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School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences Continued Growth

By Joyce Mac Kinnon, EdD, PT

The School began the 2011-12 academic year with its annual retreat that included updates on all programs, a review of the expanded Strategic Plan, and discussion about how the School can increase interprofessional collaboration.

The School’s new faculty includes Mary Beth Brown, PT, PhD in the Department of Physical Therapy; Jim Zedaker, MPAS, PA and Jennifer Marable, MS, PA in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program; and Kathy Visovatti-Weaver, RN, MPA, JD as the new program director for the undergraduate Bachelor of Science on Health Sciences program. The School’s new staff includes Na’Cole Tilson as the undergraduate student counselor, Kelly Early as the administrative assistant in the Dean’s Office and Christine Baldwin as the Director of Development.

Thanks goes out to Dr. Patty Scott of the Department of Occupational Therapy, whose award of an IUPUI Learning Environment Grant has allowed the school to create an educational space in the basement of Coleman Hall for research and student activities (see photo to the right). With new carpet, painting, accordion dividers and educational technology this is the first dedicated space encouraging students from different disciplines to interact with each other.

All of the School’s capped programs (DPT, MS in OT, and the internship in Nutrition and Dietetics) are fully enrolled this year. We have seen substantial growth in our new BS in Health Sciences with 130 students currently in the program. We now have 21 PhD students, having added 2 new students this fall. After reflection and consultation we made the decision to delay application for accreditation for our proposed Master of Physician Assistant Studies program until 2012, with an anticipated start date of May 2013.

All of our alumni are welcome to visit at any time, and we were glad to see many at the School’s First Interdisciplinary Research Conference held on the IUPUI campus on November 12, 2011.

The Department Welcomes
Mary Beth Brown, PhD, PT, ATC

The Department is happy to welcome our newest faculty member - Dr. Mary Beth Brown - who joined our program in July 2011. Dr. Brown will co-teach the pathophysiology courses in the first year DPT curriculum, as well as contribute to the Department’s considerable research agenda. She has spent the summer setting up her laboratory in Fesler Hall and continues working to acquire the necessary equipment while submitting for grant funding.

Dr. Brown’s research interest is in the use of aerobic exercise training as a therapeutic intervention for diseased and disabled populations. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Medicine from Lenoir-Rhyne College and earned her MSPT degree from the University of Miami, Florida she practiced as a physical therapist in St. Petersburg, Florida for nearly a decade. Dr. Brown earned her PhD in Applied Physiology from Georgia Institute of Technology and worked as a graduate assistant in the program’s Exercise Physiology Laboratory. Her doctoral work investigated mechanisms and consequences of high sweat sodium loss in healthy and cystic fibrosis athletes; this project uncovered important safety issues to be addressed for optimizing exercise as therapy in cystic fibrosis. Her post-doctoral work was completed recently with the IU Department of Medicine’s Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care. Dr. Brown’s new lab continues her current research to evaluate exercise as therapy for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension for whom exercise is a promising but undocumented therapy. Another research interest of hers is intravital microscopy - the imaging of living organ tissue maintained in its native physiological environment. Dr. Brown currently assists a team of researchers in the development of a novel method of intravital rodent lung imaging using 2-photon microscopy.

Outside the classroom and research lab, Dr. Brown is an endurance athlete and has completed over 15 marathons and six Ironman triathlons, including two World Championship Ironman races in Hawaii. Since moving to Indianapolis she has become a member of the local US Masters swim team and is focused on training and racing in distance swimming events. When not in the pool, Dr. Brown enjoys traveling and outdoor activities with her family. The Department welcomes her to the DPT faculty and looks forward to her contributions to the academic and research agenda.
Welcome to another edition of Forward Motion, the Indiana University Department of Physical Therapy's annual newsletter. Enclosed, you will find articles detailing student and faculty activities that have occurred over the past academic year. May 2011 marked the seventh year of granting the DPT degree; thirty four graduates were honored, continuing the proud tradition of IU therapy program excellence. Their departure afforded thirty eight new students the opportunity in August to begin their journey. These new students represented the first cohort to have been admitted through an interview process as well as our traditional academic screening. Interviews were conducted by faculty, adjuncts, and alumni in late fall and resulted in added depth and quality to the admissions process.

The 2010-11 academic year was characterized by hard work and dedication from both students and faculty resulting in both personal and professional accomplishment. Kathy Wood, DPT Class of 2011 was named the 2010 Indiana American Physical Therapy Association (IN APTA) Student Scholarship Winner, and Lauren Doolittle, SPT Class of 2012 was declared the 2011 IN APTA Student Scholarship Winner. Dr. Tracy Dierks was awarded promotion and tenure, and Dr. Stuart Warden received the early career excellence in teaching award from the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research. The entire faculty disseminated scholarly works at either the APTA national or combined sections conference, most of which included student support and participation. The Faculty welcomed Dr. Mary Beth Brown, physical therapist and applied physiologist from Emory University. Dr. Brown will add expertise in the area of clinical pathophysiology and work jointly with the Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research (CTMR) team. Dr. Warden was busy redesigning the CTMR lab, which continues to gather and disseminate cutting edge evidence. Professor Valerie Strunk was busy all summer designing and implementing the program's new approach to integrated clinical education. Dr. Amy Bayliss was honored again by the students for her skills as an educator with the 2011 Golden Goniometer Award. These major accomplishments represent a portion of the Department's achievements this past year and are indicative of the dedication displayed by the faculty, staff, and students.

I am extremely grateful for all of the dedication our faculty, staff, students and alumni exhibit on a regular basis. As always, the Department would love to hear from you and hope that you would make it a point to visit on an annual basis. Remember to stay informed about upcoming events by following us on our Facebook page - Indiana University Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program; we try to keep it updated regularly. The faculty and staff are extremely excited about our future growth and hope you will remain connected to us.

Peter A. Altenburger, PhD, PT
Department Co-Chair

IU DPT Students Continue Marquette Challenge Fundraising Efforts With Restaurant Events & More!

By Erica Caley, SPT 2013

This year we are continuing our efforts to raise money for the Marquette Challenge using new fundraising activities. The Marquette Store is open for business with two locations - the Frances Ekstam Teaching Laboratory in Long Hall and the Coleman Hall PT Department computer lab. In addition, the students have organized an IU Physical Therapy apparel order to also support the campaign with a percentage of the profits going to the challenge efforts. Visit the IU PT Department Facebook page for details on the apparel order.

This semester, the Marquette Challenge Committee has also teamed up with two local restaurants to host fundraising events. On November 16th, Noodles & Company donated 25% of their profits from patrons who presented the flyer or mentioned the IU DPT Marquette Challenge or brought in our flyer. On December 6th, Qdoba will donate $1 for every IU DPT voucher (see flyer to the right) presented at time of purchase - stay tuned for additional events being planned for spring 2012 (so keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information). These restaurant events are a fun and easy way for students, faculty, or local alumni to contribute to our efforts to help advance physical therapy research.
It’s Not Goodbye…It’s See You Later:
SPTO Hosts the Byron Hartman Memorial Blood Drive
By Chelsea A. Bird, SPT'13

Students crowded around a bright yellow poster, Sharpie markers in hand. Some wrote down funny stories, thank yous or inside jokes but they all had one thing in common – Byron. His grin radiated from the collection of personal notes and messages. At the top is a date that will always break our hearts; it reads ‘1987-2011.’

On our first day of PT school, one and a half years ago, we looked around at all the new faces and knew these people would be our classmates for the next three years but I don’t think anyone knew that we would become family. Over the course of our first year, we bonded through gross anatomy, PT classes and social events and then transitioned into friends and confidants. It’s difficult to describe the shift from strangers to close friends for those who haven’t experienced it. Your classmates are the only ones who can truly empathize with you when school gets tough. They understand your relief or excitement in accomplishing something new. Each person contributes in their own way, whether it be through humor, encouragement, optimism, etc., to make the class complete. When just one person is gone, not only is there an empty seat but there is a missing smile, joke and contribution to class. The ‘family’ is incomplete.

On July 14th, 2011 our DPT family became incomplete when Byron Hartman tragically passed away in a boating accident. Three months later, our class still aches with the loss. We miss his smirk, his ‘sneaky smarts’, his athleticism and sense of humor. I am not going to attempt to introduce you to Byron if you didn’t know him, because even if I had ten pages instead of one, I would assuredly not do him justice. However I will say this – Byron was our friend, family rather, and we will forever miss him.

In collaboration with the Indiana Blood Center (IBC), our class - Class of 2013 - and the Student Physical Therapy Organization (SPTO) hosted the Byron S. Hartman Memorial Blood Drive on October 13th as a way to positively impact others while honoring Byron’s memory. The idea to host a blood drive came from Becky Holtz when students discussed different ways to remember Byron. With help from Jamie Shurig and Lindsey Berry at IBC, the idea quickly gained momentum and became an official event. The drive was held in the IUPUI Van Nuys Medical Science building atrium and from 10am-5pm there was a steady stream of donors ready to give blood; the response was overwhelming. First time donors overcame their fears, and with supportive friends in tow, anxiously waited for their name to be called. Veteran donors carved time out of their busy schedules to raise their sleeve in honor of our friend. At the end of the day, with the help from a multitude of people, the drive was a great success and we reached our goal of 75 donors!

Although Byron’s death was tragic, he did have the ability to save lives with his own because he was an organ donor. Inspired by his gift, we also asked the Indiana Organ Procurement Organization (IOPO) to be a part of the blood drive so others could choose to give life as well. Several volunteers from IOPO attended the drive and shared their own personal stories of how being an organ recipient changed their lives forever. As a result of IOPO’s involvement, 10 people became new organ donors that day.

Byron may have left us physically, but he is far from gone in our hearts. His seat in class remains empty – it’s our way of simply saying, “We miss you. And no one will ever replace you.” His quote is at the top of our bulletin board, inspiring us to ‘do it big’ everyday. The memories we made with Byron are now treasures and bring comfort when we need it most. However, the greatest source of comfort comes from knowing that even though Byron was taken sooner than anyone expected, we have the hope of seeing him again someday. Because after all, it’s not really ‘goodbye’, it’s just ‘see you later’.
Student Kickball Tournament & PT Month Events

Each year the Student Physical Therapy Organization (SPTO) organizes creative events for students, faculty and alumni to help promote a sense of camaraderie and togetherness within the IU DPT Family. Previous SPTO activities have included welcome picnics, golf outings and pizza parties with the addition of a kickball tournament. This year’s welcome event was a hit certain to become an annual ritual.

After enjoying a pitch-in dinner students from all three DPT classes, several faculty members and alumni settled into a friendly and competitive game. As seen from the pictures to the left, the event was a success, helping to break the ice in a fun and spirited way.

The SPTO is currently planning more events and activities throughout the academic year. Be sure to keep an eye on the program’s Facebook page for more information.

The department also recognized Physical Therapy Month during October with a series of run/walk events, a canned food drive, and participation in the IUPUI Health Fair. The final run/walk included a Halloween costume contest - won by Megan Koerner (Pacman shown below) - that is an annual hit with students. Dr. Bayliss was happy to report that the canned food drive exceeded the goal of 250 cans, which were donated to the Hawthorne Community Center in Indianapolis. The health fair also proved a huge success with our students providing 124 balance assessments for fair participants.

Many special thanks go out to our generous donors and alumni who make these scholarships possible!
Is Sugar Hurting the Pediatric Skeleton?

By Robyn Fuchs, PhD

Historically, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a disease associated with older adults. However, over the past decade the incidence of both obesity and T2DM in children has increased at an alarming rate and is associated with numerous co-morbidities, including impairments to skeletal health. Unfortunately, these skeletal impairments may translate to an increased risk of fracture across the lifespan if we are unable to develop strategies aimed at ameliorating this disease. At this time little is understood regarding obesity, T2DM and the pediatric skeleton and the overall impact on lifelong bone health.

In the Bone Physiology Lab we are currently investigating the skeletal consequences of diabetes on the growing skeleton using a novel diabetic rat model. T2DM is a metabolic disease characterized by elevated blood glucose levels owing to both insulin resistance and insulin deficiency. It is not known how impaired glucose metabolism during childhood may impact skeletal growth and development, particularly with respect to how bones grow in both length and circumference, and the manner in which it fills with mineral. The animal model we are using is novel in that the animals develop impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance and obesity spontaneously during their rapid period of growth, the time period similar to the childhood and adolescence in humans.

It is not known how impaired glucose metabolism during childhood may impact skeletal growth and development, particularly with respect to how bones grow in both length and circumference, and the manner in which it fills with mineral.

We have been busy finishing up our first study whereby we characterized the skeletal phenotype of our diabetic animal model. More specifically, how do the bones of healthy rats compare to those with diabetes? We evaluated the impact of diabetes on bone structure and quality using several different outcomes measures including: mechanical testing, skeletal imaging, serum biomarkers of glucose and insulin, and histological measurements of bone formation. We found a significant negative impact of altered glucose metabolism and insulin resistance on bone growth in young animals. Specifically, the diabetic rats had lower bone mass, smaller bones and reduced bone strength when compared to animals with normal glucose function. From a fracture risk perspective, the smaller bones and reduced bone strength of the diabetic rats place them at a higher risk for both osteoporosis and fracture, particularly in adulthood. I am proud to say that several DPT students have been instrumental in helping execute this important work including Nathan Miller, SPT; Mike Turcovsky, SPT; Lisa Daily, SPT; and Elisa Wilcox, SPT (shown in picture above). We are very excited about our current work for a disease that needs immediate attention.

We recently received funding from the Indiana University Research Support Fund Grant to evaluate the effect of a novel exercise regimen on improving markers of cardiovascular and skeletal health in this same animal model. The ultimate goal is to translate our discoveries in animals into humans by identifying a highly specific exercise program that could easily be implemented into physical education programs in the community as a means to reduce the incidence of T2DM and the associated risk for fracture.
Searching for Ways to Use Exercise as Medicine
By Mary Beth Brown, PT, PhD

My overall research interest is in exercise as medicine. The current focus of my lab is to evaluate aerobic exercise training as therapy for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a devastating disease of progressive pulmonary vascular remodeling for which there is no cure and presently no effective treatment. Exercise is a promising therapy but its effect in PAH and impact on functional outcome is not well documented. The goal of my current projects is to define the physiological, biochemical and molecular adaptations that result from exercise in PAH animals, and, in the next phase of the study, in humans with PAH, so that exercise may be prescribed in a manner that optimizes beneficial outcomes and minimizes distress, cost, and potentially detrimental effects. In collaboration with IU School of Medicine pulmonologists Drs. T. Lahm, and I. Petrache, my lab is currently generating basic science data regarding PAH and exercise using a rat model of the disease. This data is vital to the design of our recently-funded early phase ‘proof-of-concept’ clinical trial of exercise training in patients with PAH that is planned for spring-fall 2012 in collaboration with the National Institute of Fitness and Sport on the IUPUI campus.


Please contact our office at 317-278-1875 for reprints of any departmental publications.
Department of Physical Therapy Faculty Updates

Peter Altenburger, PhD, PT continues to enjoy managing the department. He worked on the expansion of the Riley Robotics Rehabilitation Center at IU Health with the addition of 3 new robotic devices and the development of a new research laboratory which will be open in 2012. He also worked with faculty to implement several different curricular changes to enhance student learning. On the home front, Dr. Altenburger spends his free time with his wife Beth and their three kids Kate, Jack, and Sam. He vacationed again at the beach in NC and also returned to the pitch this fall as head coach for the U8 Slovakia Green Dragons - shown in the photo to the right.

Amy Bayliss, DPT, PT had a great summer. She presented a poster on empathy changes at the World Congress of Physical Therapy in Amsterdam, and then continued on a month long tour of Europe. The trip was particularly special, as she took her mom and mom's best friend on their “bucket list” trip to 6 countries: England, Scotland, Ireland, Netherlands, France and Greece (shown at left with Mum at Versailles). Word of warning - do not drive in a UK bus lane, it resulted in 2 traffic tickets costing $200!

Mary Beth Brown, PT, PhD has had an exciting fall with the birth of her twins Audrey and Mack in late October. They decided to make their appearance a month and a half early so Dr. Brown and her husband scrambled to get the nursery done before their arrival home in late November/early December. Both babies (shown right) are doing well despite their prematurity and have immediately captured their Mommy and Daddy’s hearts forever.

Tracy Dierks, PhD was recently promoted to Associate Professor. The Robotics Rehabilitation Center is growing at a rapid rate - additional robots were purchased, bringing the total to 5 and the Center has outgrown its location. Space has been secured in a new building with plans to move in the Summer 2012. The Center’s success resulted in the collaborative team receiving the Anita Slominski Caring Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana. Dr. Dierks continues his collaboration with Dr. Arlene Schmid in OT, wrapping up 2 studies involving stroke while beginning the next round of studies. He also continues his research involving running injuries and knee pain, receiving national and international attention for this work. Over the summer, the Dierks family (shown to the right) enjoyed vacations to Denver, Holiday World, and the Smoky Mountains. His family also welcomed a new member - an Australian Kelpie/German Sheppard mix named Revan.

Robyn Fuchs, PhD recently attended the national APTA headquarters as one of four invited speakers for the Third National Pediatric Research Summit on Dosing of Interventions for Children with an Injured Brain. She was invited to present on how to design dosing interventions aimed at improving bone health in this population, including selecting the most appropriate outcome measures. Dr. Fuchs was involved in identifying new collaborations, and developing novel strategies for treating children with injured brains and CP. She also presented at the IN APTA meeting with her students for work on designing effective therapies for osteoporosis (shown left with her students).

Terry Loghmani, PhD, PT, MTC, CMT is busy transitioning her courses to fit the program’s new clinical education model. She continues instrument-assisted soft tissue mobilization research focusing on case studies and series. Dr. Loghmani is also serving as SHRS Faculty President and is on the advisory board for the SHRS Learning and Research Facilitation Lab. She is now grandma to Lyla and enjoys relaxing with her family and dog, and is pictured to the right with her sons and dog at an art festival.

Valerie Strunk, MS, PT has been busy over the past year designing and implementing the new Integrated Clinical Education course sequence, a process which resulted in her first grant funding as a primary investigator. In June, she presented a poster at the APTA National Conference and attended Capitol Hill Day in DC, where she met with US Senators and Congressmen to discuss issues important to the PT profession. She and several IU DPT colleagues have been asked to present an education session at CSM 2012 about the Integrated Longitudinal Case-Based Teaching Model. She was also honored with the IU SHRS Excellence in Teaching Award this past May. She is pictured to the left with her family on vacation along the NC coast.

Molly Sturman, PhD, PT is enjoying her second year as a part-time faculty member. This semester she has been busy teaching Lifespan Motor Development and Neurorehabilitation II. In addition, she is beginning to examine the possibility of reorganizing and refocusing the pediatric portion of the curriculum. In her spare time, Molly - pictured to the right with her family during the July 4th holiday - enjoys running, yoga, volunteer work, and most importantly playing with her three children and 2 year old puppy.

Stuart Warden, PhD, PT, FASCM is shown to the left with the President of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research receiving the ASBMR Early Career Excellence in Teaching Award at the 2011 ASBMR Annual Meeting in San Diego. This prestigious award is given to an individual in the early stage of his/her career who displays a strong commitment to teaching and learning in the classroom, the clinic and/or research laboratory setting. Dr. Warden has also been extremely busy all year directing the Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research and continuing his role as Interim Associate Dean of Research for the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.
2011 IU PT Clinical Educator of the Year
Doug Skinner, PT, CI

The 2011 Indiana University DPT Clinical Educator of the Year was recently awarded to Clinical Instructor Doug Skinner, Physical Therapist and Rehab Supervisor at Greenwood Health and Living. Skinner was nominated by then first-year DPT student Makenzie Burbrink, who commented, “I really enjoyed watching how he interacted with his staff and patients on a daily basis. The atmosphere was always fun and energetic. The relationships Doug has with the people he works with are extremely professional, but always include joking around and having a good time. I think this is important, especially in an extended care facility. Doug and the entire staff work hard to make the resident’s time there the best it possibly be. I hope to be in a management position some time in my career and I will use the skills I learned from Doug to be the best leader I can possibly be. I have no doubts that Doug is one of the best clinical instructors that students from Indiana University will ever have. His passion and knowledge of the field was evident from the moment I met him. I have the utmost respect for him and his staff.”

Skinner has been a PT for 16 years and a CI for 12. “I take students primarily because I enjoy the vigor they bring to the clinic. They are full of knowledge and eager to begin applying their skills. Most are young enough to be getting married, having children, and I enjoy remembering that part of my life. I also value the latest information and skills being taught to PT students and seeing them potentially applied in the clinic. Overall, I just enjoy being around people that are happy, eager and excited about life and their new career....even if they really don't know what they're getting into completely,” said Skinner.

When he is not being “PT Doug” as he calls it, Skinner brings his own vigor to life. “I pastor full time at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis. I raise three kids with my ridiculously attractive wife, I collect confederate currency, coin roll hunt, and exercise my Second Amendment rights.”

IU Physical Therapy Department would like to congratulate Doug Skinner, and all the nominees. Without excellent clinical education partners, we would not be able to complete our mission.

We would like to recognize all instructors nominated by our students for 2011’s IU Clinical Educator of the Year:

- Abby Brantl, DPT, Accelerated Rehab
- Andrew Fifield, PT, Oakwood Country Place
- Jessica Gillespie, DPT, St. Elizabeth Hospital
- Ellora Gulati, PT, St. Elizabeth Hospital
- Chontall Holdman, PT, Accelerated Rehab
- Lisa Liter, PT, King’s Daughters Hospital
- Janae Marintoni, PT, Reid Hospital
- Michael Pleska, PT, IU Health West
- Roseanne Stover, PT, St. Vincent Hospital
- Jerry Svendsen, PT, St. Francis Sports Medicine
- Craig Voll, PT, ATC, St. Elizabeth Hospital
- Danielle Ziolkowski, PT, Accelerated Rehab

New Clinical Education Courses Drive Changes to IU DPT Curriculum

Beginning in the 2011 fall semester, incoming IU DPT students were the first to enroll in a new integrated clinical curriculum. The curricular redesign was centered on the addition of three new clinical education courses during the first two years of academic coursework. These courses, known as Integrated Clinical Education I, II, and III, allow students to spend four hours each week during the fall and spring semesters with a Physical Therapist Clinical Faculty member at one of several IU Health (formerly Clarian) clinical sites. During these “ICE” visits, pairs of students spend each Tuesday afternoon with a trained Clinical Faculty member at IU Health applying what knowledge and skills they are learning that week in the classroom.

The addition of the ICE courses necessitated a restructuring of other more established IU DPT courses. Physiology and Pathophysiology coursework will now be sequenced in the spring and fall of the first and second academic years. Additionally, the Exam and Interventions I and II courses will be completed entirely in the first academic year of study. A professionalism module was added to the first semester of the Clinical Decision Making course to provide understanding of professional behavior concurrent with earlier patient exposure in the clinical setting. It is the hope of the IU DPT faculty that this curricular redesign will better prepare students for their first and second full time clinical internships.

The ICE course sequence will be studied by IU DPT faculty Valerie Strunk, Peter Altenburger, and Bobby Lassiter over the next 12 months. The three were awarded an IUPUI Curriculum Enhancement Grant in 2011 to investigate the effects of the ICE course sequence on student learning outcomes during its inaugural year.
IU Physical Therapy Alumni Notes

- **Keith Avin, DPT**, 2006 graduate - and his wife, Allison, welcomed another daughter into their family - Norah, born on May 29, 2011. See photo to the left of Norah and her older sister Sophie who is 2 1/2 years old.

- **Ed Bloom, DPT**, 2009 graduate & **Melissa Dayment Bloom, DPT**, 2010 graduate - moved to Castle Rock, Colorado (south of Denver) in September. See photo to the right of Ed and Missy at Eagles Peak with the Air Force Academy in the backdrop. Ed is working at Rocky Mountain Spine and Sport (private practice outpatient clinic) in Castle Rock and Missy is working at Brookdale Senior Living Center (retirement community) in Colorado Springs doing outpatient therapy.

- **Julie Bond, DPT**, 2009 graduate - recently accepted a second job that will begin in December. She will be a First Steps therapist working for Children’s Therapy Connection. This will be in addition to her current outpatient pediatric role at St. Francis Hospital. Julie is very excited to get started!

- **Ashley Clifton, DPT**, 2011 graduate - is currently working as an inpatient PT at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis where she is also the lead PT for the Horses 4 Heroes program which includes hippotherapy. She also took command of a unit on the military side and is training for a deployment in December 2012 to Afghanistan, which she hopes will be her last.

- **Kacie Crocker Elliott, DPT**, 2007 graduate - worked at the Roudebush VA Medical Center right after graduation until recently. In July, Kacie and her husband were relocated to Guam as he is in the Navy. Kacie is working at the local outpatient physical therapy clinic, where she treats mostly native islanders. She notes that most of her patients are really no different from the patients seen in an outpatient clinic in the US.

- **Danielle Fogus, DPT**, 2009 graduate - moved to Fishers with Mike, who is starting into a new dental practice. Danielle made a change from outpatient therapy to ortho inpatient at IOH/Orthofindy and is really liking it. Danielle’s brother - **Scott Fogus, DPT**, 2007 graduate, and his family moved back to Indianapolis and have added a new niece to the family.

- **Sean Hassett, DPT**, 2009 graduate - has started an 18-month orthopedic residency program with Evidence in Motion. He will graduate in December 2012 and will be ready for the OCS exam. He continues working for Athletico in Chicago.

- **Becky Honisch, DPT**, 2011 graduate - is doing very well and working as an outpatient PT at the Roudebush VA Medical Center.


- **Matt Jurek, DPT**, 2008 graduate - worked for Advanced Physical Therapy in Indianapolis right after graduation until September 2009. He married Leah (also a PT) in August 2009, and then moved to Grants Pass in southern Oregon. Their move was an effort to find a place to live and work with numerous outdoor recreation opportunities - and they found it, with some of the country’s best hiking, backpacking, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, snow skiing within 20-45 minutes, and the beautiful Oregon coast only an hour away! Matt joined an independent outpatient clinic - Jackson County Physical Therapy, a group dedicated to the patient as well as the professional development of their therapists. He enjoys having time with patients and finds that he has grown as a therapist exponentially since joining the group. Matt and Leah bought a home in October 2010 on a hill surrounded by acres of forest - a dream come true.


- **Jessica Lassiter, DPT**, 2008 graduate - is very happy to report that she has been working at Manhattan Physio Group - a small private clinic - since the summer of 2010. She gets to work with professional dancers and a variety of other orthopedic patients. Jessica lives in Brooklyn and passed her OCS exam this year. She is also pursuing her manual therapy certification through NAIOMT.

- **Megan Martin, DPT**, 2008 graduate - passed the OCS exam and is now an orthopaedic certified specialist.

- **Lynn Merrill, DPT**, 2011 graduate - lives in Huntington, IN and is working as an outpatient PT at Parkview Huntington Hospital. Lynn and her husband are now closer to their families and have her two stepsons (ages 13 & 16) living with them full time. They are looking forward to visiting Japan in the spring to visit her oldest stepson who is in the Navy.

- **Megan Smith, DPT**, 2009 graduate - was recently engaged to Dan Anderson and plans to get married next September in Seattle. Megan and Dan enjoyed a great trip to Kauai earlier this year - photo to the right. Megan also participated in the 2010 IU DPT admissions interviews and had a lot of fun visiting with faculty, staff and alumni, as well as helping with the interviews. She noted that there were so many great candidates that she was sure we would have an awesome class starting this year.

- **Teva Turner, DPT**, 2007 graduate - is looking for help to organize a 5-year reunion for the IU DPT Class of 2007 to be held in the summer 2012. If anyone is interested in participating, please email her at tevaturner@gmail.com.

- **Britney Combs-Zimmer, DPT**, 2009 graduate - and her husband, Thomas Zimmer plan to again host their yearly DPT Class of 2009 cookout. They are looking at an earlier weekend next year - please mark your calendars for CINCO DE MAYO, around lunch time. Keep an eye out on the department Facebook page for more info to come. Britney continues to work at St. Francis outpatient sports medicine.
As part of an educational environment, I have found that there are certain students who manage to leave indelible impressions on everyone they meet. One such student was Zach Gregory who joined our DPT program in 2007 and graduated in the top 5 of his class in 2010. In a matter of three years, he befriended everyone he met with his easy-going energy and wit. Outside the classroom, Zach contributed to the profession through research activities, professional service, and community engagement. His passion for research led to his participation in several different research projects, resulting in national publications and presentations. Zach often expressed a calling to give back to his local community: “My expectation of this experience was to give something back to the community. But, as with most philanthropic opportunities such as this one, it is usually the volunteer that gets the most out of the experience... The tools and skills I gained because of working with the individuals there will be invaluable in my future practice and life.” The department was extremely proud of his accomplishments; everyone knew he would be an amazing therapist and a great addition/advocate to the profession. It was a devastating blow to the entire IU DPT family to learn of Zach’s passing while running in the Chicago Half Marathon last June.

In recognition of Zach’s academic achievement, he was awarded the 2010 TK Carl Promise Award, given each year to one student from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. This award provided Zach the honor of delivering the commencement address to the school’s 2010 graduating class; his address was eloquent and meaningful, and will be long remembered by his classmates and faculty. Looking to honor Zach’s memory, the Department of Physical Therapy with the support of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences has created the Zachary H. Gregory Emerging Leadership Award. This annual award will honor a student at the end of their academic career (fall of the third year) who, like Zach, demonstrates emerging traits of both academic and professional leadership. Honorees of this award will have their names engraved onto a perpetual plaque and will receive a monetary award to support their attendance at a national conference.

Donors interested in making a tax-exempt contribution to the Zachary H. Gregory Emerging Leadership Award should contact Christine Baldwin, Director of Development of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences at chrbaldw@iupui.edu or 317-274-5151. It is our hope that this award becomes a lasting tribute to Zachary H. Gregory, an outstanding Indiana University alumnus and member of the Department of Physical Therapy family.

Alumni Reflection: Zachary H. Gregory

By Brenda Smither Lawless

What I will never forget about Zach was the smile he put on my face by just being who he was: a great guy always thinking about how to make things better. That was sometimes by helping his peers find laughter in the face of a stressful semester by poking fun at himself. Or helping his future patients and our profession through his contribution to important research and its dissemination. What I will mostly remember is how very often that Zach took time to let me know I was making a difference. He always arrived to my class prepared to contribute to discussion. He had well-educated views that did not run completely parallel to mine, but did not hesitate to discuss them with me with honest conviction. This let me know he listened when I urged each student to form his or her own opinions on things such as health care reform and the role of autonomy in PT practice...and to be willing to respectfully defend them when necessary. He reminded me many times that he took that idea and embodied it. That is the greatest gift a teacher can receive from a student, and Zach gave it to me.

- Professor Valerie Strunk
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