2017-2018

**Aurora University**

Aurora University athletic training students are on week two of the Spring 2018 semester and are getting adjusted to their new clinical sites. The freshman pre-athletic training students started their first week of their athletic training courses. The freshman will begin their observation hours this month. The sophomores began their Lower Extremity course where they will learn to identify classification and degree of injuries, orthopedic assessment concepts, pathological conditions and anatomical considerations of the lower extremity. Sophomores will also recognize proper documentation techniques using the S.O.A.P. note format in their lower extremity class. The juniors are now ready to perform their Upper Extremity skills that they learned in class last semester to now evaluate injuries of both the lower and upper extremities at their new clinical sites. The seniors are continuing to study for the BOC in class and outside of class and enjoying their last clinical semester with 8 weeks at a physical therapy clinic or with a sports medicine physician and 8 weeks in a high school or college setting.

Our student organizations are already getting busy this semester. The Spartan Athletic Student Organization (SATSO) is planning a fun trip to Northwestern University for their athletic training appreciation night and to watch a basketball game. SATSO is also planning on doing volunteer work this semester at the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and at the 16th Annual Project Linus. Project Linus is a campaign that provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets created by the volunteers. Finally, we will once again compete in the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Education and Research Foundation Student Challenge, raising money for the foundation and promoting March is Athletic Training Month. Our honor society organization, Iota Tau Alpha (ITA), is sending out letters to new inductees this month and fundraising for Young Hearts for Life with the other school of human performance organizations.

**Illinois State University**

The sophomores have been accepted into the program after completing their applications and interviews. We are looking into making a bulletin board to let students know about IATA and GLATA. We hope to get more of our students involved with these organizations. We will be looking for students to apply for the IATA and/or GLATA position this semester, we would like to continue to have representatives from Illinois State in these positions and continue to grow awareness for our profession.

**Lewis University**

Lewis University has just began classes today, January 16th. It is an exciting new start to the year as students are introduced to their new schedules including a new clinical site. A large amount of Athletic Training majors were admitted to the program this Spring. The new members are looking forward to this new experience and meeting their new preceptors. Clinical 1 will be given freedom to do more at their sites, as they are now done with the lower and upper extremity classes. In addition, four of the clinical 2 students have started their clinical setting rotations, in which they get the opportunity to work with different patient populations. Others are in the process of starting their hospital/ER, physician office, and ambulance ride rotations. It will be a semester full of new experiences, which will help us all improve our skill sets. Furthermore, our seniors have been going to their internships that they have waiting eagerly to start. Some are farther along than others, but they are all preparing for the BOC.

**Millikin University**

Millikin Athletic training students have just been assigned to their clinical rotations and will begin those this week as Spring classes resume. Our seniors are preparing to make a trip to Indiana University to participate in the ACES workshop for BOC prep, which should be a very rewarding experience and great preparation tool. Many seniors are planning on taking the BOC in the March-April time slot, so this workshop will be a much needed refresher to our studying over the next few months. Other than this, there is not much else to report seeing as we have not yet started with clinical rotations or any other activities.

**North Central College**

January is a big month for North Central College as students are hard at work preparing for midterms coming up at the end of the month. The athletic training students are gaining valuable clinical experience in their on campus rotations, various off campus rotations, and internships with hockey and a local high school. The Cardinal Athletic Training student (CATS) club had a successful Kitty Kat Bowl, which is a flag football game in December with attendance from many of admitted students and our pre-admission students. Winter is when we plan “Slame-a-Jamma” where we compete against each other in a basketball game. CATS sub committees are planning out participation in fundraising and philanthropy events for the month of February. The CATS club is also continuing to accept Iota Tau Alpha applications as we embark on a second year of having the Athletic training honors society as an opportunity for CATS members.

**North Park University**

The North Park’s Men’s Soccer team had an incredible and record-breaking season. Not only did they have an undefeated regular season, but North Park also had the great privilege of hosting playoffs. This teams’ hard work and dedication took them all the way to North Carolina and ended the season as the Runner-Up for the NCAA National Championship for Division III Men’s Soccer. We are very proud of this team!

Since our last meeting in November, the students of our program have come together for a few events. This included a Friendsgiving/Christmas party and an ice cream social. For Friendsgiving/Christmas, everyone who was attending, was asked to bring an item, mimicking a potluck dinner. Before everyone ate, a few of our students decorated our mini Christmas tree with athletic training items as the decorations.

In addition to great food and decorating, our upper level students shared their off-site clinical experiences to assist with the decision-making process for sophomore and junior students who will be applying for clinical rotations in the upcoming months. Additionally, this was an opportunity for prospective students to join us so that they may connect with students and preceptors about their future within the program. This also gave them the opportunity to ask any questions about the application process as well. Our ice cream social, was not only another chance for our prospective students to come hangout and learn about the program, but it gave everyone a great break from studying for finals and enjoy a variety of ice cream. It was a nice chance to kick back for an hour or so and de-stress from our many responsibilities.

North Park has been striving to get everyone together at least once a month to create opportunities to take a break from school and enjoy some off time. For example, before finals, Darby, our ATSA president, created an opportunity to have a 3v3 basketball tournament in our gym. If students were interested, they could sign up in groups of three, and they played multiple rounds with each other, and of course, the winners took home a prize. This gives us a good reason to hang out with each other outside of studying and show our competitive sides.

As the spring semester begins, we have much to look forward to as a program. We have exciting CEU opportunities, as well as more program outings to get everyone together again after a long break from each other. In the next few months, we are preparing and brainstorming for our end of the year barbeque. This comes at the end of the semester, during finals where we have another potluck style meal, welcome the new students into the program, and play games. Another important part of this, is our senior send-off portion. We have a team of students who create an end of the year slide show, which includes a section strictly for our graduating class.

Our seniors also had the chance to take part in the BOC ACES workshop to prepare for their upcoming exam. They will be taking the exam in the beginning of April and until then, they will spend most of their time studying through practice exams, study tables, and their senior seminar class.

**Trinity International University**

Our Student Athletic Trainers returned January 10th for another semester of classes and clinical rotations. The majority of the sophomores have started their high school rotation while the seniors continue their professional internships. ACES Workshop, a BOC preparation class, will be hosted at Trinity again this January with multiple schools from the area also participating in the class. The workshop is a weekend long class to help juniors and seniors prepare for the BOC by completing multiple practice tests that break down each segment of the test. Along with ACES Workshop, the seniors will be preparing for the BOC by meeting with former alumni to learn more tips and tricks for passing the test.

**Western Illinois University**

Here at Western Illinois University, we are excited to get the new year started. We are happy to introduce 6 new students into our program this semester. Rotations for winter/spring sports have begun here on campus as well as the high schools nearby. This semester, we have goals that include our Athletic Training Student Association raising funds to increase learning materials for our resource center, as well as planning a Department-wide Fitness Challenge. We look forward to what the rest of the semester brings!