

Students From Across US, Japan Excel in Athletic Training Program

The University of Arkansas athletic training program attracts students from all over the United States and this year is no exception. The top students come from four U.S. states and another country, and their career plans span several sports and competitive levels.

Five students are recipients of this fall's Bill Ferrell athletic training scholarships, with one of the five also receiving the Dean Weber athletic scholarship reserved for the top student in the program.

Elli Dinkmeyer is from Double Oak, Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Texas A&M University in 2016. Dinkmeyer is splitting her time in clinical rotation between Advanced Orthopaedic Specialists and Shiloh Christian High School.

She wants to be an athletic trainer because she enjoys being part of a team and serving others. She has not settled



Elli Dinkmeyer, from left, Colin Glenny, Ike Kato, Bryanna Moltz and Matthew McCarthy

on a specific career path yet but is drawn to Division I and professional levels of competition.

Colin Glenny is from Bellevue, Washington. He earned a bachelor's degree in human physiology with a minor in biology from the University of Oregon in 2016. Glenny is doing a clinical rotation at Bentonville West High School this semester.

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Weber Inducted Into Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame



Only two athletic trainers have been inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. They have their own professional association, after all, and both Bill Ferrell and Dean Weber were inducted into the Arkansas Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame 20 years ago. They are also members of the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame and the

University of Arkansas Sports Hall of Honor.

So, Weber was "very humbled and honored for the tremendous honor" of being inducted this year into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. This year's nine inductees were celebrated at a ceremony April 6 in Little Rock. It gave Weber a chance to visit with former athletes he worked with as head athletic trainer at the University of Arkansas, including several who created a scholarship in his name. Since then, the athletic training program in the College of Education has given the Dean Weber scholarship to the top student in the program each year.

He joked that, when the 1979 Razorback football team told him they wanted to do something to honor him, he asked if they would pay off his mortgage. They didn't go for

that, but the scholarship in his name was very special to him.

"The scholarship those players endowed is more meaningful than any of the awards I've been honored to receive," Weber said. "I feel like it's not just for me but the whole team. It's a wonderful way to give back."

He saw many changes over the years, including the introduction of women as athletic trainers, starting with the daughter of a former player, and a rise in the professionalism and demand for the profession overall. He was selected to the U.S. Olympic Team as an athletic trainer in 1984, after serving on the athletic training staff of the National Sports Festival three times.

For 35 seasons, Weber supervised the athletic training operations for men's sports teams. He oversaw equipment operations for all 19 Razorback teams for six more years before being named an assistant director of the Razorback Foundation in 2014.

He said he's seen the excitement for the Razorback brand many, many times over the years, including when he met bus driver in London wearing a Razorback jacket.

"The Razorback brand helps us attract students," he said. "But, also, our faculty (Jeff Bonacci, Brendon McDermott and Lesley Vandermark) prepare our students well for the profession. They do a good job attracting good students who go out and get good jobs. Ultimately, that's the deal we want."



Program Director's Corner

By Jeff Bonacci, D.A., A.T.C., L.A.T.



Bonacci

Hello Razorback alumni, prospective students, and friends of the athletic training program. This fall is another exciting time for our program. We admitted our second class of 21 students from coast to coast.

The NATA Symposium alumni social in New Orleans was a big success with 50 or more alumni from around the country in attendance. It was great to catch up with several alumni.

This academic year, the athletic training faculty will be writing their CAATE accreditation self-study in preparation for a 2019-2020 site visit.

This past spring was the inaugural Health, Human Performance and Recreation Department alumni of the



year award, which was given to an athletic training alumnus, Mark O'Neal, from the Chicago Cubs. It was a great night for Mark and his family. Hope you all have a great fall and if you are ever in Fayetteville stop by the HPER building and see us.

GO HOGS!!!

Students Gain Valuable Summer Experience

By Lesley Vandermark, Ph.D., A.T.C.



Vandermark

Many students seek out summer internship opportunities during the summer between their first and second years in the program. Summer internships are not part of the graduate athletic training program curriculum, which gives the students freedom to look for experiences that may be outside the box or hard to get.

This year, many students had internships with professional sports, summer youth sports camps, and summer sports programs at other universities. They were all across the country, gaining unique experiences that will support their future athletic training career endeavors.

Ikuo Kato was able to attain an internship with the Arizona Diamondbacks organization. He spent three weeks at their spring training facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, working with the athletes. Kato, who is interested in a career in

professional baseball athletic training, described it as an incredible experience with the passion and learning culture the organization created.

As a Licensed Athletic Trainer in Texas, Ellisa Dinkmeyer was able to gain experience with youth summer camps at Texas A&M University. She was able to gain leadership experience and work with a variety of sports for thousands of kids in first to 12th grade. Dinkmeyer recalled that the large camps provided her with lots of experience with injury and illness evaluation, emergency response, and communication with athletes, parents, and coaches.

These internships can lead to full time positions and extend the professional network of students who participate in them. Many previous students have gone on to work in similar fields, or with some of the colleagues met during the summer internship. We are excited to have the students back for their fall semester with new perspectives on their education, clinical skill, and career aspirations.

Students Setting the Standard in Research

By Brendon McDermott, Ph.D., A.T.C.



McDermott

Our 2018-2019 academic year recently began with a flurry of good news on the research front. Over the summer, Alex McDonald's ('16) thesis analyzing injury prediction for American football players was accepted for publication in the Journal of Athletic Training. This is a major accomplishment and her study demonstrates that many routine screening tools can help athletic trainers

predict injury and, hopefully in the future, implement preventive strategies to better prevent injury.

Ikuo Kato recently received funding from a Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association grant for his upcoming thesis. This semester, his team will evaluate the amount of added thermoregulatory stress that men's lacrosse equipment adds during exercise in the heat. This is a study that is long overdue and no previous studies have evaluated this impairment

in one of America's fastest growing sports. It will be integral in setting safety standards for future players.

Other students in our program will be involved in many studies this year as well. Dr. Kaitlin Gallagher is evaluating potential hazards and safety for athletic trainers while they are doing athletic training. We are particularly excited about this series of studies as they will undoubtedly help our profession in the future.

Dr. Erin Hickey is organizing an Exercise is Medicine movement on campus, with some research questions related to demonstrating how exercise benefits everyone. Dr. Brendon McDermott will head up a group to study comparing different recommended hydration protocols for occupational workers laboring the heat.

Research continues to be an integral part of our athletic training program, and our students will be evidence-based clinicians when they graduate. Some of our students are setting a standard for others in our profession to follow.

Students From Across US, Japan Excel in Athletic Training Program continued...

Glenny said he wants to be an athletic trainer because being responsible for the rehabilitation of athletic injuries is one of his passions, particularly with elite-level athletes. He would like to work in the NFL or Division I college football after graduation.

Ikuo "Ike" Kato is from Yamagata, Japan. He earned a bachelor's degree in sport science from Tokyo Gakugei University in 2016. Kato is doing a clinical rotation at 201rm physical therapy facility in Fayetteville this semester. Kato also won the Weber scholarship.

He became interested in athletic training during the time he spent in his junior year as an exchange student at Carthage College in Wisconsin. He played baseball for 10 years in both Japan and the United States and said Major League Baseball would be his dream job.

Matthew McCarthy is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology with a focus on movement science and a minor in business from Pennsylvania State University in 2017. He is doing a clinical rotation with Razorback basketball this semester.

McCarthy dates his desire to be an athletic trainer back to his time in youth leagues through his intercollegiate career. His passion has continually grown and he wants to work with athletes to help keep them healthy on and off the field.

Bryanna Moltz is from Sheridan, Arkansas. She earned a bachelor's degree in health science with a minor in physical education from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville in 2017. Moltz is doing a clinical rotation with U of A gymnastics this semester.

She became interested in athletic training because she is an athlete herself and understands how devastating an injury can be to an athlete's career. She wants to be the first line of defense when it comes to keeping athletes healthy and participating in their sport, and she would like to work at a high school or small college in Arkansas after graduation.

The scholarships honor Dean Weber, a longtime head trainer of athletics at the U of A, and Bill Ferrell, head baseball coach and head athletic trainer at the University of Arkansas from 1950 through 1967.



Outstanding Alumnus Maintains Strong Ties with Program



Mark O'Neal grew up in the small town of Russellville, Arkansas, loving the Razorbacks on his way to taking care of athletes in the big leagues. He earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Arkansas in 1989 and the following spring began working as an athletic trainer for the St. Louis Cardinals. He has since spent nearly 30 years with

the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals organizations.

O'Neal, director of medical operations for the Cubs since 2013, was named outstanding alumnus of the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation last spring. Jeff Bonacci, the coordinator of the U of A athletic training program, can provide a long list of O'Neal's accomplishments and leadership roles:

- President, Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society

- Chair, Major League Baseball's Medical Advisory Board
- Major League Baseball Athletic Trainer of the Year, 2008
- National League All Star Athletic Trainer, 2009

But accolades aside, both Bonacci and O'Neal stress support for students when they talk about O'Neal's career.

"He has opened many doors of opportunity for young, deserving athletic training students in professional baseball and to students of the athletic training program at the University of Arkansas," Bonacci said.

Each year, the Cubs have three students working as athletic training interns during the summer, O'Neal said. He has also returned to the U of A to talk to athletic training students about career paths.

"Students are coming out of college so much more polished," he said. "They pick up the concepts and processes we use right away. We selfishly use it as a working interview. We employ 12 athletic trainers and any given year we hire a couple of new ones. For the past five years, we have hired someone from our internship pool."

Graduates of 2018 Working With All Levels of Athletes

DOMINIC ALEJANDRE, athletic trainer, University of California San Francisco Children's Hospital - High School Outreach

KAILLEY BAKER, athletic trainer, Proliance Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Seattle

????, assistant athletic trainer, Briar Cliff University, Iowa

TYLER CAMPBELL, assistant athletic trainer, Point University, West Point, Georgia

GRADY FINLEY, athletic trainer, Northwest Medical, outreach Har-Ber High School

ALEX FOREHAN, head athletic trainer, Muenster High School, Texas

ABBEY HESS, intern, athletic trainer, University of Tennessee Chattanooga

KATIE JOHNSON, athletic training fellow, Methodist Sports Medicine, Houston, Texas

CHASE LADD, intern, athletic trainer, University of Alabama, Birmingham

TAYLOR LIPPERT, intern, athletic trainer, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

BRANDON MYERS, intern, athletic trainer, Missouri Southern University

TAYLOR OVERTON, intern, athletic trainer, Texas Tech University

KRISTEN PETERSON, intern, athletic trainer, Western Kentucky University

ERIC POLOMIS, athletic trainer, University of Minnesota University Hospital Sports Medicine Center

DAMON REEL, intern, athletic trainer, Arizona Diamondbacks minor league

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, intern, athletic trainer, Seattle Seahawks

ERIC SCHWARTZ, intern, athletic trainer, DC United, MLS

JORDAN SHIMODA, intern, athletic trainer, Auburn University

MARIELLEN VEACH, head athletic trainer, College of DuPage, Chicago, Illinois