



COLLEGE OF HEALTH

"OUR MISSION at the College of Health is to promote health and enhance quality of life through the discovery, application and dissemination of information on health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention, fitness, nutrition, recreation and the rehabilitation process for a dynamic and changing society.

"The college advances public knowledge and policy and generates scientific discovery through undergraduate and graduate teaching research, service and clinical activities."

– David H. Perrin, PhD, Dean



COLLEGE OF HEALTH

PRESENTS

32 YEARS OF TRIUMPH AND TEARS FROM THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

GARY VITTI

Athletic trainer to NBA legends

Friday, November 3, 2017

Aline Wilmot Skaggs Biology Building, Auditorium 220
University of Utah, 257 S 1400 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84112

"You can never have enough talent,
but it's the most overrated thing in life."

– Gary Vitti



Gary Vitti acknowledges the appreciation of Lakers fans as he retires from his post as the NBA's longest-tenured athletic trainer.

Gary Vitti, former head athletic trainer for the Los Angeles Lakers, will share his perspective and life lessons learned based on 32 seasons – from the 1980s Showtime era through Shaquille O' Neal and the beginning and end of the period dominated by Kobe Bryant.

Gary tended to injured Lakers in a career spanning 13 head coaches, eight championships, numerous Hall of Famers and enough stories to fill a library.

When Magic Johnson stunned the world by testing positive for HIV in

the fall of 1991, Vitti was there. "When God gave me this disease, he gave it to the right person," Magic Johnson told Gary. "I'm going to do something good with this." And when Bryant ruptured his Achilles in 2013, Gary was there. "Just tape it up," Bryant famously told him.

Vitti earned his M.S. degree in sports medicine from the University of Utah in 1982. In addition to studying at the University of Utah, he spent two years as an athletic trainer and teacher at the university while working as an assistant athletic trainer with the NBA's Utah Jazz (1981-82).

Following his stint with the Jazz, Gary served as head athletic trainer and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Portland for two years before joining the Lakers prior to the 1984-85 season. Since his arrival in Los Angeles, the Lakers have won eight NBA championships (1985, 1987, 1988, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2009 and 2010), thanks in no

small part to the health of such players as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol and numerous others.

Last April, Gary retired from his full-time post as the NBA's longest-tenured head athletic trainer, but he signed on to remain a consultant for two more seasons.

Today's schedule

- 8:30 – Light refreshments and networking
 - 9:00 – Welcoming remarks by Dean David Perrin
 - 9:05 – Introduction of speaker by Bill Bean, adjunct instructor in Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training
 - 9:10 – Special guest speaker, Gary Vitti, former head athletic trainer for the Los Angeles Lakers, U of U alumni
 - 10:05 – Q & A
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Hosted by the College of Health

Special thanks for the support from Utah Athletics Trainer Association