



RMATA District 7 Scholarship Endowment

Honoring Gary Delforge, EdD

ABOUT THE ENDOWMENT: This endowed scholarship was made possible through the generous donations of former students, colleagues, and friends who wanted to thank Dr. Delforge for the impact he made on the athletic training profession and in their lives. Many described him not just as a gifted teacher, but as a “surrogate father figure.” RMATA (Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers Association) established a scholarship endowment honoring Gary Delforge in 2012, and it annually awards an RMATA (D7) athletic training student with a \$2,300 scholarship. Prior to the endowment being established, the “Friends of Gary Delforge” Scholarship was awarded to students enrolled in various athletic training programs from 2003-2011.

ABOUT GARY DELFORGE: Gary Delforge, known as “Dr. D” to many, was a pioneer in his field and instrumental in helping Athletic Training become a certified profession. He began his pursuit of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Kansas State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1960. He continued on to receive his Master of Science in this area, with a minor in secondary education from Kent State University, while working as a Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer. Gary then took a position as an Assistant Athletic Trainer at Western Michigan University before taking the Head Athletic Trainer position at the University of Arizona in 1963. In 1973 he successfully completed his Doctorate of Education at the University of Arizona with a focus in Rehabilitation Administration and a minor in Education Administration. While working at the University of Arizona, he developed an accredited Graduate Athletic Training Education Program and worked as an Associate Professor until 1995. From 1995 to 2000, Gary served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Sport Medicine at A.T. Still University where he developed a Master of Science degree program in sports health care and a Graduate AT Education Program.

Sadly, Gary passed away May 19, 2023. While he had many achievements in his career, more important to Gary were his students and colleagues. He simply loved teaching and his greatest legacy will be his students, which, as of 2023, include:

- 400+ Master of Science / Post-Professional AT Students
- Hundreds of Head Athletic Trainers
- Hundreds of District and State Officers
- 45+ NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainers
- 24 NATA Hall of Fame Members
- 6 NATA Fellows
- 2 NATA Presidents
- 2 Accredited Graduate AT Programs (University of Arizona and A.T. Still University)
- Many, many program directors and Athletic Training faculty

Other Achievements:

- Chaired the NATA Professional Education Committee for 17 years

- Sayers “Bud” Miller Distinguished Athletic Training Educator Award
- 1988 NATA Hall of Fame
- 1994 Bud Miller Award
- 1994 AzATA Hall of Fame
- 1994 RMATA Hall of Fame
- 2001 AOSSM Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award
- His three daughters and six grandchildren (he calls this his greatest accomplishment)

PAST RMATA (D7) GARY DELFORGE ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

2023 Minsub Oh – Brigham Young University
 2022 Brookelyn Watkins– Weber State University
 2021 Hannah Stedje – Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions
 2020 Whitney Russell – Weber State University
 2019 Katherine Hamill - Weber State University
 2018 Joshua Beaumont - Arizona State University
 2017 Katura Sales – Missouri Valley College (resident of D7)
 2016 Krista Hixson – A.T. Still University
 2015 Kathryn Olson – University of Northern Colorado
 2014 Christopher Toone – University of Utah
 2013 Kelsey Picha – A.T. Still University
 2012 Daisuke Yamada - A.T. Still University

PAST “FRIENDS OF GARY DELFORGE” SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS (prior to RMATA endowment being established):

2011 Audrey Bolt – Lynchburg College
 2010 Chellsie Seyler – University of Northern Colorado
 2009 Kara Miller – University of Colorado – Colorado Springs
 2008 Kenneth Kladnik – Northcentral University
 2007 Sarah Piebes – A. T. Still University
 2006 Heidi Neitzke – Metropolitan State College of Denver
 2005 Russell Richardson – Washington State University
 2004 Julie Rochester – University of Phoenix
 2003 Jennifer Lindh – Northern Arizona University