Welcome to the 2014 Alumni Newsletter!
As always, I appreciate you taking the time to see what we’re up to at UMPT and as always, there is a lot going on, as you will read in this edition of the newsletter. I’ll try to summarize some key points and apologize in advance if I miss a few!

First and foremost, between the first and last drafts of this message, I was selected to succeed Dr. David Forbes as Dean of the College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences. While I am delighted to have the opportunity to help move the College forward, it’s been a wonderful eight years as Chair of UMPT. I am also delighted to report that Dr. Ryan Mizner has stepped in as Interim Chair for the next academic year.

In addition to our usual cohorts of on-campus students, our transitional DPT curriculum continues to defy the odds and is still going strong – by next fall we’ll probably top the 1100 mark in students admitted – as other transitional curriculums around the country are winding down, ours is humming along, and for good reason – a high quality program and one of the most affordable DPT bridge programs in the country. As a result, the UMPT alumni base grows by orders of magnitude, and that’s good for UM and PT.

The Montana University System Board of Regents approved the Neural Injury Center, a creation of the School, in the spring of 2014. As the founding director, I turned over the reins to Dr. Chuck Leonard. We are rapidly progressing on our agenda to study and deliver best practices for head and spinal cord injury, facilitate cutting-edge research and deliver community outreach through this important campus and College initiative. You can read more about the Center in the most recent edition of The Montanan, where the cover story is the Brain Initiative.

On the faculty front, we welcome a new faculty member this fall, Dr. Sambit Mohapatra. I encourage you to read more about Sambit in this newsletter and on the UMPT faculty web page. He brings new and exciting ideas to our neuroscience efforts and motor control laboratory. Our entire faculty has had an excellent year, but I’m going to take a moment to focus on “The Ryans” in this message. The Movement Science Laboratory (MSL), under Dr. Ryan Mizner’s leadership, has furthered their line of research regarding people with ACL reconstruction with two new research grants. These grants support initial clinical trials to test the efficacy of a custom unweighting system originally developed through internal seed monies from within our School. Our PhD student in the MSL, Audrey Elias, is a principal investigator on one of these awards and she has successfully defended her research proposal to move into the final stages of her training to become an independent clinical scientist.

Dr. Ryan Mays established the Montana Peripheral Artery and Cardiac Exercise (PACE) Laboratory, located at St. Patrick’s Hospital. He is currently recruiting for Phase II of the 5-year NIH/NHLBI funded clinical exercise trial to treat patients with peripheral artery disease. He and Dr. Mizner also received pilot funding from the Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research - Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN) to conduct a study entitled “Community-based walking exercise enhanced by orthoses to improve walking ability in patients with peripheral artery disease.” Dr. Mays also received the Jacqueline M. Leaffer Prize in Cardiology from the Center for Women’s Health Research, University of Colorado School of Medicine (Denver, CO) and served as a Visiting Professor at Diné College, Summer Research Enhancement Program (SREP). The 10-week program is designed to help students from the Navajo Nation in developing the skills needed for a potential career in disease prevention research. The program invites established researchers from the public health field to provide late-breaking research in their respective area while promoting a culturally supportive atmosphere.

This fall we are introducing an exciting and innovative redesign of the curriculum that emphasizes more intense but shorter courses (and fewer at a time) in combination with enhanced clinical mentorship in the Nora Staael Evert Physical Therapy Clinic, using faculty expertise to reinforce clinical integration of curricular instruction. Driven by Drs. Toby Kinney and Sue Ostertag with the cooperation of the faculty, we expect this change to significantly move learning outcomes forward while providing superior patient care.

It is such a privilege to work and live in Montana and I encourage you to visit the School when you are passing through Missoula. Have a great year ahead and be sure to let us hear from you.

All the best,
Reed Humphrey, PT, PhD
Professor & Dean
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As you may have seen on our UMPT Facebook page or on the School’s website, we have had some changes in leadership here in Missoula. Congratulations to Reed for accepting the offer to be our new Dean after the storied leadership of Dean Forbes. It’s a bittersweet feeling as we celebrate Reed’s promotion, but we lament our loss of his leadership we’ve depended on for the past 8 years. But our School is well-positioned due to Dr. Humphrey’s foresight and innovation and Dean Forbes’s steadfast support to make grand leaps forward in the months ahead.

I’m pleased to have the vote of confidence from my peers in the tall task of filling Reed’s running shoes as our Interim Chair for the School for the upcoming year. I’ve learned a great deal about the University of Montana and the School over my past 5 years in the program. I’m excited for this chance to gain a deeper understanding of our institution from the view behind Reed’s former desk. I appreciate all the support and well wishes I have received from people both on and off campus during this transition.

I truly believe that the people in a physical therapy program are its greatest resource and we have world-class individuals in our School.

I will depend on their help to make the best of the coming year, as I know I can also count on the help and support of our alumni.

If you are in the Missoula area and you would like to learn of and see the changes we’ve made in the School, please don’t hesitate to drop in and visit. Also, I would encourage you to drop us a line to share how things are going so we enrich our future newsletters. We’d love to hear how your life is going since you have left the School.

Take care of you and yours,

Ryan L. Mizner, PT, PhD
Associate Professor
Interim Chair

Do what has to be done. Be tough, but fair. Know where to draw the line. Finish what you start.

Such cowboy ethics inspired the UM tenure of Dave Forbes, dean of the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. After 26 years of accomplishment, Dean Forbes retired June 30.

“The best part of the job was being able to build stuff – being able to grow,” he says. “The key was finding the best people to come here. But to do that you need good space and a good working environment. If you can put that all together, you get a winning operation.”

A Wisconsin native with a doctorate in pharmacy administration, Forbes spent 15 years at North Dakota State University before being hired as UM pharmacy dean in 1988. He inherited a fading program in danger of losing its accreditation. Soon after he arrived, the program was placed on published probation, a move intended to warn away prospective students.

Familiar with rural-state politics, Forbes was turned loose to visit UM-trained pharmacists across Montana, warning them that the program that trained them was in jeopardy. With the pharmacists helping lobby their representatives, the 1991 Legislature supplied the resources to meet the program’s accreditation needs and hire more faculty.

Next up was improved working space. In the ’80s, pharmacy shared a small building with psychology and also had space in the Chemistry-Pharmacy Building. Administrators decided to ask L.S. Skaggs and his ALSAM Foundation for assistance, as the philanthropist had helped pharmacy programs in other western states. A month after a letter was sent, Skaggs flew out to visit UM in his private jet.

“We should have been shot, because our initial vision wasn’t broad enough,” Forbes says is his straightforward way. “We thought he might help us renovate our space in Chem-Pharmacy, but he said, ‘I’m not messing with a historic building. Why don’t you build a new building?’”

What followed was a flurry of schematics, lobbying the Legislature and private fundraising. Forbes has many stories of how everything almost collapsed, but the upshot is that in 1999 the new Skaggs Building rose on campus. This provided the opportunity for the Physical Therapy Program to move from the basement of McGill Hall and get out from underneath the aerobic activities going on in the first floor gym there. With that move, it gave our program and pharmacy the opportunity to grow in the number of students, the amount and type of scholarship produced with the additional research labs, and improved access and services of our clinical operations.

A significant addition to the Skaggs Building was completed in 2007, growing the total square footage available for the College’s programs by 220 percent. Research dollars skyrocketed, with UM ranked as high as fifth nationally for National Institutes of Health Funding. Science centers were added, pharmacy and physical therapy doctorates were offered, social work joined the fold, a public health program was offered online, and units were restructured and renamed.

“Basically we expanded in all areas, both in quantity and quality,” Forbes says. “I had a lot of help, but, yeah, this has been a good place for me. Now it’s time to spend more time golfing and on horses.” We thank Dean Forbes for his support of our program all these years and wish him the best in his retirement years.

Dean Forbes Retires

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News From Beth

Beth Ikeda was on sabbatical spring semester, 2014, working on research comparing the use of trekking poles to canes. Beth is also collecting data and analyzing outcomes for Fit-to-Fight, an eight-week exercise program for people with cancer and cancer survivors. Both of these abstracts will be presented at CSM 2015.

She also spent some time visiting family and was able to accompany her 89-year-old father on the final Big Sky Honor Flight in May. Big Sky Honor Flight is an organization whose mission is to recognize American Veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington, DC to see the Veteran’s memorial at no cost. We are happy Beth could join her dad, Tug Ikeda, for this honor. Many thanks to him and other veterans for their service.

UMPT Faculty Member Earns AAOMPT Fellow

It has been an extremely rewarding and enjoyable 2013–2014 for Clinical Assistant Professor Toby Kinney. Over the year, Professor Kinney enjoyed his many teaching assignments, particularly small group Trends courses focusing on manual therapy. He integrated pedagogical concepts and classroom management techniques learned from Harvard Medical School faculty from attending the conference, “Principles of Medical Education” April, 2013.

Last October, Professor Kinney presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) in Cincinnati, Ohio. At that same meeting he was officially recognized as a Fellow of AAOMPT.

Professor Kinney has been quick to educate current students about the benefits of post-graduate training, especially the advantage of clinical mentorship.

Professor Kinney presented at the American Academy of Neurology’s Sport Concussion Conference in July in Chicago, Illinois, and will present at the annual American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists this October in San Antonio, Texas. He continues to conduct clinical research in the area of neuromusculoskeletal impairments observed in individuals following concussion and mild traumatic brain injury. On a more personal note, in December, 2013, Professor Kinney and his wife, Becky, welcomed the addition of their third son, Torin Anthony, into their family.

Stay Connected

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Greetings from beautiful Missoula! I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. As the Development Officer for the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, thank you once again for your ongoing support and dedication to your School! Engagement from alumni and friends just like you has helped to transform an already great School into an extraordinary one - thank you!

Do you want to stay connected and engaged with your School? Of course you do! There are numerous ways in which you can connect, from visiting campus and touring the Skaggs Building, to guest lecturing and sharing your professional experiences with our current students, to giving back to today’s students through scholarship support.

In addition, if you haven’t done so already this year, please consider making a donation to the School of Physical Therapy to support our students and faculty at http://www.supportum.org/give/. When asked to choose a designation for your gift please select “other” and then type in “School of PT.” If you’d rather not donate online but still want to support your School, please contact me directly.

Please contact me at any time to discuss how you can stay engaged with the School of Physical Therapy. My phone number is (406) 243–4222 and my email is mark.schleicher@mso.umt.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Be well,
Mark Schleicher,
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
UMPT Faculty Member Jennifer Bell takes her talents to Africa’s UM PT program

In March, UMPT Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Bell traveled to Malawi to work with faculty and students at the University of Malawi. Malawi is a country in southern Africa with a population of almost 16 million people with 46% of the population under 15 years old.

It is one of the poorest countries in the world with over 40% of the population living on less than $1 per day. Malawi also has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world – 11% of the population, as well as high rates of infant and maternal mortality, and life expectancy of 58 years. Many of these issues are perpetuated by the limited number of health care providers, including physical therapists.

Currently there are 27 physiotherapists practicing in Malawi. To put it in perspective, in the US, the ratio of PTs to the population is 1:1,577 versus in Malawi the ratio is 1:588,888. In order to address the significant lack of PTs in the country, the University of Malawi started a 4-year bachelor of physiotherapy program in 2010. The first class of PT students graduated in May and entered the workforce – almost doubling the number of PTs in the country. One of the big hurdles for the University of Malawi is finding appropriately trained and qualified faculty members and clinical instructors in a country with so few practicing PTs. To address this, the University of Malawi has reached out to other universities and Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) for volunteers to help with instruction and clinical supervision.

During her two-week stay, Dr. Bell worked to improve the University of Malawi’s PT clinical education program. She also supervised students in clinical settings and lectured to the third and fourth year students. One of the lecture topics was HIV/AIDS. This is a particularly important topic for PTs in Malawi given that many patients have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. PTs can potentially identify patients with signs and symptoms of infection that have not been diagnosed.

During her last day in Malawi, Dr. Bell collaborated with Malawi Children’s Village (MCV), an NGO that supports orphaned children in the southern part of the country. She spent the day traveling to various rural villages to evaluate and provide recommendations for children with chronic disabilities. Many of the children served by MCV are orphans due to the HIV epidemic and live with families in rural areas with little access to physicians and nurses and no access to PT services.

Dr. Bell plans to continue to work with the University of Malawi and Malawi Children’s Village and hopes to develop opportunities for PT students to follow in her footsteps and expand their cultural competence, professional flexibility, and physical therapy skills.

What’s New with Sue!

Clinical Assistant Professor Sue Ostertag, Director of the Nora Staael Evert PT clinic, had an active past year. Besides trying to keep up with payer mandates and the other administrative responsibilities that come with striving to make our clinic a model practice, Sue was very engaged in teaching, presenting and treating patients.

Dr. Ostertag had the opportunity to present via webinars on subjects such as fitness consideration for individuals with Cerebral Palsy and Traumatic Brain Injury, and has an upcoming presentation that will be on the web through Mobility Research on the use of electrical stimulation in neurorehabilitation. Sue also presented at the “Spinal Cord Injury: Surgery and Rehabilitation” conference sponsored by the Montana Neuroscience Institute on Sept 21, 2013. Her topic was on “Activity Based Training to Maximize Recovery,” focusing on treatment and assessment below the level of injury. Looking ahead, Sue was invited to speak at CSM 2015 on a panel about the use of evidence–based outcome measures and fall risk for special populations, such as people with Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease, or patients post-stroke.

After working at the University for nine years, Sue still has a passion for patient care. She very much appreciates the opportunity to work with individuals on life-long fitness and health, and looks forward to assisting them and many others for years to come.

Change also hit home this past year for Sue, her husband Tom and their two girls. Their oldest daughter, Brenna, completed her first year at Montana State University. Sue assures us all that Brenna will remain a Griz at heart. Their youngest, Amy, is officially a freshman in high school. Sue is also happy to report that Tom has now passed the five year anniversary of both his thyroid and hip surgeries, and continues to be cancer free.

Sue welcomes contact if anyone has questions about the UMPT Clinic or New Directions Wellness Center. She also invites any discussions or questions related to neurorehabilitation as well as the opportunity to help tap into some of the School’s resources if needed.
Our Newest Faculty Member – Welcome Sambit!

The School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science is pleased to welcome Dr. Sambit Mohapatra to the faculty this fall.

Dr. Mohapatra received his Bachelor’s degree with honors in Physical Therapy from University of Delhi, India, in 2007. He graduated with a Master’s degree in Kinesiology with a concentration on Motor Control and Learning and subsequently completed a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences, with a concentration in Neuroscience, from University of Illinois at Chicago, in 2009 and 2012 respectively. As a master’s student, he successfully collaborated with clinicians in developing a novel technique called compelled body weight shift therapy to improve balance in individuals with acute stroke. In his doctoral work he investigated how postural control in young healthy adults changes while different sensory modalities were altered. He then had success in securing a pre-doctoral fellowship for altered. He then had success in securing a pre-doctoral fellowship for multidisciplinary research, the primary objective of which was geared towards understanding how real and virtual environments affect control of posture.

After his graduate work in Chicago, he moved to Washington DC as a post-doctoral research fellow and worked in the Neuroscience Research Center at MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital and Georgetown University. During his post doc, he gained expertise in Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) and how it could be used to understand the neurophysiology of reaching movements in individuals with severe arm paresis due to chronic stroke.

The primary objective of his current work is to understand the neurophysiology of control of posture in individuals after stroke and to develop novel rehabilitation interventions to improve their balance. He expects his next phase of research at the University of Montana is to better understand the neurophysiology of postural control in individuals with stroke and possible interventions to improve their balance.

Sambit is married to Shash, a software engineer by profession who recently moved to the US after working as a software engineer in India for 2 years. Shash and Sambit like to spend their time hiking, running, travelling to new places and cooking authentic Indian food. With Shash an avid lover of mountains and Sambit an outdoor enthusiast, they are both excited for their transition to Missoula. Welcome!

News from the Motor Control Laboratory – Lots of Synergies!

The Motor Control Laboratory (MCLab) is fortunate to have the services of highly qualified faculty and student researchers who have been very active in developing its scientific and educational missions. Drs. Alex Santos and Charles Leonard attended the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting last November where they presented their current work. Work produced in the MC Lab by faculty and students was also presented at several other meetings including the annual APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Las Vegas, NV and at UM’s Graduate and Undergraduate Symposia.

Adriana Degani, Ph.D. student in the MCLab, was recently awarded the 2014–2015 Bertha Morton Scholarship from the Graduate School of the University of Montana. Adriana is developing studies concerning the reorganization of multi-muscle synergies in older adults, and her work is already being recognized by other professionals. Congratulations to Adriana on the achievements of her first year as a Ph.D. student in our laboratory! Dr. Chuck Leonard is Adriana’s advisor.

Mirian David, a Brazilian PT student visiting Montana and taking courses in the UMPT program, has been spending time in the MCLab also. Mirian is currently working with Adriana Degani under the supervision of Alex Santos, Director of the MCLab, to develop a new line of studies involving the role of synchronization of cortical and muscular activations to the formation of multi-muscle signals. She was able to present her work at the UM undergraduate symposium in early April. We also want to recognize the contributions of current UMPT DPT students Kevin Kuhns and Aurora Martin in studies being produced in the lab.

Our newest faculty member, Dr. Sambit Mohapatra, will also be contributing to the work being done in the MCLab. Dr. Mohapatra’s work is primarily centered on the understanding of the neurophysiologic mechanisms of posture control in survivors of CVA and the development of novel rehabilitation interventions to improve their body balance. Welcome Dr. Mohapatra!

Recently, the College’s newly created Neural Injury Center hosted the visit of Dr. David Cifu, the National Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program Office of the Veterans Health Administration. His interests are mostly related to the long-term effects of blast-induced mild traumatic brain injuries. The MCLab is also interested in this topic and during his visit Dr. Cifu had the chance to tour the MCLab and learn about the work being produced at the laboratory.

Dr. Santos spent his summer months abroad disseminating the work produced by the MCLab. He visited several universities in Brazil including the State University of Londrina, University of Sao Paulo, and Federal University of Piaui. During his visit, he was able to strengthen relationships with local researchers and facilitate scientific production. Upon his return to the states in early August, Alex presented his work at the Integrative Biology 2014 meeting in Chicago, IL.

Please visit the Motor Control Laboratory web page for news and updates.
The Movement Science Laboratory (MSL) continued to be a productive part of the School’s work in the past year. Students from the lab gave two scientific presentations at the Combined Sections Meeting held in Las Vegas in February. PhD student and UMPT alum, Audrey Elias (2009), presented the results of adaptions in joint motion and torques during single leg box hops when using our custom unweighting system that has been dubbed the BRIDGE (Bodyweight Reduction Instrument to Deliver Graded Exercise). In short, the findings suggest that the muscular demands and joint loads during the high-intensity plyometric exercise of box hops can be decreased to values below those reported with running while maintaining the same joint motions during exercise.

Three 2014 graduates of our DPT program who worked in the Movement Science Laboratory, also presented their findings at CSM. Kristina Pattison, Ali Lubbers and Mack Hawbaker (pictured here left to right), helped investigate the impact of the BRIDGE system during single leg landing with healthy athletes. Their poster detailed how the dose of body weight support would exponentially reduce an athlete’s limb loading during single leg lands, but still allowed the same kinematic task specificity of landing regardless of the degree of body weight support. We view the BRIDGE as a valuable addition to enhance patient’s success during neuromuscular reeducation. The system should allow dynamic plyometric retraining earlier in recovery or at a much higher repetition dose than what is currently used in physical therapy practice.

We used these preliminary results to help garner two research grants focused on preliminary clinical trials of the BRIDGE in treating patients with ACL reconstruction. Professor Ryan Mizner, Director of the Movement Science Lab, was awarded the Miami-Marquette Challenge Research Grant from the Foundation for Physical Therapy. His two-year award was the only grant given in this category from over 30 applications submitted. The aim of his grant is to determine if training with the BRIDGE will reduce psychological impairments and restore knee loading performance in patients with ACL reconstruction more than current best practice jump training. In addition, Audrey Elias was named principal investigator with Dr. Mizner as a co-Investigator for the New Investigator Grant from the Orthopaedic Section of the American Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Elias will determine if high volume jump training with reduced loading intensity will preferentially enhance motor learning for improved load attenuation compared to best practice jump training. She will use the motion analysis and electromyography equipment available in the laboratory to define changes in limb mechanics with associated muscle coordination of patients with ACL reconstruction as they go through jump training. Please visit our website to view a video of the resources available in the laboratory.

Dr. Mizner has been especially active in trying to engage our youth community to consider health professions as a career choice. In the past year, there have been over 150 high school students from across Montana who visited the Laboratory. We would like to thank Martha Robertson from the Western Montana Area Health Education Center for her work to help coordinate and organize these efforts. If you know of middle or high school students that would be interested in visiting the MSL and/or the facilities of the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, then please contact Dr. Mizner (ryan.mizner@umontana.edu) or Ms. Robertson (martha.robertson@mso.umt.edu).
Clinical Education News

Our profession relies heavily on the efforts of practicing clinicians to provide instruction to PT students in clinical environments. The Clinical Education Program at the University of Montana’s School of Physical Therapy has been fortunate over the years to have had great clinical partners to help with the professional training of our students; our Alumni have been significant contributors in this effort. We hope those of you that have been so generous to students with your time and knowledge will continue to take a “pay it forward” approach and volunteer as Clinical Instructors. And for those Alumni that have not taken the leap yet, we hope you will soon. There is tremendous reward in mentoring those that will become our colleagues and be the face of the profession in the future.

We are appreciative of the great experiences our students receive from our clinic instructors. Besides our thanks, we want to remind you there are other benefits to being a CI and alum. We are working hard to add other items to the benefits package that you may find useful.

Benefits of Being an Alum and Clinical Instructor for UMPT

As a Clinical Site for our School, eligible Clinical Faculty can apply immediately for Faculty Affiliate status. Faculty affiliate status allows you access to the University of Montana Mansfield Library and Instructional Media Services. This status enables you to access all services available to faculty, including Ingenta Gateway (part of which is the Alert Service which lets you know about new publications in your particular field of interest) and the Inter-Library Loan program.

With Faculty Affiliate Status, you are eligible to purchase a Griz card (one-time-only $15) which provides the following benefits:
• Free rides on Mountain Line
• UC Box Office
• UC computer lab
• Access to Campus Recreation facilities (including the Grizzly Pool) and programs for an additional fee
• Dining Services (with prepayment)
• UC game room discount

As an alum or CI/faculty affiliate, you are eligible to receive a 5% tuition rebate when enrolled in our transitional DPT program. We partner with Rehab Essentials to provide an outstanding education at great value. For more information – http://umt.rehabessentials.com/

As an Alum you are eligible to access free consultative advice and other resources to help you with your entrepreneurial ambitions. Visit http://umt.thelaunchpad.org/ for more information on this new program.

The School sponsors periodic continuing education programs throughout the year. We offer significant discounts and usually offer registration priority for our alumni and Clinical Instructors.

As a Clinical Instructor or Alumni, we are willing to work with your organization to help recruit UMPT students to fill open positions. Please contact Kathy Frantzreb if you have a job announcement you would like shared with our students and UMPT alumni.

Contact one of the Clinical Education Team members (Dave Levison, Jenn Bell or Heather Mincey) if you are interested in being a Clinical Instructor for UMPT

Changes Coming in UMPT Clinical Education Program

Our Clinical Education Program recognizes that the expectation of a new graduate entering practice is greater than ever before. Students’ experiences in their clinical internships are highly influential in whether the new graduate is well prepared to meet current and future expectations of professional practice. This fall, following the national Education Leadership Conference, the APTA, the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) and other organizational stakeholders will be holding the Clinical Education Summit in Kansas City, MO. in October. The Summit will provide participants the opportunity to help set standards and guidelines for PT Clinical Education. Dave Levison and Jenn Bell, as UMPT’s Directors of Clinical Education, will be attending.

In preparation for the Summit, White Papers have been written (http://www.acapt.org/index.php/full-events-list/event/23-clinical-education-summit) and there has been much discussion on the need to make significant changes in the way Clinical Education is structured and approached. One of the concepts being promoted is greater integration of clinical experiences within the 3-year DPT curriculum. UMPT’s clinical education program has always had an integrated model approach and so we philosophically support this concept. We also think we can do better. So, starting next year we will transition to a new curricular schedule that will free time in the afternoons for students to do multiple, part-time, clinical experiences in our clinic. We believe that with the opportunity for students to be in the clinic in the afternoon, we can better reinforce the models, concepts, techniques, etc. that they are learning in the classrooms and labs in the morning.

Other changes will include the addition of one week to PT 587 Clinical Internship I for a total of 8 weeks and the elimination of the 5 week, PT 588 Clinical Internship II, which occurs in the January/February time frame.

As we implement these curricular changes and move into the future, we also will be working to provide more resources and training for our clinical education faculty. To maximize the learning that takes place in the clinical environments, it is important that we are all on the same page on how we approach the clinical education experience of our students.
Alumni Updates


Jennifer (Kuklinski) LaForest (2010) and her husband welcomed Maeve Sullivan LaForest to their family in September. Jennifer is practicing at Axis Physical Therapy in Missoula.


Mandi (Reimers) Murtaugh (2009) joined Element Wellness & Sports Rehabilitation in Portland, Oregon, and passed her Women’s Health Certificate exam. She has been doing community education with new mothers, leading Pilates groups, and will be presenting at a Grand Rounds for the National College of Naturopathic Medicine this fall about pelvic floor rehab. She also presented a 2-hour lecture at the OPTA state conference. She reports it has been a great year of personal and professional growth!


Jenna Kokes (2012) and her husband are expecting a baby boy the end of September. She recently purchased Winthrop Physical Therapy and Fitness Center in Winthrop, Washington. Jenna also just earned her Orthopedic Clinical Specialist certification.

Shannon McCarthy (2011) and Christian Appel (1991) of Great Northern Physical Therapy in Bozeman, Montana, presented at APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) this past February in Las Vegas. Shannon presented a platform in the Women’s Health Section and Christian presented a platform in the Sports Section. Both cases utilized novel trigger point dry needling techniques in the management of their patients. Shannon’s presentation was the recipient of the prestigious Elaine Meadows Research Scholar Award. Congratulations Shannon!

Their trip to CSM also included attending two pre-conference courses of note at CSM. The first was with Jay Shah, MD, entitled “New Frontiers in the Matrix of Neuromusculoskeletal Pain: Integrating Pain Mechanisms with Objective Physical Findings and Treatment Strategies.” Dr. Shah’s work is uncovering the biochemistry regarding trigger points and creating evidence for the efficacy of trigger point dry needling. The second course was with David Butler regarding his graded motor imagery approach to chronic pain.

Shannon and Christian have presented before. Previous to CSM, they presented at American College of Sports Medicine’s Annual Conference (San Francisco, 2012) on a case involving the successful use of instrument assisted soft tissue mobilization to treat exertional compartment syndrome. They also attended the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists 2012 meeting in Quebec City where they presented two cases. The first involved the detection of cervical instability utilizing clinical tests and reasoning. The second involved the treatment of chronic neurogenic thoracic outlet syndrome utilizing manual therapy and exercise. We look forward to hearing about their next opportunity to present. On a more personal note, Shannon and her husband Adam welcomed their first child, baby boy Whit, on November 4th, 2013.

Virginia Kudritzki (2009), who is celebrating 5 years at the Seattle/Puget Sound VA and serves UM as a Clinical Instructor, just earned her Stroke Rehabilitation certification. She is planning on receiving professional assistive technology certification within the next year.

Kelly Shields (2013) reports that she is practicing at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, mainly working in wound care and loving it, though she does admit to missing Montana.

Adam Borg (2008) reports that his wife, Thea Maristuen (2010) passed her specialty board exam; she is now a certified specialist in pediatric physical therapy. He is very proud of her and so are we!

Eric Kruger (2007) is moving to Albuquerque, NM, for a PhD in experimental psychology to investigate how social modulation affects pain perception. He will be speaking at the San Diego Pain Summit, an international clinical conference on modern applications of pain science in manual and physical therapy.

Danielle McFarland (2009) is working at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, focusing on cancer rehab in the outpatient setting. Her husband, Jesse, is a new teacher at Flathead High School and will also be coaching the Flathead Braves football team this fall. Drew is an active 3-year old and he anxiously awaited the arrival of his baby brother in late August.
UM Alum Doing Good Work in Haiti

Traveling has always called to UMPT Alum Morgan Denny (2006) and for years she has been searching for a way to make it as much give as take. She seems to have found the opportunity with a group called Phoenix Rising for Haiti. She has now been on three trips to the Caribbean nation and plans on many more!

During each trip, the Phoenix Rising crew addresses health issues all over the map, though the main focus is orthopedic problems. They treat around 1,000 people per trip, addressing conditions such as back pain, neurological injuries, and wound care. They also see plenty of pediatric cases and work with many people with amputations. Morgan and her colleagues may be the first medical professional that each Haitian has ever seen, and do as much as possible for each person that comes through the door.

On her last trip, Morgan treated a man who had been dive fishing and was attacked by a six foot long shark! Amazingly, he survived, but his hand and forearm were a mess of scar tissue, nerve damage, severed tendons, and atrophy. When she first met him, he had no finger or thumb movement and had been unable to fish in order to feed his five children and wife. After a week of intense manual therapy and dry needling, paired with some appropriate bracing, he had gained partial active and passive finger and wrist mobility. Her experience helping this man to recover and be able to provide for his family is just one example of how the volunteers can make such a dramatic difference in these people’s lives.

Every time Morgan goes to Haiti, she returns to where she practices in Portland with new insight, improved manual skills, and a greater appreciation for what we have in the US…in particular, high-low tables! She is very thankful for what she learns each trip from the team. Morgan feeds off of the amazing skills and compassion that the rest of the crew brings to help those in need in Haiti. If you are interested in joining the team, or just want to hear more stories from Haiti, please feel free to contact Morgan at livemorg@gmail.com or check out the website: www.phoenixrisingforhaiti.org
UMPT’s Molly Blair Spends Time in China Spreading the Word on the Benefits of Physical Activity

Molly Blair, Gym Coordinator for the School’s New Directions Wellness Program, had the opportunity last spring to go to China for three weeks to represent the U.S Department of State SportsUnited Initiative for China and Montana in the theme of Youth Sports Engagement. The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana received the grant and chose Molly along with five other people in the Missoula community to share their expertise with Chinese participants. With a focus on the underserved provinces of Guizhou and Jilin, they collaborated with effective local partners, including the China Youth Center for International Exchange, the Guiyang People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Jilin University. China is caught in a complicated cycle in which economic pressures have resulted in millions of left-behind youth and reduced opportunity for those with disabilities and from ethnic minority groups. Youth engagement through sports and physical activity is a rare opportunity for such populations. One of the goals of the program was to reach youth by increasing the professional capacity of those who design and manage youth sports programs in China, with a focus on soccer, traditional native games, and adaptive sport for youth with disabilities. Molly was happy to have the opportunity to use her expertise and engage people with disabilities in physical activity. They were able to share tactics on improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities by providing affordable, inclusive sport experiences that build self-esteem and confidence, enhance active participation in community life, and make a significant contribution to the physical and psychological health of people with disabilities. They also worked hard to expose their Chinese counterparts to the amazing adaptive outdoor activities that are available to people with disabilities. Molly looks forward to showing our New Directions program to the Chinese delegation when they come to Missoula in the Fall.

UMPT Continuing Education Offerings in 2013/14

We were pleased to be able to provide 3 great courses to area clinicians this past year.

In September, 2013 we offered Manipulation for Clinical Instructors taught by long-time UMPT visiting instructor Bill Temes MSPT, COMT, OCS, FAAOMPT. Bill is the Director of the Supervised Clinical Mentorship Program for Therapeutic Associates and also teaches for and serves on the Board of Directors for NAIOMT. We thank Bill and his daughter Amy Temes Clifton (Class of 2007) who assisted in the course. Amy is practicing in Eugene where she is the Director of Therapeutic Associates @ OMG West Clinic.

In December, we had a great turnout when Tim Gibbs, PT, OCS, Cert. MDT, CCTT, CMTPT and Tracie Schroeder, PT, DPT, ATC, CMTPT presented on Vestibular Rehab. Tim, who specializes in the treatment of Vestibular, TMJ and Cervical Spine disorders, is owner/partner at Advanced Rehabilitation Services in Kalispell, MT. Tracie, who is a 2008 graduate of UMPT, practices with Tim at Advanced Rehabilitation Services. We thank both for taking the time and effort in conducting the course.

UMPT hosted APTA’s Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program on campus in June. Course registration was underwritten by the School for those CIs attending. Attendees unanimously appreciated the course content and felt better prepared to take on students. We thank Cyndi Robinson, PT, PhD and Kim Mize-Humphrey, PT, DPT, for teaching the course.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013-14

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