

# Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association

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## GATA

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## Message from the GATA President

Dear GATA Members,

What a great meeting in Peachtree City! The Wyndham really rolled out the red carpet to welcome us back. Our education committee (Chuck Conner, Lori Howard, and Stacey Walters) put together a great schedule of topics and speakers chosen from items submitted via online survey responses from our GATA members. Zeb Rogers put together a full slate of vendors and our friend Tom Rokovitz of Sports Health sponsored our social on Friday night. Even with 2" of snow on the ground cutting our meeting short, it was a great time of networking and continuing education.

The Honors and Awards Committee, chaired by Greg Marr, selected outstanding individuals for recognition during the luncheon on Saturday. Once again, the GATA was able to give out scholarships on the high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels to build the next generation of our profession.

We will meet in Peachtree City in 2009 as well as 2010. Make plans now to attend. Better yet—make

plans to get involved in a deeper way by presenting to your peers about a topic relevant to your setting, or simply by spreading the word and encouraging your co-workers and students to attend with you. Just as with the patients we treat, the more involved you get in the game, the greater the reward. Being a spectator has its own reward, but being part of the winning team is even better!

In the year ahead, please try to get more involved in your state association. Issues affecting one setting may not impact another setting to the same degree, but we are all on the same team and should support each other. Get involved to know the issues affecting us. Work to enhance the profession in your corner of the world, and it will affect us all. From the newest student to the most seasoned Hall of Fame member, all of us have something to contribute.

Keep in touch,  
Paul Higgs

## Scholarship Winners



**Joseph Wilson**  
GCSU Graduate  
Roberta, GA



**Carrie Rahn**  
Valdosta Undergrad  
Clyo, Ga



**Kathryn Bott**  
East Coweta High School  
Sharpsburg, GA

## Award Winners

Jerry Rhea Athletic  
Trainer of the Year

**Tom Bair**

Progressive Rehabilitation Center



Warren Morris Sports Medicine  
Person of the Year  
**Dr. Mike Martino**  
GCSU



**Dr. Jack C. Hughston**  
Physician of the Year  
**Dr. Lawrence Powell**  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
and Concentra Medical Center

## A Student's View: The 2008 Annual GATA Symposium

Should I have gone to the GATA meeting? I'm not a certified athletic trainer, so does it really matter?

Let me start off by saying that I thoroughly enjoyed The 2008 Annual GATA Symposium. It was well put together and well run, thank you to the officers, presenters, and everyone else who was involved. The symposium was very informative and interesting. Topics such as issues that the state is dealing with and information on everyday scenarios that athletic trainers deal with from some of the most educated people in the field were presented and discussed.

Also, the vendors at the symposium gave great insight into what services they provide and information about many of the new products that will be coming out on the market later

this year. Many of the vendors even had demonstration models that you could use or watch them apply.

The most important aspect of the symposium for the undergraduate student is the networking that can be accomplished when there are so many athletic trainers in one building. As an athletic training student committee member, I met some of the Hall of Fame members: Jerry Rhea, Tom Smith, and Dave Pursley, the men who founded the athletic training profession in the state of Georgia with no formal athletic training education. They laid the foundation for everything the profession of athletic training has accomplished.

Speaking with many athletic trainers in Georgia from a variety of settings and introducing yourself to

them is a great way to meet people. The Annual Symposium is a great way to find out about possible internships or graduate assistantships. It provides a comfortable, pressure-free environment to talk with and gain information from potential supervisors and employers.

Overall, I believe that undergraduate students should attend The Annual Symposium. It gives you an excellent feel for the profession and the people you meet are fascinating. We had a fair turn out of students this year but I hope to see more in the coming years. Please ask your GATA student representative if you have any questions.

Tracy Greaves, ATS  
Valdosta State University

### GATA Podcast Series Available:

Click the link on the opening page of the GATA Website to subscribe to GATA Podcasts. These podcasts contain recordings (some with video) of some of the sessions from our 2008 meeting in Peachtree City. All podcasts will load into iTunes (a free download) and should run on most mp3 or mp4 players.




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<http://gcsu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5504148028>

# Gwinnett Medical Center Sponsors Symposium

Lawrenceville, Ga. (February 11, 2008) - More than 60 high school students attended Gwinnett Medical Center's first annual Gwinnett County High School Sports Medicine Symposium, which took place on Saturday, February 9, 2008 in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

The symposium, which was sponsored by the Sports Medicine Program of Gwinnett Medical Center, offered a comprehensive insight into the field of Sports Medicine. It was designed for high school students who are considering careers in athletic training or physical therapy. The program featured comprehensive sessions on the professions of athletic training and

physical therapy, taping, injury prevention, heat illness, first-aid, and splinting. In addition, presenters provided demonstrations of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the use of automatic external defibrillators (AED), and the process of managing a cervical spine injury of an injured football player, including spine boarding, on-field face mask and helmet removal.

Presenters included Gary Levensgood, MD Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Gwinnett Medical Center; Scott Maughon, MD, Chair of the Sports Medicine Committee at Gwinnett Medical Center; Becky Thompson, PT, CSCS of Gwinnett SportsRehab; Kylee Brady, NREMT,

Education for Life; Kim Winn, ATC, LAT, Delta Airlines; Mindy Simmons, MS, ATC, LAT, CSCS, Head Athletic Trainer Duluth High School; Jay Pearson, ATC, LAT, CSCS, Head Athletic Trainer Brookwood High School; Suzie Allain Williams, ATC, LAT, Head Athletic Trainer Central Gwinnett High School; George Geiger, ATC, LAT, Head Athletic Trainer Norcross High School; and Tim Simmons, ATC, LAT, Coordinator of Athletic Training Services for Gwinnett Medical Center.

David Florkowski  
M.Ed., ATC, LAT, CEAS, CSCS

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### Member Surveys Available:

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