

# Dr. Rod Walters' love of athletic training

was born at Terry Sanford HS in Fayetteville, where he began his work as a student athletic trainer beginning his sophomore year in high school. Walters has been active in the field of athletic training since his graduation from Appalachian State University in 1980, where he received his undergraduate and master's degrees. In 1988, Walters received his Doctor of Arts degree in Physical Education from Middle Tennessee State University. Walters was Head Athletic Trainer at Lenoir-Rhyne College (NC) for five years before joining the staff at Appalachian State. Following his work as Head Athletic Trainer at Appalachian State, Dr. Walters moved to the University of South Carolina, a member of the nation's top athletic league in the Southeastern Conference, to take a similar position in 1990. While at the University of South Carolina Dr. Walters was elevated to the position of Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine where he oversaw the health care and wellness for the university's athletes.

A member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, Dr. Walters served on their Board of Directors from 1997 to 2003. He received the NATA's Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer in 2003 and was inducted into the NATA's Hall of Fame in 2005. He is also a member of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine. Since leaving his collegiate post, Walters has provided consultation to sports medicine staffs and the sports medicine industry with his casting and splinting seminars (3M). Since 2011, he has provided services to professional baseball with concussion management of professional baseball umpires, and began working with the National Football League as a concussion spotter with the Atlanta Falcons. Dr. Walters brings his expertise across the country with his athletic training seminars.

Dr. Walters' accomplishments include:

- Conducted casting and splinting workshops for 3M in hospitals, clinics, and athletic training rooms across the country
- Consultant to the inaugural NATA Appropriate Medical Coverage Task Force
- Published articles in publications including the Journal of Athletic Training, American Journal of Sports Medicine and the Physician and Sports medicine
- Author of the Southeastern Conference pre-participation medical

and functional assessment screen of the conference's football officials

- Developer of several orthopaedic appliances including off-the-shelf braces for the elbow, and Donjoy's Velocity, an ankle-foot orthosis for the troublesome "high ankle sprain."
- Featured speaker at athletic training and sports medicine clinics both nationally and internationally