



*Spring 2005*

### About the VATA

The purpose of the VATA is to meet the following objectives:

- To advance, encourage, and improve of the athletic training profession, in all its phases.
- To encourage better working relationships among all persons interested in the health and well-being of athletes.
- To encourage the continued professional development of each of its members.
- To serve the common interest of its members by providing a free exchange of ideas within the profession.
- To promote athletic training programs throughout Virginia.

### Address or Email Change?

To those members who have moved, we need your help. Your corrected contact information is requested. Please go to the NATA website "Members Only" section [www.nata.org/members1/members.cfm](http://www.nata.org/members1/members.cfm) to update. Please be assured your information will not be given away. It will only be used for NATA membership communication.

In addition, please send your updated contact information to the VATA Membership Chair, Debbie Bradney, at [bradney@lynchburg.edu](mailto:bradney@lynchburg.edu).

*Thank you, VATA Executive Council*

## INSIDE

VIRGINIA ATChronicle

(Click on link below)

- Call for Nominations
- NATABOC Update
- Agenda - MAATA Business Meeting
- Annual Meeting & Symposium
- Legislative Committee Report

# VIRGINIA ATChronicle

[www.vata.us](http://www.vata.us)

The Official Newsletter of the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association



*Tim Laurent, ATC  
VATA President*

## VATA President's Message

VATA Members,

I hope spring is going well. Thank you and congratulations to all who participated in the 2005 Annual Meeting and Symposium. We had a record 180 athletic trainers at the symposium. We get bigger and better each year. Our progress is due to your feedback and involvement. So please continue helping with the annual symposium. Mark your calendar for next year's symposium. The symposium is scheduled for January 13 & 14, 2006 in Williamsburg VA. I hope to see you there.

This year is an important year for many of us. In 2005 athletic training licenses will expire for many of the athletic trainers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. If this applies to you, your license will expire on the last day of your birth month. If you have not renewed your license by this date you will be practicing illegally and subject to sanctions by the Commonwealth.

The Department of Health Professions (DHP) should be sending you a notification regarding your license expiration. You will be provided with a PIN number so you can renew your license online (<http://www.dhp.state.va.us/mylicense/renewalintro.asp>). The process is quick and easy. However, a word of caution: It is **your** responsibility to make sure **you** are licensed. If you have not heard from the DHP by the first day of your birth month please contact them. ([www.dhp.state.va.us](http://www.dhp.state.va.us))

I expect some people may let their license renewal slip by and get caught without a license. It is important that the VATA membership understand the role of the VATA in this process. The VATA played a central role in the development and procurement of athletic training licensure in Virginia. The VATA plays an important role in disseminating information to the athletic trainers in Virginia. But that is where our authority ends. The DHP is responsible for collecting dues, granting licenses and levying sanctions against those who are not properly credentialed in Virginia. So if you are one of those people who miss the deadline for licensure renewal, the VATA cannot help you. You must deal directly with the DHP. We are not abandoning you. We just do not have authority to question a DHP decision.

Good luck in 2005. Keep up the good work that you do for your patients. Thanks to all of you for being ambassadors for athletic training.

*Tim*

## Mark Your Calendar!

The next VATA meeting is Friday May 20 following the MAATA Business Meeting in Virginia Beach.

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**Call for nominations for President-Elect**

Nominations are currently being accepted for VATA President-elect. Nominees must be:

- a) a member in good standing of the NATA
- b) NATABOC certified
- c) Licensed by the Virginia DHP

Responsibilities of the President-elect include organizing and coordinating the VATA annual meeting and symposium and assisting the President in fulfilling his/her duties and responsibilities.

Nominees should complete the Candidate Application, which can be accessed on the VATA website ([www.vata.us](http://www.vata.us)) on the *About the VATA* page.

Nominations will be accepted up until the time of the election. However, we encourage early nominations so biographical information can be published in the Fall 2005 newsletter.

Election will be held during the 2006 VATA Annual Meeting and Symposium January 13 & 14 in Williamsburg, VA.

**NATABOC Update**

**NATABOC to Eliminate Practical Exam and Make Certification Exam Computer-based.**

Over the past eighteen months, a feasibility study was conducted and the results of this study indicated that candidates who pass the multiple-choice and simulation examination are highly likely to pass the practical examination. Based on this information, the NATABOC will begin phasing out the practical exam and change the exam format in the very near future. Some notes of interest:

- The earliest a conversion can happen is Spring of 2006
- It is possible the conversion may not be until 2007
- 2005 Exam and January/February 2006 exam will continue as scheduled

More information is available on the NATABOC website ([www.bocatc.org/aboutus/docs/SI-MR-TAB1-482.htm](http://www.bocatc.org/aboutus/docs/SI-MR-TAB1-482.htm))

**Pawlowski to Receive NATA Service Award**

Dave Pawlowski, chair of the VATA Legislative Committee, will be honored with the NATA Service Award at the upcoming NATA Annual Meeting and Symposium in Indianapolis in June. A past president of the VATA, Dave has been at the forefront of Virginia's legislative efforts for many years. He has worked tirelessly with fellow athletic trainers, lobbyists and legislators to advance the athletic training profession through regulation. Dave works as vice president for programs for Special Olympics of Virginia in Richmond. Congratulations, Dave! And thank you for all of your efforts.



## Agenda Items for the May MAATA Business Meeting

The following two items will be voted on by MAATA members during the May 20<sup>th</sup> business meeting, which takes places at 7:00 at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach. VATA members are encouraged to vote on these important District issues.

1. Proposal: Change the current \$1000 unrestricted gift to NATA Foundation to a restricted scholarship to NATA Foundation for an undergraduate student in District III.

2. Location of MAATA Meeting 2006 – 2009

Choices are:

Virginia Beach (Cavalier), VA

Charlotte, NC

Greenville, SC



## Storm the Hill

The NATA Board of Directors will meet May 12, 13 and 14 in Washington DC. They will use this time to visit Capitol Hill. All NATA members are encouraged to attend. There will be legislative training on the morning of Thursday, May 12 for any of our district members who wish to attend. The BOD will visit the legislators on Thursday afternoon. A members' reception will take place Thursday evening at the Melrose Hotel in DC. If you are interested in attending please call the NATA office at 1.800.TRY.NATA for further information.



## New Link on the VATA Website

**Educational Opportunities** is a new page on the VATA website. Here members will find upcoming CEU opportunities as well as listings of camps and workshops for athletic training students and athletic training student aides. Members are encouraged to post educational opportunities on this page. Contact Meg Frederick ([frederickma@longwood.edu](mailto:frederickma@longwood.edu)) to get your workshop, conference, or course listed on this new page. ([Click Here](#) to link to the Educational Opportunities page.)



## Welcome New VATA Members!

The VATA would like to remind you that you must be licensed by the Virginia Department of Health Professions ([www.dhp.state.va.us/](http://www.dhp.state.va.us/)) before you can legally provide athletic training services in Virginia. Please see the Membership Information page on the VATA website for more information. ([Click Here](#) to link)



## NATA Annual Convention

Make plans now to attend the NATA's Annual Convention in Indianapolis. NATA's 56th Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposia will be held in Indianapolis, IN from **Sunday, June 12 through Thursday, June 16**. This Annual Meeting promises to be full of exciting programming and fun events! [Click Here](#) for more information.



## National Athletic Training Month '05

How did you celebrate National Athletic Training Month? The VATA wants to hear from you! Please report all activities that you have conducted to promote the profession of athletic training during March's National Athletic Training Month to [chale@bridgewater.edu](mailto:chale@bridgewater.edu). These activities will be compiled and reported on the VATA website and at both the district and national levels. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

## VATA

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## VATA Bronze Patron

The VATA would like to thank the following companies for their continued support of our organization.

Seneca Medical

## 2005 VATA Annual Meeting & Symposium

The 2005 Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting and Symposium held in January was once again a great success. The meeting and symposium posted a record setting 180 attendees this year. The opening evening focused on management and assessment of concussions. The presentations included *Implementation of the NATA's Position Statement: Management of Sports Related Concussions* by Tim Laurent, ATC; *A Comparison of Different Tools for Evaluating Mild Head Injury* by John Reynolds, ATC; and *The Role of Athlete Hydration Levels on Standard Assessment of Concussion (SAC) Scores* by Chase Hale, ATC and Barbara Long, ATC.

The program consisted of 16 presentations over the course of two days. The program also included an American Heart Association CPR for the Health Care Professional course conducted by Emily Evans, ATC and a roundtable discussion on teaching high school sports medicine courses by Becky Anhold, ATC. Saturday featured presentations by Robert Wilder, M.D. on *Evaluation of the Injured Runner and Rehabilitation of Common Running Injuries*, and *Current Concepts for Osteoarthritis Treatment of the Knee* presented by Stephen Saddler, M.D. Case presentations were also conducted by Tom Kuster, ATC, Breane Piatt, ATC, Kevin Domboski, ATC, and Polly Porter, ATC. The other presentations included the following:

- *The Medial Collateral Ligament of the Knee, What We Do and Do Not Know* – Patricia Aronson, ATC
- *From the Field to the Operating Room: Making the Move from ATC to PA-C* – Talena Williams, ATC, PA-C
- *Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Colonization in Apparently Healthy College Students* – Barbara Long, ATC, Chase Hale, ATC, and Tara Elliott
- *Financial Planning for the Athletic Trainer* – Steve Consiglio, ATC
- *Management of Lateral Ankle Sprains: An Evidence-Based Approach* – Jay Hertel, ATC

Also held, as part of the meeting and symposium was the college student program in which 10 students participated in 9 presentations. The schools that were represented in the student program were Bridgewater College, George Mason University, James Madison University, Lynchburg College, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Some of the presentations included:

- *Spontaneous Pneumothorax in a Collegiate Male Basketball Player: A Case Report* – John E. Carlson (Bridgewater College)

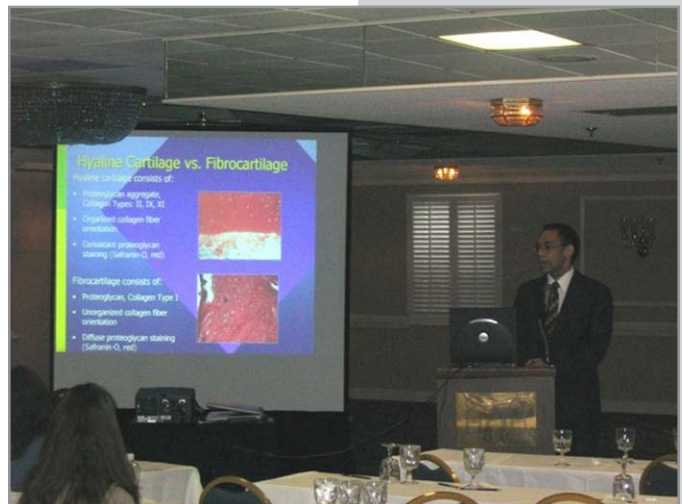
- *Peroneal Nerve Contusion in a Collegiate Soccer Player* – Jennifer Whited (George Mason University)
- *Bilateral Exertional Compartment Syndrome in the Anterior and Lateral Compartments of a Twenty-year-old Lacrosse Goalkeeper* – Katie Hohn (James Madison University)
- *Multidirectional Shoulder Instability in a Collegiate Volleyball Player* – Kristi Link (Lynchburg College)
- *Core Stability Rehabilitation for Weak Low Backs* – Randi Scott (Virginia Commonwealth University)

In addition, we had another great showing of exhibitors in attendance this year. The exhibitors in attendance included: ACO Med Supply, Aircast, Alan G. Day Corporation, Collins Sports Medicine, Henry Schein, John Hancock Financial Services, Mueller Sports Medicine, O-Pro Mouthguards, and Seneca Medical.

Jay Hertel, ATC presenting *Management of Lateral Ankle Sprains: An Evidence-Based Approach*



Stephen Saddler, M.D. presenting *Current Concepts for Osteoarthritis Treatment of the Knee*



Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association  
**Legislative Committee Report**  
by Dave Pawlowski

**Summary from the 2005 General Assembly Session**

*The following is a report from Dave Pawlowski, Chair of the Legislative Committee, on the legislative changes made by the General Assembly during the 2005 session.*

VATA endorsed the Board of Medicine Legislative Committee decision from last year to implement the recommendation that Licensed Athletic Trainers be able to possess and administer epinephrine and topical steroids. The Board of Medicine asked Del. John O'Bannon to introduce HB 2526 which adds the following new language in the Drug Control Act in the Virginia law: *"Pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol issued by the prescriber within the course of his professional practice, such prescriber may authorize licensed athletic trainers to possess and administer topical corticosteroids, topical lidocaine, or other Schedule VI topical drugs, or to possess and administer epinephrine for use in emergency cases of anaphylactic shock."*

The bill also includes language to allow out-of-state health care practitioners visiting with an athletic team to perform their duties on a temporary basis without being licensed in Virginia. This simply clarifies that any doctor, nurse, athletic trainer or physical therapist who is in good standing in their home state may provide care to their athletes during the time they are in Virginia.

Since the bill was introduced at the request of the Board of Medicine, the Director of the Department of Health Professions spoke in favor of the bill and was able to answer questions and give the background for why it was needed. Making the Board of Medicine the lead agency in favor of the bill allowed VATA to make HB 2526 a patient safety issue rather than a scope of practice expansion. There was no opposition to the bill.

Fortunately, none of the legislators had any concerns about the legislation and the bill passed easily. The House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee and the Senate Education and Health Committee passed the bill unanimously. Both the House and Senate also passed the bill unanimously and it now awaits the Governor's signature.

On a related note, HB 1743 was introduced by Del. Jeion Ward (D, Hampton) to allow all students to possess their own prescribed epinephrine. The bill adds auto-injectable epinephrine to all the Code sections that apply to asthma medications. The bill provides that school and health department personnel supervising the administration of this medication are immune from civil liability. In addition, principals and school board employees are not liable for any civil damages for any injuries or deaths resulting from the misuse of auto-injectable epinephrine.

**Athletic Eligibility**

Several bills were introduced to affect interscholastic athletic eligibility. HB 2832 introduced by Del. Bob Marshall (R, Prince William) authorizes the Virginia High School League to establish rules requiring that, upon disclosure, a public school student athlete who uses anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sport season be ineligible to participate in athletic competition for two years. This does not apply if the steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.

The bill also requires that any teacher or school administrator must report the steroid use. Any person who "who knowingly and willfully with the intent to compromise the outcome of an athletic competition procures, sells, or administers anabolic steroids or causes these drugs to be procured, sold, or administered to students, or by failing to report student use of anabolic steroids" will have their and their administrative or teaching license suspended or revoked.

HB 2832 does not directly apply to ATCs, but could certainly affect an ATC who is asked to participate in drug testing or evaluation. VHSL will create regulations that specifically address the procedures to determine if the students are taking steroids, and VATA should monitor the VHSL activities as they make their regulations to comply with this bill.

HB 1731 by Del. John Cosgrove (R, Chesapeake) and HB 2297 by Del. William Fralin (R, Roanoke) were introduced to allow private and home schooled students to participate in public school athletics. HB 1731 was introduced to allow private school students to participate, but Del. Cosgrove pulled his bill after the private school community expressed their opposition to the bill. HB 2297 was introduced to allow home schooled students to participate in public school athletics, but that measure failed in the Education Committee because of opposition by VHSL.

VIRGINIA ATC*Chronicle* is a publication of the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association.

If you have questions regarding this publication, please contact the VIRGINIA ATC*Chronicle* Editor and VATA Secretary:

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