

In This Issue:

Dr. Helen Cornely 1

Congratulations class of 2006 !!! 1

Alumni News 2

FIU Making a Difference 2

Faculty Activities 3

Congratulations Lori Gusman !!! 3

Pediatric Physical Therapy at FIU 4

Message from the PTSA 4

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A Message From Our Chairperson: Dr. Helen Cornely



Editor's Note:

On October 19, 2006, it was announced that Dr. Helen Cornely was being promoted to Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. While we will miss her terribly as our chairperson, the physical therapy faculty acknowledges that this promotion is a timely recognition by the University administration of Helen's tremendous skills and potential, and we wish her well in her new position. What follows is her final "Message from Our Chairperson" for this newsletter.

Greetings from FIU Physical Therapy! Fall semester brings good news to the FIU Department of Physical Therapy. On September 29, 2006 the FIU Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Request for Authorization to Propose to the Florida Board of Governors A Transition to a Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) at FIU. Yeah! Now the FINAL step in the approval process of the DPT lies with the Florida Board of Governors (BOG). We hope to have news on the outcome of the DPT proposal from the BOG in the Spring of 2007. If the DPT is successfully approved by the BOG, the physical therapy students starting the program in the Fall of 2007 would be entering as DPT students. This is an exciting prospect for FIU Physical Therapy. We would be one of the first predominantly minority institutions offering the DPT and would be the third in the Florida State University System to offer the DPT.

This Fall we welcomed 50 very bright (mean GPA 3.46) and ethnically diverse (76% minority) students into the Masters of Physical Therapy program. We had a record number of applicants this year which shows the avid and growing interest in the physical therapy profession.

A FIU Physical Therapy Job Fair is to be held in conjunction with the Capstone Seminar for our students graduating in Fall 2006. It will be held on December 13, 2006. For more detailed information contact Prof. Lori Gusman at (305)348-1978 or email gusmanl@fiu.edu. You are also ALL INVITED and MOST WELCOME at the 4th Annual FIU Physical Therapy Evidence Based Practice Research Program also on December 13, 2006 in GC 243 at 4:30-7:00 pm. I am always so impressed with the students' research poster and platform presentations. It is with pride that I invite you to share in the same Panther Pride as the students present their hard work.

Congratulations Class of 2006 !!!!



Front Row: Yamy Ramirez, Rachel Stafford, Aura Sanchez, Jennifer Ardien, Jaime Moreno, Nekeisha Barnes, Alexandra Gonzales, Xenia Andrezejewski, Lisa Fossett, Kenesha Dixon, Windy Jansen and Leigh Crain. **Middle Row:** Jennifer Garcia, Daphne Ardizon, Benibel Vazquez-Pausa, Suzelle Rodriguez, Yadira Cordoba, Christine Degraan, Josephine Casado, Angela Arbelaez, Nancy Moncada, Magaly Casas, Gladys Ulloa, Maria Jonsson, Natalie Ginart, Yunaisy Nunez, Yasmin Hussain-Qureshi and Lindsay Cameron. **Top Row:** Andrew Burton, Jean Desravins, "Eric" Tae Kwon, Karen Sydnor, Andrea Walkes, Kyle Corbett, Flava Santin-Gomez, Christina Vega, Gilberto Vega, Joaquin Fuertes, Robert Espinosa, Michelle Randolph and Mitch Perez.

Alumni News:

Kathleen A. Cegles, class of 1976, is Associate Professor and Director of the Physical Therapy Educational Programs at the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Health Professions in Charleston, South Carolina.

Prisca Mavudzi Collins, class of 1989, is teaching at Governors State University Physical Therapy program and doing some consultant work as a program evaluator coordinating a diversity internship program for the American Evaluation Association.

Marizel (Marci) Diaz, class of 1991, is the director the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Laredo Community College. She is also a partner in a pediatric outpatient rehabilitation center. Throughout the years, she has had the opportunity to practice PT in Cali, Columbia and in Rio De Janiero, Brazil, and she has done some mission work in Ghana. Marci obtained her Masters in Public Administration and is an active member of the APTA.

Heather Dillion, class of 2000 (BS) and 2002 (MS), earned her NCS 2 years ago and is currently pursuing her DPT. She has been teaching and participating in a research study and is currently working in acute care in a neurology/neurosurgery service.

Tracy L. Dunn, class of 1998, is Regional Center Coordinator for Clinical Education in South Florida for HealthSouth. She completed the CMT certification in December through the Ola Grimsby Institute and is living in Hollywood, Florida.

Debbie (Gonzalez) Ebel, class of 1986, is Director of Rehabilitation at Sunrise Health and Rehabilitation Center, in Sunrise, Florida.

Nadine (Queen) De Frietas class of 1993, is currently working at Ability Health Services Inc in Titusville, Florida.

Catalina Florez-Gandia, class of 2003, is site coordinator of the HealthSouth Miami Lakes Facility. Catalina was married in July, 2005 and continues to play volleyball, competing in May in the USA National Volleyball Tournament held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Miguel Garcia, class of 2003, is a senior therapist in charge of the outpatient physical therapy department at HealthSouth Old Cutler, Miami, Florida.

Iggy Gaunard, class of 2004, is working at the Miami VA as a Research Physical Therapist and Research Administrator for the Functional Outcomes Research Laboratory. He is also the project manager for a Department of Defense grant implementing a rehabilitation program for diabetic amputees to improve the patients' use of their prosthesis, strength, balance, and endurance. The study is unique because it is the first of its kind to utilize a functional test to direct therapeutic prescription. Both he and **Annabel Nunez**, also class of 2004, are enrolled in the PhD program at the University of Miami.

Sabrina (Camilo) Massoni, class of 2003, has recently passed her geriatric specialty exam. She serves as Chair of the Southeast District Mentorship/Membership Retention/Recruitment Committee.

Autira Newbold class of 1998, is currently working at Princess Margaret Hospital Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Angelina (Garcia) Nagengast, class of 2000, had a daughter last year, Kayla Marie on January 30, 2005, and delivered number two, Kevin Michael this year on June 20, 2006.

Kyle Kennedy-Pocock, class of 2003, opened a private practice, South Shore Physical Therapy, LLC in Honolulu, Hawaii. The practice is an outpatient orthopedic facility that focuses on the McKenzie Method for diagnosis and treatment.

Julner Quettant Jr., class of 2003, is working with Gentiva Health Services as a full time homecare therapist and with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York as a per diem PT. Julner is an active member of the New York Chapter of the APTA and his extracurricular activities include attending church, spending time with his family, and travel.

Sheri (Fliegelman) Rosenthal, class of 1989, is working in home health with mostly geriatric patients in Aventura/South Broward.

Julia M. Sanchez, class of 2003, is working at Center for Pediatric Therapy, Inc., and completed the eight-week NDT course this summer in Philadelphia.

Emily Steeb, class of 2005, has started working at Holy Cross Hospital in the outpatient physical therapy department.

Tim Weyant, class of 1999 has his own private practice, Aspen Rehabilitation, in Coral Springs, Florida.

Steven John Wright, class of 1976, started a private practice, Wright Solutions Physical Therapy Clinic, in Rome, Georgia in 2005.

FIU Making a Difference

PT Alumni at Jackson Memorial Hospital

Editors Note: We hope to make this a regular column in the newsletter. We invite you to send us information about your staff, with emphasis on the proportion and accomplishments of FIU alumni.

The Physical Therapy Department at Jackson Memorial Hospital is comprised of 60 staff members. Fifty percent of the Department's staff are graduates of Florida International University's Physical Therapy program. The Department has participated in research geared to improving functional outcomes of patients following Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgery and patients pre and post bariatric surgery. Research concerning patients with chronic pain and studies related to the respiratory status of patients with Spinal Cord injury has also been an emphasis. The staff has been active in assisting in the education of the university's graduate students and many of the staff have also been presenters at national conferences. Members the staff have been essential in reviewing and editing physical therapy text books, to improve knowledge in the field.

Faculty Activities

Publications

Maring J and **Elbaum L**. Concurrent validity of the Early Intervention Developmental Profile and Peabody Developmental Motor Scale-2 in examining motor delay in an early intervention population. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*, Accepted for publication.

Haskins AR, Kirk-Sanchez N, Tsai T-Y. The impact of race, ethnicity and country of professional preparation on physical therapists' assessment and treatment preferences. *Journal of Cultural Diversity: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Accepted for publication, 2007.

Haskins AR, Bruce-Morency A. Is there a relationship between a physical therapist's race or ethnicity and the type of population served? *Physical Therapy*. 2006. Abstract. Available at: <http://www.apta.org/AM/abstracts/pt2006/abstractsPt.cfm?pubNo=PO-RR-62-SA>. Accessed August 28, 2006.

Rossi MD, Brown LE, Whitehurst M: Knee extensor and flexor torque characteristics before and after unilateral total knee arthroplasty. *The American Journal of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation*. 2006;85:737-746.

D'Apuzzo MR, Larvenia CJ, **Rossi MD**, et al. Post-discharge cost in arthroplasty surgery. *The Journal of Arthroplasty*. 2006;21:144-150.

Rossi MD, Brown LE, Whitehurst MA. Assessment of hip extensor and flexor strength two months after unilateral total hip arthroplasty. *The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*. 2006;20(2):262-267.

Presentations

Elbaum L, Burt M, Gimenez C. "The Effects of an In-Shoe Orthotic on Gait Kinematics of a Child with Hypotonicity Secondary to Down's Syndrome: A Pilot Study." The 1st Joint Meeting of European Society for Movement Analysis of Adults and Children (ESMAC) and the Gait and Clinical Movement Analysis Society (GCMAS), Amsterdam, 2006. (Co-authors Marlene Burt, MS, PT, and Cheryl Gimenez, MS, PT are both FIU-PT alumni and adjunct professors.)

Elbaum L. "Avoiding Medical Errors and

Claims of Malpractice in Physical Rehabilitation." (Invited presentation) The 2nd Annual Gusman/Gleber Lecture, Jackson Memorial Hospital, 2006.

Haskins AR, Kirk-Sanchez N. "Cultural Competence and Cultural Diversity in Physical Therapy: Current Status and Future Trends." (Refereed educational program) PT 2006, Scientific Meeting & Exposition of the American Physical Therapy Association, Orlando, FL 2006.

Haskins AR, Hinton C. "Culturally Competent Ethical Practice in Physical Therapy." (Refereed educational program) Accepted for presentation at PT 2007, Scientific Meeting & Exposition of the American Physical Therapy Association, Denver, CO 2007.

Other

Steve Bernstein offered "Information and Communications for Health Professionals" online in conjunction with the model developed by the College of Business Administration. Course evaluations showed the online model was well liked and a successful delivery mode.

Leonard Elbaum has been appointed to the Board of Directors of All Children Together (ACT), a part of the Children's Trust, a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. (Also serving on the Board is Lisa Galvez, PT, a graduate of the FIU PT program in 1992, and a Director of Healis, Inc.)

Leonard Elbaum and **Mark Rossi** are conducting EMG-triggered electrical stimulation (EMG-ES) of ankle function in children with spastic cerebral palsy. Their research is funded by Curatronics, Ltd, a biomedical technology company based in Israel.

Awilda Haskins received \$94,212 in funding for the *Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students* from the US Department of Health & Human Services for the 2006 – 2007 academic year.

Awilda Haskins was recently appointed to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Ethics and Judicial Committee and

Congratulations, Lori Gusman!!!



From left to right, Vice President Vivian Sanchez, Dr. Helen Cornely, Lori Gusman and President Modesto ("Mitch") Maidique.

Lori Gusman, Director of Clinical Education, recently received the Presidential Excellence Award for her outstanding dedication in facilitating student clinical learning experiences. She is currently organizing the 4th Annual Capstone Seminar and Job Fair.

continues to serve on the APTA Committee for Screening Abstracts and Proposals. Dr. Haskins also reviews manuscripts for *The Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. She recently served as a delegate to the FPTA Assembly of Representatives meeting in Sanibel Island.

Awilda Haskins and Neva Kirk-Sanchez were recently featured in the July edition of *Advance for Physical Therapist and PT Assistants* for their APTA educational program on "Cultural competence and cultural diversity in physical therapy: current status and future trends."

Colleen Rose-St. Prix is the Director of Retention and Recruitment and the PT program representative on the Health Careers Opportunity Program Grant. She serves on the College of Nursing & Health Sciences Steering Committee.

Lisa Roberts received recertification as a Geriatric Clinical Specialist from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS). Professor Roberts also serves as secretary of the Southeast District of the Florida Physical Therapy Association (FPTA) and recently served as delegate to the FPTA Assembly of Representatives meeting in Sanibel Island.

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photos, & ideas
please email us at:
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The Physical Therapy Program relies on the goodwill of its alumni and friends to enhance the quality of its programs and services.

Please consider making a donation or establishing an endowment to benefit the Departmental teaching, research and service missions.

**For information,
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Chairperson
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305-348-1968

For the Kids! Pediatric Physical Therapy at FIU



Marlenne G. Burt, MS, PT received a B.S. in Physical Therapy in 1984 and her M.S. in Health Science in 1993 from Florida International University. Marlenne works as a clinical specialist at Miami Children's Hospital in Miami, Florida. She has 22 years experience in the area of pediatric physical therapy. Marlenne has been an adjunct professor at Florida International University for 11 years lecturing on topics in pediatrics, biomechanics and motor control. She has been involved in research in conjunction with FIU in the Human Movement Analysis Lab with a focus on treatment efficacy studies. Marlenne has also offered continuing education courses in the United States, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Brazil.



Cheryl Gimenez received her Bachelors of Science in Physical Therapy in 1989 and Masters of Health Science in 1997 from Florida International University. She currently conducts the pediatric physical therapy lab geared towards the second year graduate students. Cheryl is currently employed at Sandor Wiener School of Opportunity. She is responsible for evaluation, treatment and development of the classroom and home programs for children with neuromotor dysfunctions and orthopedic conditions. Her past professional experience includes being the senior physical therapist at the Center for Pediatric Physical Therapy Inc and working at Miami Children's Hospital.



FIU Physical Therapy Student Association

The PTSA is a dynamic, non-profit organization dedicated to educating fellow FIU students and the public about physical therapy as a health care profession. The PTSA endeavors to provide elective services to the community & maintain a liaison between the members, the Department of Physical Therapy, and the rest of the FIU community. Recently members of the PTSA participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk organized by the American Cancer Society. During this event the PTSA members were able to donate \$220.00.

The second event organized during this month was "The Right Bike Fit For You" campaign which was conducted on campus to promote good bike usage and prevent injuries. The PTSA is currently participating in the Thanksgiving canned food drive that began October 30th & ends on November 10th. All collections will be donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank of South Florida. The PTSA plans on being a big contributor to the upcoming Christmas Toy Drive.



Above: Picture from our recent participation in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk.