The hard work of five University of Arkansas students in the graduate athletic training education program has earned them recognition with scholarships honoring legendary Razorback athletic trainers Bill Ferrell and Dean Weber.

Satoshi Iida, Katherine Luhring, Alexandra McDonald, Megan Smith and Madeline Torretta are enrolled in the Master of Athletic Training degree program in the College of Education and Health Professions. They are the 2015 recipients of the Bill Ferrell Endowed Scholarship in Athletic Training. Iida also won the Dean Weber Endowed Scholarship in Athletic Training presented to a second-year student following extensive review and interview.

Former University of Arkansas football players who played under the care of Weber and Ferrell established the scholarships. Weber supervised the athletic training operations for men’s sports teams for 35 years. Ferrell was head baseball coach and head athletic trainer from 1950 to 1967. He died in 1967.

All five of the student recipients are in the second year of the program and plan to graduate next spring. The master’s degree will prepare them to work in all kinds of sports and at all levels of competition as well as in clinical settings.

Iida, of Tokyo, earned a bachelor’s degree in sport sciences from Waseda University in Tokyo. He is the son of Hitoshi and Emiko Iida. This semester, he is helping with sports medicine care for the Razorback track and field and cross-country teams.

Luhring, of Monrovia, California, earned a bachelor’s degree in neurobiology, physiology and behavioral science from the University of California, Davis. She is the daughter of Paul and Susan Luhring. She is gaining clinical experience this semester with the Fayetteville High School football team.

McDonald, of Marysville, Washington, earned a bachelor’s degree in pre-physical therapy and kinesiology from Western Washington University. She is the daughter of Jeff Bonacci and Jennifer McDonald. She is the daughter of Dr. Al Gordon, who continues to serve in the position. Gordon acts as medical consultant on research students conduct, lectures a couple of times a year, coordinates lectures by other physicians in the area and serves as medical liaison to help match students with physicians and other health-care providers they can shadow on the job.

Program’s Medical Director Increases Support with Scholarship

When Jeff Bonacci came to the University of Arkansas to help establish a master’s level athletic training education program, he envisioned a specific type of person to serve as medical director of the fledging program.

“I wanted someone with a really strong conviction for education,” said Bonacci, a clinical assistant professor of kinesiology who coordinates the program. “I needed someone who would be vested in the program and who had strong connections in the medical community.”

He found Dr. Al Gordon, who a dozen years later continues to serve in the position. Gordon acts as medical consultant on research students conduct, lectures a couple of times a year, coordinates lectures by other physicians in the area and serves as medical liaison to help match students with physicians and other health-care providers they can shadow on the job.
Program Director’s Corner By Jeff Bonacci, D.A., A.T.C., L.A.T.

Hello Razorback Alumni, prospective students, and friends of the athletic training education program. The fall semester in Fayetteville is upon us and collegiate and high school athletes are in full swing. This past spring semester has been an outstanding year for the athletic training education program.

For the sixth straight year, I am pleased to report that 17 of 17 second-year students took the BOC exam and all students passed on the first attempt. This is an outstanding performance by our students. The ATEP would like to commend our own Dr. Brendon McDermott, Ph.D., A.T.C., on his BOC EBFP presentations on Evidence-Based Recognition and Management of Exertional Heat Illness at the Arkansas Athletic Trainers’ Association annual April meeting in Conway and Evidence-Based update on hydration recommendations for the physically active at the Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association regional meeting in July.

The testing a prototype phase-change cooling garment with Kaitlin Gallagher, our department’s new resident biomechanist, was another highlight of the year. The new-age garment reduced heat storage and improved workcooling inserts during industrial work in the heat. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

It was in 2003 that the College of Education and Health Professions began offering the program, the first on the graduate level in the SEC. Gordon had been providing primary care for the Razorback athletic department since 1994. “I think Jeff did a little background on me and learned I had been to graduate school (before medical school) and that I had taught for a while,” Gordon said. “That appealed to him.”

Dr. A.Y. Gordon, Jr.
Award in Athletic Training
Meghan Barrington
Pullman, Washington
Daughter of George and Suzanne Barrington
Bachelor’s degree in physiology, University of Washington
Clinical rotation in Razorback football

Some of the research from this past year included testing a prototype phase-change cooling garment with cooling inserts during industrial work in the heat. The new-age garment reduced heat storage and improved work productivity. We are looking forward to testing similar technology during athletic activity.

Athletic training students have been assisting multiple research efforts in the Office for Sport Concussion Research headed by Dr. K.J. Elbin. Sutoshi Iida is completing a thesis regarding the effect of hydration status on concussion testing. Some others are helping with a study looking at concussion testing following exertional activity to identify the time course of recovery following exercise.

We also have students completing data collection with Dr. Kaitlin Gallagher, our department’s new resident biomechanist. One group is assessing the effects of two spine injured rescue protocols in the gymnastic pit on cervical spine displacement. Another group effort in data collection is looking at muscular EMG activity following meniscectomy surgery in patients who have a tourniquet or no tourniquet during surgery. Wherever our students are these days, there is a lot going on. Research has become an integral part of our program with every student completing a significant contribution, which will help them utilize evidence-based practice in their futures.

Program’s Medical Director Increases Support with Scholarship cont...
of Diana and Scott McDonald. Her clinical assignment this semester with Razorback soccer is giving her hands-on experience as an athletic trainer.

Smith, of Bethany, La., earned a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from the University of Arkansas. She is the daughter of Butch and Sonja Smith. She is assisting the sports medicine staff this semester at Rogers Heritage High School.

Torretta, of St. Louis, earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and exercise science from Quincy (Ill.) University. She is the daughter of Don and Laura Torretta. This fall, her clinical assignment is helping provide care for athletes at Springdale High School.

Canadian Athletic Therapists Association certification and is also certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association in the United States. He directs the Running Injury Clinic at the University of Calgary.

The Razorback Athletic Trainers’ Association presented the hourlong webinar, which was free for students. It was part of the athletic training education program’s scholar speaker series.

Class of 2015 Hard at Work After Graduation

TONY BRUZZICHESI, intern athletic trainer, Reinhardt University, Canton, Georgia

ABBEY COOK, athletic trainer, West Frankfort High School/ Morthland College - Nova Care, West Frankfort, Illinois

JASON DUBS, intern athletic trainer, track and field, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

AMBUR DRYER, assistant athletic trainer, Fayetteville High School, EMT, Central EMS, Fayetteville, Arkansas

NIKI ENGLER, head athletic trainer and instructor, Carson High School, Team Heal Foundation, Carson, California

CAYLA FRITZ, athletic trainer, clinic coordinator, Sports Concussion Treatment Center, Highland Village, Texas

JAMES GRANT, athletic trainer, technical sports scientist, Catapult Corp., Chicago, Illinois

WILL HANKINS, athletic trainer, Texarkana, Arkansas

SPENCER HIEHT, seasonal intern, Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City, Missouri

JOE LANZETTI, head athletic trainer, Sherman County High School, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, Dalles, Oregon

CAROLINE LOUNSBOURY, athletic trainer, Orthopedic Physicians Alaska, Athletic Trainer Outreach, Anchorage, Alaska

MONICA MENCHACA, athletic trainer, Brazos Valley Sports Medicine Clinic Outpatient Physical Therapy, College Station, Texas

NICOLE NATTER, intern athletic trainer, track and field, Ohio State University – Columbus, Ohio

ALYSSA PLANTZ, intern athletic trainer, football, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

BRITTANY SANTUCCI, intern, University of California Berkley, beach volleyball and women’s crew, Berkley, California

ANDY SCHEUANN, head athletic trainer, North Bullitt County High School, Baptist Health Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky

AUDREY WILLINGHAM, intern athletic trainer, track and field, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Learn more about the athletic training education program at http://atep.uark.edu