

IATA Student Congress Monthly Report

**Aurora University**

Aurora University athletic training students have been busy this semester. In mid-August students arrived at campus for the annual athletic training orientation. This year the orientation was competition based and focused on three areas: taping techniques, injury evaluations, and emergency response procedures. The same day of orientation, students started their first day of clinical rotations with pre-season camps. Pre-season camps were eventful for everyone, but students gained valuable experience with all of the injuries they encountered during those two weeks. School started on August 27th and normal clinical schedules began as well. Senior students began studying for the BOC exam over the summer and are currently learning about medical conditions in the athlete and administrative roles. Juniors are learning about the upper extremity and how to evaluate those conditions. Sophomores are learning about preventative care and finding their roles at their clinical sites.

Our student organizations are already getting busy this semester. The Spartan Athletic Training Student Organization had their first meeting this week to plan out volunteer events, field trips, and fundraisers. Last year, SATSO volunteered at the Interfaith Food Pantry of Aurora and numerous events hosted on campus. Fieldtrips last year included Wrigley Field to meet the athletic trainers and staff of the Chicago Cubs and Northwestern University’s athletic training appreciation night. This year, students are planning a trip to the Northwestern Medicine Field to meet the Kane County Cougars athletic training staff and get a tour of the facility and a trip to a professional bull riding event to meet the athletic training staff and get a tour of the facility. In order to pay for these experiences, students are planning on selling athletic training t-shirts to students, friends, and family.

Our honor society organization, Iota Tau Alpha (ITA) will be meeting next week to discuss educational events to host at Aurora University, fundraising ideas, and ITA field trips. ITA students are also preparing to start tutoring sessions with other students in the program.

Aurora University’s ATEP is ready for a great 2018-2019 school year.

**Eastern Illinois University**

Eastern Illinois University’s Kinesiology department has been very busy this past summer, especially within Athletic Training. One major thing happening within the Athletic Training department is finalizing an Athletic Training Master’s program at Eastern Illinois University. It is still a work in progress, but the department’s hopes are up in finally making it official! Some activities that we are doing in present time include the Seniors in the program talk about their internships this past year (the biggest opportunity being one of our seniors interning with the Baltimore Ravens), fundraising activities such as selling athletic training koozies, and planning for the rest of the semester/year. With planning being said, we hope to have a SASTM certification course put together as well as a casting lab for the Athletic Training students to partake in. We also plan on having guest speakers talk at our meetings such as other athletic trainers and nurse practitioners. All in all, we plan on being very busy and productive this year! We want the Athletic Training students to have a great experience this year!

**Illinois State University**

Seniors have returned from their summer internships and have been telling great stories. We had students travel all over cover multiple sites with highlights being Chicago Bears, Indianapolis Colts, USA Volleyball in Anaheim, CA, Chicago Red Stars, Athletico, Mississippi State University, and University of Alabama. Our semester started on August 20th. All students have reported to clinical sites already and will be there until December. Incoming sophomores have started observation hours and will begin the application process in the coming months.

    Our athletic training club has met once for an introduction meeting. We have big plans this year for service, professional, and social events. We have reached out to GAs, preceptors, and friends of the program about guest lectures for the club. We have plans to help out with community races and are planning a trip to Peoria to volunteer with an ice-skating event. We plan to meet again in the next few weeks and continue the momentum we’ve started!

**Lewis University**

Lewis University has been adjusting to the new clinical sites for the semester. The first year AT students continue to practice their evaluation skills while at clinical with their preceptors. Recently, they have been working on injury classifications, evidence-based practice and nomenclature. Clinical 1 students have begun taking more responsibility in assessments, rehabilitation, and immediate care to become more acquainted with handling each injury independently and learn from each scenario. It is nice that we get to experience different sports all in one clinical setting and learn from them all at once, so they are taking advantage of the opportunity. Furthermore, Clinical 2 students have been in ATI clinics, ambulance rides, and in physician office rotations. This has exposed them to a variety of other work settings besides the traditional Athletic Training room. All are settings that we are not accustomed to as Athletic Training students, but great to gain knowledge in. Our seniors are currently looking for internships to apply to, working on resumes, and cover letters.

**North Central College**

This fall the athletic training students at North Central College arrived on August 15th to prepare for the arrival of the fall sports. After a 2-day review, AT Students began their various on campus rotations or their Senior Internships. This fall we have 4 seniors in their internships. 2 assigned to a nearby high school, Pepsi co., and College of DuPage football.  At the end of the review days, students came together for a team bonding pot luck and a water balloon fight. The first Cardinal Athletic Training Student meeting is Sunday, September 16th. We are discussing plans to attend IATA in November, the Chicago marathon in October, as well as future philanthropy and fundraising events. The Athletic Training staff at NCC also held a “Dunk your AT” event to raise money for the Heidi Mathews Fanny Pack fund.

**North Park University**

We kicked off the school year on a few good notes. We began by coming together as a program and dusting off the cob webs on our emergency care skills. Each year, our first class is combined between all 3 classes. We work on emergency care situations with hands on scenarios such as spine boarding, first aid, CPR, and AED. We are broken into groups with students from each class to go over how to handle each situation. This is awesome review for us to start the year off and prepare us a little bit better for our rotations after a long summer away from practicing these scenarios.

Additionally, we had our first Athletic Training Student Association (ATSA) meeting to discuss this year’s upcoming events. As the President of our student government association, it is important we go over crucial details such as our budgets and how we are able to pay for all of our events and other miscellaneous things. These events include program bonding parties (Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.) or volunteer events such as Feed My Starving Children and many other things between. In addition to planning our events, we took the time to nominate for sub-committees so that everyone is helping out in some way or another to take the stress off of the committee. The last thing that we discussed includes going over a potential t-shirt design. Every year we design a t-shirt that is unique to North Park Athletic Training and it shows how we identify at North Park and what sets us apart from other students on campus.

Some other plans we have been putting together include preparation for the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Each year, students, teachers, and alumni of our program come together and assist with the post-finish mobile triage. Seniors are in charge of organizing and preparing the program prior the actual race day. This includes the education portion of the marathon to prepare our lower level students on what to expect and what they typically would see come race day. In addition to educating, we put together a “mock marathon” to help our students practice how they would handle live scenarios before the real thing. Lastly, we discuss things that we could change from previous years and what we want to improve on. This is a big part of who are at North Park, so it is crucial that we work together as a program to pull it off seamlessly and make sure we are successful.

Other than that, not much else has been going on at North Park. We are hoping for an exciting last year as a bachelor’s program. Beginning in Summer 2019, we are going to officially become a Master’s Program. We hope to have a good year with classes and rotations, and hope for the best for our seniors as they prepare to finish out their last year before the real world.

**Northern Illinois University**

Northern Illinois athletic training students are back from summer break, ready to learn and return to their clinical sites. A bit has changed over the break.  NIU has gained a staff member, Nick [Grahovec](https://cedu.niu.edu/knpe/about/faculty-and-instructors/grahovec-nicholas.shtml), a former Northern Illinois University alumni.  Nick has taken the position as the Program’s visiting assistant professor and clinical coordinator. He has done a great job transitioning smoothly into the position and getting to know each AT student in the program.

    In other news, there are 15 athletic training students who have registered as volunteers at this year’s Chicago Marathon in October, as medical spotters.

**Olivet Nazarene University**

For our in-service this year our whole program did a high ropes course which was very fun. We are currently, as a program, building a scarecrow for a local contest. We are making him look like an athletic trainer with our school logo. Our seniors are preparing for the BOC by going workshops held at the University of McKendree in November.

**Western Illinois University**

Here at WIU we have just been getting back in the swing of things for back to school. We raised over $6,000 for our new Athletic Training student resource room. With that money, this month we will be cleaning out our room and ordering new supplies such as computers, printers, plinths, taping supplies, anatomy charts, skeleton models, and much more. This will leave a great study room for years to come as our school transitions to a master’s degree for Athletic Training. We are also trying to get our major’s name out into our university as well as the community with a community service day this month. We will be “beautifying campus” this month by repainting various roads and architecture around school. Getting together as a group to do some good on campus and bring some awareness to our Athletic Training program is a win-win for everyone. Big plans for this semester at Western Illinois University. Go Leathernecks!