

Fit for the Hall of Fame

PETE KOEHNEKE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO ATHLETIC TRAINING
PLACE HIM IN A DISTINGUISHED CLASS



Peter M. Koehneke

Peter M. Koehneke, chair of the college's Sports Medicine and Health & Human Performance Department, joined a distinguished group of colleagues in June, when the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) inducted him into the organization's Hall of Fame.

A certified athletic trainer and member of the Canisius faculty since 1978, Koehneke was recognized for his many contributions to the athletic training profession on the state, national and international levels. He is one of only 200 NATA members (out of 29,000) to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"Dedication, innovation, loyalty and leadership are common traits among Hall of Fame members," said Eve Becker-Doyle, executive director of

NATA. "Those who receive this honor serve as an inspiration to their peers and as role models to the next generation of certified athletic trainers."

As chair of the department, Koehneke directs the college's athletic training education curriculum, is clinically active with the men's basketball team and provides health care for the women's softball team. He also chairs the joint review committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training and is a member of the NATA World Federation Task Force.

"Pete is richly deserving of the honor, due to his dedication to the accreditation and education process of the profession," noted Jack Baynes, ATC, who oversees the NATA Honors & Awards Committee. "He has dedicated his career to the betterment of the athletic training profession across the nation."

"It was great to be recognized by my colleagues for the highest honor given by the association. The night was extra special because I was able to have my family and friends at the induction ceremony," said Koehneke, who also credited Canisius for its support over the years. "I could not have accomplished the things that I have without the support of the college for myself and for the program."

The program he refers to is the college's new health and human performance degree, introduced in fall 2001. It is the first master's level health program to be offered at Canisius and the only program of its kind in Western New York.

"Having the Health and Human Performance Center on campus is a huge bonus and the program continues to grow," added Koehneke, whose efforts have earned him numerous recognitions

including the 2000 NATA Sayers "Bud" Miller Distinguished Educator Award. NATA also presented Koehneke with the organization's Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award in 1998 and in 1994, he received the New York State Athletic Trainers' Association (NYSATA) Thomas J. Sheehan Sr. Award for outstanding service to the athletic training profession.

Koehneke says his philosophy on athletic training education

is a simple one – "to prepare students so that he would be confident of their ability to provide health care to his own daughters."

Inductees are selected based on their contributions to the athletic training profession and to NATA. Each member must also demonstrate a minimum of 25 years of service and leadership in the field, which makes Koehneke's Hall of Fame induction a true mark of distinction. ■



Pete Koehneke provides clinical care to a member of the men's basketball team.