

Montclair, NJ (3/28/10) – Montclair State University has announced the naming of its Athletic Training facility as the John Davis and Dr. M. Benjamin Burton Athletic Training Sports Medicine Center. The dedication was made on Sunday, March 28.

"The dedication of the John Davis and Dr. M. Benjamin Burton Athletic Training and Sports Medicine Center offers us an opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of Ben Burton and John Davis," said MSU Director of Athletics Holly Gera. "Ben has been a tremendous friend of Montclair State athletics and the athletic training program. His assistance in diagnosing and rehabilitating our student athletes is very much appreciated. We are proud to honor him in this naming of our facility along with John."

For the past 25 years, Davis has served as the Head Athletic Trainer at Montclair State providing the highest level of athletic training care to the 17 teams that MSU sponsors. A graduate of Ursinus College and East Stroudsburg University, Davis has been instrumental in turning the Montclair State Athletic Training program into one of the most reputable not only in New Jersey but on the East Coast.

"This event is a humbling and wonderful experience," said Davis. "I look at this celebration not only as an acknowledgment of my accomplishments and tenure at Montclair, but a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and excellence of my colleagues and students for the past 25 years. I am just the face of a great team effort."

During the past 20-plus years Davis has also been very involved professionally. In 2006 he was selected for the NATA's Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award. Davis is a Past-President of the Athletic Trainers' Society of New Jersey and in 2006 was inducted into the ATSNJ Hall of Fame. In 2005 he was selected as the inaugural winner of the Eastern College Athletic Conference's Dr. Donald Grover Memorial Award and previously served as NATA District II Secretary and Secretary/ Treasurer of the Eastern Athletic Trainer' Association. Davis has served as the host and as a Site Administrator for the NATABOC Certification Exam and has worked with the United States Association of Blind Athletes. Davis also served as the Interim Director of Montclair State's Health Center in 1997.

It has been a family affair for Davis and his wife Barbara. She has an assistant athletic trainer at MSC when he arrived and she spends many hours on the sidelines with him taking pictures. They reside in Pequannock with their daughter Lindsey, a future athletic trainer.

"I can't say enough about the dedicated and loyal service of John Davis, who has served as our head athletic trainer for 25 years," added Gera. "John has touched many lives both as a clinician and a teacher during his tenure at MSU. He represents the very best example of successful collaborations between academics and practical applications, all to the benefit of our students. I am excited that we will spend time on Sunday celebrating these two men as well as Montclair State University's rich history of athletic training education and service."

Burton has been with Montclair State University since 1994 providing care to student-athletes and as an adjunct instructor and specializes in Orthopedic and Sports related injuries for patients of all ages with special interest in knee, shoulder and spinal pathology.

Burton received his training from Montclair State University and has worked with many local and professional athletes. He is a Summa Cum Laude graduate from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Rocky Mountain University, and Kean University. He is the only physical therapist in New Jersey who is Board Certified by the American Physical Therapy Association in both Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy, Board certified by the National Athletic Training Association as an Certified Athletic Trainer, and also Board Certified by the National Strength and Conditioning Association as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

He is the sole owner of a thriving practice, The New Jersey Center of Physical Therapy, located in Riverdale, NJ.

"I am extremely humbled and appreciative to have this honor bestowed on me," said Dr. Burton. "In addition, celebrating this honor with John holds a very special meaning with me. For the past 15 years we have shared a relationship that has evolved from teacher-student to respected friend and colleague. To have my name next to his on this facility is truly an overwhelming honor."

Montclair's athletic training history dates back to 1946 when Dr. Alden C. Coder was hired at Montclair State as an athletic trainer, among many other titles. During the last 25 years John Davis and his colleagues have provided quality athletic training health care for a prominent Division III athletic program. Along the way an accredited education program has grown from the roots of an Internship route towards Athletic Training Certification. Over 75 Montclair students have gained classroom and clinical experience at MSU and have gone on to rewarding careers in athletic training. Montclair State University's Athletic Training Education Program is now a Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree and is striving to build upon the educational momentum and success of our past certified athletic training alumni while embracing the challenges of the future of the athletic training profession.