



AUGUST 2022

District President - Steve Cole

Well here we go again! I survived August preseason practices and now preparing for the start of the academic year. Exciting things are happening in the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers Association.

Annual Meeting: On August 17th, the Annual meeting committee met at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach. It is a beautiful property, and the staff was very receptive to working with us in planning the meeting. We should all look forward to gathering for our annual meeting May 19-21, 2023.

Governance Task Force: I am pleased to announce we have selected the members of the MAATA Governance Task Force, which will review the MAATA Constitution and Bylaws with an emphasis on increased, formal role of the State Presidents in the decision-making for the MAATA.

Best of Luck with the Fall!

District Secretary - Jason Mitchell

We are looking for volunteers to represent District 3 on the following National Committees:

- Career Advancement Committee
- Committee on Professional Ethics
- Hall of Fame Special Considerations Committee
- Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Committee
- Student Leadership Committee

Deadlines for applications is Sunday, September 11. To apply and get additional information on each position, please go to <https://gather.nata.org/participate/volunteeropportunities>.

NATIONAL UPDATES

NATA-ICSM - Jennifer O'Donoghue

The *NATA Timely Topics Series* will provide members with an engaging, high-level introductory conversation about a hot topic in athletic training. Each event will give attendees the chance to connect in real-time to thought leaders who have anecdotal success within these areas of interest as well as access to a library of related resources.

The most recent NATA Timely Topic series was on *Nutrition and the Athletic Trainer*, August 19th. The NATA-ICSM continues to identify relevant, timely issues in the field of athletic training and collaborate with various organizing bodies of collegiate and intercollegiate athletics to improve student athlete safety, well-being and healthcare by influencing policy and providing resources. Please contact us if you have questions or would like the ICSM to consider projects you feel are important to the membership.

DISTRICT UPDATES

Honors & Awards Committee - Bob Casmus

The MAATA Honors and Awards are officially open now and the committee is accepting nominations at this time. The hard deadline for nominations is November 1st, 2022. Please consider nominating your fellow athletic trainers for MAATA Honors & Awards. All of us know at least one individual who is worthy and deserving of such recognition. The advocacy forms and/or letters of recommendation and the candidate profile/application information must be received by 11/30/22 to be considered for the award to which a nomination was made. Incomplete files will not be considered for the awards process. All MAATA Honors & Awards Information can be found at: www.maata.org Once at the site, go to Committees – Honors and Awards – then to the Honors and Awards page. As a reminder – Past NATA Service Award recipients are not eligible at this time for MAATA Service Award and Past NATA MDAT recipients are not eligible at this time for MAATA MDAT. NATA HOF recipients are "recognized" as MAATA Hall of Fame members.

Public Relations Committee - Taryn Nicoletta Strickland

The NCATA DEI committee will be hosting another Can We Talk open forum in late August about providing care to Latinx communities. To get the zoom link to participate in this discussion please email dei@ncata.net. All are invited regardless of state. We will also host an additional open forum for athletic trainers to talk about items that are on their minds in September. Follow @NCATA_DEI on twitter and visit our website for more information and dates. We covered the topic of Neurodiversity in a forum in July that provided some insight about how we can tailor our care to neurodivergent individuals.

Memorial Resolutions Committee - John Bielawski

We Remember...

Although they are gone, let us never forget their lives, and their service and commitment to the ideals of the athletic training profession, and for enhancing the history of our district.



John N. Lally
August 24, 1943 – February 28, 2022



Fort Worth, TX, John Neal Lally, 78, passed away in his sleep on February 28, 2022. He was born in Fort Worth, TX, and was the son of Elizabeth L. Creamer (Lally) and the late John G. Lally.

John grew up in Fort Worth, TX, and graduated from Laneri High School, and attended Texas Christian University. His athletic training career was spent in professional sports. He had a very impressive and long-standing career in Minor League Baseball, the ABA, and the NBA. He was the Athletic Trainer for the Dallas Fort Worth Spurs, San Antonio Mission, Dallas Chaparrals, Memphis Sounds, and the Baltimore Claws between 1965-1975. He was the Head Athletic Trainer for the Washington Bullets for 1976-1994 and was a proud member of the 1978 NBA World Championship team. John served as the Chairman for the National Basketball Trainers Association from 1991-1993 and was the Head Athletic Trainer for the Toronto Raptors from 1995-1996 and worked in the front office for Washington Sports & Entertainment from 1996-1999. Following his retirement he returned to his hometown of Fort Worth, Tx.

John is survived by his mother Elizabeth Creamer (Lally), his sister Lauren Miller (Lally), son-in law Andrew Miller, grandchildren Drew Miller, Patrick Miller, Bella Mishoe and Hanna Mishoe, sister Ann Andrews (Lally), brother-in law Mike Andrews, sister Sally Wellington (Lally), nieces Ellen, Elizabeth and Emma Andrews and Kelly Dodson.

Thomas “Tom” Kuster III
February 3, 1973 -May 17, 2022



McGaheysville, VA, Thomas “Tom” J. Kuster III, 49, passed away on May 17, 2022, at his home after a nearly two-year battle with colon cancer. Tom was born in New York, and was the son of Thomas Kuster, Jr., and Kathleen Kuster.

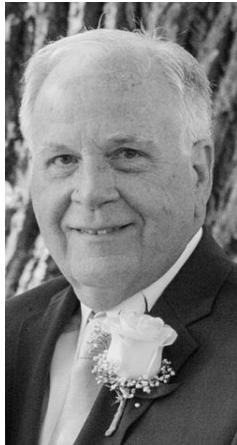
Tom was a graduate of James Madison and West Virginia Universities. After graduation he returned in 1999 to James Madison University as an Assistant Athletic Trainer. Then in 2006, he was promoted to Director of Sports Medicine, and in 2016 he was again promoted to Associate Athletic Director for Integrated Health and Sports Performance. Within James Madison University Athletics he provided leadership to the areas of Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Nutrition, and Sports Psychology while overseeing a staff of nearly twenty-five sports medicine and sports performance professionals.

Jeff Bourne, Director of Athletics at JMU in his press release about Tom's passing said, “I haven't met many people more kind-hearted and good natured than Tom Kuster. He was a progressive thinker and innovator, who kept JMU on the forefront of sports medicine and performance enhancement. He possessed a special ability to identify with all people and ways to work together, regardless of the topic, to find common ground and agreeable outcomes on difficult issues. He was a synthesizer, who could communicate and tie folks together. He had an unmatched knowledge of the institution, the industry of sports medicine and the culture of our athletics program. That combination made him an incredible asset to us at JMU, but for all of his professional strengths, he was an even better person. He touched so many lives and will be sorely missed.”

Among his many personal accomplishments he was inducted into the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in July of 2021

He is survived by his wife Bethany Kuster, and sons Benjamin and Samuel Kuster, his sisters Kristin Kuster and Elizabeth Oberschneider, and uncles William and Gerard Kuster.

Dennis William Porter
September 14, 1950 – June 14, 2022



Buckhannon, WV, Dennis William Porter, 71, passed away on June 14, 2022, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, the son of the late Wendell and Helen Gilleland Porter.

Dennis graduated from Mars Area Senior High School (PA) in 1968. He proudly served in the United States Army as a surveyor in the HHQ Battery 1/94 Field Artillery Unit in Firth, Germany from 1972-1974. After his time in the service, he returned home to receive a bachelor's degree in physical education and athletic training from West Virginia University in 1978, and later a master's degree in education from James Madison University in 1984. He continued his professional education and training obtaining a postgraduate physical therapy assistant degree from Kent State University in 2011.

Professionally, Dennis worked as an athletic trainer in athletic and clinical capacities at Fairmount State University, Harrisonburg Virginia Public Schools, and Cincinnati Sports Medicine. His career spanned all competitive levels including work with the Junior Under-19 National Soccer Team, United States Olympic Diving Team, and the Bluefield (WV) Orioles, a minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles (MLB). At the time of his retirement in 2016, Dennis had served as the first clinical director at the Buckhannon MPTA/Healthworks facility beginning in 1990.

As a teen, he earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout and received the God and Country award from the Boy Scouts of America. He was a member of the Buckhannon Rotary Club, National Athletic Trainer's Association, Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainer's Association, West Virginia Athletic Trainer's Association where he served a term as president, and the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Buckhannon. Throughout the years, Dennis was an avid fan of the West Virginia Mountaineers, Pittsburg Steelers and Pirates.

He is survived by his wife Nancy Baker Porter, daughters Kristen Porter, Lara Trushel, Heather Porter, two granddaughters, Avalyn and Amalia Trushel; and one grandson, Andrew Porter. Dennis enjoyed raising his three daughters alongside his wife and spending time with family and friends.

“We Remember”/ Memorial Resolutions Initiative

Please assist with identifying our District's deceased athletic training colleagues, for the purpose of remembering their lives, and their contributions to our District's rich history. My hope is that this initiative will serve to remember our departed colleagues, while at the same time, making our District's membership aware of those individuals who have been a part of our District's rich history.

Therefore, I am asking that you forward the following information on those deceased colleagues to your state representative (see the following names & emails):

- Full name of deceased
- Year he/she died
- His/her city & state of residency/work
- Obituary if available w/picture

Send your information to: john.bielawski@gmail.com if your state currently doesn't have a representative.

Memorial Resolutions Committee

“Are you interested in getting involved in MAATA/District III Committee service?”

The Memorial Resolutions Committee now part of the Historical Commission is looking for a representative from each state to be the reporter for his/her state in gathering information on the passing of colleagues. This information will then be provided to the committee chair for review, editing and formatting before inclusion in the 60 Second News, Spring & Fall Newsletters, MAATA/District III Website, Archives and Slide Show. So, if you are interested, complete the following steps:

- Contact your state president and inform he/she of your interest in serving as the state's representative to the Memorial Resolutions Committee.
- Once you have been designated as the representative for your state by your president, then send a copy of your current resume, and a letter of intent, both of which are required for committee membership by MAATA/District III to: john.bielawski@gmail.com
- The following individuals are the current members of the District III/MAATA Memorial Resolutions Committee (part of the Historical Commission):

District of Columbia - TBA

Maryland - Samuel Thompson, Jr. – samthompson@lifebridgehealth.org

North Carolina – Randy Pridgen – rpridgen@wcpss.net

South Carolina – James Berry – drjimberry@gmail.com

Virginia – TBD

West Virginia – Randall Meador – randy.meador@mail.wvu.edu