

# 9th Annual Twilight Gala



***United Spinal  
Association***  
**Connecticut Chapter**

**[www.sciact.org](http://www.sciact.org)**

**2018**

## 2018 TWILIGHT GALA EVENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

*The Event is from 6:30 PM - Midnight*

- 6:30 PM** Registration starts, Silent Auction bidding starts  
Appetizers are brought around to bidders, bar is open
- 8:00 PM** Dinner service begins
- 8:05 PM** *Bill Mancini*, SCIACT President's Welcome
- 8:10 PM** Guest Speaker, *Karin Korb*
- 8:20 PM** Masters of Ceremonies, *Tim Lammers*
- 8:30 PM** Live Auction during dinner, close Silent Auction
- 9:30 PM** Close of dinner, purchase silent auction items, dancing begins
- 12:00 AM** Stop Music & Close Event

## 2018 TWILIGHT GALA COMMITTEE

**Tim Fournier**  
*Gala Co-Chairman*

**Diana Pernigotti**  
*Gala Co-Chairman*

**Dr. Subramani Seetharama**

**Katie Hanson**

## VOLUNTEERS

Greg Antonini

Bill Dumas

Stuart Sosnoski

Laura Pernigotti

Michael Romano

Dan Sylvester

Dawn Pelletier

Jim Pelletier

Samantha Fox

Donna Pernigotti

## Special Guest Emcee: Tim Lammers



Tim Lammers is an anchor for the FOX61 Morning News Monday-Friday mornings from 4-10 a.m.

A native of South Windsor, Tim came to FOX61 in 2002 as a Sports Producer and never left. Since then, he has filled the roles of Anchor, Reporter, Producer and Videographer in the Sports Department, as well as being a News Feature and Health Reporter.

Tim's main beat in the Sports Department was following the UConn Football program's rise to national respectability, including the school's first-ever BCS Bowl berth in the 2011 Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, AZ. He also covered the UConn Men's Basketball team's third National Championship at the 2012 Final Four in Houston, TX.

As a health reporter, Tim turned the camera around to do a Emmy-nominated story about his own challenge of finding a treatment for Avascular Necrosis, a rare degenerative bone disease he has. The story culminated in Tim going under the knife, on camera, to receive a cutting-edge stem cell transplant using his own bone marrow. Since then, he has received a constant response from the story, as people all over the world have contacted him to find out more about the procedure and the disease.

Tim lives with his wife, Kerri, whom he met while they were co-workers at FOX61, their son Ryan, and his step-son Alex. Tim and Kerri married in 2016.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am honored to report on the activities of the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Connecticut, a Chapter of United Spinal (SCIACT) and thank all of this year's attendees and supporters. This annual Twilight Gala continues to be our main source of fundraising.

This past year, we continued to maintain our support services. Support groups continued at Mount Sinai, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, and the Hospital for Special Care. Inpatients, outpatients, their family and friends as well as professionals are welcome to attend any group. In addition, we added groups at Backus Hospital in Norwich and Chapter 126 in Bristol. We also support groups in Stratford and Bethel.

We continue to post updates on our website informing members about the topics as well as speakers. We host or assist in the funding for other SCI related education events held throughout the year, including our annual picnic, which is held at Gaylord the Saturday before Father's Day. Everyone is welcome to attend!

A few notable events are the 'Think First' educational program, which runs through the school year. This program which is also supported by Gaylord serves to educate people about and prevent SCI. It is available for students as young as Kindergarten to college seniors. Additionally, we fund Powerful Tools for Care Givers, a self-care education program, which helps support family members and personal caregivers of SCI individuals and others affected by caregiving duties in Connecticut.

In addition, the SCIACT worked with Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital to support the Connecticut Adaptive Rowing Program. This program has expanded in volunteers and participants every year since its inception. The season concludes with the only state adaptive rowing race. The next season is right around the corner!

Finally, our Peer Assistance program works with acute care rehabilitation centers to connect with people that are newly injured and with the SCI community in CT. We are proud of our peers and the work they do to share experiences and meet with people during some of the most difficult times after a SCI and throughout their lives.

The SCIACT continues to expand the Quality of Life Grant program it started eight years ago. Even though it is a small amount, with the dedication of the committee, the number of recipients continues to increase on an annual basis. Among other requests, we have provided funding for wheelchair equipment, education costs, and a variety of assistive technology, home, and vehicle modifications.

Our focus continues to educate, advocate, and support those with SCI and their families while also communicating to the public at large about the effects of SCI. SCI is exactly that, a spinal cord injury that has huge ramifications to one's daily life. With acceptance and hope, the SCIACT strives to improve the quality of life of its members. On behalf the Board of Directors I would like to thank everyone for their continued enthusiastic support of the Twilight Gala and our Chapter's work throughout the year.

*Bill Mancini*

President

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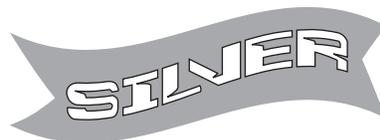


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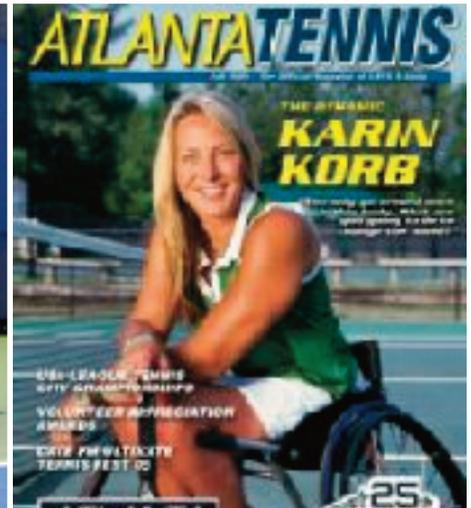
Dr. Matthew Raymond

# MESSAGE FROM THE GUEST SPEAKER

## Karin Korb

Being a hero is a multi-faceted entity. After all, many of us today are heroes in our own unique way. However, what or who is a true hero? We commonly associate a hero with the traits of bravery, mental fortitude, determination, resilience, and intelligence. Well, today we welcome someone to this gala who embodies all those traits and then some. Meet Karin Korb, a former professional women's wheelchair tennis player. While Karin ended up pursuing a career around the game of tennis, she didn't always want to do so. However, when tragedy struck early on, she was almost forced to give up a career in sports entirely. Karin broke her back in a gymnastics accident, leaving her paralyzed from the waist down at the age of 17. Instead of letting her disability bring her down, Karin has been able to use it to aid one of her many passions of "how can we best represent the vision of inclusivity and most importantly, global respect" as she states it.

Karin today holds many wheelchair tennis accolades. She is a 2-time Paralympian and 10 time member of the USA World Team, the first disabled athlete to receive a scholarship to play in the Division 1 wheelchair tennis program at Georgia State University, competing in intercollegiate tennis, and has helped many other universities develop and maintain their own wheelchair tennis programs. In addition, she was selected to be the coach of the USA's Junior Wheelchair Tennis World Team and eventually coached them into competing at the international level where they now stand as the best in the world at number ONE!



It is no surprise that Karin is also the youngest to ever be inducted into the Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame and is the only to have done so with a disability. This is yet another example of how Karin has used her passion for the sport to form an unyielding commitment towards fostering and growing the sport of tennis to whoever wants to enjoy it. Possibly one of Karin's greatest honors was receiving the acclaimed "Golden Brick" in front of Arthur Ashe's Stadium in Randy Snow's neighborhood. Humility is a quality that few possess, and Karin is one of those individuals. When asked about receiving her very own "Golden Brick," Karin humbly replied "Well, that brick is cute and everything and an amazing gift to my heart, however, it reminds me to continue building the legacy that the infamous Randy Snow started and that requires a whole lot of love for tennis, sport and humanity."





Karin served on the coveted U.S. Olympic Committee and U.S. Paralympics Athletes Advisory Council for eight years representing seven sports which included Tennis, Table Tennis, Shooting, Archery, Equestrian, Powerlifting and Canoe/Kayak. She is currently heavily involved as a member on the City of Birmingham's Social Justice Committee as well as the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program's PADD (Protection and Advocacy of Persons with Developmental Disabilities) Advisory Council. She has made it her mission to make not only tennis, but all sports, inclusive of all people, no matter their background.

Karin's two-decade career in policy and advocacy has left a permanent imprint on the world. She has worked with Lakeshore Foundation

Lima Foxtrot Military program since its founding and is currently their Policy and Public Affairs Coordinator. In this role she runs the Lakeshore Foundation's Leadership and Mentorship Program, the Women and Girls with Disability Summit, the Durable Medical Equipment research initiative and is the coordinator for the Global Sports Mentorship Program, partnering with many organizations such as but not limited to the University of Tennessee's Department of Sport, Peace and Society and the U.S. State Department. Karin's colleagues often say that her unrelenting love of humanity is "contagious" and her inspiring enthusiasm for the game of tennis and a honorary life we'll leave you with only one thing to ask: "What can I play and how can I get involved?" Korb refers to herself as a simple means for service to and for others; "everything beyond that is a bonus." Karin also repeatedly refers to her "tips for success: look at each day as a whole new adventure, constantly challenge and push yourself, and make an effort to get out of your "comfort zone, and finally, to stay positive; forgive yourself your mistakes and move on."

Karin received an undergraduate degree in Public Administration from Kean University and a Masters of Sports Management from Georgia State University. She is a certified life coach with the International Coaches Federation and brings a highly diverse palette to the table having worked with local, national, and international clients of many organizations to create ongoing opportunities to make sports all-inclusive. Most recently, Karin made great strides in sports diplomacy with the U.S. State Department and the International Tennis Federation Development Fund. She has traveled to Trinidad and Tobago, Germany, Colombia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania to achieve her goal on a global scale.



If she is not working on a grant submission or immersed in programming, you will find Karin meditating at the Shambhala Center where she is focused on Pranic healing and finding inner peace to deepen her practice. You can often hear her saying: "Listen people, we must also do the bicep curls for our minds!" She is currently working on her MBSR certification (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction) and heavily supports integrative medicine, palliative and dignified end of life hospice care. Knowing her ageless work ethic, this list of accolades probably is not finished yet. She has her eyes on the pulse of humanity and "how can we best represent the vision of inclusivity and most importantly, global respect." All things considered, Karin Korb represents all that it is to be a hero, and so much more and we are honored to welcome her to this year's gala!

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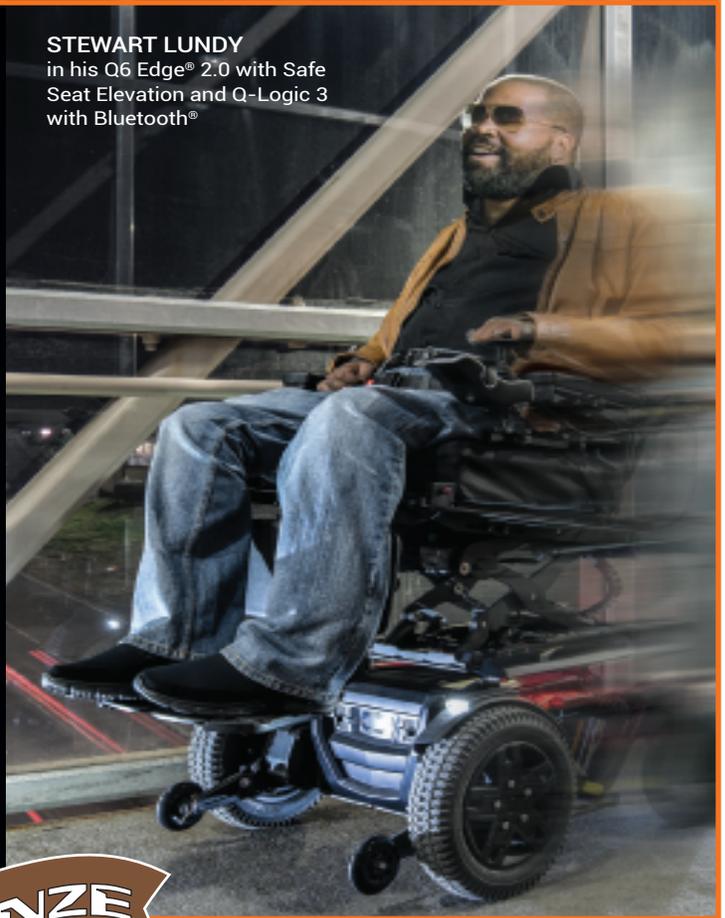


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