PFATS Scholarship Endowment

About the Endowment: The PFATS Scholarship Endowment, established in 2008, provides eight annual scholarships of $2,300 to qualified athletic training students.

Dean Kleinschmidt Scholarship

Dean Kleinschmidt’s fundraising efforts helped build the NATA Foundation scholarship program during its early years. He has served three terms as president of the Professional Football Athletic Trainers’ Society and has been a member of two NFL advisory committees to the commissioner. Mr. Kleinschmidt is coordinator of athletic medicine for the Detroit Lions, after spending most of his career with the New Orleans Saints. He was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1994.

Scholarship Recipients:

2022  Xavier Thompson, University of Virginia
2021  Kiara Malone, Shenandoah University
2020  Chloe McKay, University Of Kentucky
2019  Ramon Ramirez, Nova Southeastern University
2018  Jacob Teixiera, Boston University
2017  Eric Schwartz, University of Arkansas
2016  Brooke Kapple, Ohio University
2015  Jennifer Ach, University of Minnesota
2014  Brett Sigley, West Virginia University
2013  Laura Zdziarski, Roanoke College
2012  Ashley Bracken, Western Carolina University
2011  Josh Lammert, Northwest Missouri State University
2010  Stasia Burroughs, Auburn University
2009  Noritoshi Shirakawa, Louisiana State University
2008  Shellie Spiers, Louisiana College
**William Tessendorf Scholarship**

William “Bill” Tessendorf’s legacy as an athletic trainer will be his efforts to advance the profession and create more opportunities for his colleagues. Mr. Tessendorf has worked as an athletic trainer in the National Football League for nearly four decades, including more than 20 years with the Cleveland Browns and a Super Bowl win with the Baltimore Ravens in 2001. Mr. Tessendorf has shown his commitment to his profession by serving as president of the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers’ Association. He was the first to represent athletic trainers on the NFL Injury & Safety panel, advocating for player safety and injury prevention for nearly two decades. He was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 2012.

**Scholarship Recipients:**
- 2022  Scout Schultz, The University of Pittsburgh
- 2021  Morgan Krug, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
- 2020  Madison Hauge, University of South Carolina
- 2019  Kennedy Morey, Kansas State University
- 2018  Joseph Lewis, Washburn University
- 2017  Haley Anderson, Westchester University
- 2016  Matthew Harkey, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 2015  Emilee Anderson, Grand Valley State University
- 2014  Nichole Eads, Western Carolina University
- 2013  Philip Szlosek, Old Dominion University
- 2012  Emily Gaddy, Campbell University
- 2011  Lucas Bahnmaier, University of Oregon
- 2010  Rachel Sharpe, University of South Carolina
- 2009  Joshua Lammert, Missouri Valley College
- 2008  Marc Norcross, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Edward Block Scholarship**

Ed Block was a friend, confidant and healer for the Baltimore Colts from 1954-77. The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation established in his memory, now advocates for children in crisis. In addition to caring for the Colts, Mr. Block worked with area Baltimore hospitals and with the in-space conditioning program for NASA. He was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1974.

**Scholarship Recipients:**
- 2022  Lauren Hawkinson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2021  Kaylee Wood, Texas A&M University
- 2020  Sarah Wegryn, Concordia University of Chicago
- 2019  Julie Burland, University of Connecticut
- 2018  Megan Simon, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Larry “Stosh” Neumann Memorial Scholarship

Larry E. “Stosh” Newman attended Mankato State University. He worked with the Minnesota Vikings as an assistant athletic trainer for 16 years, from the time he graduated college until he retired in 1992 due to illness. He passed away in 1996.

Scholarship Recipients:

2022  Kelley Wiese, George Mason University
2021  Angela Huston, University of Kentucky
2020  Aliza Nedimyer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2019  Rebecca Hirschhorn, University of South Carolina
2018  Taillon Bernier, University of Florida
2017  Trevor Thompson, Ithaca College
2016  Leah Dell, University of Southern Maine
2015  Jesse Williams, California State, Fullerton
2014  Julia Spellman, University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse
2013  Stephanie Snyder, SUNY Brockport
2012  Shelby Reed, Central Methodist University
2011  Marissa Jones, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
2010  Sunku Kwon, Bridgewater State College
2009  Elizabeth Wolfe, University of South Carolina
2008  Beth Fruechte, Minnesota State University at Moorhead
Jerry Rhea Scholarship

Jerry Rhea attended Texas A&M and graduated in 1958. Jerry worked 8 years in Texas schools as Head Athletic Trainer, and went on to serve as Assistant Athletic Trainer for the Los Angeles Rams. Rhea served as head athletic trainer for the Atlanta Falcons from 1969 until 1994. Following his role as Head Athletic Trainer, Rhea worked as Assistant to the President of the Falcons from 1994 to 2001. In addition to his duties with the Falcons, Rhea was elected president of SEATA in 1982 and served as the President of the National Athletic Trainers Association from 1986-1988. He was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1987.

Scholarship Recipients:
2022   Shawn Hanlon, University of Delaware
2021   Megan Pierce, University of Georgia
2020   Mary Avey, University of South Carolina
2019   Devin Gilliam, Troy University
2018   Samuel Walton, University of Virginia
2017   Jane Sweeney, University of South Carolina
2016   Laura Zdziarski, University of Florida

John Norwig Scholarship

John Norwig has spent 27 years in the NFL. He attended Pennsylvania State University and has served as a past PFATS President. He has served on many other committees and panel such as; the NFL Injury and Safety Pane, the Neck and Spine Committee, the NFL Accountability and Care Committee, and the PFATS Foundation

Scholarship Recipients:
2022   Ke’La Porter, University of Kentucky
2021   Andrew Haldeman, South Dakota State University
2020   Keilea Sumrall, A.T. Still University
2019   Hinako Nagayama, South Dakota State University
2018   Kristen Agena, AT Still University
2017   Bryndan Lindsey, George Mason University
Robert H. “Bobby” Gunn Scholarship

Robert Henry “Bobby” Gunn was born April 27, 1924. He attended Rice, graduating in 1951. While at Rice he served as an assistant to head athletic trainer Eddie Wojecki.

Upon graduation Gunn became the athletic trainer at Brazosport High School in Freeport, Texas. During his career he would also work at Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Texas, Lamar Tech (now Lamar University) and the Washington Redskins and Houston Oilers in the NFL.

Gunn was a founding member of the Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association and served SWATA in many positions. He was on the NATA Board of Directors from 1965-69, serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors the last two years on his Board service. In 1970, Gunn was elected as the first President of the NATA. He would serve as President until 1974.

Gunn was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1975 and passes away at age 82 on March 1, 2007.

Scholarship Recipients:
2022 Joel Luedke, Concordia University-Chicago
2021 Maria Galic, Northern Arizona University
2020 Mary Avey, University of South Carolina
2019 Yuka Ogata, University of Arkansas
2018 Yu-Lun Huang, Oregon State University
2017 James Yancy, University of Montana

Steve “Greek” Antonopulos Scholarship

Steve Antonopulos has spent 42 years in the NFL. He attended the University of Northern Colorado. He worked as the Head Athletic Trainer for the Denver Broncos from 1980 until 2017. He now serves as the Director of Sports Medicine for the Denver Broncos. He served as PFATS president from 2003-2008

Scholarship Recipients:
2022 Tyler Gardiner, University of Southern Maine
2021 Tyler Gardiner, University of Southern Maine
2020 Hannah Stedge, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions
2019 Katherine Berglund, University of Montana
2018 Jarod Dickey, Slippery Rock University
2017 Not Awarded
2016 Chastity Chov, The University of Texas Austing
2015 Seong Jun Son, Brigham Young University