Athletic Training Education Program Newsletter, Fall 2010

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Athletic Training Education Program

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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 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 National 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.”

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.
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 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

Alumni, please let us know what you are doing by visiting http://kins.uark.edu/atep and filling out the alumni contact form linked from the left-side menu.