A Message from the Program Director
Lisa Steinkamp, PT, MS, MBA

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have been waiting to release it until we could firm up details for our Alumni Reunion at the Combined Sections Meeting in Chicago February 10, 2012. Please see page 8 for more information on how you can connect with faculty and fellow alumni. This event will replace our annual Visiting Lecturer event, which was very successful last year with Don Neumann, PT, PhD, FAPTA’s lecture on “The Hip Joint: Kinesiology, Physical Therapy Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Musculoskeletal Impairments for the Physical Therapist,” in combination with a lab run by faculty members Jill Thein, DSc, MPT, SCS, ATC and Colleen Cobey, PT, MS, FAAOMPT. This newsletter is particularly long due to the number of features that I hope give you insight into the types of activities in which our students are involved. I am constantly amazed at how much students do above and beyond matriculating through a rigorous curriculum. Professionally, they attend Combined Sections Meetings, WPTA conferences, and Legislative Days (and this year—the Student Conclave). They organize fundraisers for various causes, such as Bucky’s Race for Rehab to support MEDiC, and last year’s Emergency Response Course with Dr. Danny Smith, to raise funds for the Marquette Challenge. Some new activities include Habitat for Humanity; assisting in a local health club’s Parkinson’s Wellness Class; and providing blood pressure screens, fall assessments, upper extremity strength assessments, home safety screens, cognitive screens, heartburn awareness, and pneumonia screens to residents at Capitol Lake Retirement Center in Madison with nursing, pharmacy and OT students. One of the quotes I try to live by is Lao-Tse’s “A leader is best when people barely know he exists.” I find this quote exemplifies our students as they work behind the scenes to improve the lives of so many.

There seems to be no better way to sign off than with the following logo!

DPT Faculty and Students’ Trip to Uganda

Faculty members Karen Patterson and Colleen Cobey accompanied 8 students to Uganda in May for a 3-week internship and service learning experience in the city of Kampala and the village of Nkokonjeru.

During the first and third weeks, DPT students worked with staff physiotherapists at Mulago Hospital in different wards and in the outpatient clinic. Students were able to assess and treat patients under the supervision of Ugandan Physiotherapists and/or UW faculty and were able to interact and learn from Makerere University physiotherapy students who were on their internships. Program faculty also provided educational sessions for the Mulago University Physiotherapy staff on Cerebral Palsy and screening for orthopedic patients.

During the second week, faculty and students traveled to Nkokonjeru, where they worked at Providence Home, provided elder care, and conducted home visits. Providence Home is a residence for children and elderly people with disabilities. It employs one occupational therapist named Nelson who also sees children with disabilities from the village. DPT students were able to work with children at Providence home and go on home visits with Nelson (continued on page 2).
Student News

Trip to Uganda (from cover page)

and UW faculty. DPT students brought funds for materials to build new safety rails for the children's toilets. Nelson emailed us that the bathroom rails have all been installed and have made a huge difference for the children.

Most students brought at least one suitcase of donations for local hospitals, clinics and community organizations. We would like to thank the following groups for their contributions:

- Funds donated by the Wisconsin PT Association and WPTA Southwest District were used to purchase stethoscopes, gloves, tuning forks, reflex hammers, goniometers, theraband, medical charts, medical books on PT, and gait belts for the Mulago Hospital PT staff and department.
- Funds provided by UW-Madison DPT students were donated to Providence Home for the supplies and labor used to build safety rails for all the toilets. Also purchased were children's clothing, school supplies, toys, theraband and medical books.
- The Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired provided canes to children and adults in Nkondonjeru and Mulago Hospital.
- Trevor Stewart, son of Wendy Stewart, a local Pediatric PT, created "Futbol for Uganda" and collected soccer balls and pumps from local soccer teams for children at Providence Home in Nkondonjeru.


And welcome to the new Class of 2012: Eric Bader, Robert Baumeister, Marie Boo, Theresa Brokaw, Sara Carney, Nicholas Conte, Georgia Corner, Kaela Erickson, Alyssa French, Allison Gabrielson, Chelea Gilberton, Grace Grogan, Anna Hagens, Sarah Hobbs, Paul Jones, Kayla Kaschinske, Lindsay Donath, Michelle Konder, Tyler Krausert, Brittany Malin, Stephen Malvitz, Kara Mathys, Adam Nell, Thuan Ngo, Brenna O'Hallorann, Amy Pearce, Lisa Phillips, Steven Portz, Lori Puchalski, Andrew Sandgren, Sarah Schachtie, Lindsay Schaefer, Erica Schiltz, Emily Schumacher, Kyle Sirek, Jaclyn Spees, Jessica Tripp, Megan Velman, Hyacinth Wallace, and Samuel Wernberg.

The new Class of 2012 Phi Theta Student Organization officers are as follows:
- President: David Lippi-Guerron, lippiguerron@wisc.edu
- Vice President: Sara Ossanna, ossanna@wisc.edu
- Secretary: Kelsey Steinhorst, steinhorst@wisc.edu
- Treasurer: Nicole Daehn, daehn@wisc.edu
- Public Relations: Carrie Deniel, deniel@wisc.edu

MDC officers are as follows:
- Coordinator: Ryan Schouweiler, rschouweiler@wisc.edu
- Southside Clinic: Janelle Burnham, jeburnham@wisc.edu
- Salvation Army/Grace Clinic: Shelby Johnson, snjohnson6@wisc.edu

2011 Scholarship Recipients

Margaret Kohli Scholarship: Jennifer Werwie
Amelia Doyon Scholarship: Kristi Johnson
Barbara Ellen Gerich-Hoeveyzer Scholarship: Betty Donlan
Caroline, Clara, Charles and Mildred Harper Scholarship: Mirinda Beck, Nicole Daehn
UW Physical Therapy Alumni Scholarship: Sarah Polenska, Ryan Schouweiler, Kelsey Steinhorst, Joseph Collins

Physical Therapy Student Scholarship: Janelle Burnham

Joe Collins won the WPTA poster award for Clinical Research. Mick Murphy won the WPTA Cris Crivello award.

Jennifer Werwie is slated as a candidate for the Student Assembly Nominating Committee. The elections will occur in October at National Student Conclave in Minneapolis, MN.

Jennifer Werwie and Kari Martin are involved in a student leadership core that is creating a PT Student Special Interest Group for the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association.

Jennifer Werwie and Susan Frikken served as students representatives on the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association Communications Task Force. Faculty members Evan Nelson and Reenie Euhardy were also involved in this task force.

Courtney Wilder completed her MCH Lend Leadership training with a presentation on her project entitled “Identifying Therapeutic Value in Child and Family Friendly Activities.”

UW-Madison Body Donor Program Recognizes Donors in Memorial Ceremony

Each year, students of the various programs of UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health — including medical, occupational (OT) and physical therapy (PT), nursing, and physician assistant (PA) — benefit from one of a dwindling number of university courses in gross anatomy (anatomy at the macroscopic level). We learn by dissecting human cadavers.

The UW-Madison has had a body donor program in place since 1904 when Charles Bardeen left Johns Hopkins University to start the medical school here. At that time, bodies from inmates of prisons, institutions for those with developmental disabilities, and other “unclaimed” bodies were used. In 1968 the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act became law. Under subsequent revisions, it allows and governs the ethical donation of cadavers for medical dissection as well as organs for transplant. Currently, 20 states have such laws in place.

Dr. Edward Bersu, professor of gross anatomy — and a perennial favorite of students — has been the director of the Body Donor Program at UW for the last four years.

He notes that the gross anatomy offering is one of the few remaining in the country still working with cadavers. Increased costs of running these programs are forcing many institutions to stop using body donations.

He often hears from past students who tell him how beneficial gross lab was to their deep understanding of their work with the human body.

On April 16, 2011 at the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC), an annual remembrance ceremony was held in honor of those across Wisconsin who had donated their bodies to the Body Donor Program. This event has been held for almost a decade, started by medical students who desired to honor and thank those who voluntarily gave of themselves to further our learning.

Approximately 300 hundred family members and friends of donors attended. Many shared photos and written memories which were made into a memorial slide show and collages on display throughout the event.

One such honoree is Rev. Kathy Thompson.* Ms. Thompson now lives vividly in the hearts of those in attendance. This ceremony allowed us to know her. Her husband, Rev. Bob Thompson, and a small crowd of family and friends from across the region came to remember her. He shared stories of her light and life, offering memories, photos and the history of their ministry, Bumpity Road [http://bumpityroad.org/].

Dr. Bersu’s anatomy courses are full of good humor and quotable moments; he makes learning dense material a joy. However, he introduces the gross anatomy lab by setting high expectations of respect for the lives that have been given for our benefit.

Because I hope to make the most of my life in all ways, I am a UW-Madison body donor. I also know firsthand as a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) student how powerful this gift is.

There is no better way to understand the structure of the human body than to engage with it. We students learn to interview, palpate and examine living people, in healthy and in altered conditions. We study anatomical texts and drawings. Careful and guided dissection of a human cadaver deepens this learning in countless ways: We feel tough thoracolumbar fascia, seemingly indestructible, watch it change in quality as it courses over and through the body. We observe the multiple, distinct yet unified muscle bundles packed tightly within the forearm. Some bodies have anomalies such as extra or missing nerve bundles, absent or vestigial muscles; they vary in size from person to person and even within the same person. The powerful central highway of the spinal cord is so much tinier than we imagined.

We can see the effect that time has had on bones, and consider the challenges that bodies have endured: Leg veins have been removed and repurposed into cardiac vessels. Shiny metal drug ports nestle among soft tissues, looking alien. Cancer adheres a lung to a thoracic wall, the nearby brittle rib breaks too easily as it is shifted. Hearts have ruptured.

My first wish is to be an organ donor, but if my organs are not viable, I hope to benefit future health care professionals by being of assistance in their learning with my body donation. The process was quick, clear and easy.

If you would like to make body donation part of your plans, simply contact the UW Body Donor Program (contact information is available at the end of this article), administered by the Department of Neuroscience. The form takes minutes to complete and requires no special information.

* Reverends Kathy and Bob Thompson.
It is recommended that family members are made aware of your indicated donation, as they would be made aware of your other wishes.

We health sciences students are grateful for the opportunity to learn so deeply, to discover what we have in common, as well as what is unique to each of us. Thank you to donors, past and present.

Below, words from students involved in Dr. Bersu’s program and the Body Donor Ceremony:

“Anatomy lab was something I’ll remember for years to come. The gift that the body donors gave us as students was not only an incredible learning experience but in a broader sense placed value on knowledge. And with that knowledge, their gift will continue to give.” - Shannon, OT student

“The most valuable gift you could give to science and the helping profession--words cannot express how much I have learned from this experience.” - Brooke, OT student

“My experience…in anatomy lab is one I will never forget...Many programs have turned towards digital representations of human dissection which simply does not do our unique bodies justice. The opportunity provided by the Body Donor Program will go a long way in helping my career as a physical therapist.” - David, DPT student

“Body donation is a gift that reaches far beyond the scope of our classrooms. By giving our future doctors, PA’s, and therapists real insight into the mechanisms of the human body, countless patients’ lives will be touched as well.” - Sara, DPT student

“…When these individuals chose to donate their bodies to our program, they committed one of the most selfless acts...They don’t know our names, they don’t know our faces—but they do know our aspirations...to help people in need, and give back to society. We cannot thank [them] enough for the knowledge [they] have given us, and one thing is certain—[their] gift will last forever.” - William, DPT student

“I constantly thought about how lucky we were to have the opportunity to learn from real human anatomy. I am so thankful that others were so selfless to donate their bodies for the purpose of higher learning. We all learned so much from their gift and will be better therapists for it!” - Anonymous DPT student

“We will forever be grateful for the gift your loved ones have given us. They have given us a deep medical knowledge of the human body that will serve as a foundation for all of our future academic endeavors. Not only has their gift greatly advanced our medical knowledge, but it will also affect the lives of our future patients.” - Liz, Medical student

“As health science students, we have had the extreme privilege to see what many people have not seen or will never see...There is no substitute for this experience...Learning from your loved ones has also been a lesson and a reminder in selflessness...As a future physician, I hope I can carry that spirit and attitude with me, wanting to do good things, without [anybody] ever really knowing. That way, I know my heart is in the right place, similar to your loved ones.” - Istiaq, Medical student

“…Our anatomy cadaver lab presented me with an incredible opportunity to witness firsthand the miraculous design of the human body. My perspective is forever changed by the hours I spent studying my cadaver and I am confident that I will be a more skilled OT because of it. Thank you to the families that so generously and unselfishly donated the bodies of their loved ones to UW. Without you, I would have never experienced the extraordinary beauty of the spinal cord and the amazing human body that surrounds it.” – Vanessa - OT student

“I have been fascinated by the subject of anatomy since my first class in high school. I remember the sense of wonderment at the discovery of the world that lies beneath our skin. Until then, the body had been like a black box of mysteries—it had never occurred to me that there could be such structures as nerves coursing underneath. The dissection portion of Anatomy was a profound and enlightening experience...Models and two-dimensional pictures shed some light on the spatial relationships, but in performing the dissection, I gained a much deeper understanding of these than I ever could have from books alone...I had always imagined the nerves to be delicate, web-like structures, and it left such an impression on me.” - Sarah, DPT student

Contact Information:
UW-Madison Body Donor Program
Sends out forms to individuals who wish to donate their bodies. Only an entire body is accepted (must be an intact body, not parts). Will accept bodies without eyes. Bodies are kept up to two years and are used or educational purposes, not research. Advance registration is required. Acceptance of a donor body at time of death is based on physical condition.
After use, body is cremated at university expense. Ashes will be sent back to the family if requested.

Email: jgavigan@wisc.edu
Phone: (608) 262-2888 Body Donor Program - Jackie Ferguson
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Address: 1290f Medical Science Center
1300 University Ave
Madison, WI 53706-1572
Website: www.anatomy.wisc.edu/bodydonationprogram

*This story shared with permission of Rev. Bob Thompson, O.M.C.
Story: Susan Frikken, DPT student
Photos: Jamie Kallan, Medical student
PT 600-Service Learning in Physical Therapy 2011-2012 Projects

The class of 2012 have now completed their 9-month long service-learning projects. The projects are truly amazing so we thought you might like to see what they have been up to! As highlighted in past newsletters, 10 students went to Punta Gorda, Belize and worked with multiple community partners on projects that included direct patient care, disability sensitivity training for elementary and high-school students, a community health fair, soccer injury-prevention clinics and ramp building to enhance accessibility for individuals in the community. The remainder of the class worked with local community agencies. They planned the projects in the fall semester, executed them in the spring and reported on them in the summer semester. The following is a brief synopsis of each project.

• AgrAbility: The students surveyed a random group of therapists in Wisconsin to determine the need for better visibility for the work this organization provides to injured farmers. They then developed a promotional brochure for therapists. Their work was showcased in an on-line PT newsletter. Check it out @ http://www.cyberpt.com/agrability.asp

• Healthy Classrooms: Students assisted this organization in developing an extensive resource list of grant opportunities, project assistance and agency assistance for the educators that attended the Healthy Classroom Symposium this past spring. The organization is dedicated to facilitating health and wellness in the schools by partnering with educators in the area.

• Madison Senior Center: This group of students developed print materials and exercise posters to allow for individual “Gentle Exercise” routines for the seniors who visit the Center. They participated in a kick-off event. The Center had space for exercise, but needed assistance in designing materials for participants.

• Special Olympics Wisconsin-Ergonomic project: SOWI asked if our students could assist them in assessing their new workspaces from an ergonomic perspective. The students met with over 15 employees, assessed their concerns and spaces and made formal recommendations to SOWI. The employees were thrilled and the students learned a lot!

• Special Olympics Wisconsin-Health Eating project: These students designed a user-friendly cookbook for the athletes and gave them away at a booth at a SOWI event. They met with individual athletes to discuss healthy eating and exercise and promoted nutritional snacks at the booth. The athletes and their families were very grateful!

• Three Gaits Inc: This equestrian center provides both Hippotherapy and Therapeutic riding for children with a wide range of disabilities. What is the difference, you ask? Well, that’s exactly what led to this project! The students developed a webpage for the organization that explains the differences based on current research and philosophy in the field. You can see the webpage at: http://www.3gaits.org/hippotherapy.htm#different

• We Can Row: We Can Row is an organization dedicated to promotion of health and recovery opportunities for cancer survivors (particularly breast cancer survivors). Women participate in rowing activity and regular exercise. The students were asked to design an exercise program and brochure for participants. They fielded the program during the winter months with WCR participants. This allowed for modifications before the brochure went to print.

As you can see, the projects were varied and impressive! As usual, the community partners were pleased, grateful for the time and efforts and our students indicated in their reflection papers that a lot of learning went along with the services they performed.
DPT Students Work with IRONMAN Participants

Over the course of the past year, you may have noticed members of Madison’s police, fire, FBI, and active military around town — no, not in uniform, but on the streets, bike paths, and lakes of Madison. Many have begun training for the city’s yearly Ironman competition to be held on September 11th. In honor of the 10-year anniversary of the September 11th attacks, the Ironman committee withheld spots for the servicemen and women of Madison to compete, with the stipulation that they raise money for their favorite charity.

As many of the participants found out, it requires a huge time commitment and takes a toll both mentally and physically, the latter becoming a barrier to their training. Enter Jennifer Doster, DPT of UW-Health. With a passion for helping patients, and a background in athletics, she spearheaded a movement to help these servicemen/women make it to the starting line. After seeing a few patients on her own, she decided that she needed help, and thought it would be a great opportunity to present to students in UW-Madison’s DPT program. Both Joe Collins and Will Hartmann had been students under Jen during various internships, and jumped at the opportunity to help. All of the group’s work was pro-bono, their contribution being indirectly linked with the participant’s donations to their charity foundations. To date, the participants have raised over 20,000 dollars. Here’s what Joe and Will had to say about their experiences.

“Young with these athletes has been a special experience. Up until this point I have not had the chance to see a patient from start to finish, and my experience in working with athletes has been limited. This opportunity has opened my eyes to the intricacies of patient management and care. Discontinuing their training wasn’t an option, but altering it so their injuries had a chance to heal was. While the participants will say the relationship was largely one-sided, they will never know how much knowledge and confidence an experience like this has given me. For that I say thank-you to the participants, and to Jen and Joe for making each day a fun and valuable learning experience.” (Will)

“I am very excited that I had the opportunity to work with Ironman participants this summer. These servicemen and women go out there everyday and protect us, and it was a pleasure to give back to them. I still can’t believe the number of athletes that we got to the starting line; it seemed like every time we treated an athlete I would get an email from Jen a week later saying they were feeling great. It was a very interesting experience in that this group of athletes were extremely motivated to complete a race they had been training for, for years. I have never worked with a group of people who were so invested in their health and I saw first hand that going all in means that you get better. Overall, this experience was extremely rewarding. I received a plethora of knowledge from our mentor, Jen, and I gained invaluable experience treating athletes in an independent environment. On top of that, I was able to use my expertise to provide a service to a group of athletes that are giving back to the community in memory of a national tragedy. I am a better student, physical therapist and person because of this opportunity.” (Joe)

Based on these testimonials, it is evident that this experience was a positive one for everyone involved. As a group they saw roughly 10 patients and out of that contingent only one had to drop out due to an undisclosed injury. They will have accomplished their goal of successfully getting the other participants to the starting line, now it’s their job to finish the race.

(Written by Joe Collins and Will Hartmann)

Wisconsin’s Tough Mudder Event in July

Eleven PT students participated in Wisconsin’s Tough Mudder Event this summer on July 23rd, which is an approximately 10 mile-long obstacle course. Upon making it to the finish line, you earn the “prize” orange sweatband we are all wearing in the photo! We also all had custom-made T-shirts with Krista Ryan’s photo printed on them saying “I am inspired by Krista Ryan - tough times never last, but tough people do.” (Krista sustained a head injury while on her clinical rotation in January.) This day was particularly memorable for us because even though Krista hadn’t planned on participating, she had a last-second change of heart and actually completed the event with us!” (Written by Miranda Beck)

(Written by Miranda Beck)
Jill Boissonnault, PT, PhD received the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) International Service Award. This award is given to individuals who have made a great contribution internationally to the physical therapy profession. Dr. Boissonnault received the award at WCPT Congress in Amsterdam in June, where she did a platform presentation on the ECHOWS research (development and validation of a assessment tool for patient interviewing skill) and attended the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women’s Health Business meeting as a delegate of the APTA Section on Women’s Health. Jill has taught ethic courses at Agnesian Health Center in Fond du Lac, Dean East in Madison, and at Wheaton Franciscan Hospital in Wauwatosa. This licensure cycle’s course is entitled “Health Literacy, the Ethics of Making Ourselves Understood.” Upcoming courses are at Bay Care Medical Center, Green Bay on October 17th from 3:00-7:00 pm and at Meriter Hospital on February 20th, 2012 from 4:00-8:00 pm. These courses are free of charge and open to PTs who work at sites that offer our students internship placements. If you are interested in registering, please contact Lisa Levy: levy@pt.wisc.edu.

William G. Boissonnault, DPT, DHSc and Mary Beth Badke, PT, PhD (BS-1975, PhD-1999) were awarded the American Physical Therapy Association Jack Walker Award. This award acknowledges primary authors of a paper that makes an important contribution to clinical practice and provides information to assist others in delivering physical therapy services. Drs. Boissonnault and Badke are the first authors of “Pursuit and Implementation of Hospital-Based Outpatient Direct Access to Physical Therapy Services: An Administrative Case Report” (Phys Ther 2010, 90 100-109). This is the first publication describing the development and implementation of a direct-access patient-care delivery model in a large academic medical center. Bill has recently presented on Direct Access Practice Models and Medical Screening at the World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress in Amsterdam and Siena Italy; at Medical University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee-Memphis, and Columbia University; and at the Iowa PT Association’s Spring Conference.

Stacey Brickson, PT, PhD recently submitted two abstracts to the Orthopedic Research Society for the upcoming Annual Conference this fall. The first abstract, “Method for Creating a Clinically Relevant Standardized Single Stretch Injury in Mice” was submitted by her graduate student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Adam Pala. The second abstract entitled, “Effect of Moderate and High Intensity Exercise on Osteoarthritis in Tibial Articular Cartilage of Senescent Rats” is part of a multi-disciplinary study with Dr. Gary Diffie in the Department of Kinesiology. Stacey is a co-author on a third abstract from this study submitted to the Biomedical Engineering Society, “Effect of age and exercise on the viscoelastic properties of rat tail tendon.” Stacey recently received a departmental grant to study “The Effect of Mesenchymal Stem Cells and Suramin on Single Stretch Skeletal Muscle Injury in Mice.” Stacey had the fortune this summer to spend several weeks volunteering in various departments, including Inpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation, Preventative Cardiology and the Medical/Surgery unit at the UW Hospital. She is grateful to all of the clinicians who donated their time to help update her cardiovascular and pulmonary clinical skills in order to more effectively teach students.

Students in Bryan Heiderscheit, PT, PhD’s lab presented their research at various national meetings, including Combined Sections Meeting, APTA, American College of Sports Medicine, and International Society for Clinical Densitometry. Bryan was an invited presenter and panelist at the III International Neuromusculoskeletal & Sports Rehabilitation Congress held in Vitoria, Brazil. He was also the keynote speaker at the 2011 Running Medicine Conference at the University of Virginia. He presented on running injury management at the Arizona Physical Therapy Association spring meeting, as well as for various private practice and hospital groups in Portland, ME, Ann Arbor, MI and Portland, OR. Bryan is the editor of new JOSPT addition: “Point Counter Point.” He has been working on a Performance Lab in the new Student Athletic Performance Center, which is being built in the McClain Athletic Facility.

Barb Morgan, PT, PhD, Emeritus Professor, received a $2.1M 3-year grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute with her colleague Dr. John Dopp, an Assistant Professor in the School of Pharmacy. The purpose of this grant is to study the mechanisms underlying the cardiovascular consequences of sleep apnea.

Evan Nelson, DPT achieved the distinction of Orthopedic Certified Specialist from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

Mary Sesto, PT, PhD and her collaborators were awarded a $600,000, 3-year grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to investigate the effectiveness of a patient-centered, web-based, decision-support tool to minimize work disability in breast cancer survivors. Dr. Sesto is also a co-investigator on a $30,000, 1-year grant, awarded to Dr. Amye Tevaarwerk from the Centers of Excellence in Cancer Communication Research, to investigate a pilot tool for creating treatment summaries for breast cancer survivors. The following Proceeding papers were presented at the Human Factors and Ergonomics Conference:


A web tool developed by Dr. Sesto and her collaborators was a featured story on the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society’s web page. The tool allows breast cancer survivors to receive tailored recommendations for ergonomic changes they can make to their workplaces, based on their symptoms and long-term side effects.

Sue Wenker, PT, MS, GCS was selected as a Fellow and inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Madison Teaching Academy. Sue and faculty member Kristi Hallisy, PT, MS, OCS are on the Health Sciences Teaching Symposium and UW Teaching Academy Winter Retreat Committee. Sue is also the APTA Geriatric Section Co-Chair. She was recently the keynote speaker at The Healthiest Manitowoc County 2020: 2011 Fall Focus on Safe and Healthy Living, sponsored by the Manitowoc County Health Department and the Aging and Disability Resource Center, along with medical providers in the community. In addition, Sue wants to mention that students have completed their site selections for 2012 — thank you to all of the Clinical Instructors who educate our students!
Faculty Publications


*Elizabeth Chumanov is a third-year DPT student.

Upcoming Events

Physical Therapy Program Alumni Coalition Inaugural Reception

Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association

Friday, February 10th, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Join us for the launch of this new organization! Come gather and meet fellow UW-Madison PT Program graduates. Reminisce about your UW-Madison experience. Learn more about this group, and future plans and events. Discover the impact of UW-Madison graduates on the profession. Learn about exciting student and faculty activities!

Hors d’oeuvres to be served, and cash bar available. Please check Combined Sections Meeting program regarding specific location and room.

We look forward to seeing you there!

New Fund Established

Gertrude M. Wilkinson, Class of 1938, left the Program $400,000! Gertrude, 95, passed away July 2, 2010, in Clearwater, Florida. She was a licensed physical therapist in Wisconsin from 1954 until 1977, working at Howe School and Sullivan School in Green Bay. Her obituary highlighted the numerous children with disabilities that she helped. A memorial service was held at Regency Oak retirement facility on July 7, 2010, and at Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst, Illinois on July 14, 2010. Gertrude passed away without any next of kin; if you know anything about her, please contact us. We will use this endowment to generate scholarships for our global outreach and the PhD in Clinical Investigation.

Welcome JoAnn Steinich! Pat was hard to replace but we got lucky when we found JoAnn Steinich. We have worked with JoAnn for years in her role as Student Status Examiner in the School of Medicine and Public Health. We were overjoyed when we were able to bring her on-site!


Alumni Updates


Kris Jensen (1976) retired from UWHC after 32 years—most as the Manager of the Sports Rehabilitation Clinic. She is now the Program Director for WAGS (Wisconsin Academy for Graduate Service Dogs).

David Nissenbaum (1999) was featured in the Wall Street Journal on March 11, 2011 for his work with the New York Jets’ Jim Leonhard using an anti-gravity treadmill. The article was entitled “A Space-Age Powered Comeback. An Anti-Gravity Treadmill Has Jets’ Leonhard Four Weeks Ahead of His Rehabilitation Schedule.”


Jay Halminiak (2005) won an Oneida County Service award and presented at the WPTA Spring Conference.

Sarah Lindquist (2005) started a non-profit called Onevillage, whose mission is “to promote community development in a global landscape through education, health, infrastructure, and economic assistance.” Onevillage promotes global development through individual community empowerment in underdeveloped countries around the world. Sarah’s first initiative will be focused in the small village of Kpando in Ghana. Please visit the website at Onevillageglobal.org for more information.

From Jenn Sewall (2006): “Hope all is well in Madison, WI these days. I’m still working at Howard Head Sports Medicine in the Vail Valley area in CO. I just returned from a mission trip to Honduras! I was working in a school for special needs children and others were tutoring some children in an Episcopal school called Holy Trinity. We took a trip to the PT clinic there, and I saw a set of parallel bars with the Flying W on the base board! That same day, we visited one of my patient’s homes at the orphanage, and there I saw one of the boys wearing a Wisconsin Badgers tank top! I’m planning on going back there next year, but if UW PT is going back as well, I’d love to tag along!” (Ironically, we are working with the Engineering students who built these parallel bars and planning a trip to Honduras in the spring—more on that in the next newsletter.)

Christy (Birkholz) Kriel (2010) writes, “I now live out in Prairie du Sac with my husband Tony and my Boxer Ginger. I am working at St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo, WI. I am doing a mix of inpatient and outpatient. I work with another past UW-Madison PT graduate, Holly Floerke (2007) and Mike Coller (2010) just started working with me last week. Things are very busy and I have learned a lot since starting there this past July.”

Kerry Finnegan (2010) writes that she is licensed and employed (YAY!!!) at Kaiser Permanente in Redwood City, CA as a 65% inpatient therapist and 35% outpatient; it is a neuroscience center for excellence but they also want to restart a pediatric clinic. She states, “I feel so fortunate to find a job in this economy and at such a great company that promotes autonomous practice and evidence based practice!”

From Heather Watter (2011): “My CI and I had the opportunity to go on a medical mission trip for a week to Ensenada, Mexico during my final internship, along with a group of nurse practitioner students from Concordia University. Together we set up a free clinic every day in different areas of Ensenada. Our therapy station within the clinic usually consisted of a folding table, a couple of chairs, and a bag of donated orthopedic braces. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve ever had! This is a picture of me with a little girl at one of the more rural clinic sites.”

A Wedding!

Zac Lefel and Kristen Everett (both from the Class of 2010) were married October 1! Zac is in the UW Health/Meriter Hospital Orthopedic residency program. Kristin is working in Madison at the Oak Park Place Skilled Nursing Facility and “loving it.”

Sara and Nick Sawyer (both from the Class of 2008) welcomed twins, Apolinary “Pauly” James and Estella “Stella” Sue.

Which leads us to the following babies who attended our recent Baby Lab…

From Beth Kille (Class of 1999 and Madison Area Music Awards 2011 Artist of the Year) brought her baby, Gus.


Students who had babies while in the Program this year (!): Liz Chumanov (2012) welcomed Marcus James Chumanov.


In Memorium

Marilla Fuge (1933) passed away on March 7, 2011. She was 100 years old. At left is a photo of Marilla at our alumni reunion in 2009. Thanks to her daughter, who brought Marilla to the reunion and shared her life history with us.
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PT students checking out radiographs.

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