Developing Alumni Relations

Alumni from the past 4 decades gathered together at the 2011 APTA Combined Sections Meeting in New Orleans in February to celebrate the profession of physical therapy. Stories were shared about being a PT student at the University of Michigan, whether the education occurred in Flint or Ann Arbor. This shared experience allowed relationships to develop and networking to occur.

Alumni shared their experiences as PT students. Many reflected on the rigor of the program, the anxiety experienced prior to practical exams, and the challenges faced as a student physical therapist during clinical rotations. As alumni we value our past experiences that have molded us into the skillful and knowledgeable physical therapists that we are today. Developing relationships with our patients and their families, referral sources, and colleagues is something that we do daily. Often it is our relationship with the mentors and the organization that brought us to our life’s work that is forgotten. Alumni are always encouraged to contact the department to share their expertise by presenting a guest lecture, join in on a research project, share their personal and professional accomplishments, or to support the student body of the department through a donation. It is through your engagement with the PT department that the high quality of the program will be maintained to benefit future physical therapists.

Another gathering is planned for CSM 2012 which will be held in Chicago. We would like to invite all U of M PT alumni to join us for this event. Please plan to renew your relationship with the PT Department at the University.

Greetings From the Director

Dr. Cindy Pfalzer

Spring for most people signifies hope, optimism, a "looking-ahead" and search for new meaning in life. At the PT Department the pace has certainly picked up as it usually does this time of year; the end of the academic calendar soon approaches as we enter the fourth and final fiscal quarter. At this time we reflect on the past academic year and develop plans for the next.

The PTD May 16-19 Telefund is around the corner; the money donated during Telefund, including student scholarship funds, brings hope to many students.

An important anniversary is coming up in the fall of 2012! Planning is underway for the 60th anniversary of the UM PT program and the 30th anniversary for the PT Department at U of M - Flint. Look for more on this event on our alumni webpage and in future newsletters. We always welcome an opportunity to hear from you! If you have any questions, concerns or news to share, please call or email: 810-762-3373 cpfalzer@umflint.edu

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2012 REUNION
60/30 Anniversary

Plans are being developed for a large reunion for all U of M PT alumni in the Fall of 2012 which will include activities both in Flint and Ann Arbor. This celebration will highlight 60 years of educating physical therapists by the University of Michigan system as well as the 30th anniversary of the program move from Ann Arbor to Flint.

Update your contact info—you won't want to miss this party!
Admissions Update

The Admissions Committee has been busy working on admitting our new class of 60 to start the fall of 2011. In the fall of 2010, the number of students admitted to the DPT program increased from 42 to 60 in order to accommodate the increased demand for physical therapists. Students applying to the entry level program now complete the application process through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PT CAS). Utilizing this service allows a student the convenience of entering application data in one location while applying to multiple physical therapy programs. As a physical therapist, you may have been asked to complete an online reference for an applicant.

This electronic process assists you in managing your time since you are required to write one letter for each student. We appreciate our alumni taking the time to write letters of recommendation for our applicants.

The PT department will host an open house on June 1, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for UM-Flint Fall 2012 applicants. Please feel free to pass along this information to any current volunteers who will be applying to enter UM-Flint’s physical therapy program for the fall of 2012. For more information, contact Christina Wixson at cwixson@umflint.edu. Thanks for taking volunteers in your clinic and providing them with encouragement before, during, and after the admission process.

News from the Clinical Education Team

It’s no longer just the ADCE! The clinical education team is now:

- Annemarie Kammann, PT, MEd, PCS – Associate Director for Clinical Education (ADCE)
- Laura LoVasco, PT, MPT, GCS – Assistant Director for Clinical Education
- Amy Yorke, PT, MPT, NCS – Assistant Director for Clinical Education
- Jaime Bedford, BA – Administrative Assistant for Clinical Education.

The clinical education team is currently housed in an office suite on the 4th floor of the William S. White Building.

Clinical Education Advising
Starting this year we began clinical education advising for entry-level DPT students. In addition to meeting with a generic abilities advisor, students are required to meet with a clinical education advisor, one of the three faculty on the clinical education team, once a year. The purpose of the clinical education advising meeting is to discuss the student’s interests within the physical therapy field to assist in coordination of clinical placements and provide direction in the pursuit of professional goals.

New Clinical Sites
We are always in search of new clinical sites (specifically those specializing in acute care, pediatrics, geriatrics, lymphedema, women’s health, and neuro) to provide great teaching and learning experiences for our students. If you work for a clinic that is interested in taking students for part-time and/or full-time clinical rotations please let us know. Contact Amy Yorke at (810) 424-5568 or amyorke@umflint.edu.

Student Housing
One of the most stressful things for a PT student can be finding safe and affordable housing near their clinical site when the clinical rotation is scheduled outside of the greater Flint area. If you have a home or room for rent let us know! Send details to Jaime Bedford at jloncare@umflint.edu or call (810) 424-5216.

New Technology
Clinical Education has gone paperless! No more paper CPI’s (Clinical Performance Instrument). For the past two years we have been using the PT CPI Web, a web-based evaluation tool for students and clinical instructors. This year we are piloting a program called SiteAssign that assigns students to available clinical site placements based on the student’s desired rankings of the sites available. SiteAssign will also integrate with another new program, CSIF Web, which transforms the Clinical Site Information Form to an online survey available for viewing by the academic program and students. Students will have tons of information available on the internet to assist with making decisions about where they want to do their clinical rotations. Hooray for new technology!
The Post-Professional Program

The faculty and staff of the Department of Physical Therapy’s post-professional program continue to be hard at work developing and expanding its scope. Presently, they are working to achieve credentialed residency status now that the first students are enrolled in that component of the program. In addition, in-depth conversations are taking place with potential partners for residency sites, and formal agreements should be finalized in the near future. Fall 2011 will bring a large influx of students, as the certificate, transitional DPT, and residency programs have been opened to all licensed PTs. Feedback from the first graduates of the transitional doctorate degree has been very favorable, and the excitement generated from their interaction with their professional peers has manifested itself in increased enrollment for the upcoming year. In addition, strategic talks are taking place between the university and international communities, with the intent of opening up these high quality educational opportunities to colleagues overseas, to meet the needs of the academic community. As research in the field of evidence-based practice expands, the importance of cultivating well trained and educated leaders in physical therapy education continues to increase. All in all, it’s a very exciting time for the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Michigan-Flint, and the APTA’s Vision 2020, and criterion for ABPTS Board Certified Clinical Specialization, continue to direct the efforts of those involved in the post-professional program.

Congratulations t-DPT graduates!
The first graduates of the t-DPT program received their degrees in December. The following information is a reflection of their educational journey provided by two of those graduates:

Dr. Brian Adams  PT, OCS, CSCS received his t-DPT degree on a snowy Sunday in December. Reflecting on the demands of his education and the benefit to his professional development, Dr. Adams had the following to say:

"Having attended other universities here in Michigan, the course work and degree I have earned through UM Flint is one that I am most proud of for many reasons. Attempting higher education with the demands and responsibilities of full time clinical work and raising a young family is ambitious, to say the least. My primary motivation for choosing UM-Flint over other online/distance learning programs was knowing the quality of education they offer and the great students that I have seen come through the program. The flexibility and support that the staff and professors offered me (us), along with the love and support of my family, made this a very rewarding (yet challenging) endeavor. I thoroughly enjoyed the program, start to finish. The end result has been very positive, and I continue to encourage my colleagues to seriously consider the opportunity to expand their knowledge within a great institution."

Dr. Adams is a Clinical Supervisor at MedSport in Brighton, MI.

Dr. Mary Lundy  PT, PCS is a faculty member at the University of North Florida and a recent graduate of the t-DPT program. Dr. Lundy was one of the speakers for the graduate luncheon and her speech was remarkable. The following is a brief excerpt from this speech:

"At the beginning of this journey, I was uncomfortable with the question “Why?” I was uncertain how I was going to handle the challenges of graduate school. And now at my destination, all the uncertainties I had have been replaced with confidence. Not confidence that I know all the answers to life’s challenges, but confidence that I have the knowledge and courage to seek out and find answers.

I feel that through this experience I have a better appreciation of my citizenship in the global healthcare community, an enhanced sense of civic responsibility and better understanding of the impact culture can have on the healthcare outcomes of a community. These are concepts difficult to learn within a classroom and I was fortunate enough to learn them."

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Dr. Mary Lundy  PT, PCS

The Post Professional exhibit at CSM. Come find us at the APTA Annual Meeting in June!

“..the support and respect from our professors, translated into a positive and career shaping experience”  
Brian Adams  
DPT, OCS, CSCS

“Not only did I learn course content, I learned about myself as a student and a physical therapist. Participating in this program reignited my passion and pride for my profession.”  
Mary Lundy  
DPT, PCS
FACULTY NOTES: Presentations, Publications, & Grants

Sheila Littleton’s manuscript entitled "Effects of Positioning on Respiratory Measurements in Individuals with Cerebral Palsy and Severe Scoliosis" was accepted to Pediatric Physical Therapy.

Lucinda Pfalzer and Donna Fry submitted "Lower Extremity Mobility Improvements in Persons with Multiple Sclerosis Following a 10 Week Inspiratory Muscle Training Program: a RCT" to International Journal of MS Care, and was accepted for special issue on Mobility.

Presentations
Amy Yorke & Jennifer Blackwood presented at the MPTA Northeast District meetings of MPTA regarding the examination and intervention for balance and falls in the older cancer survivor.

CSM 2011
Donna Fry received the 2010 Degenerative Diseases SIG Service Award from the Degenerative Diseases Special Interest Group of the Neurology Section of the APTA. This award is in appreciation of outstanding leadership and service to the DDSIG as the former Nominating Committee Chair and Vice Chair and for outstanding presentation at the 2008 CSM DDSIG Business meeting entitled "Respiratory muscle training in individuals with MS - an Evidence based approach."

Research Posters Presentations at CSM:
Function, Self-Efficacy, and Fear Avoidance Behavior in Medically Underserved Subjects with Chronic Low Back Pain by Edgar Torres PT, D.Sc., Victor Lidaywa DPT, Craig Serra DPT, Phillip Schuyton DPT, Jason Hamilton MPT.

Student attitudes and retention of basic neuroscience knowledge by Steve Meyers, S Blough, Donna Fry

Invited presentations at CSM:
Min Huang & Cindy Pfalzer presented “The Identification and Screening of Balance for Patients with Cancer.”
Amy Yorke & Jennifer Blackwood presented “The Examination and Intervention of Balance Disorders for Patients with Cancer.”

Grants
Jennifer Blackwood is partnering with Dr. Rie Suzuki in the Public Health and Health Sciences department and received a grant from the School of Health Professions and Studies for interdisciplinary research.

Cindy Pfalzer and members of the Crim foundation are working on researching adult fitness program outcomes and they have received a grant from the School of Health Professions and Studies.

Announcements
Tom Ruediger is participating in Leadership Genesee which is a group of residents of Genesee County who have made a commitment to pursue collaborative avenues to improve the lives of others in the county.

Carol Daly is presenting a 1 day conference June 1 on the UMF campus. The title is ‘NICU to Community: Early Intervention for the High Risk Infant.’ The course will cover developmental care in the NICU and home program interventions for the first 4 months post NICU discharge.

Amy Yorke is presenting a course titled “Camera! Lights! Action! Utilizing a Videotaping Assignment to Facilitate Self-Assessment” at the 2011 SOTL Academy Conference, to be held at Eastern Michigan University on May 16 and 17, 2011.

Edgar Torres and students from the Class of 2013 traveled to Houston, TX for a Pro Bono Conference.
Students in the class of 2011 are busy in their full time clinical rotations at this time. The department thanks all of our alumni who have added to the value of their education as clinical instructors. Students will be participating in a University graduation ceremony on May 1. Various students within the class have been busy planning a hooding ceremony which will be held on August 28th after their clinical education has been completed. The keynote speaker for this ceremony will be current APTA president, Scott Ward PT, PhD. Dr. Ward will also address currently enrolled students and the community Friday afternoon, August 26; stay tuned for more details in the summer newsletter.

The class of 2012 began their journey a little over a year ago, overwhelmed by the idea of practicing physical therapy in a clinic. Now, with springtime spirits and finishing their two main sequences of classes (musculoskeletal and neuromuscular practice), they cannot wait to get to their assigned clinics in May. The students have been rallying together with other cohorts to participate in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Club. This newly founded club has established a way for DPT students to communicate and coordinate with each other in a dynamic setting that is fun and resourceful. The DPT Club has produced can drives, potlucks, and monthly newsletters. 2012 students have been successful in providing opportunities to give back to the community and the profession, providing wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, research, and legislative processes. These students are experiencing success in their studies, their relationships with each other, and in learning to develop compassionate care for their future patients. We look forward to all their accomplishments as they finish their DPT education. 

In the fall of 2010, 56 strangers from all over Michigan and the surrounding states came together to form the Class of 2013. The class has not wasted any time getting involved with the Physical Therapy Department and the PT profession. Nine students are on the board of directors for the student led pro bono clinic being formed and anticipated to start in the fall of 2011. Students are also preparing to attend the APTA student conclave in Minnesota fall 2011 and MPTA student conclave held in Lansing in April. Many of the class members are currently APTA/MPTA members and have attended NE MPTA meetings to learn more about their profession and advocacy. A few students were selected to attend the January PT Board meeting in Lansing that concerned changing the Physical Therapy Administrative Rules to reflect the intent of the PT Board and professional PT practice. In collaboration with upper classmates a majority of the Class of 2013 have participated in many volunteer opportunities in the Flint and surrounding communities in the pursuit of Vision 2020.

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Students of the Class of 2013 gather for a picture after performing an educational event for 5th –7th graders at Genesee Academy.
Department Changes

Leslie Lacy, PT, MPT, joined the department as a full time faculty member this January after three years as adjunct faculty. A specialist in lymphedema management and wound care, she provides valuable instruction in evaluation and treatment of patients with endocrine, metabolic and integument disorders. Her commitment to learning stimulates a fresh educational experience for her students. Leslie lives in Saginaw with her two children, Jacob and Marissa; she and her fiancé Michael are planning an August wedding. Leslie loves to run, and enjoys concerts, movies, and amusement parks with her family. The department is thrilled to have this 1995 alumnus return to share her specialized knowledge and clinical skills.

Lorrie Jorgenson, BA, LBSW, joined the PT department as Administrative Assistant Senior in December and has brought a world of experience and knowledge with her. She comes from Traverse City where she was the site representative for the TC School of Nursing office (U of M Ann Arbor), and an adoption specialist/pregnancy counselor for Bethany Christian Services. Lorrie lives in Flushing with her husband and enjoys going to their cabin on the AuSable River. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren to keep life exciting. Lorrie enjoys kayaking, solving word puzzles, and reading. Lorrie demonstrates the upmost professional behavior while performing her duties - to students, staff and faculty. We are fortunate to have her as an addition to our department.

Alumni Updates

The following two alumni received ABPTS board certification in 2010 and were honored at the awards ceremony at CSM in 2011: Michele Lambaria PT, MPT, NCS, Class of 2000, received ABPTS board certification in Neurologic Physical Therapy. Jennifer Fritts PT, DPT, OCS, Class of 2000, received ABPTS board certification in Orthopedic Physical Therapy.

Eric Galvez PT DPT, Class of 2003, is doing a book signing for his book entitled, “Reversals” at the University of Michigan, Michigan Union Pendleton room in Ann Arbor, MI, at 1:00PM, Sunday, April 3rd.

Clarence Sevillian, MBA, PT, Class of 1998, is the new president and CEO of POH Regional Medical Center in Pontiac, MI.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Circle of Excellence Awards

It is time once again to solicit nominations for the Physical Therapy Department Circle of Excellence Awards to honor our alumni. Please use the inserted form or link to the form on our web page.

We want YOUR feedback

To improve our relationship with PT alumni, please take this survey and share your valuable ideas:

http://umflint.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_54PDLMYcGB1g59y

Professional Development Opportunities at UMF

Each of the five post-professional certificate programs will soon offer their courses for continuing professional development. With the recent change in licensure renewal requirements in the state of Michigan, these courses can be an added value to your portfolio as well as advance your clinical practice using an evidence based approach. Clinical coursework is available in the following physical therapy specialties: Geriatrics, Pediatrics, Neurology, Orthopedics, and Cardiopulmonary PT

Coursework will provide a strong clinical approach based on recent advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and interventions of the various diseases or disorders addressed within the specialty area. If you are interested in expanding your physical therapy knowledge base, contact our department for opportunities available to meet your professional goals. Contact Christina Wixson cwixson@umflint.edu for more information.

Don’t forget that your alma mater offers great lifelong learning options! Check out LIFELONG LEARNING on our website!
ALUMNI TELEFUND
The Annual Telefund is coming! Students, faculty, and staff of the department are preparing to contact you during an evening, May 16-19. Please consider supporting the various student scholarships and emergency funds created to assist in developing future clinicians. If you have had an address or phone number change, please contact Lorrie Jorgenson at ljorgens@umflint.edu or at 810.762.3373.

Want to Serve?
If you don't see a coordinator for your class, please consider serving in this capacity.

Would you like to join in contacting other alumni as we plan our 2012 Reunion?

Call 810.762.3373
E-mail Lorrie Jorgenson ljorgens@umflint.edu
Mail Physical Therapy Dept, 2157 WSWB
UM-Flint, 303 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI, 48502

We love to hear from our alumni!

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

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