



René Revis Shingles PhD, AT, ATC

EDUCATION: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA), 1984; Illinois State University (MS), 1986; Michigan State University (PhD), 2001

CAREER: Newberry College: Head women’s AT (1986-87), head AT (1987-89); University of Northern Iowa: Instructor and assistant AT (1989-90); Illinois State University: Lecturer, coordinator of minority recruitment and retention, assistant AT (1990-92); Central Michigan University: Assistant professor (1992-02), associate professor (2002-10), professor (2010-present); acting department chair (2004); program director (2005-present), internship coordinator (2012-present), representative chair (2014-present).

VOLUNTEER SERVICE: Heart of Illinois Special Olympics Summer Games, 1986; BOC Certification Examination examiner, 1987, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2005-07; Minority Athletic Trainer’s Committee District Five representative, 1990-91; Special Olympics Michigan State Summer

Games, 1991, 1993-1996, 1998-1999, 2003-2017; BOC Role Delineation Study Panel, 1993; NATA EDAC Convention Session Planner, 1994, 1999 and 2001; BOC Certification Examination item developer, 1994-95; NATA Foundation Annual Fund Membership Committee, 1995; NATA Ethnic Diversity Advisory Council, 1991- 2000; EDAC chair, 1995-2000; NATA Entry Level Education Committee, 1997-2006; NATA Foundation Board of Directors, District Four representative, 2001-05; U.S. Fencing Association Junior Division Tournament, 2002; NATA Education Degree Taskforce, 2004-06; NATA Education Council Executive Committee, 2004-09; Mid-American Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championship, 2012; *Athletic Training Education Journal* editorial board, 2013-present; BOC Cultural Sensitivity Panel, 2015; NATA Inclusion and Diversity Workgroup, 2017; NATA LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, District Four representative, 2017-present; BOC Board of Directors, athletic trainer director-elect, 2018

Why did you pursue athletic training as your career?

Who knew that when I developed shin splints as a cheerleader in high school that it would turn into a career in athletic training? I was sent to the athletic trainer for my shin problems. While taping my arches, I noticed his “black bag” and was intrigued by what was in it and the purpose of the contents. I was also intrigued by what was taking place in the athletic training facility – it looked like fun. Having had an interest in medicine and sport, I asked if I could be involved, too. Mr. Summerlin said “yes.” The rest, as they say, was history.

During my senior year in high school, Mr. Summerlin took us to a sports medicine conference. While there, I was introduced to Claire Beth (C.B.) Lynn, who was the head women’s athletic trainer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I had been accepted to Carolina, and asked C.B. if I could be an athletic training student for her. She replied, “See me once you arrive on campus.” Trust me, I did just that.

What is your most memorable moment?

As a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team

medical staff, I was one of the athletic trainers who had the honor and privilege of marching in the opening ceremony. It was a memorable moment to represent my country.

Who are your biggest mentors and what impact have they had on you?

Kathy Schniedwind, AT Ret., an NATA Hall of Famer, was my professor, clinical preceptor and later my boss and colleague at Illinois State University. Kathy demonstrated every day how to be a professional and leader in athletic training whether in the clinical setting or within our professional organization. By her actions, I learned I too could be a head athletic trainer for football, be on the medical staff for the Olympics, serve the community through Special Olympics and give back to the profession. She is still my mentor to this day. I sincerely hope I continue to make her proud and do the same for my students as she has done for me.

Frank Walters, PhD, ATC, also in the NATA Hall of Fame, and I served together on the inaugural NATA Ethnic Minority Advisory Council (now Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee). By watching Frank, the first chair,

I learned how to advocate, negotiate and appropriately communicate for a cause. Frank helped me understand how to tackle obstacles and challenges head on. Through his leadership and example, I understood better how to chair a national committee, and his support gave me the confidence to do so. He supported and guided me through my doctoral degree, giving sound advice along the way. Frank is still my mentor today.

Yevonne Smith, PhD, was my doctoral advisor at Michigan State University and is my “other Mother.” I watched her guide and mentor students regardless of whether they were hers. She demonstrated wisdom, compassion, unbelievable patience and tough love when needed. She would often say, “It’s time to divvy up!” meaning get your work done. I hope these are the qualities I share with my students and mentees.

What advice would you give to young athletic trainers just starting out in the profession?

Find a mentor. It is important to establish meaningful relationships with people who will help guide your career. Whether for a reason or a season, a great mentor is invaluable.