

Editorial: A Journal For Athletic Training Educators, At Last

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At last! A new athletic training journal is born; the third NATA publication. It has had a much longer gestation than we planned, but the important point is that it is here. Our task is now to nurture it and guide its growth. Hopefully, it will grow to be all that we hope for it to be.

We have great plans for this young endeavor. As our mission states, we want:

“. . . to enhance health care by advancing athletic training education. Toward this end, the journal serves as an interface between the theory and practice of athletic training education by providing a forum for scholars, educators, and clinicians to share critical and significant concepts, original research, and innovative ideas.”

A word about the last line of the mission statement. Few would question the need for publishing original research related to education, and specifically to practices of educating athletic training students and professionals. But this role has been, and will continue to be, filled to some degree by the *Journal of Athletic Training*. But there is much more to education. We must have an outlet to share critical and significant concepts and innovative ideas. Two examples follow:

Many of us have come away from the reflective essays presented at the educators conference by *Sayers “Bud” Miller Distinguished Educator Award* winners. Each time I’ve thought to myself, “I wish I had a written copy of that essay so I could reflect further on the great wisdom presented by these distinguished educators.” You will note that we have two such essays in this inaugural issue.

In February of this year I attended the first Southeast Athletic Trainers Association (District 9) Educators Meeting and last month attended education sessions of the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association (District 4) and Northwest Athletic Trainers Association (District 10) annual meetings. In all three of these

meetings I was like a kid in a candy shop. “Wow!” I kept saying to myself. “What a concept! I wish I had known that 30 years ago, or even 10 years ago. That concept/idea needs to be shared with others.” Hopefully, I did enough arm twisting of presenters that their ideas will be in future issues.

The specific aims for this journal are based on the stated mission, and are as follows. To:

- advance the field of athletic training education pertaining to didactic and clinical education, athletic training teaching methodologies, curriculum/program development, and educational assessment.
- offer practical information and resources to improve teaching and learning processes for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education.
- facilitate the exchange of information related to program accreditation; educational policy; and faculty, staff, and student educational issues.
- maintain a rigorous peer review process to assist authors in communicating their ideas and to protect the integrity of the athletic training education knowledge base.

We have a great start on the last aim. I have been impressed with the rigor and quality of reviews received on the manuscripts in review. A good start. Only time will tell how we meet the other three aims.

We have so many intelligent and talented educators in our profession. I am convinced that each of us has something to offer others. If we each understood and incorporated just a fraction of others ideas, we would be more effective educators and our students would be better prepared, and therefore would provide better health care. Hopefully, this journal will become a forum for sharing of those ideas. When you hear something presented that just knocks your socks off, encourage the presenter to prepare a manuscript from the material. If it inspired you it will inspire others. Together, lets make the world better.
