

WATC History- SEATA Timeline

- This list is current as of 5-10-07. As with all projects of this type, mistakes and omissions will be made, so please contact Mary McLendon (mkm13@msstate.edu) or Cheryl Ellis (sportsmedchic@hotmail.com) if you have any information to help make this document more accurate.
- For a complete list of female District IX award winners, visit the link on the SEATA WATC page <http://www.seata.org/WATC.htm>
- Names in parentheses are maiden or former names to assist with identification.

SEATA/NATA – LIGHT GREEN

ALABAMA – PURPLE

FLORIDA – PINK

GEORGIA – DARK BLUE

KENTUCKY – LIGHT BLUE

LOUISIANA – DARK GREEN

MISSISSIPPI – BLACK

PUERTO RICO & VIRGIN ISLANDS – ORANGE

TENNESSEE – RED

1972: Kristine Freeman is the first female student athletic trainer at the University of Florida. She works with women's athletics and helps with some men's sports. She does not continue work as an athletic trainer, but her father Frank still works for Cramer Products.

1973: District IX meeting minutes from Atlanta, GA mention NATA representatives for various events and committees; "female trainers for Olympics" are also mentioned.

1974: Karen Atkins (FL) and Patricia Mattson (GA) join the NATA. They are the two earliest members of the NATA in District IX. Cynthia Elyea-Firmani (FL) and Pamela Herriford (KY) join them the following year.

1974: Anita (Wheeles) Clark becomes a student athletic trainer at Auburn University.

1975: Cathy Davis is the first female athletic trainer hired at the University of Florida and works with the female athletes. She also serves as the women's basketball coach at UF.

1976: Sue Demarco works as a student athletic trainer with the women's sports at Mississippi State University.

1976: Linda Arnold, one of the first female athletic trainers in District IX, becomes the women's athletic trainer at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis).

1976: Mimi Porter is hired by the University of Kentucky as the athletic trainer for women's sports. She is also certified this year and is the sixteenth female in the nation to become a certified athletic trainer.

1976: Mimi Porter (University of Kentucky) is the first female mentioned in the records to attend the District IX meeting- at the Boston NATA meeting (June 12, 1976).

1976: Sue McDonald (University of Georgia) and Mimi Porter (University of Kentucky) attend the District IX meeting at the Boston NATA convention (June 14, 1976).

1976: Sherry Kimbro is the first female ATC at Austin Peay State University.

1976: Darcy Shriver is hired at Eastern Kentucky University as an assistant to Head Athletic Trainer Bobby Barton. Darcy originally works with the women's sports but soon begins working with the men's and women's teams.

1976: Donna Robertson is hired at the University of Alabama.

1977: Gretchen Schlabach is hired as the head women's athletic trainer at the University of Mississippi; she is generally acknowledged as the first female athletic trainer in Mississippi.

1977: Peg Weiss (Tampa Soccer Club), Linda Arnold (Memphis State University), Darcy Shriver (Eastern Kentucky University), and Mimi Porter (University of Kentucky) attend the District IX meeting at the NATA meeting in Dearborn, MI.

1977: Pamela Herriford is the first female hired as a full-time assistant athletic trainer at Western Kentucky University.

1977: Patricia "Trish" Darlington and Rita DeDamio are hired as graduate assistants for the women's athletic department at the University of Tennessee- Knoxville. They work cooperatively with Tim Kerin from the men's athletic department, though the two departments are separate and remain so today. It is not until 1978 that there is a full-time position for the women's athletic department.

1977: Donna Robertson becomes the first female ATC in the state of Alabama. Anita (Wheeles) Clark becomes certified the same year.

1978: Sherry (Buickel) Sutton is hired as the head women's athletic trainer at the University of Florida.

1978: Jane Sandusky is hired as the first athletic trainer and a teacher/coach at Presentation Academy in Louisville, KY. She received athletic training license #21 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1980.

1978: Linda Arnold shows up at her first Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS) meeting. Previously, only male athletic trainers in the state had attended. By the next year, she is in charge of collecting money from new members.

1978: Donna Cooper is the first female athletic trainer at the University of Georgia.

1978: Sue Carver is hired as the University of Tennessee- Knoxville's first full-time staff athletic trainer for the women's athletic department. She came to UTK after graduating from Indiana University.

1978: Sue McDonald becomes the first female ATC in the state of Georgia.

1979: Dorothy Garrity is the first female student athletic trainer to graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi program; she becomes nationally certified in 1980.

1979: Mimi Porter is the first female to work with University of Kentucky football when she helps cover spring practice.

1979: Anita (Wheeles) Clark becomes the first female certified athletic trainer employed at a high school (Notasulga High School) in the state of Alabama.

1979: Seventeen of the 79 athletic trainers who attend the District IX meeting at the NATA meeting in St. Louis, MO are women.

1979: Mimi Porter (KY) is appointed to the SEATA Executive Committee; she represents Kentucky.

1979: Linda Arnold (TN) is mentioned in SEATA meeting minutes as part of the District IX Continuing Education Committee.

1979: Gretchen Schlabach is the first female secretary/treasurer for the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association (MATA).

1979: Eva Clifton is hired as an assistant athletic trainer by Bobby Barton at Eastern Kentucky University. She was previously a graduate assistant for the program in 1977.

1979: Deborah MacLean is the first female working at Georgia Tech, under the supervision of Bill McDonald, to gain apprenticeship hours towards her certification. Her role is defined as assistant athletic trainer in charge of women's sports.

1979: Dorsey Holland becomes the first female ATC at the University of Tennessee- Martin; she also serves as the women's tennis coach.

1980: Mary Vacala is first female ATC at Lyman High School in Florida.

1980: Nine of the 60 athletic trainers attending the SEATA meeting in Suwannee, GA are women.

1981: Shirley Simmons is the first full-time female athletic trainer at Vanderbilt University.

1982: Year of certification for Karen Griffin (TN)- the earliest certified African-American female currently residing in District IX.

1982: Janet Lozar is the second female ATC at the University of Tennessee- Martin; she later left to assist with the Cramer workshops.

1982: Jane Steinberg becomes the head women's athletic trainer at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (she is presently at the University of South Carolina).

1982: Christine (Boyd) Stopka is hired to start the graduate and undergraduate Athletic Training programs at the University of Florida (also starts the UF Student Injury Care Center).

1983: Diane King is the first female student athletic trainer to work in the men's athletic department (with football) under the direction of Eddie Cantler at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis).

1983: Kimberly Morris is hired as the first female head athletic trainer at the University of Tampa.

1983: Kathy Fox is the first female athletic trainer at the University of Central Florida.

Early 80s: Marty "Doc" Broussard appoints Kathy Osborne as head women's athletic trainer at Louisiana State University. Kathy later hires Cheryl Fuller as an assistant in the women's athletic department.

1984: Sherry (Buickel) Sutton (FL) is the first female elected SEATA secretary/treasurer.

1984: Linda Arnold (TN) heads up the SEATA Continuing Education Committee.

1984: Kimberly Ferrill-Moseley is hired as the first female athletic trainer at Tulane University.

1984: Debra Trigoboff is the first female head athletic trainer at Barry University.

1985: Deborah MacLean takes a position in the corporate world as a "Health and Fitness Specialist" at The Coca-Cola Company. Her athletic training position and expertise helps lead the state of Georgia in expanding their definition of the physically active person as it relates to third party reimbursement and the athletic trainer's scope of practice in the industrial setting.

1985: Debra (Nemeth) Morris (GA) becomes the chair of the SEATA Scholarship Committee.

1985: Mary Vacala is the head athletic trainer for the Georgia team at Florida-Georgia All-Star Football Classic in Orlando, FL.

1985: Sue Stanley-Green (KY) joins the BOC Board of Directors.

1986: Year of certification for Keiko Merl (FL); she is the earliest certified Asian female currently residing in District IX.

1986: Jane Steinberg (University of Tennessee) speaks as the District IX representative to the NATA Injury and Research Committee.

1986: Diane King becomes first graduate assistant in the women's athletic department at LSU.

1986: Patricia "Trish" Darlington is hired as the head athletic trainer at Georgia State University. She is the first athletic trainer hired at the school and remains there for 13 years.

1987: Trish Bare Grounds is the first female to work for West Palm Beach Tropics (Senior Pro Baseball).

1987: Heidi Pritzl is the first female student athletic trainer in the men's athletic department at LSU. Harvey Williams (future NFL running back: Chiefs and Raiders) asked her to come to LSU with him, since she had been a student athletic trainer at the high school he came from in Florida.

1988: Jackie Fonte is the first certified female to work with football in Mississippi. She is employed by Mississippi State University as a graduate assistant athletic trainer and is primarily responsible for women's sports.

1988: Beth Emeterio becomes the first female head athletic trainer at Emory University. Veronica Ampey becomes the first African-American ATC working in a university setting in Georgia as assistant director of athletics and recreation for sports medicine.

1989: Sue Stanley-Green (KY) is the first female to receive the SEATA Backbone Award.

1990: Michelle Garber becomes first female staff ATC to be hired at Valdosta State College (now Valdosta State University).

1990: Nancy Cummings serves as the USOC liaison for the USA Water Ski Sports Science/Medicine Committee.

1990: Carol Courtney takes over the position of continuing education officer for the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association (LATA).

1991: Ginger Gilmore and Donna Wesley are the first female athletic training students to work football at the University of Alabama. Bill McDonald is their head athletic trainer at UA.

1991: Year of certification for Maria Ochoa (LA); she is the earliest certified Hispanic female currently residing in District IX.

1991: Sue Stanley-Green (KY) is the first female secretary of the BOC.

1991: Sherry (Buickel) Sutton (FL) is the first female recipient of the SEATA District Award.

1991: Therese Sparn from Clarksville High School is the first female recipient of the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS) Sandy Sandlin High School Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

1991: Kellye (Cargile) Mowchan becomes the first female to work with the University of Florida football team.

1992: Sara Coleman is the first female licensed in Mississippi (license #9); licensure began in December of 1991.

1992: Laurie Tis is named coordinator of the graduate program in Sports Medicine at Georgia State University.

1992: Diane King is the first female officer elected within the Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association (GATA), as secretary/treasurer.

1992: Christine Stopka is the first female recipient of the Athletic Trainers' Association of Florida (ATAF) Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

1992: Marisa Brunet is the first female recipient of the ATAF Clinical/Corporate Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

1993: Sherry Kimbro is the first female secretary/treasurer of Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association (ALATA).

1993: Stephanie Lennon is the first female recipient of the ATAF High School Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

1993: Mary Walker is the first female head athletic trainer at the University of North Florida and developed their ATEP.

1994: Sue Stanley-Green (KY) becomes the first female president of SEATA.

1994: Jane Steinberg is the first female recipient of the TATS Sports Medicine Person of the Year Award.

1994: Janet Passman (GA) is the first female to win the SEATA High School Athletic Trainer Award, at the time she is working at LaGrange High School.

1994: Jane Steinberg (TN) is the first female from District IX to win the NATA Athletic Training Service Award.

1994: Trish Bare Grounds is the first female athletic trainer at Lynn University.

1995: Theresa Belesky is first female head athletic trainer at NOVA Southeastern University.

1995: Kimberly Morris is the first female recipient of the ATAF College/University Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

1996: Mollie Malone of Vanderbilt University is the first female recipient of the TATS Eugene Smith/Mickey O'Brien College Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

1996: Eva Clifton (KY) is the first female recipient of the SEATA Award of Merit.

1996: Joni Johnson from Austin Peay State University is the first female recipient of the TATS Backbone of the Year Award.

1996: Kelli Sabiston is elected as the first female vice president of the GATA. With the departure of Keith Webster to Kentucky, Kelli also becomes the first female to hold the office of president in Georgia and the first female state president in District IX.

1997: Mary Kirkland is the first female director of RehabWorks at Kennedy Space Center.

1997: Lynette (Schwartz) Johnson becomes the head athletic trainer at the University of Mississippi and is the first female head athletic trainer in the Southeastern Conference. She is currently the senior women's administrator at UM.

1997: Jane Steinberg is the first woman inducted into the TATS Hall of Fame.

1997: Sue Stanley-Green (KY) is elected district director and serves on the NATA Board of Directors.

1998: Linda Stark Bobo becomes secretary for the LATA.

1998: Marisa Brunet is the first female recipient of the ATAF President's Award.

1998: Deidre Leaver-Dunn becomes the undergraduate curriculum director of the Athletic Training program at the University of Alabama.

1999: Mary Kirkland (FL) is the NATA liaison to the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (NCPA).

1999: Ginger Gilmore is the first female staff athletic trainer to work baseball at the University of Alabama.

1999: Dawn Epperson is the first female to work with the Tampa Bay Storm of the Arena Football League.

1999: Janet Passman is the first female program director hired to begin an educational program at Louisiana College.

1999: Mary Vander Heiden is first female ATC with the University of Central Florida football team.

2000: Donna Robertson is inducted into the ALATA Hall of Fame.

2001: Year of certification for Sandi Herbst (FL); she is the earliest certified Native American female currently residing in District IX.

2001: Wendy Swoboda is hired as the first female head athletic trainer at Tulane University.

2001: Marisa Brunett becomes the first female president of Florida.

2001: Debra Morris (GA) is the first female recipient of the SEATA Clinic/Industrial/Corporate Athletic Trainer Award.

2001: Jessica Mora becomes the head athletic trainer at Barry University. She was the first Hispanic ATC when she was hired in 1999, and she became the second female head athletic trainer.

2001: Karen Griffin from Baptist Sports Medicine is the first female recipient of the TATS Joe Worden Clinic/Professional Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

2001: Sherry Kimbro (AL) is the first female recipient of the SEATA College/University Athletic Trainer Award.

2001: Sue Stanley-Green (FL) is the first female from District IX to win the NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award.

2002: Karen Lew is named the interim program director for the accredited program at Southeastern Louisiana University.

2002: Micky Cuppett is the first female program director at the University of South Florida.

2002: Sue Stanley-Green is the first program director at Florida Southern College.

2002: Malissa Martin (TN) is the first female recipient of the SEATA Education/Administration Award.

2002: Debra Tolsma is the head athletic trainer for the Tallahassee Thunder (Arenafootball2).

2003: Karen Lew co-authors the book [Athletic Training Exam Review: A Student Guide to Success](#).

2003: Elizabeth Swann is the first female program director at NOVA Southeastern University

2003: Joan Mann from Boyle County High School is the first female award recipient of the Kentucky Athletic Trainers' Society (KATS) High School Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

2004: Kelly Bashant is the first female recipient of the ATAF Professional Outreach Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

2004: Laura Klink from Georgetown College is the first female award recipient of the KATS College/University Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

2004: Sue Stanley-Green (FL) is the first female from District IX inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame (with her husband Al Green, she is also part of the first married couple to be inducted).

2004: Donna Wesley becomes first female president of the MATA.

2004: Kristen Schellhase is the first female program director at the University of Central Florida.

2004: MaryBeth Horodyski is the first female inducted into the ATAF Hall of Fame.

2005: Therese Sparn is inducted into the TATS Hall of Fame.

2005: Jessica Mora becomes Medco Sports Medicine Distributors' first female outside sales rep and covers the state of Florida.

2006: Sheri McNew from UK Sports Medicine is the first female recipient of the KATS Clinical Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

2006: MaryBeth Horodyski (FL) is elected District IX President. She is the second female to hold this position in District IX.

2007: Joan Mann from Boyle County High School is the first female award recipient of the KATS Award of Merit.

2007: Sue Stanley-Green (FL) is a member of the first class inducted into the SEATA Hall of Fame.