

Weber, Ferrell Scholarships Honor Longtime Razorback Athletic Trainers

The University of Arkansas congratulates the five recipients of athletic training education scholarships honoring longtime Razorback athletic trainers Dean Weber and the late Bill Ferrell.

“The athletic training education program and faculty want to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the generosity of the endowed Weber/Ferrell Athletic Training Scholarships,” said Jeff Bonacci, director of the program. “This scholarship gift has provided the needed monies for athletic training students to continue their graduate education at the University of Arkansas. This support signifies the respect that former Arkansas athletes have for both Dean Weber and Bill Ferrell as well as their appreciation for the outstanding health care that they provided for all of their student-athletes.”

Jon Hochstetler of Mackinaw, Ill., won both the Weber and Ferrell scholarships. The Weber scholarship is presented to the top student in the athletic training education program, a graduate degree program in the university’s College of Education and Health Professions.

The other four Ferrell scholarship winners are Kurt Andrews of Rochester, Mich., Taylor Ludy of Kirkland, Wash., Hillary Plummer of Snellville, Ga., and Brittany Widman of Blaine, Minn.

Andrews, Ludy and Widman are



From left, Hillary Plummer, Brittany Widman, Kurt Andrews, Taylor Ludy and Jon Hochstetler

all working with the Razorback football team for their clinical rotation this semester. Hochstetler is working with the track program, and Plummer is working with the women’s softball team.

The seniors from the 1979 Razorback football team created the award in honor of Weber, who is now the director of equipment operations in the department of athletics. Following

the 1979 team’s lead, the Razorback Foundation and Jim Lindsey created another award in memory of the late Bill Ferrell, longtime athletic trainer and head baseball coach at the university. The Razorback A Club – a group comprising former athletes and lettermen – and Lindsey worked together to raise funds for the Ferrell scholarship.

Greetings from the Dean By Tom Smith, Ed.D.



The College of Education and Health Professions is proud to introduce this newsletter to convey important accomplishments and news from our athletic training education program. This first issue is indeed special because it gives us a

chance to highlight the generosity of the benefactors who created the Dean Weber and Bill Ferrell Endowed Scholarships in Athletic Training. We greatly value the support provided to our students through these scholarships. We are proud of

the recipients and all of the students in this top-quality program that fits perfectly into the mission of the college to prepare professionals who make a difference in people’s lives in so many ways.



Students Work With Pro Athletes Over Summer

Three University of Arkansas athletic training students made it to the big leagues this summer.

Adrian Pettaway and Kevin Kikugawa completed monthlong internships this summer as student athletic trainers with the San Diego Chargers and Buffalo Bills, respectively. Kurt Andrews logged three months as an intern with the L.A. Galaxy.

The three are second-year students in the graduate athletic training education program in the College of Education and Health Professions. During their monthlong internships, Pettaway and Kikugawa were awarded the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society Ethnic Minority Scholarship.

The scholarship recognizes athletic training students for their maturity, leadership, work ethic and abilities while completing internships at Na-

tional Football League training camps and during the preseason.

Internships placed in the middle of the academic program give the graduates an edge in the job market, said Jeff Bonacci, director of the athletic training education program.

“This increases their opportunity for full-time employment over another student competing for the same job who has not completed an internship and who usually seeks internships after the academic program,” Bonacci said. “We are very proud of these students’ achievements. We feel confident all of our athletic training education students are well-prepared to handle the responsibilities of a summer internship like this and of their clinical rotations and eventually excel in their careers as professional athletic trainers.”



Kevin Kikugawa worked this summer as a student athletic trainer with the Buffalo Bills.

Program Director’s Corner By Jeff Bonacci, D.A., A.T.C.



Hello alumni, prospective students and friends of the athletic training education program at the University of Arkansas. The program has just finished its 10th year in existence, and to that end the faculty believe it is high time that we produce a biannual newsletter. Each fall and spring semester, we want to tell you about initiatives within the athletic training education program

as well as report on our student and alumni accomplishments.

Most recently, the academic program has been re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Dr. Gretchen Oliver and I put an extreme amount of time and effort into preparing the necessary documentation required for re-accreditation, and we were very pleased with the response.

In terms of enrollment, the program is at its maximum capacity of 30 students (15 in each class). We received 42 applications for the 15 slots in the

class of 2012.

Since the program received its initial accreditation on April 15, 2005, it has produced 68 certified athletic trainers with a 94 percent overall pass rate on the national certification exam as compared to the 38.2 percent overall national pass rate. We continue to provide high-quality clinical instruction with a maximum of a 4-to-1 student-to-clinical instructor ratio at a variety of on-campus and off-campus sites of high schools, primary care physician’s offices, physical therapy clinics, and orthopedic physicians’ offices and surgery.

Department Sees Program Grow *By Sharon Hunt, Ed.D.*

Head of the Department of Health Science, Kinesiology, Recreation and Dance



The graduate entry-level athletic training education program was initially granted national accreditation in 2005, and it received a five-year re-accreditation in 2010.

The first cohort class in 2004 had an enrollment of four students, but for the past several years each cohort has had 15 students with two cohorts run simultaneously. The degree program was originally offered as a concentration in athletic training within the Master of Science degree in kinesiol-

ogy. Recently, the degree program was changed to a Master of Athletic Training to comply with accreditation requirements.

The students enrolled in this program have the opportunity to interact with innovative researchers and teachers in the field of exercise science, and they move through a series of clinical rotations that expose them to both Division I and high school athletic programs, physical therapy clinics, and medical rotations with doctors. Graduates of the program have been employed in a variety of settings including high schools, universities, professional athletic teams, and clinical practices.

Given the time-consuming clinical requirements of the athletic training program, the graduate students enrolled in it are not able to secure a graduate assistantship. Therefore, the Department of Health Science, Kinesiology, Recreation and Dance has worked closely with the University of Arkansas Athletic Department to provide financial support to students enrolled in this program. Each year, the Athletic Department provides a \$1,500 per student stipend, purchases books for the students, and covers travel expenses for the students to attend the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Association annual meeting.

New Class Reports to Campus

Our incoming class that will finish the program in 2012 has an average GPA of 3.65.

The students and their undergraduate institutions:

Kathleen Ayers University of Kentucky
William Baum Baker University (Kansas)
Mathew Berning Hasting College (Nebraska)
Kristin Brown University of Arkansas
Jillian Colten University of Arkansas
Anthony Dewater University of Arkansas
Sean Huddleston University of Missouri
Stacia Lappin University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Kelley MacDonald University of Kansas
Alyssa Romasco McDaniel University (Pennsylvania)
Michael Solo Arkansas Tech University
Katherine Susskind University of California - Davis
Karen Taylor University of Mississippi
Emily Wozobski University of Southern California
Thomas Young University of Arkansas - Little Rock

Research Focus *By Gretchen Oliver, Ph.D., A.T.C., L.A.T.*



The University of Arkansas Sport Biomechanics Group was created to focus on the research side of athletic training education. I lead the Sport Biomechanics Group, and it includes Dr. Bonacci, athletic training education students and exercise science graduate students.

We have been fortunate to receive funding for my research, including grants from the Arkansas Bioscience Institute, American College of Sports Medicine and the University of Arkansas

Women's Giving Circle.

Much of the research focus is on the effects of extended performances of baseball and softball pitching and catching in youth. The ultimate goal is to develop injury prevention programs for youth baseball and softball participants. Although baseball and softball pitching and catching have been the primary funded focus, other research projects within the realm of sports medicine have been and are being conducted.



Welcome, University of Arkansas Athletic Trainers

The athletic training education program would like to welcome new faces in the University of Arkansas athletic training rooms.

In their second year, Drs. Marc Powell, Wes Cox, Chris Arnold and Terry Sites have taken on new roles as team orthopedic surgeons. Dr. Al Gordon continues to serve as the director of sports medicine for the Razorback Athletics Department and medical director for the athletic training education program.

Tricia Matysak is also in her second year here as associate head athletic trainer for Olympic Sports. She came from the University of Kentucky, where she was an assistant athletic trainer. She is a graduate of Purdue University's athletic training education program, a program that is 25 years old.

Jason Traxson, one of our graduates in 2008, has returned to his alma mater after working two years at the University of Cincinnati. He serves as

as an assistant athletic trainer with the women's gymnastics team.

In his second year, Matt Summers has taken over as the role of the head athletic trainer for football. He came to Fayetteville from the University of Kentucky, where he served as the senior associate athletic trainer. He also spent two years as an assistant athletic trainer with the San Diego Chargers.

RAZOR Sports Medicine Symposium Set for Dec. 4

The topic of the Fifth Annual RAZOR Sports Medicine Symposium will be therapeutic exercise and rehabilitation through functional movement.

The symposium is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, at the University of Arkansas Center for Continuing

Education on the downtown square in Fayetteville. Dr. Gretchen Oliver developed this sports medicine symposium five years ago in attempt to foster continuing education in the realm of sports medicine as well as develop a research fund. This year's symposium

will highlight the all-popular Functional Movement Screen with a hands-on lab to accompany the lecture.

Registration includes CEUs and CMEs. For more information, contact Dr. Oliver at goliver@uark.edu.

2010 Graduating Class Working Hard

The graduating class of 2010 and their employment:

James Wyman (Arkansas) - head athletic trainer, Gravette High School, Arkansas

Onyee Leung (China) - head athletic trainer, Sheridan High School, Arkansas

Craig Skinner (Texas) - intern athletic trainer, Houston Rockets

Jill O'Brien (Washington) - intern athletic trainer, University of Florida

Jamie Cade (Michigan) - intern athletic trainer, Appalachian State University

Katelyn Bishop (Virginia) - intern athletic trainer, Appalachian State University

Jackie Shank (Arkansas) - gymnastics coach, Connecticut

Julie Suits (Texas) - co-head athletic trainer, Timber Creek High School, Keller, Texas

Adrian Flemming (Texas) - co-head athletic trainer, Heritage High School, Frisco, Texas

Ajay Kurani (California) - athletic trainer, California

Kalani Holleman (California) - head athletic trainer, The King Academy, San Francisco

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