

RIATA HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2005

Dr. Kathleen Cerra Laquale

Dr. Laquale received her undergraduate degree in Physical Education (1976) at the University of Rhode Island where she was one of the first female athletic training students working with Head Athletic Trainer and 1970 Hall of Fame member, Richard, “Dick” Cole. With a masters degree from Indiana State University where she was assistant athletic trainer to Peggy Houglum and part-time instructor (1976-1977) and her father by her side (the first and only father-daughter athletic training team in the United States), Dr. Laquale began her career in the clinical setting at Providence College in Rhode Island. As the first female athletic trainer (8 years) and first cross-country/track and field coach (four years), she developed both programs. A worksite change began her tenure at Rhode Island College, where she served for 13 years as the head athletic trainer and adjunct professor. In 1990, Dr. Laquale started her doctoral work in food science and nutrition at the University of Rhode Island. Upon completion of her doctorate work in 1994, she became a licensed dietary nutritionist. The fall of 1997 marked her career change from athletic trainer to professor at Bridgewater State College. She is currently an associate professor and program director for the athletic training education program for both the undergraduate and graduate entry-level program.

Dr. Laquale’s background in physical education, athletic training and nutrition has placed her in demand as a guest lecturer at the local, district, national and international levels of various organizations. She has been published in numerous journals and has been a contributing author in several textbooks.

Kathleen has served on numerous committees such as past District One Director (1998-2004) to the Executive Board of the National Athletic Trainers Association (first female elected from District One); past secretary/treasurer (1996-1998) of the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association (first female elected); past chair (1987-1988) of the National Council of Athletic Trainers (AAHPERD) and past president (1985-1986) of the Rhode Island Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (youngest elected). She is currently on the executive board of the Rhode Island Interscholastic Injury Fund (secretary for over 24 years and first female selected to the board). In addition, she is past chair of the Rhode Island Medical Advisory Board and the Rhode Island State Licensure Athletic Training Committee. For all of her contributions to various committees and organizations she has been presented with numerous awards cumulating in the Induction to the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame in 2005.