, Grayson, Loganville, Parkview, Archer and Walnut Grove.

If you ask Dr. Traub about his work, he will say “My approach to treating patients is that I want to treat every patient as if they were a member of my family. My goal is to help each person attain the most physical capabilities in a safe and healthy manner while educating them along the way. I believe the most important aspects of providing quality care are communication, patient education, and prevention of musculoskeletal injuries. That is why I enjoy establishing a relationship with my patients and involving them in their treatment plan.”

Dr. Traub completed his Board certification with the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2002.

Society Memberships include the Georgia Orthopaedic Society and the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

Crandall Woodson’s nomination sums up the work of Dr. Traub… Just like Dr. Hughston was, Dr. Traub is a true friend of athletic trainers, athletes, and parents with his untiring attention to sports programs at local high schools in Gwinnett and DeKalb counties. Providing game coverage is almost universal with team physicians but Dr. Traub provides a no charge Saturday morning clinic at his office during football season that is available to athletes. He supports local high schools financially by providing ankle braces as well as supporting Touchdown Clubs with contributions. Dr. Traub provides athletic trainers the opportunity to observe procedures in surgery and is a great teacher. Always available for consultations with ATC’s, he shares valuable time answering questions as well as listening.

GATA would like to take the opportunity to recognize a very deserving, energetic, knowledgeable, and compassionate physician that is a true supporter of our profession.

2011 GATA Executive Council

*From the Left to Right: Jamie Tortorice (Secretary), Matt Daniel (Treasurer), Jeff Hopp (President), and Diane King (Vice President).*
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.