

PATS
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE
Pennsylvania Athletic Training
HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2016

Pennsylvania Athletic Training
Hall of Fame
2016

Rick Burkholder

Pennsylvania Athletic Training
Hall of Fame
2016

Jim Thornton

Pennsylvania Athletic Training
Hall of Fame
2016

Tom West



NAME: Rick Burkholder

POSITION: Head Athletic Trainer Kansas City Chiefs

EDUCATION: BS – University of Pittsburgh 1987
MS – University of Arizona 1989

**** What was your reaction when you found out that you would be entering into the Pennsylvania Athletic Training Hall of Fame?**

I was by myself walking on the beach in Hawaii, when I got the call. I was somewhat overwhelmed with emotion as my immediate thought was about my father. I know what athletic training has meant to my family and to be the only father/son inductees in Pennsylvania is very special. What a blessing!

**** What motivates you to serve as a volunteer for the profession of athletic training?**

At a time in my career I thought that it was part of my job because everyone who was successful was volunteering their time, so I thought that is what all athletic trainers do. As I grew and had a family and more responsibilities, I found it harder to volunteer my time. However, at one point in my career, I thought being successful is one thing, but being significant is another. I feel very strongly about athletic training and what it has done for me. To carry the banner for the profession and to make change in the profession you have to want to be significant. To be significant requires time outside your normal working hours. It is not a burden because it is something that I believe in and enjoy doing.

**** What advice would you give to young athletic trainers?**

How we do anything matters in everything!

NAME: Jim Thornton



POSITION: Director of Sports Medicine/Athletic Training Services Clarion University

EDUCATION: Utah State Undergraduate in Exercise Science/Pre-Med
University of the Pacific Masters in Sports Medicine

**** What was your reaction when you found out that you would be entering into the Pennsylvania Athletic Training Hall of Fame?**

I was extremely humbled. I obviously knew I had been nominated but my service to the profession was for the previous 18 years was as an officer for the NATA. The PA AT Hall of Fame has historically been reserved for ATs that have had a specific role in PATS. Although I did serve on the Long Range and Planning Committee, I am truly grateful that the committee felt that my contribution with the NATA helped things along in Pennsylvania.

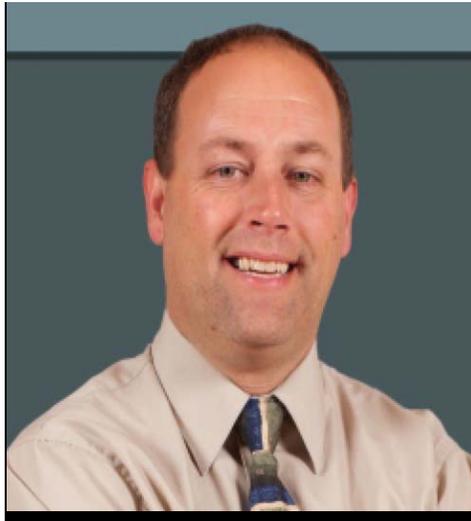
**** What motivates you to serve as a volunteer for the profession of athletic training?**

I guess my motivation comes from the knowledge that what we do as ATs is a unique service to other human beings. Our job is to make people feel better and we do what we do better than anyone else, period!! My work as a volunteer is and always has been to try to make it easier for 40 some odd thousand ATs to perform their duties better, with pride, life balance, and with a salary that is conducive to an overall happy life.

**** What advice would you give to young athletic trainers?**

Be patient!!! Our profession is relatively young compared to the professions of some of our counterparts. We are an evolving profession. Like some things, it seems that the profession is moving slow, particularly when we are used to most of the things in our lives developing sometimes in an instant. We have progressed in ways over the last few years that we could have never imagined. We are known and things will get better and better in the short future...I am sure of it. This is the greatest profession. The ATs that are practicing have a wide skill set that translates to almost any setting. Find a mentor or identify a mentor, someone you want to model your professional and perhaps your personal life as well. Look at their legacy and work toward the same. Our young ATs are the most well educated ATs in our history. Take that education, use your mentor as a guide and get after it!!!

NAME: Tom West



POSITION: Professor, California University of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION: PhD, Penn State; MS West Virginia University; BS Penn State

**** What was your reaction when you found out that you would be entering into the Pennsylvania Athletic Training Hall of Fame?**

Complete surprise! I am very proud of the impact I have had on athletic training in Pennsylvania but there are many athletic training legends in the Hall of Fame. To be included in such a group is very humbling.

**** What motivates you to serve as a volunteer for the profession of athletic training?**

My motivation to volunteer really comes from two places. The first is personal; I enjoy working with other similarly motivated individuals on projects that benefit our profession. That was a big part of why I ran for PATS President, I looked forward to working with some great ATs to continue advancing the profession of Athletic Training within the Commonwealth. The second reason I volunteer is due to my role as an educator/mentor. It shows students that volunteering for professional service helps them advance their professional career. During my time as PATS convention committee chair it allowed me to involve a large number of Lock Haven students in helping run the meeting. Many of these students are still heavily involved in PATS or other AT organizations.

**** What advice would you give to young athletic trainers?**

Never stop learning. The best athletic trainers I have worked with continue to push themselves by reading, going to workshops/conferences, and networking with other health care professionals. At our core the athletic training profession cares for patients so we need to always attempt to provide the best quality care.