



Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear GATA Members,

This is a great time to be an athletic trainer! With the passage of HB1055, our practice act is clear and easily understood by employers, insurance companies, and our own practitioners. At times, educating the parties involved about our legislation was a real battle and our members came out in force to make calls, write letters, and support in whatever way necessary to bring about a victory in the General Assembly. Although the practice act was not expanded in any way, it has been clarified to better show who we are, and what we do as athletic trainers and will affect all practice settings and all of our members.

Our annual meeting will be in Peachtree City on January 16-17, 2009 at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center. The two-day format will include a social on Friday night, as well as our annual Honors & Awards Luncheon on Saturday. Lori Howard and Stacey Walters have put together an excellent continuing education agenda for us and the topics presented will be useful to athletic trainers in all settings. The High School Athletic Training Student Meeting will return in 2009 on January 17 as well. Check the GATA website, www.athletictraining.org for details.

This is an interesting time for me as a GATA member. In January, Mike Clanton will become our new President and Jeff Hopp will assume the role of Vice-President. It has truly been an honor to serve as your President. We have an amazing membership, a group passionate about their profession and those we care for in all settings. From the newest college students to the veteran Hall of Fame members, I have enjoyed working with you all in various projects and I consider it a true honor to have served as your President. I have enjoyed the view "from the inside" and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Paul Higgs MEd, ATC, LAT, CSCS



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Online High School Athletic Trainer Directory

David Florkowski – GATA Secretary

An online high school athletic trainer directory is available on the GATA website, www.athletictraining.org. If the high school you cover, both public and private schools, is not on there, or the information is incorrect, please contact your REGION REP. The region reps will collect information and send it to me periodically and we will update the list. If you do not want your information listed on this document, please let your region rep know and we will delete the information. This is a great tool for those of us working at the high school level. Your region representatives are listed in the Directory section of the Newsletter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your region rep, or me!

**GATA Accepting Nominations
for Honors & Awards Program**

Greg Marr, Honors & Awards Chair

Nominations for your peers and friends of athletic training are currently being accepted. Also we are accepting applications for our GATA scholarships.

We have the Jerry Rhea Certified Athletic Trainer of the Year Award, the Dr. Jack C. Hughston Team Physician of the Year Award, and the Warren Morris Sports Medicine Person of the Year Award.

The Jerry Rhea ATC YR is open to all licensed athletic trainers in good standing with the GATA. It may be that coworker that has gone above and beyond the call of duty or other person who has made a difference in the world of athletic training.

The Dr. Jack C. Hughston Team Physician Award is for that team physician who helps you out so greatly. This physician does not have to be an orthopedic surgeon.

The Warren Morris Sports Medicine Person of the Year is a person not necessarily a certified athletic trainer, but is a person that has promoted our profession and helped advance our cause in the world of athletic training.

Our Scholarships:

We will be giving out a High School Scholarship: This is for a student graduating from a high school in the state of Georgia and who is going on to make athletic training their field of study. They do not necessarily have to attend undergrad in the state of Georgia. If you have a worthy high school senior please encourage them to apply.

We will then offer an Undergraduate Scholarship. This is offered to a student currently enrolled in an athletic training program at one of the five accredited institutions within the state of Georgia.

Finally we will be offering a Graduate Scholarship. This scholarship is for students currently enrolled in a graduate setting for athletic training with in the state of Georgia.

Please nominate your fellow students and coworkers for the above named awards. We will present the awards at the GATA Annual Symposium in January 2009 in Peachtree City at the awards luncheon. Award applications and instructions are available on the GATA website.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the application procedure. Please return all applications by December 1, 2008 by 5pm.

Greg Marr Meadows Wellness Center
101 Harris Industrial Blvd.
Vidalia, GA 30474
912-277-2035
912-293-3001 cell
912-277-2098 fx
email funnyfarmers@yahoo.com

Member Surveys Available:

Your input is vital to the work of the GATA. Make your opinions known at www.athletictraining.org and click the link for Member Surveys. Complete current surveys or see the results of past surveys.



This years Georgia's Athletic Training Association 2009 Annual Meeting is right around the corner.

Kim Winn – GATA Public Relations Committee Chair

The meeting will take place on the weekend of January 16-17, 2009. This is a two-day format with educational sessions starting Friday morning and ending Saturday evening. Registration forms are available online at GATA website, www.athletictraining.org.

What may you ask is in it for you; besides great opportunities for networking as well as continuing education? There is a GATA Social on Friday night (1/16), this will provide you a way to spend sometime with your fellow ATC's and trade stories and ideas. The Honors & Awards Luncheon is Saturday, (1/17), this is an opportunity to celebrate those who worked hard this year to support the GATA and have been nominated by our peers. This years conference will provide you with an anticipated CEU's: 10-12.

Don't forget to invite your high school students. The Annual High School Athletic Training Student Meeting to be held on Jan. 17 in conjunction with the GATA Symposium. They can also sign up on the GATA website.

This years meeting will be held in Peachtree City, GA at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center. There is a Special GATA hotel room rate of \$89.00/night. Please go to the following website to secure your room today and to for directions. (<http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/ATLPT/main.wnt>)

2009 High School Athletic Training Student Workshop

Jeff Hopp, GATA Treasurer

The GATA will sponsor a one-day High School Student Athletic Training Workshop in conjunction with our annual member's meeting and symposium in January. The workshop, organized by the GATA Student Advisory Committee, is intended for high school athletic training students and will cover a variety of topics, kicking off the day with a shoulder dissection presentation. The workshop will include lunch for all attendees as well as a t-shirt. The 5 accredited undergraduate athletic training programs in Georgia will also be on hand to provide information about their programs to the students. Details, including registration information, can be found on the GATA website, www.athletictraining.org.

**Emory Physician Assistant Student and GATA Athletic Trainer
Only Georgian to Provide Care at Olympics**

ATLANTA—Harris Patel, MA, ATC, has been chosen by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as part of its 62-member medical staff. Patel will leave on July 28 to spend five weeks with the athletes, beginning with training camp in Dalian and then on to Beijing. Patel is the only medical professional from Georgia assigned to the USOC medical staff.

Patel is a certified athletic trainer currently enrolled in the Physician Assistant Program at Emory University School of Medicine. He began his career as an athletic trainer (ATC) in 1998 and has been working with premier athletes since he was an undergraduate at the University of Georgia.

Patel's responsibilities at the games will include prepping United States athletes for practice or competition and evaluating injuries to determine the best course of action for the welfare of the athlete. He will also be involved with implementing treatment and rehabilitation programs.

"We are on call for the athletes 24/7 because they depend on us as medical professionals," says Patel. "We have to be on our feet for any medical emergency both on and off the field."

Patel's experience throughout graduate school and beyond is an impressive mixture of working on the medical staff of NFL football teams and spending his summers working with Olympic athletes.

His relationship with the USOC began in 2003 when he was selected to go to Sherbrooke, Canada for the Youth World Championships in Athletics. He interned with the USOC medical staff in Colorado Springs in 2005, working with all varieties of U.S. athletes, and traveled to Helsinki, Finland for the 2005 World Championships in Athletics. In 2006 he traveled to Birmingham, England for a track and field meet, and then on to the 2007 Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"I sometimes have to look back and wonder how I got all those opportunities," he says. "I have been very blessed and very fortunate."

Patel graduates from the Physician Assistant program in December of 2008. He wants to stay in the field of primary care and sports medicine. He believes God has a plan for him and he will follow that plan – after he passes his boards.

Press info:

- NBC - interview with Brenda Wood: <http://www.nbcolympics.com/wxia/video/index.html?videoid=4115>
- CBS - interview Tony McNary <http://www.cbs46.com/video/16945840/>
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: http://www.ajc.com/living/content/shared-blogs/ajc/social/entries/2008/08/08/tapped_for_the_opening_ceremon.html
- GAPA website press releases:
http://www.gapa.net/press_release_08_05_08.htm
http://www.gapa.net/press_release_09_08_08.htm



Congratulations Harris!!!!!!!

A Special Thanks to Our GATA Corporate Sponsors:

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Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc.
Annual Symposium Registration Form



JANUARY 16-17, 2009

WYNDHAM PEACHTREE CONFERENCE CENTER
 2443 Highway 54 West, Peachtree City, GA 30269

For Room Block Reservations please call 770.487.2000

Registration must be postmarked by January 2, 2009. Registrations not postmarked by the deadline will be charged the onsite fee. Those who have not registered by this date must register on-site. Refunds will only be given if you contact Paul Higgs at 478-445-1787 or at paul.higgs@gcsu.edu 72 hours or more in advance.

Name _____
 First M.I. Last Name for Badge
 Mailing Address _____
 Street Address _____
 City State Zip Code
 Preferred Email Address _____
 Institution/Employer _____

Symposium Registration	Pre-Registration NATA Member	Pre-Registration Non-NATA Member	ON-SITE	TOTAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed/Certified Member Physician/Allied Health NATA Member # _____ Georgia License # _____ 	\$90.00	\$115.00	\$125.00	\$ _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student 	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$65.00	\$ _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker/Award Winner GATA Hall of Fame Member 	NO FEE NO FEE	NO FEE NO FEE	NO FEE NO FEE	No Fee
Awards Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant – Complimentary Spouse/Guest - \$20.00 each (Award winners are allowed up to 4 guests) 	Tickets 1 Tickets _____		Tickets 1 Tickets _____	\$ _____
Payment Type Cash () Check () Credit Cards NOT accepted		Make Checks Payable To: GATA, INC	For Office Use Only Date Rec'd _____ Amt Rec'd _____ Check # _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please fill out the pre-registration form and mail to:
 Paul Higgs
 GATA President
 Georgia College & State University
 Campus Box 65
 Milledgeville, GA 31061

GATA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY **DECEMBER 1st AT 5 PM**. PLEASE MAIL

APPLICATIONS TO: Greg Marr, Meadows Wellness Center
101 Harris Industrial Blvd., Vidalia, GA 30474; (O) 912-277-2035,

All Applications Must Be Typed

Section 1: General Information

Name: _____
Last First Middle initial

HS / College /University: _____

Check scholarship for which you are applying: HS Undergrad Postgrad

Applicants School Address: _____

Applicants Permanent Address: _____

Telephone Number: (School / Home): _____

Class: Grad Senior Junior Sophomore Freshman

Hours Completed: _____ GPA on a 4.0 Scale: _____

Undergraduate Major: _____

Graduate Major: _____

Organizations/ Activities / Positions Held: (If not enough room please list on separate sheet of paper):

Athletic Training Experience:

Any Previous Scholarships and Year Received: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

SECTION 2: ESSAY

Please state in *500 WORDS OR LESS* why you desire this scholarship. Include personal and professional goals, what you feel you can contribute to the profession, and what you expect the profession to contribute to you. Applicants for the postgraduate scholarship must include a statement that addresses their planned or undertaken research study. **ALL ESSAY'S MUST BE TYPED AND SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT.**

Please forward a copy of your official transcript with application. APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE WITH OUT THIS.

SECTION 3: RECOMMENDATION / EVALUATION FORM

Someone who knows the applicant well should complete the following form. This person should *not* be a family member of the applicant.

Student's Name: _____

Rating	Outstanding Top 5-10%	Excellent Top 25%	Good Top 40%	Unable to Judge
1. Initiative	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Persistence	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Independence	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Responsibility	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Judgment	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Works well with others	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Leadership	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Communications	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Enthusiasm toward profession	_____	_____	_____	_____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Title/Occupation: _____

Signature: _____

In the space below, make a statement in support of your ratings in the above section. Please make note of any particular strengths. Use the back of this form if necessary.