



InTouch

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER • FALL 2024

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A Message from the Program Director

Dr. Susan Wenker



Greetings Alumni and Friends,

Happy end of summer to all! I am excited to share this version of InTouch with you which includes an updated feel. The Program continues to thrive amongst many challenges: time to conferred degree, increasing number of DPT programs opening across the nation, and limited clinical education placements due to a number of factors. Therefore, faculty decided to dedicate sections of upcoming newsletters with a specific topic. This late summer newsletter focuses on the admissions process and what the Program is doing to not only sustain the viability of the program in graduating students prepared to serve WI and beyond, but to also stay on the cutting edge of physical therapy education.

In this InTouch, you will learn about the evolution of the admissions process. Through interviews with **Amy Schubert** (admissions director), **Reenie Euhardy** (past admissions director), **Lisa Steinkamp** (prior DPT program director), **Lisa Levy** and **Deonna Suiter** (admission staff), and **Dobby Stucki** (DPT lecturer), a snapshot into this evolution is provided. Additionally, in this edition, student accomplishments and scholarship recipients are shared. Faculty updates close out the newsletter with a few highlights from this past year

The Program continues to be blessed with a strong village of supporters, from alumni to community partners. We could not be successful without all of you!

Find-a-duck

Onsite, in the DPT Program, we are playing a game we call "find-a-duck" that started with Liz Lansik, DPT-3. Liz hid ducks for almost a year before she was identified as the "ducker" and, as she moved on to internships, has since left the game in good hands with current DPT students. We would like to spread the fun to all of you and, starting with this "InTouch", a duck will be hidden in the newsletter for you to find! Once you find the duck, you are encouraged to put your name in a drawing to receive UW Madison DPT swag. To submit your information, click on this [link](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XaoygSEf1rq2fY) (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XaoygSEf1rq2fY) to provide your name, mailing address, and where the duck was located in the newsletter. Submit your information by October 1, 2024 and three names will be drawn by October 8, 2024. Winners' first name and last initial will be announced in the next InTouch newsletter. We wish you luck in your duck hunt!

KUDOS!

Congratulations to **Dr. Colleen Cobey** for earning her Doctor of Science in Health Sciences from the University of Indianapolis in December 2023!

Dr. Dobby Stucki is recognized as an APTA-Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist.

Dr. Jen Doster completed her Fellowship in Pain Science and **Dr. Michael Cropes** completed his Fellowship in Advanced Orthopedic Physical Therapy Practice.

Dr. Jill Thein-Nissenbaum was awarded the Ronald G. Peyton Award. This award acknowledges and honors a member of the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy who has made a distinguished contribution to the specialty of sports physical therapy. In addition, the recipient is offered an opportunity to share his or her achievements and ideas with members through a brief lecture presented at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting.

Dr. Kristi Hallisy and her team received the APTA Global Health SIG Blue Ribbon Recognition for Social Responsibility for their poster titled "Inclusive Tai Chi: Adapting and Innovating Tai Chi Prime in Underserved Communities of Color".

Welcome to **Dr. John Kipp** who will be co-teaching PT 627 this fall with **Dr. Keith Knurr** and **Dr. Ana Grihm** who will be assisting in PT 635.

We continue to meet and discuss plans for the 100-year celebration of the UW Madison Physical Therapy Program! I encourage each of you to access this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/ptnews> (the link is also at the end of the newsletter) to share what you have been up to these past few years along with any memories you have during your tenure in the program.

Check out our newly renovated [website](#) for all faculty and staff and join our Facebook and Instagram pages to see in real time what is happening in the Program.

Admissions Process: Then, Now and Beyond!

As late as 1996, students were admitted into the Program based on their GPA. For the next six to seven years, admission application packets were mailed to the admissions office. Support staff created hard files on each applicant and cross-referenced information that was received and required. From the early to mid-2000s, the admissions process became holistic in nature, working to create a student body that better represented patients that physical therapists will serve. However, the process was still manual using primarily excel sheets and manual data entry for information collecting. Around 2014, the Program shifted to using the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Services (PTCAS) to streamline the admissions process.

Transitioning to PTCAS provided an improved infrastructure. Applicants beyond Wisconsin could more easily apply to the Program and efficiencies in communication and management of a person's application occurred. More recently, PTCAS, can "communicate" with other UW-Madison information systems, specifically, for collection of electronic enrollment deposits, applications for state residency, and transfer of data to the UW Madison student information system (SIS). The integration of PTCAS not only improved efficiency but also allowed for a more dynamic and responsive admissions process, particularly in the context of increasing recruitment and outreach efforts and virtual adaptations during the pandemic.

During the 10 years following the transition to PTCAS, several other societal changes evolved affecting physical therapy education. The cost of education steadily increased with the transition from a master's to doctoral degree, thereby increasing student debt from undergraduate and DPT education. Two new DPT programs opened in Wisconsin while other programs increased the number of students per cohort, and nationally, more programs created hybrid curriculum. Additionally, reimbursement rates by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for physical therapy services declined, and SCOTUS, in 2023, ruled on laws affecting the application process.

Recruitment efforts ramped up! In the past, the admissions advisor attended approximately 10 recruitment opportunities per year, while working with an admissions assistant. Today, the admissions director and a recruitment & admissions team participate in upwards of 60 events per year. The administrative commitments remain the same for admissions, however, a team of staff and students now contribute to recruitment through program sponsored events, a multitude of outreach events/presentations to groups and student organizations both internal and external to UW-Madison, health professions fairs, program tours, weekly advising sessions, social media, and educating students in the K-12 system about physical therapy.

The future of admissions lends itself to innovative models and technological integration to enhance accessibility and affordability. The exploration of new models aims to reduce student debt and promote financial literacy, while the ongoing use of virtual platforms ensures broader reach and convenience. Admitting students who represent underserved populations continues to be a focus, with a commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive student body. Continuous professional growth, building impactful relationships, and managing the complexities of leadership are essential in navigating these changes, ensuring that the admissions process remains fair, efficient, and reflective of societal needs.

The UW Madison DPT Program has endured many changes and is well-positioned to continually provide a high quality, innovative education to DPT students!

Student News

Congratulations to the 2024 Graduates!



Best wishes to the Class of 2025 as they transition to their internships!



Class of 2026 becoming DPT-2s!



Welcome Class of 2027!



Doctor of Physical Therapy Student Organization (DPTSO)

Provides opportunities for fundraising, professional development, and networking!

2023-2024 DPTSO Board

President: **Gavin Harden**
Vice President: **Ethan Taylor**
Treasurer: **Katie Hands**
Secretary: **Jacques Sirois**
Public Relations: **Claire Otto**

2024-2025 DPTSO Board

President: **Alex Mendenhall**
Vice President: **Emme Audley**
Treasurer: **Samara Breuer**
Secretary: **Eve Akey**
Public Relations: **Meg Mendez**

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DPTSOUW

MEDiC

MEDiC is an interprofessional organization where students and faculty clinicians provide primary health care services and education to underserved individuals and families in the Madison area at various clinics. DPT students are required to participate in these clinics each semester.

2023-2024 MEDiC Officers

PT Coordinators: **Liz Lansik, Chelsea Olson,**
and **Jess Rosenau**
PT Liaison: **Victoria Harris**

2024-2025 MEDiC Officers

PT Coordinators: **Reilly Bartow, Sarah Wolf,** and **Holly Zakowski**
PT Liaison: **Izi Knoernschild**

Dewane Neurorehabilitative Pro Bono Clinic

The DPT Program holds a pro bono clinic each Friday afternoon in 5150 MSC for clients who are uninsured or underinsured. First and second-year students are paired to treat patients.

2023-2024 Clinic Coordinators

Volunteer Coordinator: **Natalia Vander Zanden**
Patient Coordinator: **Jake Garvey**
Outreach Coordinator: **Nathan Ng**
Resource Coordinator: **Mel Castillo**

2024-2025 Clinic Coordinators

Volunteer Coordinator: **Jeff Friedman**
Patient Coordinator: **David Ferry**
Outreach Coordinator: **Izi Knoernschild**
Resource Coordinator: **Kailey Hopkins**

Advancing Diversity and Excellence in Physical Therapy (ADEPT)

ADEPT develops and supports pathways to excellence for young people from groups currently underrepresented in the physical therapy profession. ADEPT also strives to foster a strong community of physical therapy students who are knowledgeable about the experiences of underrepresented populations and equipped to address health disparities.

2023-2024 ADEPT Council

Co-presidents: : **Sarah Navin** and **Natalia Vander Zanden**

Secretary: **Tori Salaba**

Communications Officer: **Emily Draeger**

Community Outreach Coordinator: **Alicia Thone**

2024-2025 ADEPT Council

Co-presidents: **Elisha Ikhumhen** and **Megan Kaminski**

Secretary: **Megan Mendez**

Communications Officer: **Whitney Piper**

Community Outreach Coordinator: **Mary Traudt**

Follow ADEPT on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ADEPTUW>.

INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

The Interprofessional Health Council represents multiple health professions programs and schools, and facilitates engagement in academic and non-academic activities.

SENIOR CHATS

Senior Chats is a program through which health professions students call seniors in various senior care facilities for regular social conversations. This program was started during the pandemic to help address the isolation many seniors were facing and continues as a way to support local seniors.

Senior Chats Coordinators: **Holly Zakowski** and **Emme Audley**

Badger Honor Flight

Badger Honor Flight is a regional affiliate of the national Honor Flight Network. The purpose of the Honor Flight Network is to ensure that World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and terminally ill Veterans from any war have the opportunity to see the memorials that have been erected in their honor.

2023-2024 Coordinators

Alicia Thone and **Callie Aulik**

2024-2025 Coordinators

Ruchi Shah and **Tom Haugen**

Go Baby Go

GoBabyGo is an interprofessional experience where students across health professions and engineering modify cars for children of varying mobility abilities.

Congratulations to the following 2024 Scholarship Recipients!

- **Amelia Doyon Scholarship: Quentin R.**
- **Barbara Ellen Gerlich-Hoefeyzer Scholarship: Ruchi S. and Alyssa D.**
- **Barbara J. Morgan PhD Physical Therapy Scholarship Fund: Elisha I.**
- **Moncher/Katz Scholarship: Aaron C. and David F.**
- **Ridley Family Physical Therapy Scholarship: Evan A. and Elisha I.**
- **PT Student Scholarship: Samara B.**
- **Mildred Harper Scholarship: Braden L.**
- **Caroline Harper Scholarship: Heidi D.**
- **CM & CL Harper Scholarship: Whitney P. and Izi K.**
- **Margaret Kohli Scholarship: Natalia VZ, Ethan T, Gavin H, and Jacques S.**
- **Ramaker/Budlong Scholarship: Jake G. and Nathan N.**
- **UW Madison PT Alumni Coalition Scholarship: Tori S.**
- **Stephanie Joy (Graham) Lunning Scholarship: Dalton S.**
- **Jean L. Roland Scholarship: Lauren B. and Marissa G.**
- **Lemke Scholarship:** With support from the Lemke Scholarship, **Ethan Taylor**, DPT3, presented his research titled; "The Effect of Exterior Helmet Padding on Concussion Severity in High School Football Players" at the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Symposium in Boston, MA, in May 2024.

Student News

Congratulations to the following students in the Class of 2024 who were accepted into residencies!

Dr. Stella Gillman: Neurologic, University of Washington

Dr. Alex Shaw: Sports Physical Therapy, University of Minnesota Health Fairview

Dr. Juila Schiller: Neurologic, University of Wisconsin Hospital

Micah Wong Spirit Award

This award is peer driven through nominations and votes by DPT-1 and DPT-2 students. Nominees and awardees are individuals who embody Micah's spirit. He was a fun, loving, and warm individual who drew people in.

DPT-1: Elisha Ikhumhen

DPT-2: Jacques Sirois

Instructional Assistant Awards

Anatomy 622

Ruchi Shaw

Eve Akey

David Ferry

PT 501 Palpation Lab

Maegyn Nurkiewicz

Megan Kaminski

Kailey Best

Colleen McLaughlin

Elisha Ikhumhen

Izi Knoernschild

Alex Mendenhall

2024 Visiting Lecturer

This year the Physical Therapy Visiting Lecture Fund will support Dr. Chad Cook from Duke University on Friday, September 20. Dr. Cook will provide a student talk, meet with faculty and provide a community talk. Details were sent to UW PT Alumni and campus and professional partners.



Dr. Chad Cook

PT, PhD, MBA, FAPTA

Professor, Division of Physical Therapy, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Department of Population Health Sciences

Director of Clinical Facilitation Research, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Director, Duke Center of Excellence in Manual and Manipulative Therapy

Student Research

Sydney French (SPT 2): Sydney is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project assessing the relationship of quadriceps strength and rate of torque development with running biomechanics following ACLR. Specifically, she is working on trying to identify clinically relevant cutoffs of strength and rate of torque development in determining symmetry in running mechanics, which is of value to clinicians that do not have the ability to accurately measure movement mechanics. Sydney has been working on data processing, compiling multiple datasets, and drafting of an abstract for CSM 2025. Sydney will continue to contribute to research projects within the Badger Athletic Performance program over the next year.

Jake Garvey (SPT3): Jake is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project to determine if a cost-effective, commercially available device can measure important quadriceps muscle performance metrics that help guide prescription of therapeutic exercises and return-to-sport decisions. Accurate assessment of quadriceps strength, power, and consistency of force output is important after knee joint injury and/or surgery, informing clinical decisions and improving prognosis. However, expensive, laboratory-based equipment is most often utilized for these assessments. There is a need for cheaper options with a smaller physical footprint to allow clinicians in all settings to obtain these clinically important metrics. Thus, the purpose of this study is to compare accuracy and reliability of quadriceps muscle performance metrics obtained with a cost-effective, commercially available device to the “gold standard” of laboratory-based equipment. Jake has contributed to development of the testing protocols and procedures that will be utilized in this study.

Gavin Hardin (SPT3): Gavin is a Badger Athletic Performance program student researcher who is assisting with an ongoing project to identify risk factors for bone stress injuries in collegiate distance runners. The results of this project will contribute to developing bone-specific injury risk models, furthering our ability to identify runners who may be most at risk for bone stress injuries and potentially intervene to reduce this risk. Gavin has contributed to compiling injury reports and processing biomechanical data and will work towards an abstract and potentially a manuscript over the next year. Gavin is also routinely assisting with preparation of post-injury and post-surgical performance reports for student-athletes from a variety of sports, which helps Badger Athletic Performance serve our student-athletes in a timely manner as well as gives Gavin additional exposure to biomechanical data and how it is leveraged for clinical decision-making.

Alex Shaw (Graduated 2024): Alex is a recently graduated UW DPT student who was a contributing student investigator with the Badger Athletic Performance program during the didactic portion of his DPT education by working on a project to evaluate the influence of visual disruption and dual-task conditions on hopping performance in healthy active people. This was the precursor to the project that Jacques Sirois and Tori Salaba are now managing. Prior to evaluating the influence of additional visual motor and cognitive demands in people with a history of ACL reconstruction, we needed to establish the reliability of the novel hop testing protocol and assess the effects of additional demands on VH performance in healthy control subjects. Alex was instrumental to this process, communicating with potential subjects, completing data collections & analyses, and delivered a platform presentation on the results

of this project at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in February 2024.

Jacques Sirois and Tori Salaba (SPT3s): Jacques and Tori are Badger Athletic Performance program student investigators working on a project to evaluate the influence of visual disruption and dual-task conditions on hopping performance in active people with a history of ACL reconstruction. Most patients post-ACL reconstruction must pass a battery of strength, balance, and sport biomechanics assessments before being cleared to return-to-sport. However, current testing procedures are missing the visual motor and cognitive demands consistent with most sporting environments. Implementing return-to-sport tests that challenge the visual and cognitive systems may better assess return-to-sport readiness, and ultimately, reduce re-injuries. Jacques and Tori have contributed to subject recruitment, data collection and analysis, and going forward will contribute to interpretation and dissemination of results. Jacques has also assisted with projects evaluating running biomechanics in collegiate athletes after hip arthroscopy and presented a research poster at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in February 2024.

Dalton Smerchek (SPT 3): Dalton is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project assessing changes in vertical and joint stiffness during running and jumping following ACL reconstruction. This will provide new insight into the biomechanical loading strategies that athletes adopt post-ACLR. Vertical stiffness, in particular, may be a viable clinical target as it can be inferred from a single marker on the sacrum. Dalton has contributed to this project by processing running and jumping collections through our new musculoskeletal processing pipeline and compiling the data specific to this project. He contributed to the drafting of an abstract that was accepted to CSM 2024 and will be a primary author on a CSM abstract submission for 2025.

Ethan Taylor (SPT 3): Ethan is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project assessing the ability of 2D video analysis to detect asymmetries during running in athletes post-ACLR. Translating findings from 3D motion capture to the clinic is one of the greatest challenges of using this method, as it is not readily available in clinics. Findings from this project will determine if 2D measures of knee flexion angles are useful in assessing movement mechanics in a traditional outpatient clinic. Ethan has contributed to this project by developing a protocol for 2D assessments using Kinovea (a free 2D video analysis tool) and has processed many athletes' videos for this project. He will be a primary author on a CSM abstract submission for 2025.

Alicia Thone (SPT-3): Alicia is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project to compare different methods of assessing shoulder muscle performance and establish normative values for shoulder internal and external strength and endurance in healthy, active individuals. The results of this project will facilitate accurate interpretation of muscle performance assessments in injured athletes and lead to more specific, efficient, and standardized testing protocols for assessing shoulder muscle performance. Alicia has contributed to development of the testing protocol(s) utilized in this study, subject recruitment, data collection, and data analysis.

Faculty News

Faculty and Staff Updates

■ Dr. Natalie Blonien

I am entering my seventh year of teaching and continue to enjoy coordinating the pediatric content for both 635 and 636 for Motor Control and Dysfunction with **Dr. Dewane** and co-teaching 678 integument course with teaching faculty and alum **Dr. Waner**. I continue to expand my clinical practice and research opportunities in the multi-disciplinary neuromuscular disorders pediatric clinic at American Family Children's Hospital. There continues to be excitement in treating children and adults with spinal muscular atrophy and we are fortunate to have ongoing clinical trials at UW Health. We had an incredibly successful Go Baby Go build in the spring with the continued support from American Family Children's Hospital. Continue to follow our build events on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UWGoBabyGo>. I also recently completed a book chapter on stroke rehabilitation for Conn's Current Therapy, 2025 to be published soon.

■ Dr. Colleen Cobey

I continue to instruct students in their first year of classes, providing a link between all three semesters, with PT 501 Anatomical Applications, PT 527 Foundations of Examination and Evaluation, and PT 534 Therapeutic Interventions. I am also fortunate to co-teach these courses with **Dr. Jen Doster**. In PT 527, we continue to utilize standardized patients for students to practice history taking and the final inpatient practical experience through the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program. My clinical appointment is at University Health Services (UHS), providing physical therapy on campus for students and visiting faculty. I successfully defended my dissertation which involved investigating the reliability and agreement between the goniometer and the inclinometer when measuring ankle dorsiflexion and plantarflexion. The instruments on their own merit are reliable, but do not use them interchangeably as there is a lack of agreement between them.

■ Dr. Daniel Cobian

I appreciate the variety provided by my current position with roles as a scientist, clinician, and educator. Highlights from the past year include partnering with colleagues from Kentucky and Delaware to present an educational session on quadriceps muscle function after ACL injury at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting, speaking at the Samaritan Sports Medicine conference in Corvallis, Oregon, and delivering research presentations at the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting.

I continue to serve as a Research Committee member for the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy and have assumed the role of coordinating the Science-meets-Practice sessions at CSM. I contribute to the admissions committee for the UW Health Sports Physical Therapy residency and serve as the primary research mentor for the Sports PT residents. Undergraduate and DPT students working under my direction contributed to a variety of projects, presenting research at scientific conferences and co-authoring peer-reviewed manuscripts.

■ Dr. Michael Cropes

Within my clinical role at University Health Services, I've collaborated with representatives from RecWell, Informatics, Athletic Training, and Badger Athletic Performance to acquire new clinic weightlifting equipment and to implement new patient-reported outcome measure administration, documentation workflows, physical therapy appointments at campus recreation centers, and patient referrals for state-of-the-art functional performance testing following ACL surgery. I've served on interview committees for faculty positions within the UW-Madison Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE) and the Master of Genetic Counselor Studies Program. I've also begun serving on the newly developed SMPH Health Professions Student Emergency Support Fund. I've continued to serve as a didactic instructor and research content advisor in the UW Health and UnityPoint Health-Meriter Orthopedic PT Residency Program. Lastly, I've been elected as an Alternate Delegate for the APTA Wisconsin Chapter, and I look forward to attending my first APTA House of Delegates in Kansas City, Missouri!

■ Dr. Jen Doster

This past year, the DPT-1 students built their foundational knowledge and skills in PT 501, PT 527 and PT 534. **Dr. Colleen Cobey** and I weaved pain neuroscience education (PNE) into all three courses emphasizing therapeutic alliance, assessment of the peripheral and central nervous system and the PNE plus interventions. Completing Evidence in Motion's Fellowship in Pain Sciences this past spring gave me the opportunity to highlight the knowledge gained by our students in my final capstone presentation. The fellowship then served as my springboard into Bellin College's Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy Program. In May, **Dr. Jeff Hartman** and I led 7 students on a global health trip to Belize. We are grateful to Adriaan and Colleen Louw and Jessie Podolak for partnering with us to allow the students to present "Aches and Pains," the middle school PNE educational program, to 5th grade Belizean students.

■ Dr. Jeanne Duncan

2023 and 2024 continued to be a juggling act on many different levels including clinical education, teaching, and personal life with my oldest heading to college this fall and my youngest playing sports. Always something going on in the Duncan house! As the Director of Clinical Education, I oversee all things clinical education related and I am very happy to have 2 program faculty and staff to assist in the process. I continue to co-teach PT 523: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Aspects of Physical Therapy in the 2nd year with **Jim Carlson, MPT, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist (Class of 1999)**. I continue to be the Academic Co-Chair for the Clinical Education SIG for APTA Wisconsin working to foster resources to advance clinical education here in WI. I was humbled and honored to be awarded the APTA WI Mentor of the year for 2023.

Clinical Education Corner

THANK YOU to all who support UW Madison DPT Clinical Education and our clinical team! **Dr. Michael Cropes**, Assistant Director of Clinical Education, is responsible for the 2- and 4-week placements. **Deonna Suiter, PTA**, clinical education assistant, continues to work remotely from Alabama and we are grateful for her assistance. Communication for the 2025 placements will be sent out by October for all matched placements. Securing enough clinical education placements, specifically in certain environments, continues to be a struggle. Watch for a survey regarding input around our current internships. We continue to use CPI 3.0 as our evaluation tool. Thank you for your time and patience while we all navigate the new system. Your dedicated clinical instruction and mentorship to our students sets them up for growth and success as future DPT's. Reach out to me at any time (duncan@pt.wisc.edu) to discuss educating our students.

■ Dr. Kristi Hallisy

I continue to teach four courses (year-round) to second year physical therapy students in the DPT program. I serve as the Director of Mentoring in the UW-Health and Meriter UnityPoint Ortho Residency program; this includes Steering and Curriculum committee activities. Other service includes UW-DPT Admissions and Visiting Lecture committees. I am engaged in a 3-year interprofessional project (2023-2025) with UW-Health and Dane County (Community Health Initiatives & Strategies Committee) which is working on clinical and community strategies to reduce falls and their morbidity and mortality consequences in Dane County. In the past year, my Inclusive Tai Chi Prime team has done six invited research presentations (2 national and 4 local) on dissemination of Tai Chi Prime in Latinx and African American Communities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

■ Dr. Jeff Hartman

This academic school year has been eventful as ever. Three highlights stand out. The first was receiving an invitation from the World Physiotherapy North American and Caribbean Region leadership to provide a continuing education talk in Mona, Jamaica on physical therapy in the emergency department. Physical therapy leaders from 11 different countries were present and we engaged in great conversation and planning. I then had the privilege of traveling with **Dr. Jen Doster** and 7 second-year students to Belize to do some work with the US Embassy. Our highlight was bringing pain neuroscience education to 5-8th graders in three different schools and getting to talk with US Ambassador (and US Olympian), Michelle Kwan, who was gracious with her time. Finally, **Dr. Evan Nelson** and I have been taking a deep dive into learning outcomes for PT 664/665 over the past 6 years and will be publishing our findings later this year.

■ Dr. Keith Knurr

I am excited to have recently joined the physical therapy faculty. In March, I transitioned from my postdoc in the Biology of Aging and Age-Related Disease T32 training program to an Assistant Professor position within the University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. Within the PT program, I teach tissue mechanics (PT627), lower extremity biomechanics (PT628), and scientific inquiry in PT (PT640) to first year DPT students, which I have thoroughly enjoyed over the last year. Much of my academic appointment is focused on research. My research program focuses on understanding the impact of lower extremity joint injuries and surgeries on long-term joint and overall health in collegiate athletes. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to work with the outstanding Badger Athletic Performance collaborative research team and mentor current physical therapy students in various research projects.

■ Dr. Evan Nelson

I participated in the Morgridge Center for Public Service Fellowship for Community-Engaged Scholarship. This supported an ongoing partnership with the Waunakee Community School District Track & Field program. The vision of this partnership is to translate running-related injury knowledge into routine practice to reduce injury risk and improve injury recovery in youth runners. The project's initial objective is to explore the relationship between training and injury. Innovative methods for injury monitoring and track-side biomechanical assessment were developed to efficiently collect data during team training sessions. DPT student participation (**Meg Mendez & Izi Knoernschild** 2024 season; **Gavin Harden** 2023 season) was critical to the project success.

■ Dr. Amy Schubert

Thank you to Dr. Schubert for her contributions to the admissions notes.

■ Dr. Jill Thein-Nissenbaum, PT, DSc, ATC

Hello!

Just a quick update! This fall, I will start my 16th season with Badger Sports Medicine! I enjoy collaborating with all of the athletic trainers, physicians and student athletes. I continue to teach in the musculoskeletal track in the DPT Program, which remains challenging but fun. In addition, I continue to offer two 1-credit sports PT elective courses for the 2nd year DPT students. We collaborated with the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) students to learn about the roles and responsibilities of each profession as well as discuss shared topics, including dry needling and neurocognitive rehabilitation.

Lastly, Tricia DeSouza, MA, LAT, (LAT for the UW crew teams) and I have been collaborating with BME students and **Sarah Navin** (3rd year DPT student and former UW rower) to create a force sensor to determine asymmetry in rowing biomechanics. Our BME students were awarded the Design Excellence Award for this project!

Alumni News

Dual Degree (Master's Degree in Public Health and Doctor of Physical Therapy Program)

The UW Madison is only one of five programs in the United States allowing students an efficient and cost-effective way to blend the outcomes of both programs. We are in the third cycle of the Dual Degree MPH/DPT match. **Allison Meyer** graduated in 2024 with the dual degree, and **Elisha Ikhumhen** is currently a DPT-2 student who will complete the MPH requirements during his internships in 2025-26.

Alumni Updates

Jane Bernatovich: APTA Wisconsin Outstanding Service Award
Dr. Jeanne Duncan: APTA Wisconsin Mentor of the Year Award
Dr. Andrew Sandgren: Clinical Instructor of the Year Award
Dr. Tiffany Houdek, PT, MPT was awarded the Physical Therapist of the Year by the Wisconsin Society of Interventional Pain Physicians. This award recognizes a physical therapist that connects, educates, and advocates for the field of Pain Medicine.



Class photo - 1974



The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th anniversary with a reunion at the DPT Program on September 5. Alumni traveled from Maryland, Michigan, Illinois and all parts of Wisconsin to catch-up with each other. They were able to meet students, faculty and staff and enjoy a tour of the Program.

Alumni Donations

Would you like to have a legacy impact on the UW-Madison DPT Program? Bequests, or gifts from estates, Life Income gifts (the donor makes a gift and receives an income for life), and gifts of real estate can have a tremendous impact on the UW Physical Therapy Program. Planned Gifts may be given to support students (scholarships and unique learning opportunities), faculty, research, and programs. For more information on naming the PT program as a beneficiary of your will, to find out which assets make the most tax-efficient bequest to charity, and to be inspired by the stories of your fellow alumni who have created planned gifts, please contact **Jill Watson** at jill.watson@supportuw.org or 608-262-4632.

Please see <https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physical-therapy-program/> for descriptions on ways to donate on-line.

Most recently, the PT program created a Rural Scholarship to defray student costs when completing internships in rural areas. The Program's goal is to provide clinical experiences in rural areas to increase the number of students choosing jobs in rural communities after graduation.

To contribute to any of the scholarship funds visit the "[Give a Gift](#)" tab on our webpage.

Let's keep

In Touch!

We love hearing from our alumni!

Drop us an email to let us know of any news you'd like to share with us at: <https://go.wisc.edu/ptnews>

Also, you can keep up-to-date with the program on our Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/2Z6ReTe>

Contact the UW–Madison Physical Therapy Program

Donor Gifts

DPT Honor Roll

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

\$500 +

Kay S. and Gerald J. Bizjak
Suzann K. Campbell and Jim B. Delapp
Collette L. Engerson
John D. Garbrecht
Shirley M. and Berdean D. Jergenson
Mitchell L. and Cheryl Jordan
Vicki and James Lundeen
Bruce Lunning
Judith G. Neigoff
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