

What's NU?

Physical Therapy Education begins Alumni Association

By now graduates of the UNMC Physical Therapy program have received an invitation to be an inaugural member of the new Physical Therapy Education Alumni Chapter. The process to develop an alumni association was initiated by the faculty to formalize the positive relationship that has historically existed between the Physical Therapy program and our alumni. The concept of an alumni association was initially presented to students participating in the provisional DPT program in April 2004. This group enthusiastically embraced the idea, formed a

committee to investigate the potential for an alumni association, and recommended that the PT program proceed with the development of an alumni association. With administrative and financial assistance from the UNMC Alumni Affairs office, the Physical Therapy Education Alumni Chapter and Board of Directors were formally established this spring.

The faculty and staff of the PT Program wish to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their commitment to establishing our alumni chapter. Members of the Board of Directors include graduates

of the program from the past four decades, and represent the interests of both in-state and out-of-state alumni. Please see the Alumni Newsletter inserted into this publication.

The SAHP Physical Therapy Education Alumni Chapter will foster a continued relationship between the school and its graduates, and provide an opportunity for alumni to support the professional growth and development of UNMC physical therapy students.

We invite all graduates to join and help make the UNMC Physical Therapy Education Alumni Chapter a great success!



Alumni Association Board: Front row left to right: Laura Bilek, Heidi Longe, Bobby Griese, and Sara Macklin, Back row left to right: Kevin O'Keefe, Mike Berlin, Sara Linderman, and Gene Svec; Not pictured: Meg Jacobs and John Long

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Message from the Director



Many of you have heard me say, "It's not the buildings that make a program, but rather the people in them." I truly believe that UNMC is a special place because of the fantastic people who are part of it – the talented students, first-rate faculty and staff, and terrific clinical instructors and alumni!

What makes the UNMC Physical Therapy alumni so special? In my opinion, it is the altruistic spirit of caring with a "can do" attitude that is most inspiring. On a daily basis, I have the privilege of connecting with our alumni who keep us posted on their activities and who contribute to this physical therapy program and our profession.

A very special group of alumni is working toward establishing a formal UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Association. Their commitment and enthusiasm for creating this association is tremendous. I urge all alumni to consider belonging for the benefits of networking with fantastic individuals, staying abreast of physical therapy school news, and interacting with the Physical Therapy program.

The remarkable thing is that our alumni have an outstanding track record of supporting one another, the program, and the profession – all without having a formal alumni association for the past 33 years. I am excited to think about the great things that will happen with our new UNMC Physical Therapy Education Alumni Association!

Gail Hackendahl Receives Silver U

Gail Hackendahl was recognized as a Silver "U" Recipient in August 2004. The Silver "U" Award is given annually to employees who provide consistent performance that exceeds expectations or for other special achievements. Gail worked at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the pathology lab and physical plant from 1972-1980, and then worked at home when her children were young. She returned to the College of Medicine Dean's Office in July 1987 as a staff assistant, and transferred to Physical Therapy Education in January of 1993 to be the Administrative Assistant for Clinical Education. In June 2004 Gail became the Program Coordinator, with administrative responsibilities supporting both the Program Director and the Academic Clinical Coordinator.

This is the fifth Silver "U" Award given to people in the Physical Therapy Program. Past recipients of this award were Laura Bilek, Kyle Meyer, Rita Parks-Agnew and M.A. Ray. Congratulations, Gail, and thank-you for your service to this program!



Dean Haven Announces Retirement



After 10 successful years, Dean Mary Haven has announced her plans to step down as associate dean in December 2005, or when a successor is found. During the past ten years, Mary has been instrumental in helping the physical therapy program convert from the MPT to DPT curriculum, incorporating technology into teaching and research, and expanding its research and teaching infrastructure.

Dean Haven is widely known as a student and faculty advocate. She sought student input by implementing an Associate Dean's Advisory Council. Dean Haven has mentored faculty and promoted the physical therapy program to University administrators, health care practitioners across the state and to the public.

Upon retiring, Haven and her husband, UNMC ophthalmologist Dr. Gerald Christensen, plan to travel.

71 UNMC Physical Therapy Graduates Awarded Post-Professional DPT Degree

71 physical therapists were awarded the post-professional DPT degree on May 13, 2005. Graduates of the UNMC MPT program from 2000-2003 were afforded the opportunity to participate in a two-year curriculum to complete the post-professional DPT degree. The curriculum began in the fall of 2003, and was delivered primarily via distance education, although it also incorporated 3-day long campus visits each of the four semesters. The curriculum included instruction in evidenced-based practice, including finding, evaluating and implementing evidence, prevention and wellness public health issues, imaging for physical therapists, integumentary physical therapy and the application of evidence in the areas of cardiopulmonary, neuromuscular, and musculoskeletal physical therapy.

During the on-campus visits UNMC Physical Therapy Education hosted several nationally recognized speakers, including David A Scalzitti, MS, PT, OCS Associate Director of Research Services for APTA, Angela Phillips, PT, President and CEO of Images and Associates, Carolee Winstein, PT, PhD, FAPTA, University of Southern California, and Gail D Deyle, PT, DPT, MPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, Program Director for Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions Transitional DPT Program.

Forty of the transitional DPT participants, along with approximately 300 friends and family members, attended a formal hooding ceremony and reception at the Durham Research Center held at the conclusion of the final campus visit on April 2, 2005.

UNMC was one of the first five public institutions in the country to offer the entry-level DPT degree and since 2001 UNMC has awarded entry-level or transitional DPT degrees to 150 graduates. Joining the 79 entry-level DPT graduates from the UNMC classes of 2004 and 2005 are the following 71 post-professional DPT recipients:

*Jeff Arnold
Holly Beavers
Tara Benes
Andrea Blecke
Amy Bloomquist
Staci Bornschlegl
Darrin Bryant
Michael Bryant
Heather Butterbaugh
Amberly Byington
Brad Cooper
Heather Corey
Johnna Dawe
Jennifer Dyer
Robert Dyer
Tiffany Franks
Kathleen Geist
Amy Goldman
Jill Gregg
Robert Griese
Jolene Griess
Susan Hageman
Renee' Hagemann
Kirsten Harris
Heather Hileman*

*Lori Holz
Christine Hutchinson
Brenda Keller
Kurtis Keller
Brenda Kemling
Anya Kerkman
Elisa Koch
Yeisha Koepke
Nick Konrad
Sarah Kukuk
Amanda Lathrop*

*Danelle Leiker
Heidi Longe
Wade Lucas
Beth Ludwig
Sara Macklin
Peggy Marriott
Staci Matiyow
Janis McCullough
Christopher Noda
Karie Novak
Sara Odgaard*

*Matthew Oestmann
Kevin O'Keefe
Andrea Orth
Jay Pelan
Tara Perlinger
Nicole Powell
Nicholas Reiss
Katie Robb
Kimberly Roberts
Kevin Robinson
Carol Safford
Kelly Sandstedt
Chelsea Schauer
Renee Schroeder
Rebecca Seagren
Tyler Sexson
Jennifer Sherman
Timothy Sucha
Molly Swartzbaugh
Diann Thorne
Tara Tiefenthaler
Angela Tripple
Aaron Wenburg
Heather Wengler*



Bob Fuchs, PT, MA, ATP, CSCS receives SAHP Outstanding Teacher of the Year



Left to Right: Linda Fuchs, Theresa Fuchs, Bob Fuchs and Mary Haven

In May 2005, Bob Fuchs, PT, MA, CSCS, Assistant Professor was recognized as the recipient of UNMC's School of Allied Health Teacher of the Year. Throughout his fifteen year academic career, Mr. Fuchs has been devoted to exemplary teaching and teaching innovation. Examples include the incorporation of problem based learning with the UNMC medical students, development of the curriculum in prevention and wellness, and use of interactive on-line discussion boards to promote peer learning. He designed and implemented a course on public health in physical therapy practice, motivating therapists to initiate and participate with local public health programs in their communities across the U.S. In a letter of nomination for the award, Director Patricia Hageman, PT, PhD describes Fuchs, "...professional, committed to learning, approachable...respectful of others ...innovative and

creative in teaching ... and gives new meaning to the word patience." "He is the 'unsung hero' within the program ... giving incredible efforts ... yet more apt to give credit to others." His peers cite his 'ability to incorporate methods of instruction that promote student learning through engagement in experiential activities' among his strengths.

Fuchs has developed expertise in a number of clinical and research areas. He is involved with the Wheelchair Seating and Mobility Clinic and a Neuromuscular Clinic at the Monroe-Meyer Institute. He is also a wheelchair claim reviewer for the Nebraska Health and Human Services System Medicaid Program. He is board-certified as an Assistive Technology Practitioner through the Professional Standards Board of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America.

Welcome, Mike Rennick!

Mike Rennick, PT, MPH joined the Division of Physical Therapy Education as an Assistant Professor in October 2004. His teaching responsibilities include musculoskeletal assessment and treatment, patient interaction, documentation, reimbursement, management and areas related to public health. His primary research interests include outcomes, health disparities and other issues which intersect public health and rehabilitation.

Mike received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hastings College in Psychology / Biology (1987), a Bachelor of Science Degree from UNMC in Physical Therapy (1989), and a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2004).

Mike's clinical experience includes home health, acute care, outpatient orthopaedics, geriatrics, and neurologic rehabilitation. For the last 10 years he was a department manager and rehabilitation director at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mike is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association. For the Nebraska Chapter of the APTA, Mike served as the chair of the Quality Management Committee (1997 - 2003) and continues to serve on that committee as well as serving as the co-chair of the Public Relations committee. He is also a member of the American Public Health Association.



Congratulations Dr. Leuschen!

Join us in congratulating Dr. Pat Leuschen on receiving the inaugural UNMC Outstanding Mentor of Graduate Students award. She is well-known to physical therapy students as the teacher of Neuromuscular Physical Therapy I.

In addition to teaching PT students and conducting research in the area of neuroscience, Dr. Leuschen has made a significant contribution to graduate education and to the preparation of countless graduate students at UNMC. She has served as the chair of the UNMC Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area (MSIA) graduate program for 16 years. The Division of Physical Therapy Education participates in graduate education through the MSIA program thanks in large part to the efforts of Dr. Leuschen. As chair of the MSIA program, she has seen 178 students graduate and has personally supervised fifteen graduate students. Dr. Leuschen is very deserving of this honor and we are thrilled that her efforts have been acknowledged with this award.

Johnson Recognized for Excellence in Teaching



In April 2005 Grace Johnson, PT, MS, OCS, Assistant Professor, was recognized for excellence in teaching as a nominee for the Alvin M. Earle Outstanding Health Science Educator Award. The award is named in honor of the late Alvin Earle, who was a professor of neuroanatomy in the College of Medicine at UNMC. Students nominate faculty for the award, which recognizes instructors who demonstrate sincere interest in their discipline, involvement with students and excellence in the quality of instruction.

Johnson has been a full-time member of the faculty in the Division of Physical Therapy at UNMC since 2000. She received a Master of Science in Kinesiology with an emphasis in neuromotor control from UCLA in 1986. She is ABPTS certified as an orthopedic specialist. Her teaching responsibilities are varied and include musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, physical agents and instructional development courses.

UNMC Graduate Returns for PhD

Dawn (Dvorak) Venema, PT, former Mary McMillan Scholarship winner and 1999 graduate of the UNMC PT program, has returned to UNMC to complete her PhD. Dawn was the first student admitted into the Division of PT Education PhD program in January, 2003, as part of the Medical Sciences Interdisciplinary Area (MSIA) graduate program at UNMC. She has completed her course work and is now beginning her dissertation research, which will involve the use of internally- and externally-generated postural perturbations to study postural control changes before and after total knee arthroplasty. The preliminary part of this research was funded by the Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy, and is already underway.

Dawn has been a full-time graduate student and graduate teaching assistant in the Division since July of 2004. In her role as a graduate assistant, she has taught in a number of lecture and laboratory courses. In the spring of 2005, she served as the primary lecturer in PHYT 640, Critical Inquiry I, where she was responsible for the section on statistics. More recently, Dawn and her husband, Brady, became the proud parents of their first child, Drake Christian Venema. Best wishes to Dawn as she completes her PhD!

Faculty Presentations

The 2005 Nebraska HIV/AIDS Conference, Grand Island, NE, April 28, 2005.

Rennick MJ. Aerobic and Resistance training: Improving quality of life and activity tolerance for individuals living with HIV.

Midwest Symposium on Pediatric Bone Health, Omaha, NE, April 22, 2005.

Stuberg WA. Exercise and Bone Mass.

Annual Gait and Clinical Motion Analysis Meeting, Portland OR, April 6, 2005.

Stuberg WA. Reimbursement Seminar: Computerized Gait Analysis.

Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society Research Conference, Cincinnati, OH, April 1-5, 2005.

Walker SN, **Hageman PA**, Pullen CH, Oberdorfer M, Boeckner LS. Physical activity outcomes of a tailored intervention among midlife and older rural women.

Pullen CH Walker SN, Boeckner LS, **Hageman PA**, Oberdorfer M. Healthy eating outcomes of a tailored intervention among midlife and older rural women.

Skaggs B, Yates B, Barron C, Hertzog M, **Norman, J**, Pozehl B. Psychometric Testing of the Meaning in Heart Disease Instrument.

UNMC Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable Education Technology Fair, Omaha, NE March 8, 2005.

Fuchs RH, Norman JF, Meyer KP, Bilek L. Physical Therapists and Public Health: Bridging the Gap Using a Post-Professional DPT Course.

APTA Combined Section's Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 23-27, 2005.

Fuchs RH, Norman JF, Meyer KP, Bilek L. Physical Therapists and Public Health: Bridging the Gap Using a Post-Professional DPT Course.

Hageman PA, Walker SN, Puller CH, Boeckner L, **Norman JF.** Associations of physical fitness with blood pressure and body mass index in midlife and older rural women.

Hageman PA, Brown K, Longacre M. Outcomes of a Periodic Regulatory Evaluation Process (PREP) of Physical Therapy as part of Nebraska Credentialing Reform.

Willett GM, Karst GM. Comparison of traditional and computer-based instruction on first year physical therapy student performance in a neuroscience course.

Stuberg WA, DeJong SL, Stoner JA, Puumala S. Effects of manual stretching on hamstring flexibility in children with cerebral palsy.

Stuberg WA, DeJong SL, Puumala S, Stoner JA. Reliability of hamstring flexibility measurements in children with cerebral palsy and typically developing children using a Biodex dynamometer.

Fourth European Congress on Nutrition and Health in the Elderly, Toulouse, France, November 4-5, 2004.

Boeckner LS, Walker SN, Pullen CH, **Hageman PA**, Oberdorfer M, Rutledge M. Nutritional intakes and eating behaviors of midlife to older rural women in Midwestern United States.

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals, San Antonio, TX, October 2004.

Bilek LD, Meza J, Thiele G, **Willett G**, O'Dell J. Effect of Exercise on the Disease Activity of Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Neuroscience 2004, San Diego, CA, October 2004.

Xia R, Rymer WZ, Markopoulou K Stoner JA. Clinical Correlates of bradykinesia and rigidity in Parkinson's disease.

Karst GM, Xia R, Rymer WZ. Pattern of joint torque as an indicator of rigidity in Parkinson's disease.

National Rural Women's Health Conference-Improving the Health of Women: Meeting the Challenges of Rural Setting, Hershey PA, October 28-30, 2004.

Pullen CH, **Hageman PA**, Walker SN, Boeckner L, Oberdorfer M. A distance delivery behavior change model to increase physical activity in mid-life and older women.

Annual Meeting American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Long Beach, CA, October 23-27, 2005.

Norman JF, Fuchs RH, Bowman TJ. Severity of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome in not indicative of its impact on physical activity.

National Congress of the State of the Science in Nursing Research, Washington DC, October 7-9, 2004.

Walker SN, Pullen CH, **Hageman PA**, Boeckner L, Oberdorfer M. A tailored intervention for physical activity and health eating among mid-life and older rural women.

Pullen CH, Walker SN, Boeckner L, **Hageman PA**, Oberdorfer M. Use of theory to facilitate lifestyle behavior change among mid-life and older rural women.

2004 Minority Women's Health Summit: Women of Color Taking Action for a Healthier Life: Progress, Partnerships and Possibilities, Washington DC, August 12-15, 2004.

Boeckner LS, Pullen CH, Walker SN, **Hageman PA.** Comparison of eating and physical activity behaviour change determinants and disease risk profiles of rural Hispanic women across three weight categories.

Faculty Publications

- Bilek LD**, Meza J, Thiele G, **Willett G**, O'Dell J (2004). Effect of Exercise on the Disease Activity of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, 50(9) S.
- Hageman PA**, **Norman JF**, Pfefferkorn KL, Reiss, NJ, Riesberg KA, (2004). Comparison of two physical activity monitors during a 1-mile walking field test. *Journal of Exercise Physiology online*, 7:102-110.
- Hageman PA**, Walker SN, Pullen CH, (2005). Tailored versus standard Internet-Delivered Interventions to Promote Physical Activity in Older Women. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*, 28(1):29-34.
- Hageman PA**, Walker SN, PullenCH, Boeckner LS, Oberdorfer MK, (2005). Physical Activity and Fitness Among Midlife and Older Rural Women. *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity*, 13:347-362.
- Pullen CH, Walker SN, **Hageman PA**, Boeckner LS, Oberdorfer MK, (2005). Differences in eating and activity markers among normal weight, overweight, and obese rural women. *Women's Health Issues*, 15(5): in press.
- Tyler AE, **Karst GM**, (2004). Timing of muscle activity during reaching while standing: Systematic changes with target distance. *Gait and Posture*, 2:126-133.
- Norman JF**, Bossman S, Gardner P, MoenC, (2004). Comparison of the energy expenditure index and oxygen consumption index during self-paced walking in children with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy and healthy children. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*, 16:206-211.
- Magee J, **Stuberg WA**, (2005). Effects of an early intervention on bone health: Knowledge, perceived efficacy of behavior and behavioral risk factors in adolescent females. *Osteoporosis Int*, 16(Suppl 4): Addendum.
- Stuberg WA**, DeJong SL, Stoner JA, Puumala S, (2005). Effects of manual stretching on hamstring flexibility in children with cerebral palsy. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*, 17(1):64.
- Stuberg WA**, DeJong SL, Puumala S, Stoner JA, (2005). Reliability of hamstring flexibility measurements in children with cerebral palsy and typically developing children using a Biodex dynamometer. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*, 17(1):90.
- DeJong SL, **Stuberg WA**, Spady KL, (2005). Conditioning effects of partial body weight support treadmill training in children with cerebral palsy. *Pediatrics Physical Therapy*, 17(1).
- Xia R**, Bush BMH, **Karst GM**, (2005). Phase-dependent and task-dependent modulation of stretch reflexes during rhythmical hand tasks. *Journal of Physiology*, 564:941-951.
- Xia R**, Rymer WZ, (2005). Reflex reciprocal facilitation of antagonist muscles in spinal cord injury. *Spinal Cord*, 43:14-21.

Ongoing Research & Grants (continued from page 7)

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|--|--|-------------------|
| R15-AREA | Pozehl B (PI), Duncan K (PI), Norman JF (Co-I) | 4/13/04 - 3/31/07 |
| Heart CAMP: Heart Failure Intervention Program. National Institute of Health. | | |
| No Number | Potter (PI), Vandenberg (Co-I), Core Faculty: Hageman , Bilek , Norman , Davis-Hall, McCabe, Covver, Chaperon, Eberle, Grothe, Magnuson, Keller | 7/2004 - 6/2009 |
| The Nebraska Geriatric Education Center. Department of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration. | | |
| No Number | Norman JF (PI), Hopkins E (Co-I), Erin Crapo (Co-I). | 2005-2006 |
| George Blanton Research Grant Program. Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy. Comparison of the Counting Talk Test Method to Oxygen Consumption, Heart Rate and Rating of Perceived Exertion Methods for determining Exercise Intensity of Young Health Adults. | | |
| No Number | Karst GM (Co-PI), Willett G (Co-PI) | 2005-2006 |
| Faculty Educational Support Grant UNMC, COM. Audience response systems for classroom use. | | |
| No Number | Karst GM (Co-PI), Venema DM (Co-PI) | 2004-2005 |
| Nebraska Physical Therapy Foundation. Postural Control in Adults with Total Knee Arthroplasty in Response to External and Internal Perturbations. | | |

Class of 2005

The following is a list of the Class of 2005 and the facilities where they were initially employed.

Wendy Antonson, Excel Physical Therapy, Omaha, NE

Brad Bangs, Mountainland Rehabilitation, Salt Lake City, UT

Lisa Bartels, Hruska Physical Therapy, Lincoln, NE

Jill Bathen, York General Hospital, York, NE

Russ Baumert, Unknown

Kelly Behney, Excel Physical Therapy, Omaha, NE

Lisa Bergt, Franciscan Care Services, Inc., West Point, NE

Melissa Bert, Chicago, IL

Andy Bowman, McMeen Physical Therapy, Broken Bow, NE

Jon Brezenski, Columbus

Community Hospital, Columbus, NE

Jason Buckbee, Central Peninsula

General Hospital, Soldotna, AK

Kelly Cameron, The Nebraska

Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Megan Dailey, Bergan Mercy

Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Dave Elsasser, Unknown, Scottsdale, AZ

Jessica Foster, Madonna Rehab Hospital, Lincoln, NE

Julie Harms, Immanuel Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Erin Hoelsing, Fremont Medical Center, Fremont, NE

Amber Ingram, Excel Physical Therapy, Omaha, NE

Rachel Jackson, Physical & Respiratory Therapy Services, Kiawatha, KS

Deanne Jonak, Medical Staff Network, Abilene, TX

Amber Ketteler, Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff, NE

Wera Klein, Alegent Health, Omaha, NE

Andrea Lanka, McMeen Physical Therapy, Broken Bow, NE

Christy McCollough, The Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Jennifer McProud, Sue Jeffrey Physical Therapy, Lincoln, NE

Christie Miller, Procure3, Omaha, NE

Lindsay Nichols, Immanuel Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Becci Pulte, Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center, Knoxville, TN

Andy Reppogle, St. Francis Health Center, Topeka, KS

Abbi Richter, Grand Island Physical Therapy, Grand Island, NE

Megan Roelfs, Phelps Memorial Health Center, Holdrege, NE

Sally Snyder, Excel Physical Therapy, Omaha, NE

Kristen Sukraw, Immanuel Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Leslie Thiessen, Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney, NE

Rachael Thompson, Unknown

Melissa Valasek, Lifetouch Physical Therapy Center, Beatrice, NE

Nick Wegener, 360 Degree Physical Therapy, Chandler, AZ

Matt Wesch, Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus, NE

Jason Wheeler, Heartland Rehabilitation, Jacksonville Beach, FL

Congratulations! Dr. Patricia Hageman & Dr. Wayne Stuberg

At the 2005 Faculty Senate Annual Faculty meetings Drs. Hageman and Stuberg were each recognized for 20 years of service. Both have had a tremendous influence on UNMC graduates and the physical therapy profession. The Program looks forward to the continuing leadership of both Dr. Hageman and Dr. Stuberg.

Honors of the Class of 2005

The Division held its hooding ceremony for the graduating class of 2004 on May 13, 2005. Eight students received recognition for their academic achievement. **Kelly Behney**, **Lisa Bergt**, **Jessica Foster** and **Becci Pulte** graduated with Distinction. **Brad Bangs** and **Matt Wesch** graduated with High Distinction. **Christy McCollough** graduated with Highest Distinction. **Rachel Jackson**, **Lindsay Oppold** and **Kristen Sukraw** received the Excellence in Service Award from the Division faculty, and **Lisa Bergt** and **Kelly Cameron** received the Professionalism Award. Inductees to Alpha Eta, the honor society for the allied health professions, included **Brad Bangs**, **Rachel Jackson**, **Christy McCollough** and **Matt Wesch**.

What's NU? is published annually for the Division of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Comments, questions, additional news may be sent to:

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Gail Hackendahl, (402) 559-8173, ghackend@unmc.edu

Students of the University of Nebraska - APTA

by Kurt Weidauer, Vice-President SUN-APTA

Each year, the Students of the University of Nebraska American Physical Therapy Association (SUN-APTA) are active in a number of philanthropic events. Some of our more traditional events are the Ronald McDonald House, Adopt-a-Family, and our annual volleyball tournament, Joint Effort. This all-night volleyball tournament, organized in cooperation with Creighton University physical therapy students, is a fundraiser for the Nebraska Arthritis Foundation. This year we had 63 teams participate and raised \$6800.00.

A new addition to our philanthropic activities is Habitat for Humanity. This spring we will have nearly 40 individuals donate a morning or afternoon of their time toward the renovation or building of a home. To date, students have participated in activities including yard cleanup and stuccoing.

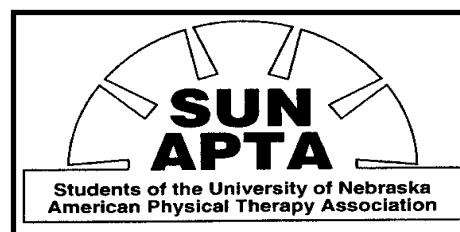
Another exciting addition to our organization is the return of the career fair. SUN-APTA will host this event in October, 2005. Our goal for the career fair is to provide interaction between UNMC students and employers. This event will also give students a chance to speak one on one with employers regarding job opportunities. Any employers interested in attending the career fair are encouraged to contact Jaime Crowe at jcrowe@unmc.edu.

SUN-APTA members were busy fundraising for the year. We rolled up our sleeves and stepped behind the counters of the Qwest Center concessions. Early in the fall, students worked River City Roundup Events. Later in the year, we served the fans of the Creighton Basketball team as well as country and city folk alike at a concert headlined by Alan Jackson.

Finally, our organization combines play with our hard work. Every fall, we have a flag football tournament held between the classes as well as a Halloween party complete with a best costume award, a student favorite. A new addition for the fall was a softball tournament held in Elmwood Park. In the winter, our members attended a UNO Maverick hockey game.

The SUN-APTA Officers for 2004-2005:

President – Nate Johnson
 Vice-President – Kurt Weidauer
 Secretary – Amber Balias
 Treasurer – Chris Charles
 Student Senate Representative – Amber Herrington
 Dean's Advisory Council Representative – Katie Wolfe
 NSSIG Representatives – Jason Harris and Jake Costello
 Liaison to the National Student Assembly – Becky Kusek



Class of 2007

The following students are members of the Class of 2007. They began their studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center on August 23, 2004.

Adam Brockmeier, Cozad, NE
Ashley Brown, Blair, NE
Sarah Cogle, Lincoln, NE
Brad Corr, Eagle, NE
Jake Costello, Omaha, NE
Danielle Dykstra, Platte, SD
Karlene Ernest, Dalton, NE

Kirk Evertson, Kimball, NE
Erica Fleck, Omaha, NE
Sara Griffiths, Bridgeport, NE
Erin Haberman, Fordyce, NE
Melissa Hagemann, Yutan, NE
Amie Hanson, Johnston, IA
Amber Herrington, Holdrege, NE
Heidi Hodapp, Council Bluffs, IA
Diana Holthaus, Pawnee City, NE
Jennifer Janata, Howells, NE
Chad Kershner, David City, NE
Marcus Kohout, Prosser, NE
Chris Mallam, Wymore, NE
Kelly McBrien, Omaha, NE
Erin McMullen, Bellevue, NE
Karlie Murphy, Fremont, NE
Jessica Nelson, Blair, NE

Kellie Obermeier, North Platte, NE
Dara Oglesby, Omaha, NE
Brandon Penas, Grand Island, NE
Kristin Peterson, Arlington, SD
Kilee Portenier, Harvard, NE
Carrie Pudenz, Sioux Falls, SD
Adam Roeser, Grand Island, NE
Angela Semerad, Howells, NE
Tami Smith, Perry, IA
Stephen Station, Chicago Heights, IL
Jeanne Waller, Papillion, NE
Kenra Weigelt, Blair, NE
Amanda Weiner, Omaha, NE
Rachel Windhorst, Syracuse, NE
Josh Yao, Omaha, NE

SUPPORT THE PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

The Division of Physical Therapy Education has embarked on an initiative to raise support for the newly established **Physical Therapy Education Fund for Excellence**. When this fund is fully endowed, it will provide a flexible, ongoing source of income to help our division address its areas of greatest need. We are pleased to report that we currently are half-way towards our goal of \$30,000 in gifts and pledges committed. That is a good start, but there is still work to be done in order to achieve our goal of \$30,000. This type of fund will be increasingly important to PT Education at UNMC in the coming years, as diminishing state funding continues to challenge the University. Your support will help us continue to provide a margin of excellence for our students – keeping us among the top educators of physical therapists in the country.

Please consider supporting this special initiative at one of the levels indicated below.

University of Nebraska Foundation Contribution Card

- My check, payable to the *University of Nebraska Foundation*, is enclosed
- Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Card Number Expiration Date Signature if making a pledge or using
your credit card

Amount pledged to support the **Physical Therapy Education Fund for Excellence**

- \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____

I would like to fulfill my pledge over a period of _____ years (not to exceed five years) beginning _____(month) of _____ (year).

Please Print Name and Address

Please return to the **University of Nebraska Foundation, 8712 W. Dodge Rd. Suite #100, Omaha, NE 68114**

Dates to Remember

August 22, 2005	First Day of Classes
September 9 - 11, 2005	Nebraska Chapter APTA Fall State Meeting, Lincoln, NE
October 6, 2005	SUN-APTA Career Fair
October 15, 2005	"Campus Visit"
October 24 - December 16, 2005	PT 3's Clinical Education Experience
January 9 - March 2, 2006	PT 3's Clinical Education Experience
March 6 - April 28, 2006	PT 3's Clinical Education Experience
March 10 - 12, 2006	Nebraska Chapter APTA Fall State Meeting, Kearney, NE
May 5, 2006	Hooping
May 6, 2006	Graduation
May 8 - June 16, 2006	PT 2's Clinical Education Experience
June 19 - July 14, 2006	PT 1's Clinical Education Experience



Division of Physical Therapy Education

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Omaha, NE 68198-4420

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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The formation of our Alumni Chapter was shared on page 1 of this publication. Graduates of the UNMC Physical Therapy Program will be receiving mailings from the Alumni board as part of the membership drive for the Association.

The members of the inaugural Board of Directors include:

Michael Berlin, Class of 1977, Omaha, NE
Laura Bilek, Class of 1988, Treynor, IA
Margaret Jacobs, Class of 1990, San Antonio, TX
John Long, Class of 1994, Lincoln, NE
Eugene Svec, Class of 1996, Kearney, NE
Sarah Linderman, Class of 1998, Lincoln, NE
Heidi Longe, Class of 2000, Lincoln, NE
Robert Griese, Class of 2002, Lincoln, NE
Sara Macklin, Class of 2002, Lincoln, NE
Kevin O'Keefe, Class of 2003, Omaha, NE

Class Updates

GRAD 1990 *Gail (Bray) McCorkindale* and her husband Mark are the proud parents of Braydn Owen born October 20, 2004. He is welcomed by sisters Hannah and Sydney.

GRAD 1994 *Susan (Batenhorst) Van Brocklin* and **GRAD 1995** *Garret* had their third child Anna Christine on November 6th, 2003. She joins brothers Ben & Zach. Garret is Director of Physical Therapy at Beatrice Community Hospital.

GRAD 1998 *Allison Rankin* gave birth to a baby girl Emma Noel on December 28, 2004, 7 lbs. 1 oz. 20" long. She is welcomed by Kayla (11), Laura (5) and Dalton (2).

GRAD 1998 *Celeste Hendricks* and husband Kelly moved to Kansas City where they had their first daughter, Kenna Summer, on January 6, 2005.

GRAD 1999 *Dawn (Dvorak) Venema* and her husband, Brady, are the proud parents of Drake Christian born on June 8, 2005, 7 lbs. 15 ozs. 22 1/4" long.

GRAD 2000 *Renee Schroeder* gave birth to a baby girl, Cameron Nicole, on August 31, 2004, 7 lb. 1 oz. 19" long.

GRAD 2001 *Angie Ralston* announced the birth of Camden Michael born July 21, 2004, 8 lbs. 4 ozs., 21" long. Angie continues to staff the Balance & Mobility clinic at Immanuel Rehabilitation Hospital.

GRAD 2003 *Tyler Sexson* and his wife are the proud parents of twins, Grady 4 lbs. 11 ozs. and Natalie 5 lbs. 4 ozs. born April 13, 2005.

2005-2006 UNMC Physical Therapy Education Alumni Chapter

- Please sign me up as an annual member - \$40.00 dues
- Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____
- Please charge my Discover Mastercard Visa
Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

Make check payable to PTAC
Mail to Alumni Affairs
9285200 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5200

You may also submit a payment at our secure Web site:
www.unmc.edu/alumni

Home Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Work Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home phone number: _____ Work phone number: _____

Email: _____ Do you wish to be added to the on-line E-Directory? _____

Alumni Notes

David Potach, PT, MS, CSCS, NSCA-CPT (Class of 1998) recently received the 2005 National Strength and Conditioning Association Sports Medicine Specialist of the Year Award at the NSCA convention in Las Vegas. David is the owner of Omaha Sports Physical Therapy. Meanwhile, his wife Lauren Potach, PT, BCIAC-PMDB (also Class of 1998) and Julie Bartels-Hiscock, PT, BCIAC-PMDB (Class of 1989) are opening WellSpring Physical Therapy, where they will specialize in women's health. Congratulations to these UNMC alumni!