

What Lies Beneath: Traumatic Brain Injury

(Concussion) *See Story Page 4*



© Martha Hoelzer

Photo of Artist Martha Hoelzer depicting her visual issued post TBI by Randy Young



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Bazluki, MAEd, LAT, ATC, EMT

Greetings

I hope this message finds you in good spirits and enjoying the spring weather. I know that we all are glad to finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as it relates to Covid-19 and the highly unusual year we all have been experiencing. While the pandemic is not over, we have been given a great deal more tools to work with like vaccinations

which are not only available to us as healthcare providers, but to 99% of our patient populations. While precautions are still needed with patient care situations, some of our daily routines have returned to normal.

This year has been difficult on most of us, physically, mentally, and emotionally. Please be sure to take care of yourself and never be afraid to reach out to someone if you are struggling. A colleague, AT Cares, family, friends etc. are all there to support you. Make sure to protect your time off and away from work. Unplug, rest, recharge. You earned the right to step away for yourself.

Congratulations to our award winners this year. Our award winners are posted on our social media and website. Our most recently announced winners were our Hall of Fame inductees for this year. This year's inductees are Randy Pridgen from East Wake HS and Bill Griffin (posthumously) past president of the NCATA. Their videos/PowerPoint acceptances are posted on our website, social media, and other locations. Please take the time to view them. This past weekend, Mr. Scott Barringer was officially inducted into the MAATA Hall of Fame. Scott's award and acceptance video is posted on the MAATA website under the members only section.

I would like to express our appreciation to Meredith Petschauer and her committee for being able to provide excellent programming virtually for the membership this year for free. We look forward to being back in person next spring in Wrightsville Beach, NC. The MAATA will be face to face in Charlotte next May and hopefully the NATA will be in Philadelphia in 2022. Like the rest of you, I am Zoomed out!

Its never too late to nominate someone for an award, NCATA, MAATA or NATA! We have great people in our state, and we need to recognize them when possible. Also, if something happens newsworthy in your area, local award or recognition of an AT or maybe a life saved, please let us know with some information about the event.

Take care, stay safe and keeping rising to the occasion!

Sincerely,

Jim Bazluki, MAEd, LAT, ATC, EMT
NCATA President

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.





Vice President Message

Meredith Petschauer, PhD, LAT, ATC

Hello everyone,

What a crazy spring it is! As we all have been following COVID protocols, assisting with testing, and working more hours than ever given every sport has had a season in the past 4-5 months, I am hoping there is an end in sight. Every athletic trainer deserves a “thank you” for managing these uncertain times. I certainly appreciate everything you are doing to represent our profession. We are the reason that many athletes will have a positive experience while in a pandemic.

While we were not able to meet in person, we have had some great virtual synchronous and asynchronous programs to keep you current. Those recorded events are still available on our website. We hope next March will be in person as I think we all miss networking!

On a personal note, I am beginning to figure out my role as Vice President and am looking forward to working with a great group of people over the next 2 years. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any needs or suggestions for the board.

All my best,
Meredith

Continuing Education Opportunities

Remember we have continuing education opportunities on the website under the [spring symposium tab](#) through the month of June. Please take advantage of these free CEU's. Hopefully we will be back in person in March!

COPA UPDATE

Greetings from the COPA.

If you are interested in being involved in the Committee on Practice Advancement please contact us.

If you have had any job description changes due to the impact of COVID-19, please contact us. Some athletic trainers have changed roles in their employment settings because of changes due to COVID-19 and we would love to learn more about the impact to the profession.

If you have not registered for your NPI, please do so. The NATA continues to report that only 35% of ATCs have an NPI.

Applying for your NPI is quick, easy and free. Visit the [CMS National Plan & Provider Enumeration System](#) to complete your application today. Follow our [Step-by-Step NPI Application Instructions](#) (pdf) to apply today. (NATA). [About NPI](#)

Serving our profession is very gratifying and enables our profession to continue to thrive in today's healthcare system. Having said that, please reach out to any of our state leadership and committee chairs if you would like to be involved in the NCATA in any way.

Co-Chairs

Dan Duffy
danduffy@ncata.net

Ashley Long
ashleylong@ncata.net

What Lies Beneath: Traumatic Brain Injury (Concussion)

NCATA sponsored a virtual art show opening for Martha Hoelzer, a local artist who photographically examines the brain's ability to interpret the environment from the patients perspective after a traumatic brain injury/concussion. Her work has been recognized by the International Photography Association with an honorable mention in 2020. This was the second event on our series with Clearwater Arts Center and Studio who is exhibiting her work. The opening was moderated by PR Chair Nina Walker. Martha was joined by Dr. Brett Miller, Director of the Vision Therapy Services at Triangle Visions Optometry. This event was highly informative, and created an opportunity for ATs and other healthcare professional to have empathy and understanding for patients experiencing these visual disturbances.

If you missed it live, [WATCH EVENT HERE](#)

It is eligible for Category D CEUs
(no certificate of attendance needed)



Wheat Keep You Berry Safe

NCATA partnered with Armored Cow Brewing Co. (8821 JW Clay Blvd #1, Charlotte, NC 28262) to develop an AT themed beer name for their Raspberry Wheat Hefeweizen, and an athletic training themed trivia night to announce the release of the beverage. The beer is currently on tap, but will be canned soon with a special label with the NCATA logo. The beer "Wheat keep you Berry Safe" is play on words and the job of all ATs, which is the safety of all of our patients. If you get a chance swing by to try it. It is only available on site at the Brewery.



NCATA HONORS & AWARDS

2021

LIFESAVER RECOGNITION

Pictured below, NCATA President **Jim Bazluki** and **Jade Witmer**, Certified Athletic Trainer at Monroe High School in Union County were presented the Lifesaver Recognition award at the 2021 NCATA Honors and Awards ceremony. Jim Bazluki and Jade Witmer found themselves in an emergency situation during their work at the hospital. A few hours into the start of the shift they were alerted by security that a cardiac arrest was coming into the facility. The nurse stated they were on a skeleton staff and did not have the manpower to run a full code and requested assistance by someone who could help with CPR. They professionally joined the code team and supported the nurses and doctors, providing chest compressions and other vital aspects to help stabilize the patient. You never know when you can use your skills and help other professionals understand the value of athletic trainers in the healthcare team.



Kevin Jones, Athletic Trainer of Pardee and AC Reynolds Middle School (pictured below) was presented the Lifesaver Recognition award at the 2021 NCATA Honors and Awards ceremony. Kevin Jones, who is hired through Pardee and normally works at AC Reynolds Middle School was reassigned to an Urgent Care facility to screen patients. While at work a patient collapsed in the waiting room, with no pulse and was non-responsive.



Quick life saving CPR and O2 administration, between the Physician Assistant and Kevin, resulted in a positive outcome for this patient. An example of regardless of what setting you are in, as an AT you must always be ready for an emergency.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NCATA Presidential Scholarship of Leadership



Benjamin Williams

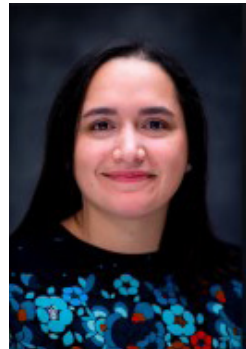
Benjamin Williams, undergraduate at UNC Wilmington who will be graduating this month with a BA in Athletic Training and minor in Psychology was presented with the NCATA Presidential Scholarship of Leadership award this year.

Quoted by Dr Hardy " Benjamin has developed a reputation within our College, and across the Athletic Training degree program, the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences, and the University. Benjamin seeks out opportunities for campus involvement and leadership driven by his desire to help others. Benjamin's high level of academic achievement, leadership, well-rounded human services perspective, and passion for helping others will serve as an asset to the athletic training cohort of scholars.

NCATA Pioneer Scholarship of Service

Kayla McReynolds

Kayla McReynolds, who is currently pursuing a MS in Athletic Training at UNC Greensboro was presented with the NCATA Pioneer Scholarship of Service award this year. Quoted by Dr. Adams (UNCG ATEP Director), Over the past year, Kayla devoted her time to assisting with delivering practical examinations, holding various study sessions, and providing hands-on instruction during emergency care situations. During what has seemed to be the toughest year and inability to do clinical rotations, Kayla has devoted her time to be of service through expanding her knowledge. Kayla has taken the initiative to learn Spanish in order to effectively communicate with athletes where English is not their first language. The drive and determination to be of service to so many is honorable.



NCATA Hall of Fame Scholarship of Academic Excellence

Merrily Lyons



Merrily Lyons, who is currently pursuing a MS in Athletic Training at UNC Greensboro was presented with the NCATA Hall of Fame Scholarship of Academic Excellence. Quoted by Dr. William Adams, Merrily embodies the athletic training profession with her leadership,

dedication, and compassion related to the profession and the patients that she cares for. "Merrily has excelled within her academics with an outstanding GPA (3.96) and her exceptional performance in the Kinesiology program (lowest grade was a single B+." (Dr. Terranova) Merrily is dedicated to pursuing a career in the professional performing arts field. She believes in providing an unique, patient-centered sports medicine program for the performing arts.

RECOGNITION OF NCATA AWARDS OF NC

NCATA Presidential Award

Dan Brown, Radeas

Dan Brown of Radeas was presented with the NCATA Presidential Award at the 2021 NCATA Honors and Awards ceremony. Quoted by Nina Walker, "His recognition of the versatile skills led to the employment of many ATs at Radeas COVID testing sites in Wake County. This was vital during a time when many ATs in traditional settings were being furloughed due to lack of sport participation and the job market had dried up for young professionals who had recently graduated. He understood the profession well enough to recognize that ATs excel in organization, leadership, customer service and complex logistical tasks. He utilized ATs in leadership positions, like supervisors, to help with the organization, inventory, set up and break down of events. He equated these tasks to the duty of setting

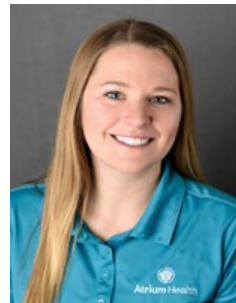


up for away football games and creating a new medical space every weekend."

He noted that ATs excelled at problem solving, managing flow and assisting in all operations at these events. He also recognized the importance of hiring individuals that matched the community that he was serving, by hiring a diverse AT work staff and utilizing many bilingual ATs to help reach community members that had difficulty communicating otherwise. I would like to recognize Dan and Radeas labs for their innovation in recognition that athletic trainers are healthcare workers that possess unique skills that translate far beyond the athletic field. Radeas allowed ATs to participate in helping communities, some underserved, have access to free, well organized and professionally supported COVID testing, when without this resource they may not have had the access to the healthcare that was needed.

NCATA AT Service Award

Johanna Williams



Johanna Williams of Atrium Health and Certified Athletic Trainer at Hough High School was presented with the NCATA AT Service Award at the NCATA 2021 Honors and Awards Ceremony. Quoted by Leigh Ann Caldwell (Sports Medicine Manager, Atrium Health), "For months, Johanna worked various shifts across multiple

counties across the state of North Carolina. There were early morning shifts, graveyard shifts, and shifts over an hour away that Johanna worked. She did anything from temperature screenings to drive up COVID testing mobile sites. At the end of several months, Johanna was on top of the leaderboard of hours worked during the COVID shift work.

Johanna continued to extend her support during the sports season covering a 8 hour shift at Bank of America Stadium before reporting to her assigned high school, Hough High School. She didn't stop there, during this past year Johanna has taken several online courses, certifications and skill sets to better serve her patients.

NCATA AT Service Award

Joe Sharpe



Joe Sharpe, Charlotte Hornets, was presented the NCATA AT Service Award at the 2021 NCATA Honors and Awards ceremony. Quoted by Quincy Sawyer (Associate Head Athletic Trainer, Charlotte Hornets), I have had the privilege to work on Sharpe's staff with the Charlotte Hornets in the NBA for the past 2+

seasons. Joe has always been a tremendous mentor and leader for this medical performance team. His ability to guide the skilled professionals on this team towards a common goal of player health, while also providing space for his staff members to make patient care decisions, has been tremendous for the professional growth of his staff members. This season, however, has been exceptional in the challenges posed to members of the medical community, and our organization has been no exception. Sharpe has taken the lead in our organization in all things COVID-19 related. Joe has served as the organization's primary point of contact, not just for the basketball team or basketball operations staff, but for the entire organization, serving on task forces, committees, and helping guide all aspects of this NBA franchise through the maze that is COVID-19 risk mitigation. The ever-changing CDC and NBA guidelines for health and safety have been difficult to follow, but Sharpe has been pivotal in helping keep our organization afloat and, most importantly, safe. Sharpe is a tremendous professional, mentor, and example for athletic trainers in this state of how to stand tall in the face of unprecedented adversity.

NCATA 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees

Bill Griffin

Proud Athletic Trainer, family man, and friend, **Bill Griffin** demonstrated passion in every aspect of his life. Beginning as a student, Bill was a dedicated member of the NATA for over twenty-one years. Bill served enthusiastically as a member of the NATA Governmental Affairs Committee, Chair of the District III Governmental Affairs committee,



NATA representative to the AMA Advisory Panel, and President of the NCATA until the time of his death. In 2011, he played an instrumental role in shepherding the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act into law in North Carolina.

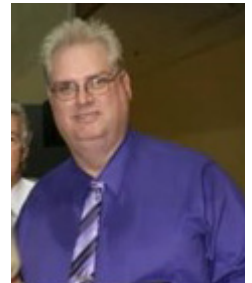
Energetic, creative, resourceful, and politically savvy, Bill never missed an opportunity to protect student-athletes, support fellow athletic trainers, or promote his beloved profession. To honor and remember Bill, the NCATA unanimously voted to induct Bill into the NCATA Hall of Fame.

Thank you to Bill Griffin's family for providing us with a slideshow of all the great memories and accomplishments of Bill Griffin.

[Watch Slide Presentation](#)

Randy Pridgen

Pridgen started his athletic training career as a graduate assistant at Guilford College from 1983-85 working with NCATA Hall of Fame member Broos. In 1985, he landed his first job as a teacher and athletic trainer at Enloe High School in Raleigh. After a three-year stint at Enloe, he transitioned to the college level and started a 22 year career at Barton College, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in October of 2012. He currently serves as a teacher and athletic trainer at East Wake High School in Wendell. Pridgen received his B.S. degree in Physical Education from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in 1983 and completed his M.S. degree in Health and Physical Education from NC A&T State University in 1986. Pridgen was first certified as an athletic trainer in 1988 and licensed in NC in 1997. He resides in Wilson, NC. He has two sons, Bryan and wife Amy, (Garner, NC) and Wesley (Savannah, GA), both who are co-founders of the Savannah Stage Company.



[Watch Video Presentation](#)

2020 & 2021 MAATA AWARD WINNERS

**We would like to honor our
2020 and 2021 District Award Winners**

Mark White, ATC



Mark is currently one of the Athletic Trainers at Southeast Guilford High School in Greensboro, North Carolina. He has been employed as a Teacher and Athletic Trainer in the Guilford County School System since 1985. He has been at Southeast Guilford High School for the past 30 years. Mark retired

from GCS in 2018 and is now employed by Murphy-Wainer Orthopedics as an outreach Athletic Trainer at Southeast Guilford where he continues to provide AT services. Southeast Guilford HS has been a Safe Sports School recognized by the NATA since 2014. He is currently an ACI with High Point University and Western Carolina University.

Mark has served the North Carolina Athletic Trainers Association for 30 years as the District 5 Representative, NCATA Vice President and as the NCATA State President from 2001-2007. From 2013-2018 he was the Executive Director of the ATNCPAC. He was Awarded the NCATA Hall of Fame in 2015. Mark currently serves as the District 3 NATAPAC Representative. Prior to this Mark received the NCATA Athletic Trainer of the Year Award in 1999. He received the NATA Service Award in 2005. The BOC awarded Mark the Dan Liberia Award in 2014. Mark was also received the MAATA MDAT award in 2011.

Mark is a 35-year member of the NATA. He is also a Lifetime member of the North Carolina Coaches Association. He is a 1985 graduate of Appalachian State University with a BS in Physical Education and a minor in Athletic Training. He completed his MS in Physical Education in 1990 from North Carolina A&T State University.

[Watch Video Presentation](#)

Scott Barringer, ATC

Scott has been involved in athletic training since 1975 and currently serves as the Manager-Athletic Training for Atrium Health in Concord, NC. Prior to this current position, he served as Sports Medicine/Athletic Director for Cabarrus County Schools from July 1996–May 2011. Scott was



instrumental in getting two certified & licensed athletic trainers in every high school and one in every middle school in Cabarrus County. He has been involved in the NCATA in various capacities serving as Chairman of the Secondary Schools committee, Vice President of the NCATA 1989-1993 and 2008 to 2012, President of NCATA 2013- 2018. He has served on the North Carolina Board of Athletic Trainers Examiners as Vice Chair, the NC Medical Society Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and the NCHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as Chairman. Scott's awards include the NCATA Athletic Trainer of the Year (1992), the NCHSAA Elton Hawley Athletic Trainer Award (2004), NATA Service Award (2014) and the MAATA MDAT Award (2015). Scott was inducted into the NCATA Hall of Fame in 2001.

[Watch Video Presentation](#)

**We would like to honor Ray Davis Jr
for two District Awards**

2020 MAATA Most
Distinguished Award

2021 MAATA
District Director Award



Ray Davis has been an active contributor to the field of athletic training for more than 20 years. Ray received his Bachelor of Science in Health Education from Western Carolina University and his Master's degree in Sports Medicine from the United States Sports Academy.

Following his graduation, Ray has provided professional and teaching experience in athletic training. Ray served as the Assistant Athletic Trainer and Educator at University of North Carolina at Charlotte (1984-1986). He then worked as an Assistant Athletic Trainer/CPR Instructor at Washington & Lee University (1986),

Harlem Globetrotters (1986-1988), IBM Fitness Center & Marriott Corporation (1988-1990). Ray has provided athletic training services/teaching at Apex High School (1990-1995), West Lake Year Round Middle School (1995-2008), John A. Holmes High School (2008-2013), and currently serves as Athletic Trainer/Educator at Southeast Guilford High School and serves as the Athletic Trainer for East/West All-Star games.

Ray has served in a variety of roles within the NCATA and MAATA. Over the course of his career, he has served as the MAATA Evaluator of the Student Research Committee (2004), MAATA Treasurer (2014) and NCATA Treasurer (1998-2014).

Ray was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1999 and received countless awards such as: NATA Twenty-five Year Service Award (2006), NCATA Twenty-five Year Service Award (2008), NATA Service Award (2013), Secondary School Athletic Trainer of the Year Award (2014). As a professional, Ray has always been willing to help and offer support for fellow athletic trainers and sports medicine professionals as seen in his many years of involvement. Ray was inducted into the NCATA Hall of Fame in 2015. Ray Davis is a testament to hard work, perseverance and determination with his numerous contributions to students, young professionals, and the profession of athletic training.

Stay tuned to our next newsletter as the NCATA Honors and Awards committee will be honoring our National Awards.

Check out the full video presentation of NCATA Honors and Awards on our [website](#).



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Hello from the DEI Committee!

The NCATA DEIC is committed to providing resources for our members and the populations we serve. Our current efforts are focused around revamping our website and our resource lists, providing education and discussion sessions for members on relevant topics, and providing opportunities to the communities we serve to learn about this wonderful profession.

We are always looking to hear from you- please email dei@ncata.net if you want to provide any suggestions/ feedback or if you want to be involved in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for NCATA!

Check out the work being done at the national level- Upcoming event that may interest students you work with. [VIEW HERE](#)

Healthcare Professional of Color Symposium for High School Students of Color (Virtual) May 22nd. [MORE HERE](#)

I hope to hear from you!
Ethan, Chair, DEI Committee

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NCBATE

If you have any questions or need any information regarding state licensure, practice act, statute, rules & regulations or the athletic trainer/physician protocol; please contact the state licensure board [HERE](#).

Contact: Paola Learoyd, Executive Director, executivedirector@ncbate.org

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