

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:

- 2023 Courtney Grove, Waynesburg University
- 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 Teixeira, 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:

- 2023 Olivia McCusker, University of South Carolina
- 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:

- 2023 Marissa Uecker, Saint Louis University
- 2022 Lauren Hawkinson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2021 Kaylee Wood, Texas A&M University

- 2020 Sarah Wegrzyn, Concordia University of Chicago
- 2019 Julie Burland, University of Connecticut
- 2018 Megan Simon, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2017 Zachary Harbaugh, Winona State University
- 2016 Rena Gluck, Boston University
- 2015 Mary Helfer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- 2014 Sarah Mcnamara, Western Carolina University
- 2013 Allessa Lennon, Western Carolina University
- 2012 Michelle Jacobs, Old Dominion University
- 2011 Amber Radtke, University of Kentucky
- 2010 David Oats, University of Delaware
- 2009 Seth Bires, Slippery Rock University
- 2008 William Jones, Slippery Rock University

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:

- 2023 Katherine Berglund, A. T. Still University
 - 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
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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:

- 2023 Steven Mather, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions
 - 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
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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 panels such as; the NFL Injury and Safety Panel, the Neck and Spine Committee, the NFL Accountability and Care Committee, and the PFATS Foundation

Scholarship Recipients:

- 2023 Nathan Ritzman, Slippery Rock University
 - 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
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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 Wojceki.

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:

- 2023 Donghyeon Kim, University of Connecticut
- 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” Antonopoulos Scholarship



Steve Antonopoulos 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:

- 2023 Rachel McCoy, The University of Alabama
- 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