

Fall 2009

# Southern Athletic Training Alumni Newsletter -



## Southern Athletic Training Student Selected as iLEAD Representative

Southern student Bethany Ames (Class 2010) was selected by the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association as a representative to the iLEAD student leadership program sponsored by the National Athletic Trainers' Association. The three day conference was held last January in the shadow of Washington DC. The conference brought together athletic training students from all across the nation to attend a series of discussions that were designed to develop a leadership core in future athletic training professionals. The conference included a trip to the nation's capitol as part of the NATA's lobbying efforts.

Bethany's trip was sponsored by the CATA, who joined two other Connecticut athletic training students in attending this premier event. Southern's SGA assisted by covering transportation costs to the event. The conference was held in conjunction with the NATA's Educators' Conference which was similarly held at the National Harbor Resort and Hotel. Upon her return Bethany had the opportunity to share her experiences with her classmates.

## Southern ATEP Formally Admits Largest Class for 2009

Seventeen students were selected for formal admission into the ATEP during the most recent admissions process. This group was chosen from a pool of 23 applicants, and were chosen based on a point system that is based on GPA, entrance examinations, and other admission requirements. The accepted students demonstrated a high level of academic skill with a cumulative GPA of 3.31, and two are members of the Honors College. As the number of accepted students is capped prior to the admissions process, the quality of the students raised the minimum GPA over 2.8 which exceeds the established program minimum GPA of 2.5.

The 23 applicants represented the remaining students who originally enrolled in the fall. Over 50 students enrolled in the fall freshmen class requiring the ATEP to offer two sections of EXS 184 for the first time. EXS 184 is the first professional course taken by incoming athletic training majors during their freshmen fall semester. Many students decided against formal application either because they chose another major or were aware that they did not meet admission requirements. Last year's freshmen class of 50 students was the largest incoming class for the ATEP.

However this distinction was short-lived as the class of students entering this past fall included 61 students. The larger enrollment represents a 50% increase in incoming students, just over 2 years ago. The higher influx of students can be related to major improvements to the Southern campus which have been highlighted across the northeast including in articles in the *New York Times*.

Also the ATEP has received excellent attention in many of the state's newspapers including the *New Haven Register*, the *Connecticut Post* and the *Hartford Courant*. All of these periodicals ran articles on the program's movement to a full degree and improvements in the educational facilities, including major purchases to assist in teaching. The downturn in the economy is a factor, students are no longer able to afford the extremely higher costs of private institutions. With college costs an astounding \$24,000 less at Southern Connecticut than comparable programs at private institutions and \$10,000 less for non-residents, the Southern ATEP has become an attractive choice for several new students.

## Former Southern AT and Program Director Named Interim Dean

Dr. Sharon Misasi, former ATEP Program Director and Southern AT graduate, was named Interim Dean of the School of Education. She assumed the position, with the retirement of Dr. Jim Granfield over the summer. Sharon graduated from Southern earning her concentration in athletic training and went on to earn her master's degree in athletic training at Indiana State. After stints in Florida and Colorado, she returned to Southern as the program director and was involved in the program's initial accreditation. Several years later she left the program director position and was later named the chairperson of the Exercise Science Department replacing long time chair Joan Barbarich.

## Changes Approved to Clinical Education Courses

In the continuing process of improving the ATEP, the clinical courses have revamped in time for students entering in the fall of 2010. Spearheaded by the Matt Rothbard, the clinical coordinator, six course proposals were created to revise or develop new clinical education courses. The first big change for the future is the offering of two clinical courses for the sophomore year. Previously, student clinical experiences were directed through existing courses, but it became apparent that separate courses devoted to the students' clinical education became necessary. These new courses will be a single credit, but will require less contact time than the junior and senior level courses.



A second feature of the program changes were the revisions of the existing junior and senior clinical courses. The concentration or focus of the courses have been changed to match certain lecture courses and restructure the courses in consideration of the two sophomore courses. The biggest changes will be seen during the senior year as the fall course will be directed towards general medical aspects. The goals of the course will be fulfilled in part by having athletic training majors complete a rotation in the emergency room of St Raphael's Hospital. The final senior clinical experience will be directed to a capstone experience, and will be used in part as a period of review for students preparing for their national boards.

In addition to the changes in clinical experiential courses, the pathophysiology and pharmacology courses have been merged into a single laboratory based class. The new course will facilitate student education by permitting them to learn the associated drugs while studying the various illnesses and conditions that may appear in our students' patient population.

## We Are On Facebook

The ATEP has created a facebook page dedicated to its alumni and friends. The purpose of the site will hopefully provide a means for graduates to communicate with each other and to serve as a conduit for information on athletic training positions. The link was created last summer and currently has 20 members. Alumni are urged to join the website. As we receive information on athletic training positions, the information will be posted there. The site will be also used to

disseminate news on various events and happenings within your ATEP. We are hoping to hold an alumni event this year at the NATA National Convention in Philadelphia this June.

The site has been dubbed “Southern Connecticut State Athletic Training Alumni and Friends.” Check it out.

Furthermore the alumni site on the program website has been updated. The names and workplaces listed were determined using the most current information available through direct communication, and website searches including facebook. Please check the information to make sure it is correct and complete. If anything is incorrect or if you are missing, please contact the program director Gary Morin. The email address is [moring1@southernct.edu](mailto:moring1@southernct.edu). We look forward to hear from you.

## Melissa Regan is Latest Scholarship Winner

Melissa Regan was Southern’s latest recipient of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers’ Association Undergraduate Athletic Training Scholarship. Melissa is a senior student with a 3.73 GPA. She is currently completing her clinical experience with the volleyball and gymnastics under the guidance of Corey Hannah. In addition to her academic and clinical requirements, she was a member of Southern’s varsity swim program, competing as a diver until an injury cut short her career last December.



As part of her fall schedule, Melissa is working on developing an anatomy website. This site will hopefully serve to assist future students in their comprehension of human anatomy.

## Hail and Farewell to the Chief

Retirement has led to the farewell to the Exercise Science Department chairperson last May. Dr. David Martens, department chairperson, kinesiology professor and friend to everybody retired in May as part of the early retirement program offered by the state. He was an important part of the recent improvements to the athletic training program. Along with Dean Jim Granfield, also retiring, Dr. Martens provided strong encouragement during its most recent accreditation and the program’s upgrade to full major status. He was known for always wanting things better and for putting students first.

At the last departmental meeting last spring, he received the unanimous support of the Exercise Science Department in his nomination to Professor Emeritus. The nomination was forwarded to the university president who endorsed the nomination and forwarded it the Board of Trustees. Dr. Dan Swartz assumed the position of department chair following Dr. Martens’ retirement.

## Sports Medicine Club Continues Tradition

During his time as faculty member, Nathan Wilder made community service an important component of the Southern Sports Medicine Club. The core of this service became feeding the homeless of New Haven, through the “Midnight Run.” Approximately seven years later, this tradition has continued with the Midnight Run through two different club advisors and several officer changes. The students continue to display their generosity by donating the food necessary and volunteering their time by preparing the meals and delivering them to downtown New Haven.

A tradition of another sort, involves the annual pilgrimage to the Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association. The club is already raising money to attend this yearly event, which will be held in

Boston. This year's trip may be a special one; under the tutelage of Matt Rothbard, no less than 5 case studies have submitted by senior students for presentation at this year's symposium. It is expected that Southern will also have its first representative to the District I Quiz Bowl, which will be a jeopardy style contest among students from all across New England. The top winners will represent the district at the NATA Symposium in June.

## Alumni Happenings

**Katie Zackowitz** recently earned her master's degree at the University of South Carolina. She accepted a position within that state. More importantly she is awaiting her marriage coming this December. **Todd Botto** was promoted to full professor at Quinnipiac University. He a member of the athletic training faculty. **Karin Haines** recently married and is now earning her DPT at the University of Puget Sound (WA). **Greg White** completed his masters degree program at West Virginia University. He accepted a position with Lawrence Memorial Hospital in New London. **Jessica Adams** also joined the marriage ranks with her recent hitch to Doug Miller. In addition she returned to Southern, joining the athletic training staff. **April Blevons** is in the Air Force aiding in their health care. She is currently stationed in Spain. **Melissa Trojanowski** and **Ashley Brunn** have decided to further their health care education by pursuing nursing degrees. **Ashley Dempsey** is an athletic trainer for Select Physical Therapy. **Donna Stockman Chiara** and **Marcia Krekoska Brysh** are currently enjoying the joys of motherhood. The Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Center has become a favorite nesting site for Owl athletic training graduates, on their roles can be found – **Anthony Ciaburri**, **Michael Eldridge** and former graduate assistant **Scott Olmstead**. Anthony and Scott serve as site directors for two of that companies sites. Rumor has it that after graduating several years ago, **Tim Keller** is still wearing his Southern rain gear.

## Staff and Former Staff News

**Matt Rothbard** completed his last comprehensive examination this fall and will begin his dissertation. **Jeff Shanley**, a former graduate assistant athletic trainer, was recently honored by the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association for his vital role in care of a UNH soccer player who suffered a near-fatal head injury. The situation was recently highlighted in the Boston Globe. Jeff remains on the UNH athletic training staff and serves as an ACI for the Southern ATEP. Alum and current assistant athletic trainer, **Allison Marinan** was married this past summer. **Emily Davie**, former faculty member and assistant athletic trainer, was blessed this past summer with the birth of her second child, Taryn. Emily also had an article accepted for publication in the AT Educator's Journal. **Nathan Wilder**, another former faculty member, left his alma mater Waynesburg College to accept the head football athletic trainer position at Samford University(AL). **Emily Pindar Osterhaut**, another former graduate assistant, is anxiously awaiting the birth of her first child. Emily is currently on the staff of Choate Rosemary Hall.