



Introducing: Susan Geisler, MA, ATC, PT, Director of Physical Therapy at Cornell University and ATs Care Committee Chair

Susan Geisler is an MA, ATC, PT, the Director of Physical Therapy at Cornell Health in Ithaca, NY, and Chair of the ATs Care Committee for the New York State Athletic Trainers' Association. In her position at Cornell Health, Geisler is responsible for treating faculty, students, and others in the Cornell community. She works hand in hand with the college's athletic trainers to help athletes' complete (~~post-op~~) rehabilitation after an injury.

As Chair of the ATs Care Committee, Geisler works with other athletic trainers to support the organization's mission to "provide timely, confidential peer-to-peer support services to athletic trainers and athletic training students following a critical incident (CI) or catastrophic event through supporting, assisting, and monitoring the emotional well-being of the athletic trainer/athletic training student."

The ATs Care Committee was commissioned in 2014 after a study conducted by National Athletic Trainers' Association found that 82% of members surveyed felt they were not prepared to deal with the psychological impact following a catastrophic event. Athletic trainers that are a part of ATs Care are trained as a critical incident response team and receive individual training on how to deal with different scenarios.

"Being the Chair of ATs Cares is extremely rewarding, and I'd love to give a shout out to all the athletic trainers on my committee," said Susan Geisler. "The level of compassion and empathy they demonstrate toward those dealing with a critical issue is amazing to watch. I'm very proud of them."

Now an athletic trainer for 30 years, Geisler was a physical therapist first. She had been working in Northern Virginia in an orthopedic clinic where she found herself with many patients that had athletic injuries. She realized she was missing key knowledge and experience when helping those patients and decided to enroll at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for her Masters in Sports Medicine/Athletic Training.

Prior to her job at Cornell, Geisler was an academic instructor and athletic trainer at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA. When asked about her favorite part of the job, Susan said, "I love the personal, one-on-one interaction with the athletes and getting to know them, not just from a healthcare standpoint but on a personal level. Athletes typically feel most comfortable confiding in the team's athletic trainer, and I like being able to be there for them. It's also great to see an athlete excited when they improve in their rehab and are able to return to play."

She also has amazing memories from Chapel Hill and working with women's soccer and working with all athletes at the collegiate level. While working in Northern Virginia, she has favorite memories working with athletes with disabilities in Paralympic skiing; it was a very rewarding experience.



When asked to share advice for future athletic trainers, Susan said, “continue to learn and be inquisitive, know what you do know, and know what you don’t know”. Also, “actively listen to your patient/athletes, you will always find out much more that way.”

The last comment Susan made was to shout out NYSATA as an organization. “It’s been great watching NYSATA and our leadership really move the needle forward for athletic trainers in New York State. It’s inspiring, important, and I’m proud to be a member.”