



LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC



*A Message From NAFC Education Foundation
Alumni Coordinator, Sherri McKeen*

As we launch into a new year, we have the opportunity to reflect on the past while planning for the coming year. We have so much to celebrate as a school system and community with such endless possibilities for the future. At next month's Education Celebration! Gala, the Education Foundation will celebrate that over \$1,000,000 has been distributed to our NAFC educators through the Great Classroom Grants. This is surely something to celebrate as it not only recognizes the support available to the NAFC schools but it signifies the extreme generosity of our community. May your 2023 also be a a time of celebration and endless possibilities!

Continue reading this month's Legacy Ledger for more information about our annual Education Celebration! Gala on Friday, February 24th. We'd love to see you there!

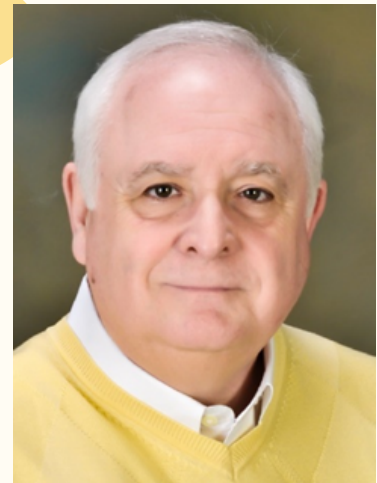
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Telling the stories that appear here, we often take a retrospective look... at the ways that our NAFC schools helped shape the careers of those we spotlight. At other times, we switch gears, introducing grads who went on to ***be the impact*** in the adult lives of countless young people. This month, we focus on two inspiring alumni; each a success in becoming ***an ATC***: a *certified* athletic trainer. Serving others is essential to being an ATC. These two were both very committed to the students they served, opening doors to career choices... in sports, in health care or a related field. Their years of service have been multiplied twenty-fold - - maybe even a hundred-fold - - by all those who follow in their footsteps.

For this month, we also bring a little bit of a “throwback”, from the October 2021 Issue. Back then, we shared the profiles of Floyd Central Hall of Famer Sharon Gardner – and from NAHS, Hall of Famer Diana Adams Keithley (class of '64). For these two, it seemed completely essential to share some of the life story of Lettie Walter, a cornerstone role model in her own right, from the early days of girls' sports – not only in our schools, but also on the ball fields of New Albany Parks and Recreation.

To start this first issue of the new year, we introduce NAHS Hall of Famer Rex Sharp '75 and from Floyd Central, Becky Clifton '84, the current Athletic Trainer for the school since 1991. Our profiles of Rex and Becky would be quite incomplete without mentioning the legendary Glen Snow, who came to FC fifty years ago as the school's first ATC.

Glen deserves a separate profile all his own, for his career of repeatedly re-inventing himself in school and club sports and his successes in business and in entrepreneurship. Within our school system, his "dual pedigree" is both Bulldog (a '67 grad) and Highlander (faculty/staff 1972-1984, and as a 2011 inductee into the Floyd Central Hall of Fame. Ball State ties Glen and Rex together.



As all those who know “Snowball” can attest, Glen is never at a loss for words. It just wouldn't make any sense to provide an abbreviated profile of the man in half the usual space. Be sure to keep your eye on the horizon for an issue in 2023 or 2024 to properly tell the Glen Snow story.

Introduction and profiles contributed by Rex Bickers, FCHS '70

**REX SHARP, NAHS '75
(FACULTY 1979-1981)**



It's a big assertion and yet, it feels undeniable. No New Albany grad has done more than Rex Sharp... for so many student athletes, teens through college... to make sports successful, rewarding and safe. Period.

Rex went to Ball State with a prestigious full scholarship and earned his bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) in athletic training. He returned to NAHS, a certified athletic trainer and licensed to teach high school biology. With five full courses of biology teaching, it was tough to be the athletic trainer also. Two years led him to re-assess his options.

There are multiple career paths for an AT: high school (and middle school), college athletics and of course, pro sports. Nowadays, there are also many new roles for athletic trainers, serving professionals with high performance demands (first responders, the military and more). Rex knew that college sports would require credentials

beyond his bachelor's degree. He went to Michigan Tech (in the Upper Peninsula, on the shores of Lake Superior) to earn his master's degree and served as a graduate assistant AT, 1981-1983.

His first college job was in Kirksville, Missouri (the school there is now named Truman State University) from 1983 to 1985. He was their first-ever certified AT. On the whole, these six years took Rex to the "base camp" of his professional life. He was 28 years old. Was he "prepared enough"? Could he really get the attention of a Division I school? The news that a top-level position is (or will be) open... that travels fast. When an offer came from Ball State, it made Rex the youngest head athletic trainer at a "D-1" school in the entire NCAA.

He had only two choices: fail or excel. Treading water just wasn't an option. Rex excelled, focusing on football, while also coordinating the sports medicine support for a full 20-sport program. In his eleven-year tenure at Ball State, he figures that he mentored over 100 student AT interns. Six of those have now gone on to be the head AT at Division I school in their careers.

The next chapter in his life would prove to be his Mt. Everest. He met the challenge, and then some. Hired at the University of Missouri as head AT in 1996 – the program he ran was honored, twice, as conference-wide AT Staff of the Year. He chaired the committee on Medical Aspects of Sport for the Big Twelve. He was named Associate Athletics Director of Sports Medicine in 2011. The following year saw the transition from the Big Twelve into the SEC for Missouri. He continued a leadership role in the SEC too. He was inducted into Missouri's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016 and his alma mater Ball State soon followed, by electing him into its esteemed Cardinal Ring of Honor. At both "Mizzou" and at Ball State, there are now scholarships for AT students, named in his honor. Add to all of this his 2018 induction into the NAHS Hall of Fame. He is 100% equally proud of that.

He elected to retire in 2020. What would he do? Move? Florida? Yes. Return to work? Well, yes, to that also. Since last July (2021), he is now the director of sports medicine at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach. While he and his wife Eileen miss their adult children – one daughter and twin sons – they were back in the "Show Me" state for Christmas togetherness. The prognosis looks great for life to "show" Rex and his family enormous blessings and rewards in the years to come.

BECKY CLIFTON, FC HS '84 (STAFF 1991-2023)

In the fall of 1972, Becky Clifton started first grade. At Floyd Central - - Glen Snow was planning something new. He had just been hired as the school's first certified AT. He set out to create a new program. It launched with (just) one student trainer for (just) one sport: football. As the school year 1981-82 began, year ten... attracting enough students was starting to feel like success. Becky Clifton had arrived new at Floyd Central that year, a sophomore. Three students from the class of '82 had opted in, bringing the "pioneer alumni" to a total of 11. And yet, ***there had been no girls*** in that first decade. Becky changed all that. The number of student trainers in years 11 through 20 (1983-1992) had doubled (21) and ***ten*** of them were girls. Becky was the first of those ten girls. In the final year of "decade two", Becky was at the helm, hired in 1991 as FC's first female AT. Her unprecedented tenure has now spanned decades three, four - - and with this past spring, - - decade five. Such milestones don't happen overnight. Having broken the barrier to be FC's first female student trainer, she earned her bachelor's degree (PE) cum laude at Indiana State in 1988. She also attained her AT certification from the NATA (National AT Association) that same year. She went on to earn her master's degree at IU (Bloomington) in 1989.



She has now begun year 32 at Floyd Central. Her IATA peers (Indiana AT Association) have honored her three times: High School AT of the Year (2003), and her 2017 induction into its Hall of Fame. Most recently, she was chosen to be IATA president-elect for 2022-2024. We likewise salute Jan Clifton-Gaw, (FC '87), certified as an AT also, for making it two sisters in a four-year span... with her Hall of Fame induction in 2021. All of this professional recognition - it's genuinely deserved. Even so, it will forever be eclipsed by the roster of student trainers from her tenure. It's very fitting that Becky came to Floyd Central just as the student trainer program was wrapping up its first twenty years. This school year, 2022-23 marks the program's fiftieth year. Thirty-one students (including Becky herself) made up the bedrock on which she has built her legacy. Under her leadership, there have been almost twice as many added, creating her own "family tree". It currently holds the names of fifty-three Floyd Central grads (and three more in the pipeline). Excluding the students from 2014-22 (who are still in school), 24% of them are in a health care profession. Their impact will be felt for the next fifty years.

When Becky is not working, you might find her in service to her church, the IATA or helping out a Bellarmine student. Since 2016, she's been a preceptor in their master's degree program.

2023 Education Celebration! Million Dollar Bash

AssuredPartners

Education CELEBRATION!

MILLION DOLLAR BASH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH
5:00 PM
Huber's Plantation Hall

SILENT AUCTION OPENS FOR BIDDING
Monday, February 20th

WWW.BIDPAL.NET/EDUCATIONCELEBRATION

The annual **Education Celebration!** is **Friday, February 24th 2023 at Huber's Plantation Hall**. We look forward to celebrating and showcasing the ever-important initiatives of the foundation while lifting up our NAFC teachers, students, and schools. This year the event will feature a robust silent and live auction, live entertainment, a Dream Vacation Raffle, and The Louisville Crashers!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When/Where?

Friday, February 24th at 5:00 pm at Huber's Plantation Hall

The silent auction will be open for bidding on the morning of Monday, February 20th and will close at approximately 9:00 pm on February 24th (the night of the event).

Who should attend?

Everyone! Parents, Grandparents, Educators, Alumni, Business Leaders, Community supporters, please join us!

Why should I attend?

To show your support for our remarkable public schools in Floyd County and to give back to the schools which have given us so much. The Education Foundation funnels hundreds of thousands of dollars to support our students, teachers, and schools every year through donors like YOU. We need your help to continue to make an impact. What better way to support the Education Foundation and our schools than a party? Remember, it's a Celebration!

How much are tickets?

Tickets are \$75 per person or a table Sponsorship of 8 seats is \$1,200.

We are also featuring a new category of reservations this year! Guest can join us for The Louisville Crashers ONLY may purchase an "after party" ticket for \$35 per person to be allowed admittance into the venue at 9 pm.

For tickets and more information, visit www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

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New Albany-Floyd County
Education F  **oundation**

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The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works in conjunction with NAFC Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. Legacy NAFC is the official support group of NAFCS, NAFC Alumni Nation, and the NAFC Education Foundation.

www.NAFCEdFoundation.org/alumni

For more information, contact contact Sherri McKeen at smckeen@nafcs.org or 812-542-2242 at the NAFC Education Foundation.