



N A T A

December 30, 2001

Mitch Cordova, PhD  
Director, Graduate Athletic Training Education  
Indiana State University  
Arena C-07  
Terre Haute, IN 47809

Dear Dr. Cordova:

Enclosed please find a copy of the **Visitation Report** submitted by Dr. William Biddington and Dr. Carl Mattacola following their recent site visit to your campus and your Graduate Athletic Training Education Program on November 19-20, 2001.

A response to the site visit report is required. Please submit any corrections to factual errors (names and titles). You may wish to direct specific attention to the summary and recommendations section of the report. All final comments you wish to make should be submitted to this office no later than **thirty (30) days** after the date on this letter.

The **Visitation Report** and your comments will be forwarded to the Graduate Review Committee.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance in making the necessary arrangements for the site visit. Please feel free to contact the executive office (303-627-6229) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lynn Caruthers  
Administrative Assistant

C: Chris Ingersoll, PhD, Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Earlene Durrant, EdD, Graduate Review Committee Chair

N A T I O N A L A T H L E T I C T R A I N E R S ' A S S O C I A T I O N



# Athletic Training Five- Year On-Site Visitation

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November 18, 2001

Prepared for  
Indiana State University

by  
William B. Biddington, EdD, ATC



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## **Indiana State University**

Indiana State University has had an NATA approved/accredited graduate athletic training educational program since 1972. The GATEP is housed in the Athletic Training Department leading to the degree of Master of Science Athletic Training.

### **Visitation Dates and Officers:**

Date: November 18-20, 2001

Chief Evaluation Team Officer: Dr. William B. Biddington

Assistant Evaluation Team Officer: Dr. Carl G. Mattacola

### **Individuals Interviewed:**

#### Faculty

Dr. Mitchell L. Cordova, PhD, ATC/L, FACSM  
Acting Department Chairperson – Athletic Training Department  
Program Director, Graduate Athletic Training Education Program

Dr. Chris Ingersoll, PhD, ATC/L – Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dr. Steven Pontius, PhD – Provost

Dr. Barbara A. Passmore, PhD – Dean, School of Health and Human Performance

Ms. Lori Vancza, ATC – ISU Clinical Education Coordinator

Mr. David Ralston, ATC – Executive Director – Athletic Training Services

Dr. Jeffery Edwards – Faculty – School of Health and Human Performance

Dr. Tim Demchak, ATC – ISU Faculty – Athletic Training Department

Dr. John Storsved, ATC – ISU Faculty – Athletic Training Department

Mr. Andrew Krause, ATC – Doctoral Student

Mr. Marcus Stone, ATC – Doctoral Student

Ms. Riann Palmieri, ATC – Doctoral Student

Missy Hazelwood, ATC – Master's Student – Northview High School

Phil Burr, ATC – Master's Student – Indiana State University (Football)

Jim Leone, ATC – Master's Student – Indiana State University (Baseball)

Jodi Johnson – Master's Student – Indiana State University (M & W Basketball)

Theresa Wright - Master's Student – Indiana State University

Katy Yaake - Master's Student – Indiana State University (T & F, X-Country)

Heather Campbell - Master's Student – West Vigo High School

Emily Meevwsen - Master's Student – Indiana State University (Softball)

Jackie Knight - Master's Student – Terre Haute North High School

Chip Mathie - Master's Student – North Central High School

Jason Cooper - Master's Student – Terre Haute South High School

Betsy Halwes - Master's Student – Riverton Parke High School

Roger Dortch - Master's Student – Greencastle High School

Jason Viel - Master's Student – West Vigo High School





Kelly Dike - Master's Student – Sullivan High School  
Ben Carpenter - Master's Student – Terre Haute South High School  
Shinichiro Sugiura - Master's Student – Terre Haute North High School

## **Introduction**

### **Administrative Structure/Personnel**

The Graduate Athletic Training Education Program at Indiana State University functions through two primary units: 1) the Athletic Training Department, and 2) the College of Health and Human Performance.

### **Athletic Training Department**

The Graduate Athletic Training Education Program is officially housed in the Athletic Training Department. Dr. Mitchell L. Cordova, ATC is the department chairperson. This is one of several departments in the College of Health and Human Performance. The Graduate Athletic Training Education Program is one of over 50 programs in the School of Graduate Studies. Upon completion of the 13 month academic program, students are granted a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training.

Dr. Mitchell L. Cordova, Assistant Professor, serves as the Program Director of the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program and department chairperson. He also serves as an advisor for theses and research projects as well as serves on several committees for other graduate students in the program. It was determined that Dr. Cordova is given adequate release time to serve as Program Director for the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program and to serve as Chairperson of the department. The additional faculty members in the department are Dr. Jeffery Edwards, Associate Professor; Dr. Christopher Ingersoll, ATC Associate Professor; Dr. Catherine Stemmons, ATC Assistant Professor; Dr. Tim Demchak, ATC; Dr. John Storsved, ATC; Thomas Klootwyk, MD, Clinical Associate Professor; James Welch, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor; John Welch, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor; Dr. Jody Brucker, ATC; Mr. David Ralston, ATC Executive Director – Athletic Training Services; Ms. Lori Vancza, ATC – Clinical Education Coordinator; Mr. Troy Hershman, ATC – Assistant Athletic Trainer; Scott Keller, ATC – Assistant Athletic Trainer; Theresa Wright, ATC – Assistant Athletic Trainer.



## **University Health Service, Local Medical Support.**

Medical and health care services to the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program and its students are provided through the Student Health Center. Primary physicians associated with the program are Dr. Dorene Hojnicky – Medical Director and Dr. Thomas Klootwyk, Dr. James Welch, and Dr. John Welch. All physicians are an integral part of the program and provide clinical opportunities and guest lecturers to students in the program. All clinical athletic trainers in the department are actively engaged in the clinical education of the graduate students, including some visitation at the high school clinical sites.

## **Department of Athletics.**

The Department of Athletics at Indiana State University conducts a NCAA Division I program, with football being contested at the Division I-AA level. The athletic teams compete in the Valley Conference. The department sponsors 13 intercollegiate teams, which provides opportunities for student exposures to a wide range of high risk and low risk sports. The Athletic Department does not employ the professional staff athletic trainers or the graduate assistants assigned to campus to assist in intercollegiate coverage. The professional clinical staff through the Athletic Training Department provides all medical services.

## **Medical Services**

Medical services are provided by the professional clinical staff, through the Athletic Training Department, and by the physicians that serve as clinical Assistant professors in the department. The Student Health Center is available for direct referrals of all student athletes. Medical services at the out reach sites are provide by a variety of physicians in the local community.



## **Facilities and Equipment**

Three separate athletic training facilities service the needs of the program at Indiana State University and provide clinical settings for the program. These include facilities at the Hulman Basketball arena, football stadium, and the Health and Human Performance building. Other settings that provide clinical settings are located at the various high school sites. Floor space in all clinical settings is considered to be adequate to provide health care to student athletes as well as effective clinical instruction to graduate athletic training students. The students are exposed to a variety of therapeutic modality and rehabilitation techniques. Classroom facilities are excellent with a variety of audiovisual and multimedia equipment available. Research laboratories are excellent with a wide variety of equipment available for the students to conduct research.

## **Administrative, Faculty, and Staff Support**

As mentioned earlier, the Athletic Training Department has a wide variety of faculty with expertise in many academic areas. This is an asset to the program and to the graduate students. The administrative support for the faculty and the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program was evident from the conversations with the Provost and Dean's of Health and Human Performance, and the School of Graduate Studies. Involvement of physicians and athletic trainers in the classrooms and in the clinical aspect of the program, are indications of strong administrative support. The faculty and staff interviewed demonstrated a strong academic orientation to facilitate learning for the students. Faculty also recognized the quality of the graduate athletic training students and the scope of the athletic training educational program.

## **Clinical Experience**

Clinical experiences for the graduate athletic training students are provided in the on campus facilities and the off campus high school locations. As a primary clinical responsibility, each graduate assistant is assigned to work approximately 20 hours per week in one or more of the above settings. In addition, the students are required to work 6 to 9 hours for their assistantship. All students fulfill all of their clinical hours through their clinical assignments in one calendar year. Students are required to complete the thesis or research project as well as fulfill the NATA 400 clinical clock hour requirement. These responsibilities are advanced and in clear progression relative to increasing responsibilities given the graduate athletic assistant athletic trainer. ISU's distinct goal is to educate the best athletic trainer possible, which includes an extensive review of skills, and abilities upon admission into the program with focus on advanced rehabilitation experiences in evaluation



and rehabilitation skills.





## Curriculum

### **Content and Instruction**

Students accepted into the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program at Indiana State University complete a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training in the Athletic Training Department. Core coursework is well documented. The core requirement includes 19 hours, which exceeds the 15-hour minimum. Coursework is sequenced over two full semesters plus Summer I and II in the one-year program. Research and electives complete the 34-hour program.

Summer II includes: ATTR 676 – Therapeutic Modality and Rehabilitation Theory (3 credits) and ATTR 686 – Rehabilitative Biomechanics (3 credits).

Fall Semester includes: ATTR 691 – Research Methods (3 credits), ATTR 655 – Clinical Experience I (2 credits), or the following electives: ATTR 661 – Athletic Trauma – Lower Extremity (3 credits) or ATTR 675 - Therapeutic Modality and Rehabilitation Techniques (3 credits).

Spring Semester includes: ATTR 643 – Current Trends in Athletic Training (3 credits), ATTR 656 Clinical Experience II (2 credits), ATTR 525 – Administration of Athletic Health Care Delivery Systems (3 credits), or the following elective: ATTR 662 – Athletic Trauma – Upper Extremity (3 credits).

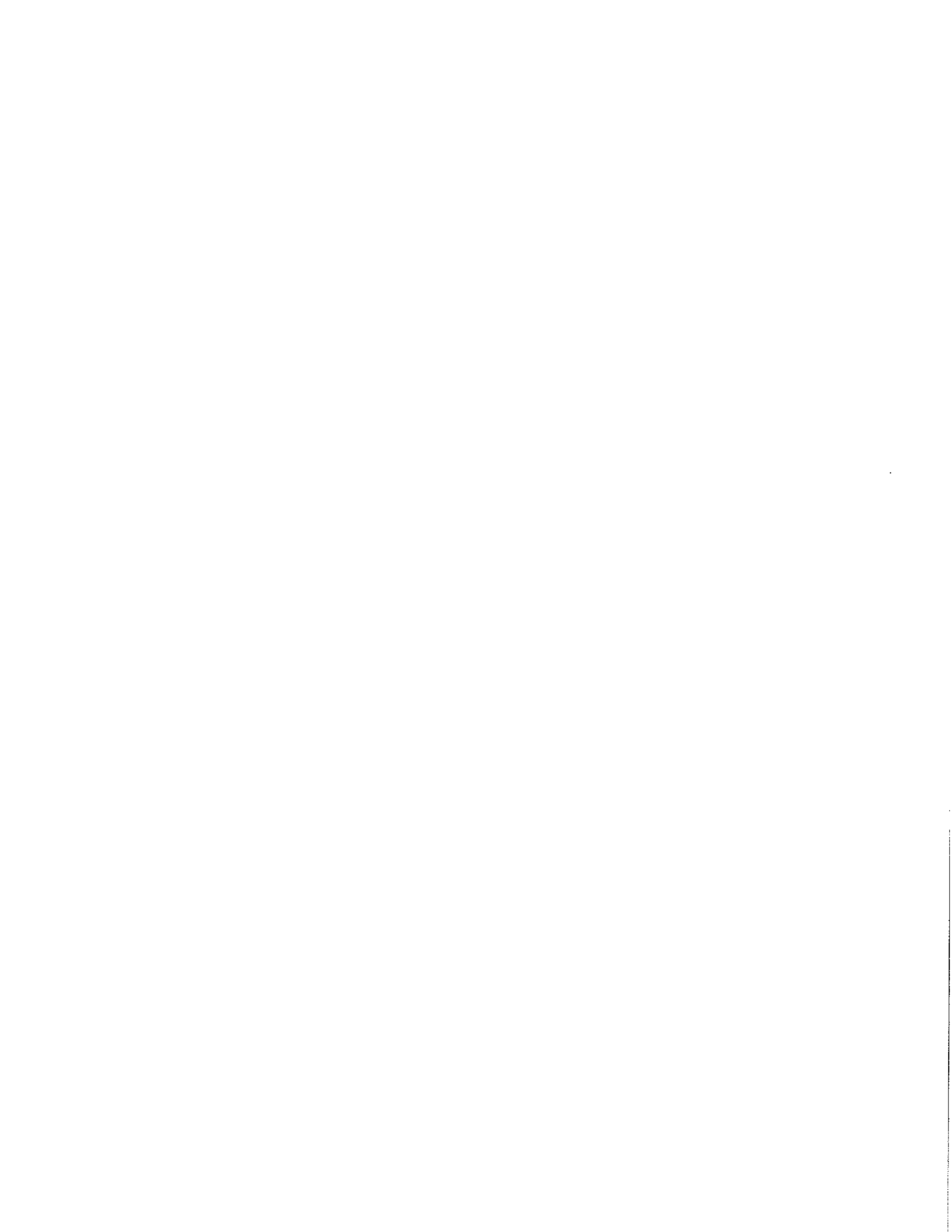
Summer I includes: ATTR 698 – Sports Injury Research Seminar (3 credits) or ATTR – Masters Thesis (6 credits).

Research is a major emphasis of the program. The 34 hours Master's includes 6 to 9 hours of research. Faculty currently advise approximately 5 students per year and serve on several other committees.

### **Selection, Retention and Evaluation of Students**

Criteria and procedures for acceptance into the graduate athletic training education program are well defined. In addition to clinical experiences and coursework, GRE scores and undergraduate grade point average are considered. Following application and initial screening, the athletic training program director can offer a graduate assistantship to a potential candidate.

Evaluation procedures to monitor student progress throughout the program are established. Evaluations forms are completed for all students at regular intervals throughout the program. These are reviewed by the program director and discussed with the students.



## **Summary and Recommendations**

### **Strengths**

In the opinion of the evaluation team, the graduate athletic training educational program at Indiana State University has the following strengths:

- 1) A dedicated faculty that has a strong research experience and interests, as well as clinical expertise in facilitating master's level students.
- 2) A well qualified, highly respected program director that provides a positive professional role model for students in the program.
- 3) The graduate athletic training education program at ISU has a strong athletic training tradition and its alumni are leaders in the profession.
- 4) The research facilities are excellent, and are an asset to the research and teaching experiences that are provided to the students.
- 5) Strong philosophical and financial support from the administration in all aspects of the program.
- 6) Enhanced opportunities for the development of evaluation skills and advanced clinical athletic training skills based on clinical staff diversity.
- 7) Selection criteria, qualifications, and quality of students admitted to ISU's graduate athletic training education program.
- 8) Availability of a wide range of learning resources through the Athletic Training Department and the College of Health and Human Performance, including personal and university library publications and literature search resources.
- 9) All athletic training faculty and clinical staff, being housed within a department, provides continuity for the delivery of services.
- 10) The ability to complete the degree in one year is an important factor based on student comments.
- 11) The program has demonstrated scholarly achievements by students and faculty through the successful acceptance of peer reviewed abstracts and research presentations at meetings and symposiums.



## **Guidelines Violations**

It is the opinion of the evaluation team that the graduate athletic training educational program at Indiana State University to be in full compliance with NATA Graduate Accreditation Guidelines.

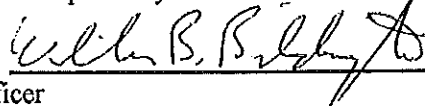
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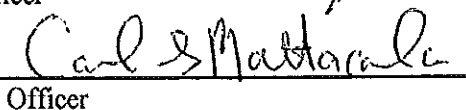
## **Evaluation Team Recommendations**

Based on the observations made during the on-site visitation of the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program at Indiana State University, the evaluation team offers the following recommendations:

1. Continue to investigate the availability of future laboratory space and the equipment necessary to meet the needs of a dynamic research environment.
2. Develop a plan for faculty retention by continuing to investigate the conversion of part time faculty to full time tenure track positions.
3. As athletic training faculty are promoted to administrative positions, consideration needs to be given to replacing or maintaining these faculty lines within the department.
4. Develop a plan for maintaining professional staff stability by investigating the conversion of full time temporary positions to permanent positions.
5. Investigate options for increasing stipends to be more competitive as compared to benchmark institutions.
6. Investigate the arrangement of courses so that the Research Methods course can be initiated earlier in the Summer II session and the biomechanics course could be studied in more detail during the student's academic career.

**Signatures** - This report is respectfully submitted:

Dr. William B. Biddington   
Chief Evaluation Team Officer

Dr. Carl G. Mattacola   
Assistant Evaluation Team Officer

Dated: 12-6-01



**University Response Page**