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Florida International University Physical Therapy News

Available on the web at: www.physicaltherapy.fiu.edu

Volume 3, Issue 1, Spring 2007

Congratulations, Martha Bloyer!



Martha Bloyer, PT, MSPT was recently appointed as the new Director of Clinical Education. An FIU graduate who earned both bachelors and masters degrees in physical therapy from FIU, Martha is a welcome addition to the full-time faculty.

Martha had been employed on a part-time basis at FIU since the summer of 2001, supervising student interns and teaching. She has also conducted research on the effects of therapeutic ultrasound on open wounds.

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Martha is involved with the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and with the annual Trike-a-thon to benefit St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. She is also a facilitator for Familia Mothers in the Roman Catholic Church and owner of At Home Therapy, a company that specializes in pediatric therapy.

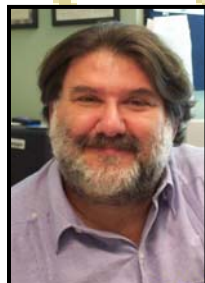
We welcome Martha Bloyer to the University and we look forward to having her on board in providing excellent physical therapist professional education.

New Building on the Horizon

Just months after becoming the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, we are delighted to announce that we have begun the initial planning for a new building in FIU's upcoming Health Sciences complex. The new building will boast state of the art facilities for our students and incredible opportunities for philanthropic involvement from the community. From donating to the initial Building Campaign, to using one of many naming opportunities to memorialize a family name, there are many ways to get involved in this momentous project. For additional information please contact Elizabeth Rapps, Director of Development at 305-348-0108 or Rappse@fiu.edu.



Message from our Chairperson: Dr. Leonard Elbaum



I have succeeded Helen Cornely, our Chair for the past 5 years. Helen has been promoted to Associate Dean of the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Our proposal to transform the entry-level program from a 7-term MSPT to a 9-term DPT is slated for consideration at the March meeting of the Florida Board of Governors. If, as expected, the transition is approved, we will be phasing in the DPT before the end of the year. In anticipation of the transformation, there are opportunities for PTs to join the faculty on a full- or part-time basis. We need two full-time faculty members with doctoral degrees and research experience, and several part-time faculty with experience specific in specialty areas. (For more information about the full-time vacancies, please contact Lisa Roberts (lroberts@fiu.edu); for more information about part-time opportunities, contact me directly.) We would like to expand service-learning opportunities for our students. If you are a PT, and you could use our students' help, please let me know. Finally, as a favor to the new Chair, please send me suggestions and creative ideas that might help us to improve the services we provide to students, alumni, clinicians, and people in South Florida and beyond who might benefit from the knowledge, skill, and touch of a physical therapist.

P.S. We have a particularly intelligent and well-motivated group of students about to begin their second clinical internships this spring. If your facility is hosting one of them, thank you!

Faculty Activities

Publications

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.

Lavernia CJ, Cook CC, Hernandez RA, Sierra RJ, **Rossi MD**. Neurovascular injuries in acetabular reconstruction cage surgery: an anatomical study. *The Journal of Arthroplasty*. January 2007.

Lavernia CJ, Hernandez VH, **Rossi MD**. Payment analysis of total hip replacements. *Current opinions in orthopedics*. February 2007.

Rossi MD, Hasson S, Kohia M, Pineada E, Bryan W. Relationship of closed and open chain measures of strength with perceived physical function and mobility following unilateral total knee replacement. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*. Accepted for publication April 2007.

Presentations

Awilda Haskins, Neva Kirk-Sanchez, and Tsung-Yu Tsai. "The Impact of Race, Ethnicity, and Country of Professional Preparation on Physical Therapists' Assessment and Treatment Preferences." (Refereed platform presentation) Accepted for presentation at Improving Health Care Quality Through Research, the 6th Annual Research Conference of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Florida International University, Miami, FL: April 2007.

Awilda Haskins and Cathy Hinton. "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: June 2007.

Natonya Frazier, Kimberley White, Christine Barrett, and **Awilda Haskins**.

"The Relationship between Physical Therapist Students' Scores on the CPI during the Neurorehabilitation Rotation and Neuroscience Lecture Grades." (Refereed poster) Health Professions Educational Research Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale, FL: January 2007.

Elizabeth Macey, Nina McGraw, Christine Price, and **Awilda Haskins**. "Use of the Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument: Acceptance by Clinical Instructors and Self-Reports of Adherence." (Refereed poster) Health Professions Educational Research Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale, FL: January 2007

Grants



Colleen Rose-St. Prix received funding from The Academy for the Art of Teaching to support development of a model for peer-reviewed student research

that is made available in journal style. She is also Co-PI on the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Departmental Resources Engaging Academic Mentoring System (DREAMS) grant that has been awarded to FIU. It is part of the overall Title V Grants that address issues related to student recruitment and retention throughout the University. The purpose of this grant is to train students who have demonstrated leadership potential for training to become peer advisors.

Leonard Elbaum received funding from The Academy for the Art of

Teaching to support the creation of a web-based, interactive database in support of students enrolled in kinesiology-related courses.

Other

Steve Bernstein is currently teaching Neurological Diagnosis and Management lab, and Information and Communications for Health Care Professionals online. Steve's research project has correlated web technology use with student performance in order to help identify students at academic risk, early in the semester. He hopes to submit the details at CSM 2008.

Awilda Haskins was interviewed and featured in an article in the October 23rd issue of *Advance for Physical Therapists & PT Assistants*. The article focused on overcoming language and cultural barriers to avoid medical errors. Dr. Haskins talked about giving patients choices and respecting their decisions.

Awilda Haskins attended the January 2007 meeting of the APTA Ethics & Judicial Committee (EJC). Dr. Haskins has been assigned to spearhead the revision of the EJC web site, and is helping to organize a September conference on revision of the APTA Code of Ethics.

Lori Gusman. It is with sadness - but with pride, too - that we bid farewell to Lori Gusman, our past Director of Clinical Education (DCE), who served us with distinction for 11 years. During those 11 years, Lori served as an adjunct professor, an instructor, a visiting professor, Assistant ACCE, and finally as Clinical Assistant Professor and DCE. Our best wishes go to you, Lori, in your new position at the University of Miami.



Alumni News:

Barry Arem, class of 1986, started a private practice ("Can Do Physical Therapy") in Jesup, Georgia. Barry is active in the Autism community and has started a horse riding program for children with various disabilities.

Sabrina Camilo, GCS, class of 2003, was appointed Chair of the Southeast District Mentorship/Membership Retention/Recruitment Committee. She works at St. Catherine's Rehab Hospital/Villa Maria Nursing Center. She was featured in the July 2006 issue of *Gerinotes*.

Shirley Guilliano, class of 1986, is managing a skilled nursing facility in North Georgia.

Shiro Iwae, class of 1993, is a member of the National Speakers Association (NSA). He is currently promoting "Health for Life" by blending eastern and western medicine.

Marlon Wong, class of 2002, is employed at HealthSouth. He has recently completed his DPT and residency program with specialization in orthopedics/manual therapy. Dr. Wong is currently teaching Musculoskeletal Diagnosis and Management I to the FIU graduate physical therapy students.

Nelson Rangel, class of 2003, was appointed Site Coordinator of Healthsouth-Hialeah. He also completed a manual therapy certification course offered by the Ola Grimsby Institute.

Debbie (Friedman) Gober, class of 1981, volunteers for several organizations doing physical therapy, and through these non-profit organizations, she has traveled to various countries helping to establish senior centers and day care centers. She is now heavily involved with international issues concerning Iran, Iraq, and Israel.

Dawn Mackenzie, class of 1995, has an orthopedic practice located close to Miami International Airport.

Jonathan Sutter, class of 1996, is the PT manager (adult inpatient) for Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL. He is currently working on publishing a research article looking at the differences in gait and functional recovery of TKA patients using standard and wheeled walkers.

Brent Spechler, class of 1978, has started a new company, "Professional Health Care Services." PHCS staffs physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupational therapists, occupational therapist assistants, and speech therapists for temporary or long term positions in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, pediatrics and home health throughout the state of Florida..

Kirsten (Van Loon) Williams, class of 1993, is working at Lee Memorial Hospital.

Alexandra Zuniga, class of 1997, started Nova Southeastern University's Ph.D in PT program in June 2006. She is currently teaching Neurological Diagnosis and Management II to the FIU graduate physical therapy students.

In Loving Memory: Rocio Espinal

On December 18, 2006, Rocio Espinal, class of 2000 (BSPT) and 2001 (MSPT), was involved in a fatal hit and run automobile accident when she was on her way to make her wedding arrangements.



Yinelda Espinal said her sister lived a full life in her short 29 years, and that she and her family cling to the belief that their loved one is in a better place. "I want to believe that [she's gone] because God wanted her," she said. "That's what I want to believe, because she was so good."

(WSVN7 - December 20, 2006)

The faculty and staff from Florida International University Department of Physical Therapy send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Rocio Espinal. She will always be in our hearts, thoughts, and memories.

Scholarship Recipients: Spring 2007

Greg Esposito/Pinecrest Hospital Memorial: Scholarship:

Jodi-Ann Turnbull

Mercedes Zabaleta Memorial Scholarship:

Aracelly Latino

Jonelle Marinelli

Mary Hurst Memorial Scholarship:

Ranjana Champatsingh

Dianne James

Arnold S. Friedman Memorial Scholarship:

Sandra Alcazar

Eric Del Orbe

Ana Diaz

Monica Gomez

Marie Sanoguet

Nadia Thomas

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PT Grads!
We'd Like to Hear
From You!
To share your news,
photos, & ideas
please email us at:
haskins@fiu.edu

Donate to Your Alma Mater

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,
contact:**
Leonard Elbaum,
Chairperson
elbauml@fiu.edu
305-348-3113

Physical Therapy Faculty Leaders!

The Physical Therapy faculty are in positions of leadership in the new College of Nursing & Health Sciences. Professor Colleen Rose-St. Prix was recently elected to lead the Faculty Assembly in the newly reconstituted College. As Chair of the Faculty Assembly, Professor Rose-St. Prix will also serve as Chair of the Steering Committee, which sets agendas for the Assembly and consults with the College administration on issues of importance to faculty, staff, and students. Colleen is accompanied by other physical therapy faculty members who will be active in faculty governance in the college.

Professor Lisa Roberts has been elected to serve as the physical therapy representative to the Steering Committee, and she will also be a member on the Interdisciplinary Practice & Education Committee and on the Student Affairs Committee. Dr. Mark Rossi has been elected to serve as the PT representative to the Faculty Affairs Committee and to the Research Committee. Professor Martha Bloyer will serve as a member of the Clinical Education Committee, and Dr. Awilda Haskins will serve on the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Steve Bernstein will serve on the Technology Committee and on the Promotion of Clinical Faculty Committee. Congratulations to all!

Class of 2006, Capstone Seminar



Above (clockwise from top left): Lisa Fossett, Jen Klein and Robert Espinosa with their poster, one of eleven posters on display during the Seminar; Yasmin Hussain-Qureshi, recipient of the Research Award, seen here with her advisor, Dr. Awilda Haskins, presented her research, "The effects of carrying a messenger bag on the weight distribution through the lower extremities." Dr. Eric Shamus from NSU, also collaborated on this project; Recipients of the Service Awards pose with the Physical Therapy faculty.

Capstone Seminar Award Recipients

Dimensions

Karen Sydnor

Neurology Sequence

Xenia Y. Andrzejewski

Musculoskeletal Sequence

Jennifer Klein and Lisa Fossett

Research

Yasmin Hussain-Qureshi

Foundations

Jennifer Vega

Service

Rachel Stafford - President

Joaquin Fuertes - Vice President

Yamile Ramirez - Secretary

Kenesha Dixon - Treasurer

Aura Sanchez - Historian