



Commission on Accreditation
of Athletic Training Education

+ winter 2012

TRANSFORMING THE PROFESSION
OF ATHLETIC TRAINING THROUGH
QUALITY EDUCATION

We Heard You!

Many exciting changes are coming to the CAATE and to ATHletic Training Education. Some of those changes are outlined below.

Many of you may remember our initial focus group meetings in 2010 at the NATA convention in Philadelphia, where the CAATE focused on what was important to you, our stakeholders. We followed this initial session with an on-line customer satisfaction survey and numerous focus groups since that time. Well, we've heard you and what you have told us is that you want quality accreditation services that include more outcomes-based standards, reduced variation in site visits, more

training for program directors, clinicians and site visitors as well as on-line processes to reduce the burden on program directors. Over the course of the next year, you will see some significant changes in the CAATE processes. We are really excited about this transformation and hope that you will join us in moving accreditation for athletic training programs forward.

One of the goals of the Commission over the next two years is to increase communication with all of our stakeholders and for our processes to become more transparent. As such, you will be seeing more regular communication from the

Commission, a new "look" previewed here, and increased educational opportunities for our educators. The communication from the CAATE began in January with a town hall meeting held at the EATA in Boston. The presentation was entitled "Town Hall Meeting- Who Does What?" featuring the Executive Committee for Education (ECE), the Board of Certification (BOC), the NATA District Directors (1 & 2) and the CAATE. The next presentation was a CAATE Update at the SEATA Educator's Conference in Atlanta on February 3rd and the CAATE Workshop on February 4th. Both were well attended.

We hope to see many of you at future presentations at each of the District meetings or educator sessions at those meetings. A list of upcoming CAATE presentations is listed on page 4 of this newsletter.



MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

R. Mark Laursen, MS, ATC,

has served as Boston University's Director of Athletic Training Services since June 2008. At that time, he was also named a Clinical Associate Professor of Athletic Training in BU's Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.



No stranger to BU, Laursen has served in numerous capacities at the University since 1983, he has previously worked at BU as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Athletic Training, an Athletic Trainer, working closely with the men's basketball, football and wrestling programs, an Interim Head Athletic Trainer, Coordinator of Clinical Education and Interim Program Director.

From July 2007 to May 2008, he was at the University of South Carolina as a member of its graduate faculty where he coordinated all graduate clinical education. He has also been on the athletic training staff at Washington College (MD) and the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.

Laursen has contributed to several publications, has made more than 40 presentations, and is a reviewer for Athletic Therapy Today, Journal of Athletic Training and Athletic Training Education Journal.

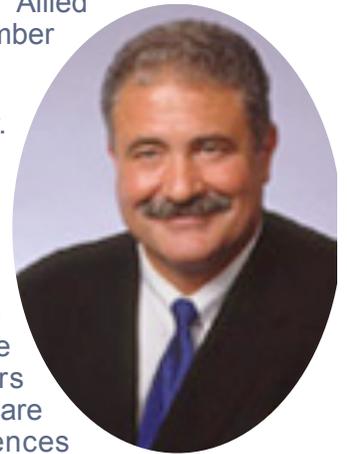
Laursen has volunteered as an athletic trainer at numerous sporting events including the Boston Marathon, NCAA championships for men's basketball, men's ice hockey, women's ice hockey and wrestling, and U.S. Figure Skating and Gymnastics Championships.

A 1983 graduate of Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Science degree, Laursen majored in Health Education and minored in Athletic Training. He earned his Master of Science degree in 1986 from Canisius College.

Gregory H. Frazer, PhD, FASAHP currently serves as Dean and Professor of the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences at Duquesne University. Dr. Frazer received his Ph.D. in Health Education and Administration from Southern Illinois University in 1982.

He serves as the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to the NCAA and the A-10 Conference for the University. Dr. Frazer also serves as President of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) and was a member of the Board of Directors from 2003-2009.

In addition to his service to ASAHP, Dr. Frazer has served on the Board of Directors for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for 6 years (2005-2011). He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Commission on Accreditation in Athletic Training Education (CAATE) and has served as a member of the Board of Directors for EMS Educators Certification Services, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation/Coro Pittsburgh Health Sciences Fellowship, the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, and Life's Work, Inc. Dr. Frazer has just been reappointed to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) after a previous six-year appointment. Dr. Frazer has been a national and international Specialized Accreditation Site Visitor.



He serves on the Editorial Boards of several journals that include the Journal of Allied Health and American Journal of Health Behavior. He is a national speaker and has published numerous articles and refereed abstracts in the areas of occupational stress and quality of life. He is a national consultant and speaker on critical decision-making and strategic planning.

Prior to his current assignment, Dr. Frazer served as Dean of the Victor F. Spathelf College of Allied Health Sciences at Ferris State University. Dr. Frazer has also held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Central Florida, Old Dominion University, Indiana State University, and Eastern Virginia Medical School. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Health Law, Health Care Management, Health Program Planning, Health Policy Analysis, and Research Design and Evaluation

Strategic Alliance Statement on Supervision



The leadership of the Strategic Alliance, which includes the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), and the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC), has concluded that it is both appropriate and necessary to issue this formal statement to remind institutions, supervisors and students that athletic training students should provide services to patients only when directly supervised by the appropriate personnel. This includes athletic training students who travel with athletic teams.

According to the 2008 Standards for the Accreditation of Entry-Level Athletic Training Education Programs, "an approved clinical instructor or clinical instructor must be physically present and have the ability to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student to provide on-going and consistent education."

The Strategic Alliance has a vested interest in student supervision, an issue that transcends educational programs and impacts the

profession of athletic training as a whole. The CAATE is involved from an educational standpoint, the BOC is involved from the regulatory perspective, and the NATA is concerned about issues affecting the athletic training profession.

Athletic training services should be provided only by BOC-certified or otherwise regulated personnel or by students under the direct supervision of such personnel. Athletic training students should only travel with teams when directly supervised at all times by appropriately credentialed athletic trainers. The practice of an unsupervised student providing athletic training staff with unregulated personnel.

athletic training services replaces licensed athletic. This is illegal in most states, and the practice is contrary to the safety and welfare of patients. Additionally, it is not in the best interests of the profession and therefore cannot be supported by the Strategic Alliance.

The direct supervision of athletic training students is in the best interest of the institutions, supervisors, students, and patients. It is required under the CAATE education standards. As stated above, the Standards stipulate a clinical instructor must be physically present and able to interact with an athletic training student at the site of the clinical experience.

The Strategic Alliance acknowledges that critical thinking and independent clinical decision-making are at the heart of good clinical supervision. Direct supervision does not preclude students' ability to learn and exercise those key skills. Clinical instructors and supervisors should allow students the appropriate freedom to engage in critical thinking and decision-making in a suitable environment. Above all, supervision by an instructor or supervisor must be adequate to ensure that each patient receives competent and quality care and to ensure compliance with the relevant state practice act. Failure to provide adequate supervision could expose the institution and regulated professionals to liability.

The Strategic Alliance is evaluating clinical education from several perspectives and is developing additional models and tools. This collective effort will assist athletic training students classroom and clinical instructors.

TRANSITION GROUP FORMED

There has been much discussion about what the "entry-level" degree should be for the athletic training profession. Through a joint agreement in Vision-Quest between the NATA, BOC and CAATE, it was determined that the degree will remain at the bachelors level at this time but would continually be evaluated as the healthcare environment changes. Many programs have started to pursue a degree change within their institutions, however, have been reluctant because they did not want to have to do another complete self-study and site visit. A degree change is scrutinized at many levels including department, school/college, institution and perhaps even state boards of education. Therefore, the CAATE is committed to helping those schools wishing to transition to the master's degree by making the reaccreditation process as a master's program less arduous without compromising the integrity of accreditation.

CAATE Presentations *

Jan 8	Boston, MA	Roundtable, EATA meeting
Feb 3	Atlanta, GA	CAATE Update SEATA Educators conference
Feb 4	Atlanta, GA	CAATE Workshop SEATA Educators conference
March 13 &14	Wheeling, IL	CAATE Workshop GLATA Pre-Conference
March 15	Wheeling, IL	CAATE Update District 4, GLATA conference
March 15	Topeka, KS	CAATE Update District 5, MAATA conference
March 17	Atlanta, GA	CAATE Update District 9, SEATA conference
March 30-31	Bellevue, WA	Round-Table, District 10 meeting

CARUTHER'S AWARD

The Bob and Lynn Caruthers Service award is given to individuals that demonstrate the character and performance traits Bob and Lynn Caruthers displayed in their respective careers of significant and distinguished service to professional and specialized accreditation. Both Bob and Lynn demonstrated excellence when working directly constituent institutions. This award is intended to be a reflection of the commitment to professional education and service shown by the Caruthers.

Watch for announcements and call for nominations coming soon. for this

Future presentations will be announced in subsequent newsletters



Fee Changes

expenses for the site visitors including airfare, hotel, lodging, rental car, etc. This fee conceivably would be once per 10 years if the institution obtained the maximum accreditation award.

The \$5,000 accreditation fee was not derived in a spurious or capricious manner. Based upon our review of our site visit data, the average expenses for a program site visit over the past year was \$2500 (in addition to the \$500 application fee).

We have instituted additional training for all site visitors and extended the length of each site visit to afford the site visit team ample opportunity to assess a program's compliance with each standard as well as provide the program with sufficient time to present the necessary evidence and outcome data to establish compliance. The training for site visitors (an additional expense to the CAATE of approximately \$500 per team) has become a prime focus of the CAATE. With the implementation of the new standards and the increased expectation of site visitors, we must retrain all of our site visitors to meet the consistency and quality expectations of our institutions. This includes development and implementation of on-line training as well as in-person training. The tradition of athletic training education accreditation has been grounded solely on volunteers since the inception of athletic training accreditation. That process cannot continue in this age of accountability, transparency, outcome assessment and oversight. If we demand consistency and quality in our site visit process, we are required to invest in our selection and training of our site

visitors and make them accountable by providing a stipend commensurate with the amount and quality of work expected. Thus, we are providing a stipend for site visitors, totaling \$1200 per team. This includes the reading of the self-study, travel time, time on-site, writing the report and working with the review teams to create an accurate report and instructions for the rejoinder.

If you total the above amounts, it equals \$4300. That leaves an application fee of \$700 (compared to the current \$500). Frankly, the cost of operating the business of CAATE has increased as it has for every other organization. Those increases more than justify the \$200 increase.

We realize that we are in difficult economic times, but unfortunately, the cost for us to do business as accreditors has increased. In order to deliver the value-added services to our stakeholders in the quality you want and deserve, we felt that the \$5000 site visit fee was appropriate and continues to be less than our peer accrediting agencies.

The CAATE appreciates the opportunity to share its perspectives with all stakeholders in the athletic training education community via this newsletter and other venues. Although the fee changes may appear drastic, they were overdue and necessary for the continued provision of quality service to the programs and their faculty and staff. We believe the enhancements to the process will benefit the students as well as the patients they serve.

There have been a few inquiries regarding the announcement of the increased costs associated with accreditation site visits and annual fees. The CAATE would like to take this opportunity to explain the rationale for the increases. The Board of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) shares your concern for any increases in costs to the institutions. The CAATE has not been immune to cost and salary increases as well.

ANNUAL FEE

The annual fee has been \$1050 per year since 1998. A year ago, we announced that annual fees would be increasing to \$1600 in July of 2012. We have increased our services while continuing to charge much less than our healthcare counterparts. We did considerable research of other accrediting agencies' fees and services before making the decision to increase our annual fee. When we compared the CAATE Annual Fees with fees of other healthcare professions' accreditors such as CAPTE, AOTA, ACPE, CCNE and NLNAC, we found that we were considerably lower than our counterparts.

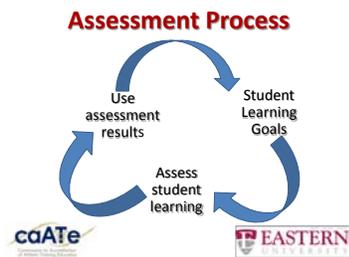
SITE VISIT FEE

We would also like to clarify the total amount of the institution's financial responsibility for the site visit. The total fee will be \$5000 to the institution. The CAATE will be financially responsible for all of the travel arrangements and

SEATA Educator's Conference Workshop

The CAATE Workshop at the SEATA Educator's conference was well attended by athletic training educators from across the country. Approximately 130 educators stayed for the post-conference workshop hosted by the CAATE.

The workshop included an update on accreditation changes and a review of some of the proposed major changes in the Standards. The main topic of the workshop was



Program Assessment. Doug Horton from Eastern University conducted this portion of the workshop that allowed educators to complete work on their own program's objectives, measurement tools, and use of the results in program assessment.

The third part of the workshop included a clinical education presentation by Chad Clements and Brian Vesci, Clinical Faculty from Boston University. This entertaining presentation was entitled "What I Say: What I Hear!" and focused on the communication between clinical education coordinators and clinicals serving as preceptors.

The workshop ended with an open forum Q & A between the participants and commissioners. The workshop will be repeated as a pre-conference workshop at the GLATA meeting in Chicago on March 13, 2012.



The CAATE is announcing the selection of Liaison International's eAccreditation System to manage the accreditation process. The new system will be launched in July, beginning with the program profiles and application processes. eAccreditation™ is a state-of-the-art, web-based accreditation management system that organizes documents and manages the entire accreditation process—from initial application, through self-study documentation, site visit, accreditation decision and any required follow-up from a given academic program—using a comprehensive, systematic approach. Liaison's President and CEO, George Haddad, stated "We are honored to welcome the Athletic Training Commission to our growing family of agency clients. We look forward to leveraging our technical expertise and industry knowledge to build a solution that meets their needs."



SITE VISIT AND SITE VISITOR CHANGES

Over the past year, the CAATE has solicited input from many of our stakeholders including Program Directors, Chairs, and Deans. The primary concern expressed by our stakeholders about the accreditation process is the site visit and the quality of our site visitors. In response to our stakeholder's feedback, we are currently revamping our Site Visit procedures. This will include new qualifications for Site Visitors, a more effective Site Visit Agenda, more comprehensive training, and an increased honorarium. We are committed to improving the quality of our accreditation processes and feel that the changes will accomplish the following:

- Improved quality of the site visit process
- Increased consistency between site visitors
- Increased time spent on site at the institution to allow more time to spend with students, faculty and administrators involved with the program
- Annual/regular comprehensive site visitor training

The CAATE is implementing changes to the site visit process including the rescheduling of several institutions' comprehensive reviews to decrease the number of site visits in one year and therefore increase the quality of each visit. To assist in the transition of our new site visit procedures, we asked programs who were granted 6 to 8 year accreditation cycles in 2012 - 2013 to consider rescheduling their on-site visit. Twenty programs agreed to be

rescheduled. Programs being visited in 2013 - 2014 and 2014 - 2015 who were granted 7 years will also be rescheduled. Programs who are being rescheduled will be sent a letter by the end of February. Rescheduling programs for continuing accreditation allows us to transition our new site visit procedures more efficiently.

Number of Site Visits per year	
2012-13	16
2013-14	20
2014-15	20
2015-16	25

Additionally, we are requiring updated site visitor training to be held at the NATA Annual Meeting in St Louis in June. Site Visitor Training will take place on June 30, 2012 in St Louis, MO at the NATA Annual Meeting. A group of approximately 40 site visitors will be invited to this training. Because the training will be using the 2005 Standards, the number of site visitors invited is being kept to a minimum. This Site Visitor Training will be open to program directors and other administrators from institutions that will be visited in 2012 - 2013 for a modest fee. Future Site Visitor Training will use the 2012 Standards and will also be open to program directors and other administrators for a modest fee. Annual and regular training updates and performance-based training will also be implemented for site visitors.

The CAATE has made some significant changes as a result of feedback from our stakeholders. Information will continue to be disseminated through e-blasts, updates at athletic training meetings, workshops for athletic training educators, and through our website. We will continue to listen to you and evolve our processes to ensure consistency in our site visits.

2012 - 2013 site visit changes:

Site Visit Agenda will be lengthened to 3 days so Site Visitors have ample time to complete the on-site visit

Rejoinders will be due 90 days after the Site Visit Report is returned to the program

Quality Assurance Survey will be completed by an independent group and feedback will be provided to site visitors and the CAATE on a regular basis



Did You Have a Site Visit This Year?

Programs having a recent site visit will be contacted by an independent contractor to obtain feedback on the accreditation process.

As part of our quality assurance initiative, an independent contractor has been hired by the CAATE to conduct a brief phone survey about your recent site visit. After the program has received the site visit report, programs will be contacted by Rana@caate.net to set up a convenient time to complete a brief phone survey. Please be assured that your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and will be used to assess the quality of the CAATE site visit process. Please be honest in your answers. Your answers will in no way impact the outcome of your Site Visit Report or accreditation status.

Executive Director Search

Last Spring and Summer the CAATE conducted a search for an Executive Director to replace Patsy House our previous Executive Director. Although we had numerous qualified applicants, we did not find the right fit to move the CAATE forward and regretfully had a failed search. To assist with our administrative needs and transformation of the Commission, the CAATE has contracted with an executive management firm that has been working out exceptionally well. The Commission discussed the Executive Director position at the Winter Meeting, February 8-10 in Austin, TX and will be presenting more information in the near future.

New Standards are coming..... The CAATE would like to thank all of you who responded to the on-line feedback and who participated in the focus groups in New Orleans. In addition, we would like to thank the work groups who developed the initial draft. The response for feedback was overwhelming. The suggestions put forth by our program directors, clinical education coordinators, clinical instructors, and administrators have been very helpful to bring us closer to a final document. The 2nd draft of the Standards was available for for public comment from February 1-20th. The Final Standards will be released Summer of 2012 for implementation in the 2013-14 self-studies.



Commission on Accreditation
of Athletic Training Education

2201 DOUBLE CREEK DRIVE
SUITE 5006
ROUND ROCK, TX 78664
(512)733-9700
FAX (512) 733-9701