

MoATA Hall of Fame Spotlight

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David “DC” Colt, ATC

Hall of Fame Inductee 2001

By Rochelle Hamm MA, ATC

Career Beginnings

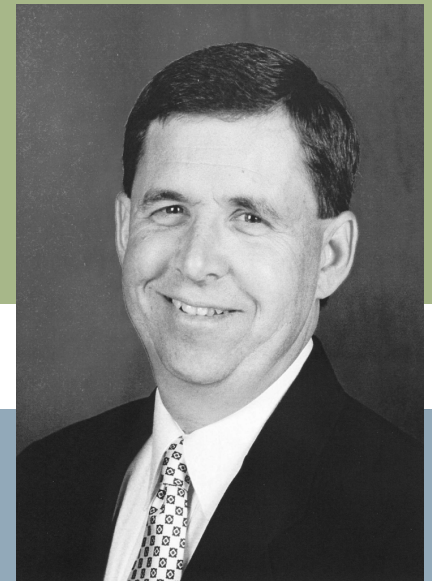
David played many sports growing up such as hockey, soccer and tennis. He was on various teams from Kenmore Senior High School hockey to college soccer and club hockey at West Virginia. Through athletics, David became interested in athletic training after his treatment and rehabilitation from his graduate assistant athletic trainer, Paul Grace. Paul told David about a new program beginning for athletic training and David soon became part of the first graduating class at West Virginia with a BS in Physical Education and a minor in athletic training. He excelled at athletic training and it felt like a natural fit for him. “Athletic training was easy to me because it was fun.”

He continued his education at Northwest Missouri State University and received his Master’s degree in Education. David took it one step further and received his PhD from the University of Missouri.

Mentors

David had many mentors throughout his career in athletic training. Paul Grace guided David in his early years to think about athletic training as a career option. Whitney Quinn, an athletic trainer at West Virginia, the Munich Olympics, and long-time member of the NATA, taught David about the crazy things athletic trainers can see. He recalls Whitney telling him about witnessing the Munich massacre outside his window during the 1972 Olympics.

Bud Tice was an innovator when it came to braces and padding and taught David that simple things can be done to significantly help athletes.



Advice for Young Professionals

David would tell students interested in athletic training to come into the program with your eyes wide open. Athletic training is not a glamour job; there is a lot of time and work involved. However, when you get into the profession, it is rewarding.

“Don’t get too attracted to the sexiness of the profession. There are a lot of good jobs at small schools even though they are not as glamorous as a Division I job might be”.

For current students or graduate students David would tell them to be yourselves.

Athletic Training has a rich history. When you are at conventions or conferences, he would encourage you to talk to people in the profession, visit with Hall of Fame members, and to learn the history of Missouri Athletic Training.

Finally, he encourages professionals to understand that your job is to serve people and to enjoy serving people.

David Colt

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While in college his most influential mentor was John Spiker. John began the athletic training program at West Virginia and showed David the importance of good education for athletic trainers.

Memorable Moments

A major success for David is all of his students working in and out of the profession of athletic training. He is so proud of his student's accomplishments.

A significant event in David's career came while he was working at Northwest Missouri State as the head athletic trainer. A football player woke up out of his sleep to a fire that was blocking him into his room. To escape the fire, he hung from his window hoping someone would save him and dropped out of the third floor window. The athlete was burned badly on his legs from the flames coming from the window below him and sustained fractures to his ribs, pelvis, and other internal injuries. He was in the hospital for 3 months recovering.

The athlete never gave up on his dream to play football again. It was a miracle he was alive let alone trying to play football again. The athlete did play the next fall with some minor changes to his attire. He was required to wear ultraviolet tights and the athletic trainers had to monitor his sweating due to his sweat glands not functioning properly. David said that he'll never forget the feeling watching that athlete overcome such tragic injury.

Contributions to the Profession

David has played a major role in not only the Missouri Athletic Trainers' Association but also at the district and national athletic training levels. David served as the Public Relations Officer for MoATA as well as for District V. He took over the role in 1990 as District V Secretary and treasurer and became the District V Director in 1993. David continued to serve athletic training at the national level as the Vice President for the NATA and rounded out his service as the President of MoATA in 2007.

Most recently, David became the Athletic Training Program Director at the University of Missouri. Alongside with his colleagues, he started an athletic training program and they have since added an Athletic Training Master's Program. David has shown other athletic trainers in the field how to serve others, serve in their community, and how to best serve their athletes.

"I served others and I've loved others" -DC



Are you a Young Professional Athletic Trainer in Missouri? Join our Facebook Group at [MoATA Young Professional Athletic Trainers](#) to engage with peers about the transition to practice and professional socialization. Also follow us on Twitter [@MoATA_YP](#) for information on upcoming events and relevant news!