



Rhode Island Athletic Trainers ASSOCIATION

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Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Association Announce the Newest Class of the RIATA Hall of Fame
Rhode Island athletic training pioneers Kim Bissonnette and John Rock honored.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The newest members of the Rhode Island Athletic Trainers' Hall of Fame are pioneers in their field and jointly started the association that now honors their service. The two have over 32 years of combined service to student-athletes at the The University of Rhode Island and Providence College. The two honorees were inducted during the RIATA meeting held in conjunction with the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Symposium on January 6th in Boston, MA. Kim and John join last year's inaugural class of Frank George, Kathy Laquale and Dick Cole.

Kim A. Bissonnette

A 1977 graduate from the University of Rhode Island, Kim Bissonnette begins his 16th year as the Head Athletic Trainer for his alma mater.

Prior to his appointment at URI he was the Head Athletic Trainer at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass. for six years, and was a member of the athletic training staff at Northeastern University from 1979-1985. In the summer of 1985 he also worked as the Head Athletic Trainer for the Rhode Island Gulls of the United States Basketball League. Bissonnette is an active member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association and the Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Association. He has served on many national, regional and state committees and was instrumental in the development of the current licensing law that governs the practice of athletic training within the state Rhode Island.

He served as the President for the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts, and co-founded the Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Association serving as the inaugural President as well. He has been a lecturer, clinician and member of the support medical staff for many regional events including the USFSA National Championships and the Boston Marathon, and received the University of Rhode Island Staff Excellence Award in 2001.

A native of Portsmouth, R.I. Bissonnette earned his B.S. from the URI in 1977 and his M.S. from the University of Arizona in 1978. He is in charge of the overall athletic training program with direct responsibility for intercollegiate football.



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John P. Rock

John Rock graduated from Springfield College in 1980 with a BS in Physical Education and Coaching. In 1982 he completed his master's program at Western Michigan University with a major in Physical Education and Athletic Training.

Prior to his current tenure at Providence College, as the Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Medicine, John was an athletic trainer with the Baltimore Orioles Baseball Club's Minor League, Class A Team, Head Athletic Trainer at Hampden-Sydney College and was also the Assistant Athletic Trainer at Princeton University.

John is the co-founder of the Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Association in 1992. He served as President Elect from 1992 to 1994, and President from 1994 to 1996. He remains active within the RI Athletic Trainers Association as Honors and Awards Chairman.

John has been a member of the Board of Professional Regulations with the State of Rhode Island's Department of Health since January 1992. He has helped to shape the licensure requirements of athletic trainers in our State.

John is also an active member of the National Athletic Trainers Association and in the Big East Conference Athletic Trainer's Advisory Committee, which he co-founded in 2006 and currently serves as President. John still manages to find time in his busy schedule to mentor high school students in the RI High School Mentoring Program.

About the RIATA:

State licensed athletic trainers serve in various settings across the Ocean State. The mission of the RIATA is to be the voice of prevention, care and rehabilitation of athletes in Rhode Island. www.riathletictrainers.org

About the NATA:

Certified athletic trainers (ATCs) are unique health care providers who specialize in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports over 30,000 members of the athletic training profession through education and research. www.nata.org Dallas, TX 75247, 214.637.6282; 214.637.2206 (fax).