

Out With the Old, In With the New; and the Joy of Being an Educator

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This issue of the *Athletic Training Education Journal* is my last as editor, and René's last as Managing Editor. The reins have been turned over to Dr. Bill Pitney of Northern Illinois University and Aaron Blum of Boston University.

René has been a very capable, dependable, and pleasurable associate. "With René on board, you can sleep through a storm," stated one of her former supervisors to me as I was contemplating hiring her 4 years ago. One of the better decisions of my career was hiring her. She has been a rock, and so very talented. (Trivia buffs might appreciate that she was an intern, a production assistant, with a new concept news network in Washington D.C. in 1981, called *CNN*. Yes, she was in the White House, often; and once in the oval office, standing immediately behind Presidents Ronald Reagan and Anwar Sadat of Egypt. And although offered a full-time job with *CNN*, returned to BYU to complete her degree.)

We appreciate the support of the editorial staff, editorial board, and guest reviewers; their knowledge and service were essential to the growth and development of the *ATEJ*. Thanks seems inadequate. This journal has been a labor of love for so many of us.

New Editors

Bill Pitney is absolutely the right person to become the gatekeeper of athletic training education knowledge. We should all be excited for his reign as the new editor of the journal. He's prepared, having served as associate editor of the *ATEJ* for the past year, and a Section Editor for the *Administration, Professional Development, and Pedagogy* section of the *Journal of Athletic Training* since 2004. He was also involved in the development of the *ATEJ*, serving as chair of the committee that wrote our Vision, Mission, and Aims and served on the editorial board from its inception until named as Associate Editor. But there is more.

Dr. Pitney's doctoral degree is in Adult Continuing Education. He is an avid and accomplished scholar, attempting, in his words, to "further understand the professional development . . . of athletic trainers." He is proficient in both qualitative and quantitative research.

Lest you think he is an "egg-head scholar," consider the following. Last summer he climbed Mt. Hood in Oregon, his first ice climb. He has a number of "century" and "double century" bike rides (100 & 200 miles); and has twice attempted 24-hour bike rides. His last attempt ended after 18 hours (258 miles), but he will keep trying until he conquered. The closing statement on his resume illustrates his depth: "I am committed to my work, but believe in

maintaining a balance in life—I enjoy spending time with my family, cycling, rock climbing, mountaineering, and running. My personal mission is to positively influence the lives of others, and I believe in treating people with respect, human decency, and compassion."

Aaron Blum, is a small town New Yorker (Wappingers Falls, population 4,929 in 2000), and was educated at Boston University and Georgia Southern. He has been an AT in Maryland (twice) and at BU for the past 3 years. He is taking a break from clinical work to concentrate on an MBA degree and work for the *Executive Committee on Education* (formerly known as the *Education Council Executive Committee*), and manage the day-to-day operations of the *ATEJ*. According to Sara Brown, he is technological wiz, which will help as the *ATEJ* moves into online manuscript handling. He will be very busy; but not too busy to run. He is a marathoner who has run the Boston Marathon twice; best time 3:08. You can contact him at alblum@bu.edu.

Random Thoughts at Departing

- ! So what does all this personal information have to do with education or the *ATEJ*? First, I am so grateful for the many talents that René brought to the job, and wanted to illustrate her depth. Second, it is important that educators remember we teach individuals, not classes. Thirdly, authors need to understand that when dealing with the new Editors, they are dealing with humans; not stuffed shirt, high and mighty authorities doling out arbitrary decisions of blessing or cursing. They, like most editors I've known, will negotiate. Work with them, listen to their advice, negotiate, and don't be intimidated by them.
- ! I am tickled pink that Bill, a former student, is succeeding me. It didn't take long to know that bright-eyed, energetic, low-keyed, always smiling, young sophomore was special. There was no doubt that he would become an outstanding clinician. But there was nothing about him that indicated he would become a scholar, educator, author, and editor. It makes me think of the adage "you can count the seeds in an apple, but you can't count the apples in a seed." We must look at, and treat, every student in our classes as a potential Nobel Prize winner, an award winning scholar, president of the NATA, or editor of a scholarly journal.
- ! There is no reward for an educator that equals seeing the success of his/her students. My cup runs over with former

students who are editors, deans, department chairs, authors, professional and civic leaders, award winning scholars, and hundreds of others whose accomplishments are not so public. I am just as proud of the clinician who loves, and is loved by his/her patients, parents of patients, associates, coaches, and community. I revel in the success of former students as parents. What a thrill it is when one of the first things they say when we meet is “let me show you a picture of my kids.”

! The world moves on, with or without us. No matter what we may accomplish, we will eventually be replaced by someone else who will exceed our accomplishments. We should live each day as if it were the last. A good friend always greets people with a twinkle in his eye and the phrase, “Have you done any good today?” Another’s favorite departure greeting is, “Make it a great day!”