

Fall '04

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

Since 1974, the NCATA has served to support athletic trainers, to promote and advance the profession of athletic training in North Carolina. The NCATA is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (District 3) and the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

NC Board of Athletic Training Examiners

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Change of Address or Email?

To those members who have moved, we need your help! Your corrected contact information is requested. Please go to the NATA website "Members Only" section www.nata.org/members1/members.cfm to update. Please be assured your information is secure. It will only be used for NATA membership communication.

Update is a publication of the North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association. If you have questions regarding this publication, please contact the *Update* Editor and NCATA member:

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The August edition of the newsletter comes to you as a large part of this association goes back to work in some form or fashion. August brings excitement and new people together in a never-ending cycle of athletic practices and games. I myself start my 20th season as an Athletic Trainer. I do not sense that I have been doing this job that long. I still very much enjoy Friday night High School football games and seeing old friends and watching our kids compete.

The NCATA Symposium for Students was held at UNC-G in July. We were pleased with the additional enrollment that coming back to Greensboro seemed to bring about. Randy Pridgen and his staff do an outstanding job with the program. I attended the closing ceremony along with several other board members and the kids seemed to have had a good time.

The NCATA website now has a new look. You can check it out at www.ncathletictrainer.org. Things have been eliminated and some new links added. The links page is a quick resource if you need one. A thank you goes out to Miles Kliewer for updating that for us. We are going to make a conscious effort to keep it constantly update and current. Any improvement ideas and updates can be sent to mkliewer@wcpss.net.

I recently returned from a BOC sponsored regulatory conference this past July. The purpose of the conference was to present ideas and share information that might allow other states to attain some type of regulation. Presently 7 states have no regulation for Athletic Trainers'. With reimbursement issues moving toward the forefront nationally, the NATA and the NATA Governmental Affairs committee has known that the need for all states is to have some type of regulation that in time would ultimately help reimbursement nationwide.

To all of you, take care and best of luck during your fall season.

Sincerely,
Mark

President's *Update*



Mark White ATC-L
President, NCATA

Correction & Apologies

Sports Medicine
Person of the Year,
Dr. Kurt Ehlert's name was
incorrectly spelled in the
Spring issue of *Update*.

INSIDE *Update*

(Click on Link Below)

- Student Symposium
- Elton Hawley Awarded!
- Committee on Revenue

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2004

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NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award

Elton Hawley is a native of Dunn, NC. He is a graduate of Midway high School and received his BS degree from Appalachian State University. Mr. Hawley completed his athletic training education through the Teacher/Athletic Training Instructional Program at Wake Forest University. He was the first athletic trainer employed in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg School System in 1972. He was also the inaugural recipient of the NCATA Athletic Trainer of the Year Award in 1984. He has served on the NCATA Board of Directors as a District Director, Vice-President and a two-term President. His association with the NC/SC Shrine Bowl game has spanned 21 years, currently serving as athletic training coordinator.

Hawley has been an athletic trainer at Olympic High School and West Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, NC and has served as Athletic Training Coordinator for the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools. He is currently employed with the Carolinas Healthcare System in Charlotte developing and implementing sports medicine programs in the Charlotte area.



Winner Elton Hawley (on right) with Scott Barringer

NATA Accepting Award Nominations

Nominations for the Hall of Fame, Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award, Athletic Trainer Service Award, President's Challenge Award and Honorary Membership will be accepted August 1 – November 15. If you know an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the athletic training profession, click [HERE](#) to nominate him/her for one of these prestigious awards.

NCATA Members Participate in NATA "Hit the Hill" Day



Three members of the NCATA took part in the first ever NATA Hit the Hill day on June 16 in Washington, DC. The event was held in conjunction with the annual NATA Meeting & Clinical

Symposia which took place that week in Baltimore. NCATA Governmental Affairs Chair **Kevin Allran**, along with **Rick Proctor** and **Amanda Allen** represented the NCATA in this event. The NCATA delegation met with House Representative **Sue Myrick** of North Carolina (District 9) to discuss the profession of athletic training and the role of athletic trainers in the health care system.

Governmental Affairs Update

Please look forward to hearing more about what the Governmental Affairs Committee is going to be doing in the very near future. Plans are in the works for a silent auction, golf tournament, and other fun activities. An outing is being planned for March 2005 in coordination with National Athletic Training month in Raleigh.

Keep'em Healthy.

Kevin Allran, Governmental Affairs Chair

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Latest Attempt to Limit The Practice of Athletic Training

By now everyone should have received an E-blast from Chuck Kimmel and the NATA regarding a proposed regulation in the August 5th Federal Register.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) are recommending a regulation that would severely limit the ability of Athletic Trainers to work as, and bill as Physician Extenders. While this may only affect a small number of our members, and a small number of patients, the long-term ramifications to our profession are HUGE. If CMS is successful, you can bet that the major commercial insurers will follow their lead and further attempt to prevent us from seeking reimbursement for the services that we provide.

This proposed regulation is similar to an attempt made one year ago to limit our practice. Athletic Trainers were successful in defeating that through a grass roots effort of letter writing from our Physician Champions. 300 hundred letters were written nationwide and nearly 10% of those came from NORTH CAROLINA! We need to do it again. If every one of our members writes a letter, and every one of our members gets one physician, coach, parent and/or administrator to write a letter, which could be between 2000 and 5000 letters sent out on behalf of our profession. ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Another professional organization is applauding this regulation and is working to help it pass, just as we are working to defeat it. One of their reasons: "The Association strongly opposes the use of unqualified personnel to provide services described and billed as physical therapy services." There are two problems with this statement that I want to point out before I tell you how to make a difference. First the term physical therapy services. Athletic Trainers provide Athletic Training services, and bill for them using PHYSICAL MEDICINE codes. These are the same codes that represent physical therapy services, but they are not used exclusively by physical therapists. The language of this regulation would prevent us from providing services utilizing physical medicine procedures and codes. Second, I am personally and professionally offended by the term, "unqualified personnel." We are all familiar with our educational and testing requirements, we are anything but unqualified! In the State of North Carolina, we have one of the highest continuing education requirements of any allied medical provider. This shows our dedication and commitment to expanding our qualifications, while others have NO CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT.

Now, what can you do about it? First, if you have deleted the e-mail sent out by NATA President Chuck Kimmel, go to the NATA website (www.nata.org) and log on using your member ID and your social security number. The center of the page will take you a page that has Chuck's letter, a sample letter you can use in whole or in part, instructions for how to submit your comments (type an MSWORD (preferred) or Word Perfect Document that will be attached) electronically, an excerpt from the Federal Register, the entire Federal Register and an extended summary. Once you have submitted your comments to CMS, I recommend that you also go to your United States Congressman's and your Senator's webpage (for example, www.coble.house.gov, www.edwards.senate.gov, and www.dole.senate.gov). Also, don't forget to let the NATA know that you have submitted your comments (send an e-mail to incidentto@nata.org).

If you have any questions or concerns about his issue, please do not hesitate to contact me (bgriffin@gsoortho.com).

This is a very important issue for each and every one of us regardless of the setting in which we practice. I want North Carolina to be one of the leaders in the NATA in getting this arbitrary and unfair regulation removed from consideration.

Bill Griffin, Chair, NCATA Committee on Revenue

NCATA Sports Medicine Symposium for Students

By Randy Pridgen ATC-L

The NCATA Sports Medicine Symposium for Students was held July 20-22 at UNC-Greensboro. This summer's symposium was another success! We had 118 students attend this summer. We made a few changes in the schedule this year to accommodate our new location.

Our teaching staff included Amanda Allen and Greg Calone (Elon University), Kim Shapiro (Campbell University), Brian Hermanowicz (NC State University), Allison Duckworth (Gardner-Webb University), Robin Kennel (Mars Hill College), Rob Dingle (Catawba College) and Brian Parker (Barton College). Guest instructors included Dave Perrin and Erica Thornton (UNC-Greensboro), Bob Casmus (Catawba College), and Michelle Lesperance (Greensboro College).

Our counselors included Andrew Browder (Appalachian State University), Rebecca Mann (Barton College), Sarah Muir and Shawna Turbyfill (Catawba College), Dawn Faircloth (Mt. Olive College), Chelsea Long (Mars Hill College), Katie Hanes (Greensboro College) and Sarah Curry (Guilford College).

Our administrative staff included Anne Robl (Greenfield School) and a long-time friend of the Sports Medicine Symposium for Students, Zack McNeil of Scotland High School.

At the conclusion of our symposium, we presented our annual awards to four very deserving students. The winner of the Bob Jamieson Student Assistant in Athletic Training was Kevin Schroeder from Green Hope High

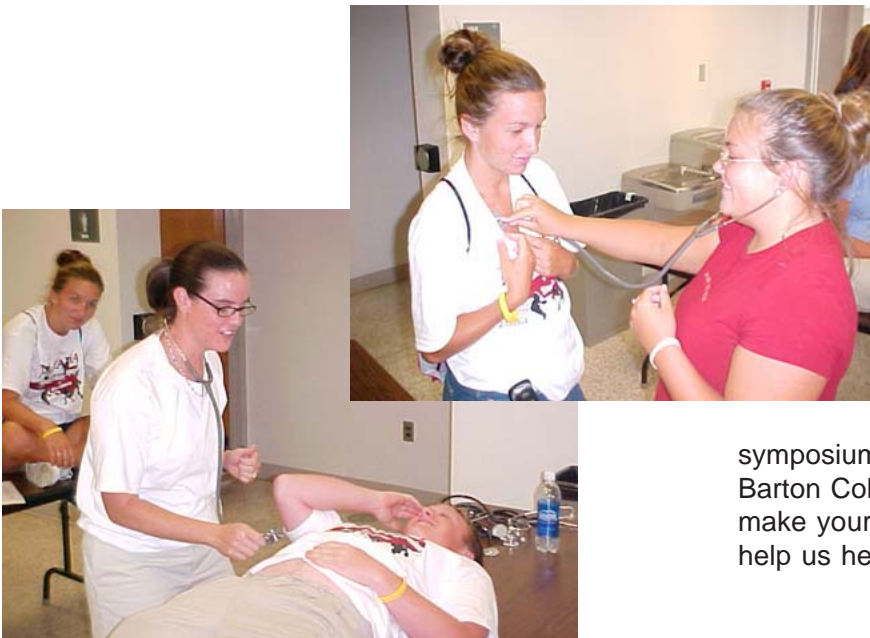


School. The Al Proctor Student Assistant in Athletic Training was presented to Katie Horne of Shelby High School. The Shrine Bowl selections were Joseph High of Hunt High School and Joyah Bullock of Fike High School.

Our symposium could not function without the staff, counselors and generous support from our sponsors. Our sponsors this year included the North Carolina Coaches Association, Murphy-Wainer Orthopedics (Division of Southeastern Orthopedics), School Health (John Miller), CFA Medical (Will Partin), Andover Products, Gatorade, Powerade, BioFreeze, Mueller Sports Medicine, Ari-Med Pharmaceuticals, Creative Custom Products, Cape Fear Sports Medicine (Dr. Dale Boyd), Raleigh Orthopedics and Rehab Specialists, Southeastern Orthopedics (Dr. Kevin Speer) and Orthopedics East (Greenville). Each of these sponsors generously gave supplies or monetary gifts ranging from \$50.00 - \$1500.00 and on behalf of the Sports Medicine Symposium and the NCATA, I would

like to thank them for their generosity and support. I would like to extend a very special thank you to UNC-Greensboro for hosting our symposium.

Next summer's symposium is tentatively scheduled for July 18-21, 2005 so mark those calendars! We had an exciting time and it was great to see our numbers increase this year from the previous years. We would like to continue to see our numbers increase, so please promote our symposium to your students! If you have comments or suggestions regarding the symposium, please address those to Randy Pridgen at Barton College or contact your District Director. Please make your students aware of this worthwhile event and help us help you!





More Student Symposium Pics!



Committee on Revenue Report

The Committee on Revenue (COR) is asking for help from Secondary School ATC's., particularly those whose health insurance is the Blue Cross / Blue Shield State Plan. Since a large number of our members are employed by public high schools and have this insurance, we want to target them for the reimbursement of Athletic Training Services. We want to flood the insurance company with as many letters as possible from our members, who also happen to be their insured. We are still working on the logistics of getting contact information and sample letters out to you, so please keep an eye on the website and future issues of the NCATA Newsletter.

Keep in mind that any one can do this with any insurance company. Write a letter explaining who we are, what we do, and then ask to be recognized by that carrier. Sample letters will be forthcoming.

Also, if anyone knows of someone who works in the insurance industry (family, friend, and athlete's parents) that we can utilize as a contact please get that information to me at bgriffin@gsoortho.com.

Are you receiving revenue for providing Athletic Training services (direct pay, direct bill, incident to physician billing)? Please contact me by phone at (336) 545-5005 x 1808 or by the above e-mail address. We need and want to know what is happening. We are also asked to provide this information to the NATA on a regular basis.

Bill Griffin, Chair, NCATA Committee on Revenue