Joan Couch Retires After 33 Years with University of Delaware Athletic Training

The following is an excerpt from Joan’s Bio on the Blue Hens Athletics Page:

Joan Couch begins her 33rd year on the University of Delaware athletic training staff in 2015-16. After six years as an assistant, Couch was promoted to associate head athletic trainer in 1988 and has served in that role for 27 years.

Couch joined the UD staff in 1982 after serving as a volunteer athletic trainer and substitute health and physical education teacher at Cape Henlopen High School. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in physical education with an emphasis in athletic training.

She was the first Athletic Trainer for Cecil Community College before receiving her Master’s Degree from the United States Sports Academy in 1982. From 1982 -1990, Couch served on the Executive Committee for the Delaware Athletic Trainers Association (DATA) including President from 1986-1988. She also worked with the football team through 2004 when the team won the National Championship. Currently she works closely with the UD men's lacrosse team as the squad's head athletic trainer and has provided medical care for teams that advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2007 (Final Four), 2010, and 2011. Other responsibilities include supervision of the DFH Athletic Training Room and Coordinator of the Drug Testing Program. Couch was the first Athletic Trainer member of the State Examining Board of Physical Therapists and Athletic Trainers, and was elected as the Vice-Chairperson at the end of that period.

She was inducted into DATA Hall of Fame in 2005 and was honored in June 2007 by the NATA with the National Athletic Trainers Association’s Service Award for contributions to the athletic training profession and to the association.

While a student at Delaware, Couch (then Joan Molaison) was an outstanding athlete in field hockey for the Blue Hens.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
We asked Keith Handling, a colleague of Joan’s and former UD ATEP Program Director, to say a few words about her time here with UD Athletic Training:

June 31st will mark the end of an era for the University of Delaware Athletic Training Education Program because sadly, Joan Couch is retiring. I assume most of our alumni know Joan was a graduate of our Athletic Training Education Program and an outstanding student but I’m also sure many alumni don’t know that Joan was also a two sport athlete, playing field hockey in the fall and softball in the spring for the University of Delaware. It was a great day for our program when Joan accepted Dr. Roy Rylander’s invitation to join our athletic training staff. For over 30 years, Joan has been the perfect role model for young women entering our profession. She has been able to balance many roles: educator, healthcare professional, mentor, mother, and provider of professional service to our State and the NATA. I will miss Joan very much and I will be unable to tell funny stories about Joan (remember the picture of Joan and John Smith in the whirlpool together) in the classes I teach because future students won’t know who Joan is. I promise to keep her legacy alive by telling future students about Joan’s career as an athletic trainer at the University of Delaware.

Keith A. Handling
Associate Professor

Joan Couch and Keith Handling escort a football player off the field
As the summer of 2016 embarks I was hoping I could find myself relating to the Zac Brown Band lyrics from the song “Toes” that goes like this “I got my toes in the water, ass in the sand - Not a worry in the world, a cold beer in my hand - Life is good today - Life is good today”! Unfortunately there are lots of moving parts circulating in my world at the moment so the sand and cold beer will have to wait, for now anyway!

Hard to believe but I’ve just completed my 13th year at program director for UD ATEP! At present I’m “knee-deep” in our CAATE accreditation self-study that is due July 1st! Huge thanks to my current doctoral student Bethany Wisthoff and our clinical education coordinator Jeff Schneider for their assistance thus far! Some finishing touches and we’ll be done soon! As many of you are aware the face of “professional” education is shifting for athletic training and with the CAATE mandate fast approaching UD’s ATEP will begin a transition to an “entry-level” master’s degree in the very near future. The ATEP Steering Committee had a great discussion in the Fall of 2015 as to what our program might look like. Recent mandates requiring at least 2 years at the masters level will most likely shape our plans. Stay tuned as this process continues to unfold. Related, we have been given approval from the Dean’s Office to hire a new program director to begin Fall 2017! The new position will be a continuing-track appointment with little or no research responsibilities (primarily administrative & teaching). Hold on --- I’m not going anywhere just stepping down from my role as program director. I’ll continue to teach in support of the program as well as maintain an active research program, including supervision of doctoral students. Transitioning to the ELM degree created a perfect “stepping off” point for me both from a personal and professional perspective.
Dr. Buz Swanik is heading the search committee for the new PD and we hope to begin advertising very soon. Please spread the word to colleagues and others who might be interested. Questions may be directed to either myself or Dr. Swanik.

The 2015-16 school year was an exciting year for UD ATEP. Another 100% 1st time pass rate from our graduating seniors capped off an outstanding year. Recently we received word that UD’s ATEP was this year’s recipient of the prestigious “2016 Bill Cramer Professional Development Award”. This is a terrific honor for our students and the program with much needed funding for student professional development activities – kudos to SATC president Brian Winkler for his efforts behind the scenes! Many of our students were recognized throughout the year with national, regional, and local scholarships and awards bringing fantastic publicity to our outstanding undergraduate ATEP! Many of those receiving honors are spotlighted later on in this year’s newsletter. Congrats to all of our graduating students that includes 18 UG’s, 9 masters, and 3 doctoral students. The year also marks the close of a chapter for two of our respected faculty/staff members. Brian Catania is stepping down from his role as teacher for the “Rehabilitation of Athletic Injuries” classes, a position he held for the past 8 years. Brian’s administrative role in Christiana Care has grown immensely over the past few years and his twin daughters have grown up too. Spending much needed time on those endeavors is necessary now! We’re excited that assistant AT with UD Athletics Brandon DeSantis will step in and take over for Brian beginning Fall 2016. Furthermore, our very own Joan Couch is stepping down after 33 years here at UD. Joan is featured in the cover story for this edition of the newsletter, the least we can do in tribute of a terrific role-model, clinician and educator. She will be missed. Hope you’re able to speak with Joan at this year’s UD ATEP Alumni Party in Baltimore and wish her the best into retirement!
UD Athletic staff athletic trainer Nicole “Nikki” Lounsberry will assume Joan’s teaching duties with our KAAP155 class titled “Lifestyle Awareness for Athletic Trainers”.

Thanks to all of you who take a few minutes out of your busy lives to send me updates throughout the year. I want to know how things are going in your lives from getting married, to having kids, or changing jobs! After all the Alumni Newsletter is about you the ALUMNI!! You can also utilize the “Alumni Update” function on our webpage to send your news and notes ---- http://sites.udel.edu/chs-atep/alumni/

I’m not a Facebook user but a special “shout out” to Dr. Adam Rosen (UD ATEP Class or 2006 and 2008) who maintains the UD ATEP Alumni Facebook page. Thanks to the many of you who contribute to the UD Development Fund. I strongly encourage you to target your gifts to the UD ATEP Gift Account # HNES412112. Money in this fund goes to help support many educational programs and opportunities for students throughout the year!

Have a great summer and happy reading of this year’s newsletter! Look forward to seeing many of you in Baltimore.

Best wishes.

Dr. K.
First and foremost I’d be remiss if I did not thank Joan again for her 33+ years of service to UD Athletics. Joan was recognized by Athletics at a well-attended luncheon on May 23rd. As I said at the luncheon, Joan has been so many things to so many people: Mentor, Role Model, Trail Blazer, Educator, Mom, Advocate. Throughout it all Joan has always handled herself with such impressive class and dignity. Best wishes for future endeavors.

Next I want to congratulate our 6 graduating GA’s: Chelsea Best, Pat Fava, Christine Flora, Nick Jensen, Lauren Kriebel & Lindsey Lamond.

Our 6 incoming GA’s Steven Browne – Merrimack College, Caroline Howard – UNC-Chapel Hill, Chantel Hunter - UConn, Sarah Roger – UConn, Samantha Schlageter – Towson & Lindsey Yates - Ithaca have big shoes to fill..

Chelsea is off to Indiana University to work Big 10 Football. Pat will be at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan. Christine will be off to University of Central Arkansas for a Christian Varsity Fellowship internship. Nick will be in the Atlanta Braves minor league system in Florida. Lauren will be getting married and keying in on jobs in SE PA. Lindsey has some promising leads for a Research Coordinator position. Undoubtedly, they will all flourish.

The Delaware Field House AT Room is getting a much needed face lift. The goal is to bring it up to speed with our facility in the Bob Carpenter Center. Administration has been very supportive.

If ever you are on campus, please don’t hesitate to contact me, I would love to walk you around the Athletics facilities.
With the graduation of the Class of 2016, I have found myself reflecting much about the last four years at UD. This senior class was a special one for me, as they were the first class that I worked with during my time as Coordinator of the Athletic Training Interest (ATI) Program. It is amazing to see how much they have grown and developed since 2012, and it is exciting to know they are leaving campus as well qualified health care professionals ready to take on new challenges.

At the completion of the summer, I will be moving on to an AT faculty position at Neumann University. I am very much looking forward to this new adventure and I know that my experiences here at UD have prepared me for what lies ahead. I am thankful to Dr. Thomas Kaminski for the opportunity to be a part of this program and for teaching me the ropes of AT program administration. Some accomplishments that I am most proud to have been a part of include the transformation of the former Biomechanics Lab into the AT Teaching Laboratory, the approval and hiring of an additional AT faculty member, and the continued growth of the ATI Program.

For the past four years, I have taught the Emergency Management of Injuries and Illnesses class for both ATIs and non-majors. I always knew that I wanted AT education to be a part of my career, and my time serving as a teaching assistant has most definitely solidified my interests. I have also thoroughly enjoyed my time working with students while serving as a clinical preceptor at various athletic events throughout Delaware and serving as an instructor for the ATI In-Service Program. Seeing students grasping the knowledge they gained and applying it in practice have been extremely rewarding experiences for me in the classroom and the clinical setting.

My role as an academic advisor in the Kinesiology and Applied Physiology (KAAP) Department has also been one that I have thoroughly enjoyed.
Being able to assist students in academic and career decisions, and getting to know them better as individuals has been a real highlight for me.

From a research perspective, this has been an exciting year. Last August, the Stiffness and Proprioception Assessment Device (SPAD) was moved into a new space and the Neuromechanics Research Lab was established in the Human Performance Lab. In this lab, under the guidance of Dr. Buz Swanik, I have developed a dissertation that I am very excited about focused on the neuromechanical contributions to hamstring injury. Additionally, I have spent time collaborating with local Christiana Care physicians and physical therapists, including UD’s own Brian Catania, to examine the validity of interventions for the core muscles using musculoskeletal ultrasound. I am eager to see these studies come to fruition and the clinical application that can be shared moving forward.

The people at UD will be what I miss most, including the KAAP and BIOMS faculty, my fellow graduate students, and the undergraduate students. Over my time at UD, I have built relationships that I know will last for many years to come. I am extremely fortunate to have had an incredible support system of peers along for the ride that were critical in making it through the doctoral process.

This program is truly a special one and with the AT profession at a critical turning point, I know that UD will continue to shine as one of the best. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the UD ATEP and to work alongside the tremendous faculty and staff. I look forward to seeing what great things UD alums accomplish and to catching up at future NATA Annual Meetings.
I am a proud Blue Hen, graduating during the 1980’s in both the athletic training and physical therapy professions. A few years later after returning to Delaware from Alabama, I Chaired the Committee for Athletic Training licensure, and along with a wonderful group of professionals (AT/PTs, ) was able to help obtain the first licensure in Delaware in the late 1980’s. Years later I chaired the Delaware State Board of Physical Therapists and Athletic Trainers, helping to expand our practice act. Academically during that time I was fortunate to be able to pursue a doctorate specializing in vocational rehabilitation, a doctorate in physical therapy, and doctoral work in bioethics. Clinically I was fortunate to work in private practice, schools & universities, and with the United States Olympic Sports Medicine staff, becoming a member of the US Olympic Sports Medicine Committee. I also continued to build on my relationship as a proud alumna of the University of Delaware, and became President of the UD Alumni Board. To date I am a proud Blue Hen, and continue to support the programs and activities that helped make me the person I am today.

Enough of the past; let is focus on the future. From I personal perspective I feel we have a lot of work to do. Some I agree with the NATA and some I respectfully do not. First and foremost I believe we have to have a strong foundation before we try to build our house any higher. Our profession was built on the concept of providing medical care to athletes in the school setting. Today our focus should continue to be promoting full time athletic trainers in the schools. While contracting AT services was necessary in the beginning due to lack of funding (or necessary in new start-up schools), it is no longer satisfactory and only holds athletic trainers hostage to a third party negotiator.

Our ability to be gainfully employed full time by a school should not be dependent on a third party (such as a physical therapy company) being able to negotiate a contract on our behalf.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Especially when many times the contract requires ATs to also work in their clinic instead of full time in the school setting. I realize secondary schools are strapped for money; however, if the state can recognize the importance of a full time school nurse during school hours when students are the least active, the state must recognize the need of an athletic trainer during the hours our students are active after school hours. This is a long and arduous fight that requires all ATs, parents, and students to lobby their state legislatures in order to obtain. This must be our priority; we must first secure our strong foundation.

My second vision of the future is the push for an emergency medical technician (EMT) requirement. Right now NATA only requires basic life support. In contrast APTA requires BLS and Emergency Medical Responder, but emphasizes ACLS along with EMT and preferably paramedic training for Sports PT Specialists. Do we really want another profession to have better emergency care training on our turf? Having EMT training at the minimum, and Paramedic training preferably, for our athletic trainers would not only raise the bar for athletic training in the traditional settings, but it would also open up the door for more job opportunities elsewhere, including hospitals and medical transports. Such training is very difficult to fit into the educational curriculum; it may take the motivated student to seek out and obtain EMT-B certification on their own either during summer months or working with University of Delaware’s Emergency Care Unit. In any case, we must advance our emergency care skills if we are to be competitive and diverse in the future.

Thirdly I’d like to see athletic trainers establish independent practices. Athletic trainers have NPI numbers, but are not recognized by many insurance providers for reimbursable treatments. Insurance carriers should not be able to discriminate against providers such as ATs.
We must lobby our state legislators for a reimbursement and ‘willing provider’ mandate, so that anyone licensed by a state to perform a medical task, and who accepts an insurance company’s rate of reimbursement for that CPT code, must be paid for those services.

The last vision of the future I’d like to mention is the need for post professional specialty certification. We can no longer put the cart in front of the horse. We can no longer attempt to expand our profession into other domains (ex) industrial medicine) without first having required training,

Fighting for full time athletic trainers employed by all secondary schools, promoting evidence based practice and outcome measures, adding more advanced emergency care training pre-licensure, lobbying for athletic training reimbursement by insurance carriers, and developing post professional specialty certifications, are all essential elements for future success. In order to obtain this success we need everyone on board. Everyone, ATs or not, can make passionate calls to their legislatures; every athletic trainer can be a volunteer mentor for our students and new grads, and everyone can financially support the cause, including supporting UD’s athletic training education program. By nature athletic trainers are team players; let us continue to promote the team now and into the future.

Dr. Julie Moyer-Knowles (center) was inducted into the UD Alumni Wall of Fame in 2006.
## Faculty Presentations

**Dr. Buz Swanik**  
*Saturday June 25th*  
“Post Professional Education Opportunities in Athletic Training”

**Dr. Kaminski**  
*Thursday June 23rd*  
Masters Oral Student Award Finalist  
Moderator

**Dr. Buckley**  
*Thursday June 23rd*  
Pioneering Concussion Research  
Moderator

**Ryan DeWolf**  
*Thursday June 23rd*  
Free Communications Abstract

## Graduate Student Presentations

**Yong Woo An**  
Free Communications Poster

**Andrea Di Trani**  
Free Communications Poster

**Aaron Struminger**  
Free Communications Poster

**Jessie Oldham**  
Thursday June 23rd  
Free Communications Abstract

**Melissa Di Fabio**  
Thursday June 23rd  
Free Communications Abstract

**Doug Pizac**  
Saturday June 25th  
Free Communications Abstract

**Lindsey Lamond**  
Saturday June 25th  
Free Communications Abstract

## Undergraduate Student Presentations

**Amy Bednarek**  
Free Communications Poster

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Check out the convention guide for more information!  
Onazi Agbese
Examining the Relationship between the Functional Movement Screen (FMS) and Computerized BESS Scores and Lower Extremity Injury Risk in a Cohort of Female Intercollegiate Athletes

Chelsea Best
Head Impact Exposures and Neurological Function in College Football Players

Christine Flora
The Effect of Concussion History on Gait Pattern during Dual Task Gait Examinations

Nick Jensen
Comparison of Three Different Post-Pitching Recovery Strategies

Lauren Kriebel
The Effects of Fatigue and Injury on the King-Devick Across a Field Hockey Season

Lindsey Lamond
Differences in Head Acceleration Across Impact Type, Player Position, and Playing Scenario in Collegiate Women’s Soccer Athletes

Shannon Matheny
An In-Depth Examination of Strength in Subjects with Self-Reported Chronic Ankle Instability and Mechanical Laxity

Doug Pizac
Examining postural control and ankle laxity between different cleat heights in high school football players

The Masters Graduates posed for a photo with Dr. K prior to their graduation ceremony.
Congratulations to these three PhD students who are each defending their dissertations this summer. They have each been a very important part of the Athletic Training Program by teaching our undergraduate and masters students. Best of luck to each of you!

**Yong Woo An**

*Faculty position at New Mexico State University*

**Jaclyn Caccese**

*Post-Doc at Temple University—NCAA/DoD Concussion research*

**Andrea Di Trani**

*Faculty Position at Neumann University*

Congratulations to Aaron Struminger and Jessie Oldham who have each been awarded a prestigious Competitive Fellowship Award from UD's Office of Graduate and Professional Education. This fellowship allows them to focus their time and attention 100% to their dissertation research. Their teaching has been a huge asset to our ATEP over the
Dr. Kaminski Awarded Medal for Distinguished Athletic Training Research 2016

Dr. Kaminski was recently recognized by the NATA Research and Education Foundation for his outstanding research efforts in the advancement of the field of Athletic Training. He has been taking huge strides in the areas of ankle instability and sport-related concussion in recent years. We are lucky to have him leading our research team and our ATEP!

Dr. Kaminski will be presenting at NATA on 6/23 at 1:30PM. Check out this UDaily article to learn more about Dr. Kaminski and this incredible honor: http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2016/may/athletic-training-award-051316/

Brian Catania Steps Down from Teaching

After 8 years of teaching the Rehabilitation of Athletic Injuries courses for the UD Athletic Training Students, Brian Catania has decided to step down from teaching. He will be taking over more administrative duties at Christiana Care while also being involved in his twin daughters athletic teams and other endeavors. The value of Brian’s rehab class has been an incredible asset to the athletic training curriculum here at UD. The knowledge and guidance that he has provided to our students

The students thanked Brian for his years of dedication to the UD ATEP at this year’s end of the year picnic.
ATEP NEWS
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

2016 ATEP Award Winners

Dr. Julie Moyer-Knowles Award:
Kyle Alea

Dr. C Roy Rylander Outstanding Senior Award:
Matt Armistead

Paris Delligatti Memorial Scholarship:
Amy Bednarek, Emily Hunter, Tyler Tice

Lee J. Hyncik Athletic Trainer Achievement Award: Kaley Russin, Taylor Hatfield

Catania Family Athletic Training Academic Achievement Award:
Tyler Tice

Keith Handling Scholarship Award:
Kathleen Criss

DATA District 2 Athletic Training Student Scholarship Award:
Mikey Stant

DATA Student Leadership Award:
Taylor Hatfield

Charlie Thompson EATA Scholarship:
Matt Armistead

Ethnic Diversity Advisor Committee Scholarship for NATA District II:
Tiana McKim

SATC Student Service Award:
Amy Bednarek

SATC Service Award:
Coach Dave Brock
After all of their hard work, the ATEP Class of 2016 boasts a 100% first-time pass rate on their BOC exam! Check out where you can find them in the years to come!

Kayla Albertella: working in Southern Delaware as an AT

Matt Armistead: GA position at Penn State University

Michael Bruno: Intern at University of Louisville with Track and Field

Kathleen Criss: Taking a Gap year to prepare for PT School

Bryn Crowder: GA with volleyball at Louisiana Tech University

Kari Elzey: Head athletic trainer at Appoquinimink HS via Premier PT

Katelyn Engen: Intern at Yale University

Tyler Golembrosky: GA with football at Campbell University

Molly Hennessy: Outreach AT for Dynamic PT at Wilmington University

Billy Kerr: GA position at Northern Illinois University

Tiana McKim: Grad student at the University of Central Florida

Steph Minite: Taking a Gap year working as an AT in DC area

Rob Murrian: AT in Dover at Comprehensive Spine Center

Patrick Reynolds: GA with Baseball at East Tennessee State University

Michael Stant: GA at Sacred Heart University

Kyle Tinsman: Looking for Internships as an AT

Rob Wessells: Looking for employment as an AT

Brian Winkler: Starting at UDPT in 2016
UD ATEP receives 2016 Bill Cramer Professional Development Award

University of Delaware's ATEP has been awarded the 2016 Bill Cramer Professional Development Award! This $2000.00 award will allow SATC to disperse professional development funds for AT students throughout the 2016-17 school year to benefit its members. Thanks to outgoing SATC President Brian Winkler for his efforts in completing the application on behalf of UD ATEP.

Executive Board ('15-'16)

President: Brian Winkler
Vice President: Michael Bruno
Treasurer: Tyler Tice
Secretary: Katelyn Engen
Event Chair: Amy Bednarek
Historian: Billy Kerr

Summer Internships

-Allyson Schnetzer: Sheppard Spinal Center
-Megan O’Hanlon: University of Alabama
-Tyler Tice: Buffalo Bills
-Gregg DeDomenico: New York Jets
-Jacob Stoner: Atlanta Falcons
-Kyle Weinberg: New Orleans Saints
-Kyle Alea: Seattle Seahawks

SATC Raised over $10,000 for UDance in order to benefit the B+ Foundation. Join us next year in the fight against childhood cancer by sponsoring us in this 12 hour dance marathon!

Check out the 2016 Senior Slide Show made by Billy Kerr

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FOMjP_KGvE
BABY BLUE HENS

Devon Adams (former grad student) sent in this adorable photo (left) of her daughter Avery Adams!

Carrie (Steinman) Conte (2006) and her husband Jeremy welcomed a beautiful baby boy! Their son Caleb Joseph Conte (Above) was born on 5/27/15 and just celebrated his 1st birthday!

Matt Hinsey (MS 2011) and his wife Meredith welcomed their 6lbs 10oz son Charles “Chip” Hinsey (Above) to the world on 8/14/15.

Congratulations to Adam Rosen (2006, MS 2008) and his wife who welcomed their son Levi Walter Rosen on 3/28/16 (Below). Levi was 6 lbs 14 oz and 19 in!

UD Alum Mauren Olejar Visits UD with her Conrad School of Sciences April 2016

Devon Leahy (2014) and Johanna Schutzer (2014) at Univ. of Florida Graduation May 2016

UD Alum Helen Binkley Receives MDAT Award summer 2015

Matt Armistead (2016) at the EATA conference in Boston to accept the Charlie Thompson Scholarship.

Alyssa Reyes (MS 2013) was married in October 2015. Congratulations!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Matt Armistead (2016) and Tyler Tice (2017) work Bills vs. Eagles game December 2015 and visit with UD ATEP Alum Steve Feldman (2010)

Alan Needle, Kate Zimmerman, Aaron Struminger at Pan-Am Maccabi Games in Santiago, Chile January 2016

UD ATEP Alum Collin Francis (2010) poses with noted concussion expert Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz at Indiana University

Gabe Fife (2011) is an Assistant professor at Texas State University and doing concussion research with the US Army. He also sent in a Fife family selfie

Amy Bednarek (2017) was awarded 1st Prize at a Regional Undergraduate Conference

UD ATEP Alum Jason Larson visits UD campus his Lawrenceville Academy students in December 2015.

Megan Couch (2014) and faculty mentor Dr. Katherine Morrison (2009) pictured at Megan’s graduation from West Chester University.

Former UD Graduate student Jamie Lambert writes that she is engaged to be married in April of 2017!

Shawn Hanlon (MS 2013) and Sarah Neal (2013) got engaged last summer in Florida!

Rachel Vaccaro (2015) and Natalie Reynolds (2015) ran into each other at a softball game at OU in the fall.

Matt Armistead (2016) was just engaged to his girlfriend Kayla on June 5th. Congratulations!

Brian Winkler (2016) and Evan Griskowitz (2015) from summer 2015 with the Seattle Seahawks.

Devon Leahy (2014) and Johanna Schutzer (2014) with Haley Anderson (2015) and Toby Harkins at University of Florida.

Rob Wessells (2016) just became engaged on May 31st. Congratulations Rob and Julie!

Amy Blansfield (1998) brought some Polytech students to visit to the AT Lab in October 2015.
KAAP Outstanding Alumni Award
2016 Goes to Dr. Bill Prentice (1979)

Dr. Bill Prentice was honored as the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award for KAAP at a ceremony during UD Alumni Weekend on June 3rd. He was selected by Dr. Kaminiski due to his outstanding contributions to the field of Athletic training as an author, clinician, and educator. Dr. Prentice is currently at the University of North Carolina and we are proud to have him among our distinguished ATEP Alumni!

NATA Research and Education Foundation New Investigator Award Goes to Jeff Driban (2001)

UD alum Dr. Jeff Driban was recently recognized by the NATA REF as the recipient of the New Investigator Award. The New Investigator Award recognizes a researcher who is likely to continue to make significant contributions to the body of knowledge in athletic training and health care. He is currently at the Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA where he focuses on Rheumatology, Sports Medicine, and Orthopedic Surgery.
**John Smith** (former UD Head AT 2002-2012) will be starting ECU’s Ed.D. program in Policy, Planning and Administration in Summer 2016.

**Devon Leahy (2014)** recently graduated from University of Florida and is applying to PA school.

**Athena DeAngelis (MS 2012)** is an AT at the University of Sciences and recently had her masters thesis published.

**Rachel Vaccaro (2015)** accepted a GA position at San Jose State University beginning Fall 2016.

**Dan Tocci (MS 2012)** is an assistant AT at Rutgers working with wrestling, FB, and rowing.

**Collin Francis (2010)** is an assistant AT at Indiana University working with the football team.

**Matt Astolfi (MS 2013)** is completing his first year of Medical School at Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia).

**Christina Saadeh (2011)** is working as a teaching assistant in a preschool in Philly and is involved in a summer language program for people wanting to live or work overseas.

**Jamie Lambert** is now serving as Clinic Director ATI PT in Middletown.

**Cody Walker (2015)** will be starting as a GA at the University of Kentucky fall 2016.

**Stephen Thomas (PhD 2010)** is an Assistant professor at Temple University and was nominated for the NATA Young Investigator Award in 2016.

**Diamond O’Donovan (2013)** is an assistant AT at Campbell University working with women’s soccer and lacrosse.

**Adam Rosen (2006, MS 2008)** is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

**Josh Evans (2015)** will begin as a GA at University of Tennessee Knoxville fall 2016.
Cecelia Fedele (2012) is an assistant AT and part of the new ATEP program at Philadelphia University.

Alex Salinas (MS 2014) is now teaching Intro to Athletic Training at Grand Valley State University.

Alyssa Reyes (MS 2013) is working at Wilmington Pain and Rehabilitation Center.

Christina Shields (MS 2012) has been accepted to the PT program at George Washington University.

Kathleen Kenney (2011) is the AT at Laurel High School.

Allison Dunne (2014) - After graduating MS program at East Stroudsburg, is now the AT at Raritan Valley Community College in North Branch, NJ.

Chris Clyde (MS 2012) is a Strength Coach and Personal Trainer at Balance Gyms and Crossfit in Washington D.C.

Dr. Michael Higgins (PhD 2003 and former staff AT) was recently appointed to be the new Program Director for the entry-level master’s degree program in Athletic Training at the University of Virginia beginning Summer 2016.

Johanna Schutzer (2014) - accepted a position as an AT in Charlottesville, VA at the St. Anne’s-Belfield School.

Kim Leonard (2012) is an ATC at University of Tennessee Chattanooga working with softball.

Kim Richardson (2014) is attending PT school at St. Augustine for Health Sciences.

Brittany Van Sickle (2012) is creating wellness and health coaching programs with MedPro Wellness.

Greg O’Connor (2015) is starting the DPT program at Rutgers University.
Laurel Hellhake (2012) recently finished her masters at the College of Charleston and is becoming certified to teach K-12 PE.

Casey Niemela (2013) is the head athletic trainer at C. Milton Wright High School in Bel Air, MD.

Sarah Moore (2013) just completed an internship at the University of Maryland with the Volleyball team.

Chris Marroquin (2015) has been accepted to UDPT program.

Shiraj Chakraborty (2011) just began sports residency at Glendale Adventist Medical Center in LA and also works with US Soccer Youth teams.

Karissa Carty (2014) is an assistant Athletic Trainer at Fairleigh Dickinson University working with women’s basketball and softball and recently began graduate studies online at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Gregory Gutierrez (PhD 2009) is an Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida PT school.

Evan Jay (2012) is now a PA at Freeman Pain and Spine Institute/ Sports Medicine.

Alexander Salinas (MS 2014) is working for Center for Physical Rehabilitation in Grand Rapids as an AT at Forest Hills Northern High School.

Maggie Berkowitz (2013) just completed her masters at Auburn while working as an AT GA at with the Volleyball team.

Jessica (Hamrick) Chandler (2004) is an Ergonomics Consultant for ATI PT mostly working with industrial outreach.

Mary Mahon (2014) was working as an AT with STAR PT until October when she started Basic Officer Leader Course in San Antonio.

Katie (Naftzinger) Palmer (2007) is teaching Biology at Dover High School.
ALUMNI PARTY 2015

Thanks you everyone who attended last year’s Alumni Party at NATA in St. Louis, MO. Alumni, faculty, and students had a blast catching up at Morgan Street Brewery!
Please join us at Little Havana in Baltimore, MD for this year’s Alumni party!

**Thursday June 23rd, 2016**

**8PM-11PM**

**Little Havana**

**1325 Key Highway**

**Baltimore, MD**

$10 at the door

**EXCEPT current ATEP undergrads**

UD ATEP Ordered extra T-shirts that will be for sale at the Alumni Party for $15 each.

All proceeds will go to the UD ATEP Scholarship Fund

Special thanks to Rozalyn Moore (1989) for her assistance in finding the host location for the alumni event!
President: Cara (Cordrey) Gomez
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Thank you to everyone who supported the Annual DATA 5K Run/ 1 Mile walk. Volunteers, participants, and sponsors– you are greatly appreciated.

Can’t wait to see you all there next year!!

Student Representatives
2015-2016: Bryn Crowder and Morgan Taylor
2016-2017: Morgan Taylor and Kristyn Lawler
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