Happy New Year

Physical Therapy Alumni Newsletter

Donna Fry—The Directors Message

As we approach the end of 2009 and reflect back on the year, there were many changes in the UM-Flint Physical Therapy Department. Recently hired faculty and staff have added new dimensions to our department with their expertise and enthusiasm. We are in the final year of implementing a large curriculum revision and are very pleased with the performance of students in the new curriculum. Other exciting news includes full implementation of our online transitional DPT program and a planned expansion of class size to 60 students beginning in fall 2010 (read more in this newsletter 😊).

Through the generosity of our alumni we have been able to add several new scholarships for students. This is a welcome relief to students in this economically troubled time.

In the year to come I encourage you our Alumni to share your experiences and feedback as we want to continue the great tradition of excellence in Physical Therapy and Leaders in Healthcare

Clarence Sevillian—From PT to CEO, Keeping Healthcare at the forefront

Do you remember your motivation to get into physical therapy? Almost all of us entered the field to help others. Although he has moved very high up the administrative ladder, helping others is still what motivates Clarence Sevillian, President and CEO of Doctor’s Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. Clarence graduated with his MPT degree from UM-Flint in 1998 and worked in rehabilitation for McLaren Regional Medical Center in Flint. He subsequently earned a MBA from Lawrence Tech and completed a Fellowship in Health Care Administration from the Health Care Advisory Board through Harvard University. This prepared him well for advancing through McLaren in hospital management. His career path led him to be Director of Business Development for McLaren, Vice-President of Operations for Lapeer Hospital (part of the McLaren system), and finally President and CEO of Doctor’s Hospital which is partially owned by McLaren.

Clarence faced quite a challenging task when he took over as CEO of the hospital. The hospital had gone through bankruptcy and been closed for 3 days before he arrived. Upon arrival the hospital had 0 patients, the need to become accredited again, and the task of regaining the confidence of the community. Within a year, the hospital began to turn in monthly profits. Clarence is not only concerned with the bottom line on finances; he reports that he rounds the patient floors every day to keep in touch with patient care. He says that one of the keys to his success as an administrator is that he had a solid foundation in patient care which he still values very highly. He is still in the health care profession to help others.

When asked for advice on how to climb the career ladder into health care administration, Clarence had this advice to share. First, get an understanding of your own clinical department management and how management decisions affect patient care. Second, gain knowledge through taking courses or an MBA program to enhance your business knowledge. And finally, don’t lose sight of why you are a health care provider—to provide the best care you can to your patients.
Two Facets of Physical Therapy—Guest Lecturers and Alumni Lorne MacDonald and Ron Royce Inspire Students

Lorne (Mac) MacDonald (Class of 2001), his wife and business manager Beth, and his professional colleague Ron Royce who is an orthopedic surgeon lectured to DPT students and invited guests in November. Mac and Beth gave an inspirational speech to encourage DPT students to pursue private practice in physical therapy. Mac advocated establishing private practices as a key element in advancing APTA Vision 2020 while Beth came through with practical advice on starting up a private practice. Ron Royce spoke on pathology of the Rehabilitation of Microfractures. This was an excellent opportunity for students to learn and be motivated by one of our alumni members!

Program Updates—DPT Program Expanding to Serve Profession

The Physical Therapy Department received final approval to expand enrollment from 40 students/year to 60 students/year beginning with the class entering in fall 2010. The Physical Therapy Department added program expansion to its strategic plan in response to the 2008 American Physical Therapy Association Workforce Report stating that physical therapy position vacancy rates across a variety of physical therapy settings ranged from 13% to nearly 19%. The university has committed space to accommodate this expansion and we have the resources to hire additional faculty and staff to meet the needs of students. We have been communicating with our clinical education committee about the expansion during the past year and are receiving positive support from them. As an alumnus reading about this expansion, you must be wondering about how we will keep the feel of a smaller program as we expand to class cohorts of 60 students.

We are developing a model of clinical education that involves students being tracked all the way through the program by the same clinical education faculty member (we now have three: Laura LoVasco, Amy Yorke, and Annemarie Kammann) to ensure continuity throughout the curriculum. Students will continue to meet with their faculty advisors regularly. Some of our efforts initiated in the past two years will be continued to help students get to know each other within their own class cohort and across class cohorts (expanded orientation with emphasis on team building within the class and addition of the DPT Olympics every fall as an icebreaker across class cohorts). We are also working with students to expand social programming to gain more interaction between the classes (more on that in the next newsletter as those plans develop).
Alumni News

Rebecca (Lowell) Myszenski (Class of 1994) recently accepted a position as the Interim Director of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Mott Community College in Flint.

Jason Hamilton (Class of 1999) organized a program to collect used canes from community members in the Flint area in exchange for a candy cane during the winter holidays this year. The canes will be used for people without insurance to cover durable medical equipment.

Annalee (Slingerland) Appleldorn (Class of 2003) had a baby boy named Miles.

Jim Bates (Class of 2006) had a baby boy.


Calling all Physical Therapy Alumni!

On March 9, 2010 Chancellor Ruth Person and the UM-Flint Alumni Relations team will host a luncheon in Washington, DC. For those of you who would like to join fellow classmates, please contact the UM-Flint Alumni Relations office, karntz@umflint.edu or 810-424-5448.

Welcome New Faculty

Annemarie Kammann, PT, MEd, PCS received her BS in Physical Therapy from the University of Michigan and her Masters of Health Education from Wayne State University. She has been ABPTS certified in pediatrics since 2005. Annemarie has been a school physical therapist and more recently the clinical manager of rehab services at Children’s Hospital of Michigan. Annemarie joined our faculty as a half-time Lecturer and Assistant Director of Clinical Education in September. She is a member of our clinical education team and will also teach some of our pediatric courses.

New SHPS Dean—Dr. Barbara Kornblau

Barbara L. Kornblau, JD, OTR/L is the new Dean of the School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint. She previously served as professor of Occupational Therapy and Public Health, College of Allied Health and Nursing, and College of Osteopathic Medicine, at Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale-Davie, Florida. Dr. Kornblau served as a Government Relations and Disability Policy Consultant to Special Olympics International, Washington DC since 2007, after she completed a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship. She is frequently called upon by our US legislators for consultation on the health policy reform and to draft language for some of the health policy bills being considered by the current legislature.
Faculty/Staff Accolades

In December, 2009 Cindy Pfalzer was an Invited Reviewer for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, US Department of Health and Human Services for a Technology Assessment entitled, “Diagnosis and Treatment of Secondary Lymphedema.” She also served as an Invited Guest Panelist on the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee for “Secondary Lymphedema” in November, 2009. This fall, Cindy also received the University of Michigan-Flint Distinguished Faculty Scholarship Award in recognition of her sustained, high quality research.

In her first year with us, Jaime Bedford, our new Administrative Assistant who supports the clinical education program recently received a Silver Staff Award from a student for her excellent work. Way to go Jaime!

Tom Ruediger received his DSc degree this fall after completing his dissertation on “Electrophysiologic Measures of Ulnar Sensory Nerve Function: Reference Values and Reliability of the Measure.”

In September, Donna Fry was promoted to full professor, becoming the 4th full professor that the PT program has had over the years.

Faculty Openings

As part of development of the transitional DPT and expansion of the entry-level program enrollment we currently have three openings for new faculty. Candidates with specialization in neurology and/or acute care are especially welcome. Visit our website at http://www.umflint.edu/pt/ and click on the employment button on the left to find out more information on these positions.

Telefund News

Look for the Physical Therapy Pre-Call Letter in March.

Our Physical Therapy Students learn a lot from speaking with Alumni and realize the importance of giving back when they see former Physical Therapy Students contribute to scholarships and un-restricted funds within Physical Therapy.

DPT Students Active in Community

DPT students again made the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk a success. DPT students, faculty, and staff exceeded their target goal of $2,000.00 and raised $2,317.42 for the American Cancer Society!
Highlights

- Implemented a fully online Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. Met enrollment goal 35 part-time students by Fall 2009.
- Designed 5 graduate certificate programs to be implemented over a 2-year period beginning Fall 2009.
- Implemented second year of the revised DPT curriculum. The curriculum is undergoing significant revision to meet recently updated standards in the field of physical therapy.
- Working diligently to prepare a self-study report about the DPT program for CAPTE accreditation (site visit planned in fall 2010).
- Proposal to expand enrollment to 60 students in Fall 2010 was accepted.

Development and Alumni Relations Holiday Message

With a year of economic downturn and uncertainty you our dedicated Alumni and Friends have come through with Telefund, Annual and Major Gifts to the Physical Therapy Department that impact our students at a time of great need. Please accept our sincerest thanks and know that your support both financially and professionally will leave a significant mark on current and future Physical Therapy Students.

Thank You and Happy New Year

Sandra Johnson, Annual Giving
Stacey Doyle, Major Gift Officer

Upcoming Donor and Alumni Events

- Scholarship Dinner, Thursday, March 25, 2010
- Outstanding SHPS Alumni Awards, April 2010

Be a Listserv Coordinator For Your Class!

- Class of 1961 Heddie Solomon Romanoff hromanoff@att.net
- Class of 1962 Gwendolyn Molenda chuckgwenm@coastalnet.com
- Class of 1964 Blanche E. Puffer bepuffer@yahoo.com
- Class of 1965 Kay S. Bartecchi cbartecchi@comcast.net
- Class of 1966 Lisa Joseph Rothman lisarothmann@optonline.net
- Class of 1969 Karlane Larson Belaire karlanebelaire@charter.net
- Class of 1972 Ethel (Uitti) Larsen larsens@netonecom.net
- Class of 1977 Leone (Thrane) White bwhtie@inghamisd.org
- Class of 1984 Linda (Alt) Olsen HelloLinda@aol.com
- Class of 1985 Debbie Macaulay dmacaulay@team-family.org
- Class of 1986 Lori Trainman Abraham ltedess11@yahoo.com
- Class of 1987 Giselle Hall gisellehallpt@yahoo.com
- Class of 1991 Jason Hamilton jasonham@umflint.edu
- Class of 1991 Cheryl Hoxie Hoximastin@aol.com
- Class of 1991 Terri (Norris) Thompson TeriNThompson@aol.com
- Class of 1993 Amy (Glady) Yorke yorkeglady@hotmail.com
- Class of 1994 Jill Edwards jillysedwards@sbcglobal.net
- Class of 1996 Suzanne Perkins SmPT96@aol.com

If you have not already done so, send an e-mail to your class list serve coordinator and they will add you to a list of members of your class so that you can communicate with them. If your class does not yet have a list serve coordinator and you would like to volunteer to do this for your class, complete the form found on page 6 and return to us.
E-MAIL LIST SERVE COORDINATOR

I am willing to serve as the E-mail List Serve Coordinator for the Class of ________________________

Name: ________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________
Telephone: _____________________________________________________________________
(Home)      (Work)
E-Mail address: _________________________________________________________________

COMMENTS FROM ALUMNI FORM

If you would take a minute to fill out the following information, and/or attach an additional page, we would like to share this information in future newsletters. If you have updates on name or address changes that you want us to know for your file, we would appreciate hearing from you on an ongoing basis. In either case, please send this information to: Physical Therapy Department, University of Michigan-Flint, 303 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48502.

Name __________________________________________________________ Yr. of Graduation ________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________________
City _______________________ State ______ Zip Code __________ (Area Code) Telephone No. (___)_________

What would you like us to share about you in the alumni newsletter (where do you work, position, education, professional activities, awards, marriage, family, children, etc)?

Leaders and Best
Invest

* Please make checks payable to UM-Flint University of Michigan-Flint
* Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.
* If your employer is a matching gift company, please contact your human resources office and send us the appropriate forms.

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Please use my gift of $_________________ for:

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☐ Paulette Kondela Cebulski Physical Therapy Scholarship (571667) _________
☐ Student Emergency Fund (366536) _________
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☐ Jane Eileen Murdock Memorial Scholarship (572051) _________
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