Meet our New Chair

We are pleased to introduce our new Chair, Dr. Anita Santasier. Anita completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy at the University of Delaware and has been a clinician for over 30 years. In addition, she has been an American Physical Therapy Associations (APTA) Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist since 1993. She completed a Masters in Allied Health Administration from Hunter College and then started her 20+ year career as a physical therapy faculty member at Stony Brook University (SBU). She completed her PhD in Physical Therapy in 2004, which was supported and honored by the Education Section’s Adopt a Doc Scholarship in 2003. Subsequently, Dr. Santasier was the 2004 recipient of the Stanford Award for the most influential article in the Journal of Physical Therapy Education. Her educational role at SBU was shared between musculoskeletal, evidence based practice, and clinical reasoning courses. She is an active member of the Education, Orthopedic and Research Sections of the APTA and is presently the President of the Research Section’s Qualitative Research Special Interest Group. She served in the leadership position of Director of Physical Therapy Education for SBU for the past decade and she was the Program Director at the Stony Brook campus location in 2013. Dr. Santasier has completed the leadership training program to become a Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association’s Educational Leadership Institute (ELI). Her success in leadership in physical therapy education was recently lauded by the APTA’s Education Section with the 2015 Education in Leadership Award. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Education Section and speaks to her national prominence as an educator and leader of our profession. Anita takes over the Chair responsibilities from Dr. Ryan Mizner, who served as interim Chair of the School this past year after the departure of former Chair, Reed Humphrey, who assumed the Dean’s position for the College. We invite you to enthusiastically welcome Anita to our program and the Missoula community.

Greetings from the Dean’s Office

Bringing you up to date on the activities of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science in the context of the College is a pleasure, and I appreciate the opportunity. I write this as I wrap up my first year as Dean, and it has been a good one. I spent the year trying to get a deeper understanding about the schools, departments, research labs, clinics and other academic units that complement physical therapy in the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences – it is an enterprise with a lot of moving parts. Building effective collaboration should always be in the wheelhouse of any College and I have been delighted at the College’s progress made in the past year. Physical therapy may well have the most robust presence in the College and the past several years provide the evidence, which includes; a new innovative curricular model that engages our superlative clinic and is stimulating discussion in other departments about how innovation is vital; new research in traumatic brain injury assessment and treatment and the development of the Neural Injury Center (NIC) is being driven by scientists in the Motor Control Lab while creating collaboration within the College and across campus; the NIC is actively reaching out to veterans and others suffering from concussive injury to improve quality of life and student success while disseminating critical research and developing best practices. Innovative clinical research is being conducted in the Movement Science Lab and serves as a strong attractant to high school and new undergraduates in the consideration of a career in the health professions. These are just a couple of examples about how PT is a shining star on this campus with a bright future. We look forward to the arrival this fall and leadership of the School’s new Chair, Anita Santasier. I would also like to convey my sincere appreciation for the efforts of Ryan Mizner for his leadership in the position of interim chair over the past year, and bid adieu to Beth Iida and Toby Kinney while thanking them for sharing their expertise over the years. It is an exciting time for the School and I hope you are both proud and supportive of UMPT. I may have moved upstairs, but I’m always happy to hear from you, so stay in touch!

Best Regards,
Reed
Reed Humphrey, PhD
Dean & Professor
College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences

Reed and wife, Kim Maze-Humphrey, at the annual RATPOD ride, a benefit for Camp Mak-A-Dream.
An end of an era –
Professor Beth Ikeda Retires

Professor Beth Ikeda announced her retirement from her faculty position this spring. It is hard to capture all that Beth has contributed over her 25-year tenure at UMPT. She got her start in this profession by receiving her B.S. in Pre-PT in 1979 from the University of Montana. From there, she earned her Certification in Physical Therapy from the Mayo School of Health Related Sciences, Rochester MN in 1981. She took her first job at Deaconess Medical Center in Spokane, WA. She soon made it back to Missoula, where she held several different positions, including Director of PT Services at the now defunct Missoula General Hospital. She traveled east to Boston late in 1998 to get her MS in PT at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Institute of Health Professions, and then returned to Missoula to start at the University of Montana in January, 1990.

Beth has taught or been involved in almost every course offered at some point in her 25 years. She helped spearhead the growth of the program from a four year Bachelor, to a Master’s, and then to the current 3-year post baccalaureate DPT. Beth’s appetite for professional development was legendary. Besides heading back to Boston to earn her DPT degree from MGH in 2004, over the years, she attended more continuing education than any other known human being. She became a Board Certified Specialist in Orthopedics and earned her Manual Therapist Certification as well. She also believed in being involved professionally as evidenced by her continuous contributions to APTA at the state and national level, culminating with her stint as president of MAPTA from 2010-2012 and volunteering to serve as interim Chair of the School for a semester in 2013.

Beth has been an inspiration to students and colleagues alike. She lived the professional life. If there is one word that could describe her, it would be dedicated. She was dedicated to the patients she treated, the students she taught, the colleagues she worked with, and to her profession. In recognition of her exemplary contributions, the School dedicated the teaching laboratories in her honor by naming them after her. A plaque commemorates the time she spent in those labs, more than anyone else ever, doing what she loved. Make sure you thank Beth when you can for all her efforts over the years, and wish her the best in the next phase of her life.

Last words from Beth

Most who have been to my office know that I have a penchant for posting quotes – funny or inspiring. My most recent favorite is one that is attributed to Einstein, but probably written by the sociologist William B. Cameron. “Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted.” As I reflect back on my career at UMPT, there is much to be counted: 25+ years; hundreds of students; colleagues that have come and gone; presentations given; conferences attended; and faculty meetings. I have to say that the things that can’t be counted are the most important to me: the “AHA” moments in the classroom; the kindness and generosity of students and colleagues; the tears and frustration that came from a deep passion and commitment to excel; and the relationships that will last a lifetime. I have often apologized for my early years of teaching [and some days in my recent years], but I have grown as a therapist, teacher, and person with the help of students who challenged me, my husband [a master teacher], and my colleagues who inspired and critiqued. I am grateful to all. It has been such an honor to have held this position of teacher and mentor and I will be forever thankful to have had the chance to help influence people who are part of this profession that I love so much!

I am not retiring from life, just transitioning to new roles. They tell me I can keep my email address forever, so please stay in touch!
DR. ALEX SANTOS RECEIVES FUNDING TO STUDY MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
Another piece of good news has come from the Motor Control Laboratory (MCLab- http://health.umt.edu/mclab/default. php). Dr. Alex Santos, Assistant Professor in the School of Physical Therapy, in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Rau (UM Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences) has been awarded funding from the Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN). The CTR-IN is supported by the National Institute for Health and has a mission that includes increasing the quantity, quality, and number of successful NIH grant applications in clinical and translational research, thereby accelerating scientific discovery to improve health in the region. This $64,000 award will provide Drs. Santos and Rau the funding and mentorship for a year-long pilot initiative intended to investigate the possible clinical application of measures of oculomotor abnormalities for the recognition of neurological deficits caused by mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). They will begin recruiting athletes and military personnel with mTBI, and collecting data starting in September, 2015. Mentorship will be provided by UMPT professor Dr. Charles Leonard. The project will be a collaborative effort between MCLab and the UM Neural Injury Center.

RYAN J. MAYS, PHD, MPH, who is a Research Assistant Professor of Exercise Physiology in the School as well as Director of the Montana Peripheral Artery and Cardiac Exercise (PACE) Laboratory associated with the International Heart Institute of Montana Foundation and St. Patrick Hospital, has two NIH funded research projects meant to improve the health outcomes for patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD).

The first project, a 5-year NIH/NHLBI K01 career development award, aims to determine the effect of a community-based exercise program with more detailed training, monitoring, and coaching that is enhanced by patients’ perspectives. These strategies are meant to potentially circumvent many of the barriers to exercise training for PAD patients. The project is one of the first studies to implement this approach for community-based exercise in PAD, with a long-term goal of maintaining an advisory board composed of PAD patients who aid in the development of future exercise programs for vascular disease patients.

The second funded project is designed to learn more about the effect of ankle-foot orthoses (AFO) for improving walking ability in patients with PAD. Dr. Mays is teaming up with Dr. Ryan Mizner, PT, PhD, on this project. They hope that with the use of AFO, calf pain (classic symptom of PAD) as a barrier to walking will be reduced. They also plan to study the impact of AFO on biomechanical parameters (e.g., gait) in PAD patients, in addition to formally engaging PAD patients using focus groups to gain their perspective and input, to improve the understanding of how the device may be useful in treating PAD. This project is a NIH/NIGMS Mountain West CTR-IN one-year pilot grant and will provide critical preliminary data for larger randomized controlled trials evaluating AFO for treatment of PAD.

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DAVE LEVISON, PT, MHS will be an invited speaker at APTA’s Education Leadership Conference, to be held in Baltimore, MD October 2-4, 2015. Dave will be joined by Robert Scales, PhD in presenting, "Integrating Motivational Interviewing into an Entry-level Physical Therapy Curriculum." Dave completed the standard training in MI last summer and Dr. Scales is Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Wellness in the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and an accomplished trainer in Motivational Interviewing, an empirically supported, client-centered counseling style.

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ANTHONY “TOBY” KINNEY announced his resignation this spring. Toby started at UM in the Fall of 2011. Toby will be departing to Denver for family reasons but plans have been made to continue doing some teaching at UMPT in the role of visiting adjunct instructor. He will be missed as a core faculty member and all at the School wish him and his family the best.

SAMBIT MOHAPATRA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE SCHOOL, recently was awarded an internal grant from the University of Montana to support his research efforts and pursue a pilot project entitled, "Mechanisms of Fatigue in Individuals with Chronic Stroke." He will conduct the research in the Motor Control Laboratory using his newly purchased Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation system. This award will provide support for him to produce preliminary data for future larger grant applications.

On March 6, 2015, Clinical Assistant Professor JENNIFER BELL and her husband Darin became proud parents for the first time. We welcome Kaia Lynn to the UMPT family!
HELP HAS ARRIVED!
If you visit the UMPT office, you will most likely be greeted by CAITLIN MALINAK, our new Administrative Associate, who was hired this spring. She joins Kathy Frantzreb and Heather Mincey on the main office administrative team, and is greatly appreciated for her organizational talents. Caitlin was raised in Valier, Montana. After high school she attended the University of Montana and graduated in May 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies, and a minor in Nonprofit Administration. Welcome Caitlin!

CINDI LAUKES, the Chief Operating Officer for the Neural Injury Center, was selected to become a PCOR Scholar (Patient Centered Outcomes Research) through the University of Washington Institute for Translational Health Sciences program. There were 9 scholars selected from the Northwest region to be part of a 2-year Special Scholars Program, beginning with an intensive training session in Seattle in July, and culminating over the 2 years with a PCOR project. Cindi’s proposed project involves working with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe and with student veterans on a brain injury project.

News from the UMPT Nora Staael Evert Clinic

The UMPT Nora Staael Everet Clinic will be busier than ever with the transition to an Integrated Model of Clinical Education for our physical therapy program (see Clinical Education News). As part of this curricular change, we will continue to increase the involvement of our second and third year physical therapy students in the Clinic while providing a high level of patient-centered, evidence-based care. These changes are consistent with the overarching mission of our School as well as the vision of the Nora Staael Evert Physical Therapy Clinic.

Two new positions have been created for the transition to our new curricular format and Integrated Clinical Experiences. These positions, called “Clinical Physical Therapy Instructor” (CPTI), will replace the full-time clinic staff PT positions. The CPTIs, along with some core PT faculty, will be providing patient care and student supervision in the UMPT Clinic. Currently we have Jaclyn Carson (class of 2011) who has been fulfilling the role of CPTI this past year and we recently hired a new CPTI, Jake Mischke, DPT, OCS, FAAOMT.

Dr. Carson is certified in LSVT BIG therapy for individuals with Parkinson’s disease. She is president of the board for the local Summit for Parkinson’s disease, playing an important leadership role advocating for individuals with Parkinson’s disease and their families as well as educating the community, providers, and our students. She contributes to the education of our students as a lab instructor for several courses and as a clinical instructor with an emphasis on neurological rehabilitation. She is pursuing APTA Board Certification as a Neurological Specialist over the next year, and will be attending the national Education Leadership Conference (ELC) in Baltimore this fall with our Clinical Education faculty, Dave Levison, Jenn Bell and new chair Anita Santasier.

Dr. (John) Jake Mischke joined UMPT Faculty as a CPTI in July, 2015. He hails from Chicago, where he assisted with both didactic and clinical instruction for DPT students, residents and fellows at the University of Illinois. He graduated from Creighton University with his DPT, and then went on to an APTA Certified Orthopedic Residency there before completing his fellowship training at the University of Illinois. Jake will be assisting with the orthopedic curriculum at UMPT in addition to providing patient care and clinical instruction through the UMPT Clinic. He too will be attending the ELC this fall.

We look forward to continuing to serve the campus and our surrounding community while providing excellent clinical instruction. Please direct any questions you may have about our clinic services to Dr. Susan Ostertag, Clinic Director (susan.ostertag@umontana.edu).

New Clinical Physical Therapy Instructor
Jake Mischke with wife, Mary.
The Motor Control Laboratory (MCLab) has seen a lot of activity over the past few months. Dr. Alex Santos and Dr. Charles Leonard have worked to restructure the MCLab and improve its reach. One of the first steps was to consolidate the MCLab relationship with the Neural Injury Center (NIC). Both institutions have a common goal of promoting advances in basic and translational research in the area of human movement science.

Through this first initiative, we have had the opportunity to collaborate with other College of Health Professions and Biomedical Science scientists on the development of outcome measures regarding the assessment of the deleterious effects of Traumatic Brain Injuries. This collaboration has resulted in the submission of multiple grant proposals, presentations in national meetings, and the preparation of journal articles. Our relationship with the NIC has allowed expansion of the MCLab space and the acquisition of new research equipment, including a new optokinetic system and a Transcranial Magnetic Stimulator (TMS). A recent grant obtained from the Montana Neuroscience Institute has also allowed us to acquire a new force platform and the development of our own system of balance assessment (BalanceLab 1.0). This partnership has been recognized by many as an important initiative that includes assisting student veterans at the University of Montana. In fact, during the first week of April 2015, we had the honor of hosting the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald in our laboratory. He was accompanied by US Senator Jon Tester; both were able to meet with our personnel and learn more about the MCLab and the NIC.

In the past year, the production from the MCLab has included the awarding of 2 grants, the publication of 3 articles and 8 abstracts, and the involvement in 5 presentations at workshops and conferences. Dr. Sambit Mohapatra, who started his faculty position at the School in August, 2014, has been an active contributor to the MCLab this past year. Dr. Mohapatra’s expertise will allow us to take a step forward in the development of new rehabilitation techniques. Adriana Degani, who joined the MCLab as a PhD student in 2014 under the guidance of Dr. Charles Leonard, has also been a key participant in studies done in the MCLab. Adriana has an extensive background in human movement control and her current work is related to the effects of aging on the neuromechanisms of multi-muscle control. In September, Ms. Cindi Laukes was hired by the NIC as its Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Laukes has greatly facilitated the collaborative relationship between the NIC and the MCLab. Most recently, Ms. Maria Manuel also joined the MCLab. Ms. Manuel is a Physical Therapist from Portugal who is expected to start her master’s studies this fall. Over the past twelve months, we have had the good fortune to have our own PT students (Kevin Kuhns, Kathryn Hicks, and Aurora Martin) and international visiting students (Carla Brasil and Miniam Celly) involved. They have brought a great deal of energy and new insights to the lab.

The MCLab is continuing with its tradition of developing new technologies. In January, Dr. Santos and Mrs. Degani filed a provisional patent for a system intended to assess human balance (BalanceLab vs 1.0). The system is unique due to its capacity for monitoring and quantification of multiple aspects of human balance. This system is still experimental but it is fully operational at the MCLab. We also have been able to extend our collaborations with international researchers including; Dr. Alessandra T. Magalhaes (Federal University of Piaui, Brazil), Dr. Vinicius S Cardozo (Federal University of Piaui, Brazil), Dr. Luiz Mochizuki (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), and Dr. Tjeerd Boonstra (University of New South Wales, Australia; Black Dog Institute, Australia).
The Movement Science Lab

The Movement Science Laboratory (MSL) continues to support all parts of the mission of our professional program. Contributions to improve student learning begin early, starting with the first fall semester in PT 529 Biomechanics. DPT students work with lab personnel to complete 3D gait analysis examinations on healthy volunteers as part of the clinical gait assessment unit. All DPT students are exposed to muscle strength testing equipment and electromyography (EMG) data processing and interpretation in the PT 527 Physical and Electrophysiological Agents course. In addition, there has been progressive use of biomechanical data in the knee unit of PT 569 Musculoskeletal Management II to give our students the opportunity to enhance their clinical decision making and to develop a deeper appreciation of exercise prescription.

These instructional efforts closely match the focus of two invited presentations delivered this year by the lab’s Director, Ryan Mizner. The first was a two-hour educational session for the Section on Research at the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) of the APTA. The second was a Highlighted Symposium from the Biomechanics Interest Group (BIG) at the annual Meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine. Both presentations focused on the value of biomechanical data to enhance clinical reasoning after ACL reconstruction. The lab has also produced 5 national research abstracts this past year. We are particularly pleased that one of our abstract submissions to CSM was selected as an oral platform presentation for the Sports Section in Indianapolis. Lindsey Ketterling, a UM 2015 graduate, had worked in the lab over a year and a half on the project and she did a great job representing UMPT as she delivered her presentation entitled, “Impact of Thigh Muscle Recruitment on Limb Loading during Jump Landing after ACL Reconstruction.” Her abstract was published in the January issue of JOSPT. Audrey Elias is nearing completion of her PhD training and she had two poster presentations at CSM. Her poster entitled, “High Volume Jump Training Coupled with Body Weight Support in a Patient with Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction” was nominated for the best poster award from the Orthopaedic Section. The case report has recently been submitted for consideration as a manuscript for publication in the International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy (IJSPORT).

Producing peer-reviewed publications is one of the main vehicles used by the MSL to complete its mission to change clinical practice to better patient care. We had two peer-reviewed publications in JOSPT in the past academic year. The first manuscript was from a collaborative effort with investigators at the University of Florida entitled, “Observational Ratings of Frontal Plane Knee Position Are Related to the Frontal Plane Projection Angle but Not Knee Abduction Angle during a Step down Task.” Our second manuscript entitled, “Changes in Quadriceps and Hamstring Cocontraction Following Landing Instruction in Patients with Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction” was selected as the “Read For Credit” paper for the April 2015 issue of JOSPT. After reading our article, you can go on-line and take the associated quiz, and upon passing, receive continuing education credits. We feel that our selection as the RFC article speaks to the clinical utility of the science being conducted in the MSL.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive funding from 4 different extramural grants in the past year. We are particularly proud of the collaborative work with Dr. Ryan Mays and the Montana PACE laboratory (see Faculty News – Ryan Mays). The lab also continues to enroll patients who have had ACL reconstruction into our clinical trial of jump training to enhance the force absorptive capacity of the operated limb. The trial has been funded by grants from the Foundation for Physical Therapy and the Orthopaedic Section of the APTA. Preliminary examination of the pooled data from both groups taken from the first half of the clinical trial suggests that our intervention strategies have a strong effect on improving patients’ confidence, reducing their fears regarding reinjury, and encouraging patients to consider greater participation in sports. Concurrently, patients who go through our training have improved biomechanical performance of their operated limb during jump landing with substantially higher scores on self-reported outcome surveys.

Finally, we certainly do not ignore our service commitment to our community. The MSL continues with a persistent effort to engage and inspire our youth in Montana to be more engaged in science. We have averaged over 100 high school students visiting the lab each year to discuss our research, learn about how science shapes the profession of physical therapy, and participate in motion analysis examinations. 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, please contact Ryan Mizner (ryan.mizner@umontana.edu) or Martha Robertson (martha.robertson@mso.umt.edu) at the Western Montana Area Health Education Center.
Jennifer (Newell) Feenstra (2012) passed the Emory University Vestibular Competency Certification. Congratulations, Jennifer! Jennifer continues to live in Missoula and practices at Element PT.

Weston Vik (2014) will be completing his orthopedic physical therapy residency at Johns Hopkins and George Washington University and starting work at Kootenai Healthcare in Coeur D’Alene Idaho. Welcome back, Weston.

Kaci (Calaway) Monroe (2011) recently opened her own outpatient clinic in Bigfork called River Bend Physical Therapy and Preventative Care. Her clinic is attached to the Montana Athletic club in Bigfork and started treating patients in May. They also just hired Carly Wolstein from the 2015 graduating class.

Over the past few years, Morgan Denny (2006) has been volunteering her PT skills in Haiti twice a year. She writes, “The experiences I have gained are priceless, to both my personal and professional life. When I tell people that I work in Haiti, the most common response is: ‘That must be so hard, so depressing to work in a place that has nothing.’ But honestly, the hardest part has nothing to do with being there. The hardest part is leaving. Once you know what a dramatic difference you can make in people’s lives, it’s very difficult to step away, to go back to your easier life, when you know how much need exists and that you can have such a real effect.” Morgan has helped to found STAND (Sustainable Therapy And New Development). Their goal is to continue to provide treatment to the people of NW Haiti and teach rehab medicine skills to the people of this region so they can provide their own people with rehabilitative care. For more information or to apply to volunteer on an upcoming fall trip, visit www.StandHaitiProject.org or email Morgan at MDenny@Stand4Haiti.org.

Samantha Morigeau (2014) has both her Montana and California licenses and is working as a traveling PT. She reports using her first professional PT paycheck to buy a motorcycle! Happy riding, Sam!

Amy Temes Clifton (2007) is living in Eugene, Oregon with her husband Jake and their two sons (Peter 3 years and Evan 8 months). She continues to work at Therapeutic Associates Inc.

Jonathan Rice, Derek Lawr and Patrick Webinger (all class of 2012) opened ASCENT Physical Therapy, an outpatient ortho clinic in Happy Valley, Oregon. They would love to network with any UM alumni in the area and hope you will reach out to them if you have time. Their web page is www.ascentptnw.com; facebook is www.facebook.com/AscentPhysicalTherapy.

Jaimee Turley (2012) and her husband Cole have a new addition to their family. They welcomed their baby girl, Brecklyn Cae Turley, to their family on May 19th. They live in Billings, where Jaimee works at Ortho Montana.

Megan (Longenecker) Gilbert (2008) reports that she and her family (now including two boys) are back in New Zealand starting a new church after spending a year in Billings, Montana. The church is called Peninsula Community Church. It is a very family-oriented church and they meet in the Community Center of a small suburb in Auckland. www.peninsulacc.org.nz or www.facebook.com/peninsulacommunitychurch.
Hello UMPT Alumni and friends! As we reflect back on another active and successful academic year, once again UMPT students have been quite busy! Fall semester started off with the annual Welcome Back Picnic, which is a great time for current and new students to mingle with the faculty. We showed our school spirit by marching in the U of M Homecoming Parade. In October, four second-year students, Megan Gran, Kellie McMahon, Seth Wiley, and Elizabeth Roberts, had the great privilege of attending the National Student Conclave in Milwaukee, and being energized after meeting PT students and practicing clinicians from all over the US. The semester came to a close with finals and the UMPT students and faculty participating in the Holiday Adopt-a-Family. Both the fall and spring Massage Clinics proved to be very successful in helping to raise funds for scholarships, traveling to conferences, and the Spring Banquet.

The spring semester brought many activities as well. As is tradition, the first-year class volunteered in January at the 2015 Winter Special Olympics held at Lost Trail Ski Area. February brought Combined Sections Meeting held in Indianapolis, and attended by UMPT third-year students and faculty members. Time was spent attending presentations, presenting research posters and networking with members of the PT community. A group of students from the first- and second-year classes attended MAPTA’s Spring Conference in April held in Whitefish, where they gained more knowledge on the treatment of runners and balance disorders. Students also volunteered for the State Summer Special Olympics Games held in Missoula in May on the UM campus. Throughout the spring semester, used shoes were collected as part of a shoe drive that sends shoes abroad to a third world country. Soon-to-be third-year student, Rachell (Kuntz) Kirk, recently attended PT Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC and had the opportunity to share UMPT students’ experiences and perspectives with Montana representatives.

The 2014–2015 academic year ended with the annual Spring Banquet and graduation. Among the celebrations and festivities, there was a note of sadness as we bid farewell to two valued faculty members, Dr. Beth Ikeda and Dr. Anthony Kinney. We wish them both all the best! As the year comes to a close, we say goodbye and congratulations to the newly minted DPT graduates while the rest of us embarked to exotic places, such as Washington, Wyoming, Idaho and even South Africa, to complete summer clinicals. We all look forward to our bright futures as members of UMPT!
Proposed Bill Would Support Underserved Areas and Physical Therapists

Montana’s US Senator Jon Tester has introduced a bipartisan bill to bring more health care professionals to rural and underserved parts of Montana and other states and offset the high cost of PT education. The Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act of 2015 will make physical therapists eligible to participate in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), a student loan repayment initiative that incentivizes medical professionals to practice in rural and underserved areas of the country. Currently physical therapists are not included in the NHSC.

The bill requires NHSC participants to commit to two years of full-time service in exchange for up to $50,000 of loan repayment. Medical professionals currently eligible for the NHSC include primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and mental health professionals.

Congratulations Trent Semmons

Recent graduate, Trent Semmons, (class of 2015) was accepted into the Johns Hopkins Orthopedic PT Residency Program. To be accepted into this residency program, interested participants have to go through a competitive application process. For those interested in learning more about applying to residency programs, Trent recently wrote a blog for the AAOMPT student special interest group website, titled “A process for assessing residency programs.” You can access the entry at: https://aaomptssig.wordpress.com/2015/04/12/a-process-for-evaluating-residency-programs/.

Clinical Education Update

As some of you may know, we have made some changes to our clinical education program over the last year. Students now complete 3 full-time clinical experiences and 2 part-time integrated clinical experiences. During the spring of second year and fall of the third year, our students spend their afternoons in the classroom and mornings in the clinic. This new model allows students to apply immediately the knowledge and skills they are learning in the classroom. It also enables the faculty to be more responsive to the needs of the students. Our Clinical Physical Therapy instructors and faculty that work with students in the clinic can report back to course instructors about how well the students are learning and applying the knowledge being taught in the classroom. During the integrated clinical experiences, students work with one of their classmates to facilitate a collaborative learning environment and improve reflection and clinical reasoning skills. Having all of our students complete internships in the UMPT clinic will also allow us to extend our pro bono services...all great things for UMPT and the Missoula community!

Another exciting change in clinical education at UM is the addition of international clinical education sites. We now have established opportunities for students to complete their second 8–week full time clinical experience in Italy or South Africa. We have partnered with local organizations and hospitals to work with our students. These opportunities not only meet the typical clinical education goals but also offer the chance to experience a different medical system, treat conditions not seen in the US and increase cultural competence and awareness. We have three students currently in Capetown, South Africa, completing their 8-week experience at a residential facility for children with cerebral palsy and similar conditions. We are looking forward to their return to Montana to hear about their unique experiences.

Following a trend seen in other states, the Montana Board of Physical Therapy Examiners now awards 5 continuing education credits for serving as a Clinical Instructor in any 2-year period. To be eligible, the licensee has to have completed the APTA clinical instructor certification course, which can also be applied to the required CEUs needed for licensure renewal. As usual, we really appreciate those alumni who offer clinical learning opportunities for UMPT students. These experiences are critical for student success and the success of our program. If you have any questions regarding the UMPT Clinical Education Program or would like to become a Clinical Instructor, please contact one of the Clin Ed Team members.

Dave Levison, Director of Clinical Education
Jenn Bell, Associate Director of Clinical Education
Heather Mincey, Administrative Associate for Clinical Education
Dear School of Physical Therapy Alumni & Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying your summer. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to your School of PT! Your support makes a significant difference in the quality of education and training that our students receive and it’s very much appreciated!

Are you staying connected and engaged with your PT School? We hope so! There are numerous ways in which you can connect from visiting campus, to guest lecturing and sharing your professional experiences, to giving back to today’s students through scholarship support.

Please continue the School of Physical Therapy’s strong tradition of supporting our current students by donating online at www.supportum.org/give/. When asked to choose a designation for your gift please select “other” and then type in “School of PT.”

Please contact me for additional information about how you can support your School through gifts of appreciated stock or by including the School in your estate plans. My number is (406) 243-4222 and my email is mark.schleicher@mso.umt.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the very best,
Mark Schleicher
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences

UM offers help to aspiring entrepreneurs–
Blackstone LaunchPad

Have you ever wanted to use your knowledge or skills to start your own practice or business? Or do you have a nagging idea for a product or a service that fixes a problem you’ve encountered in your work or personal life? Do you have a burning desire to start a not-for-profit to address a real need in your community?

If the answer to one of those questions is yes, or maybe, then the Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana can help. The program, which opened on campus in February, 2014, helps UM alumni, students, faculty and staff turn their ideas into businesses or not-for-profit organizations. Director Paul Gladen says the program is open to alumni from all of UM’s colleges and schools and to all ideas. “We’re not the shark tank, we’re here to help you figure out if your idea has potential and how to get started. Since we opened, we’ve helped over 400 people, offering guidance and connections to relevant people and resources.”

There is no cost to working with the LaunchPad, which is located on the 2nd floor of the UC, above the Bookstore. To learn more, get started or schedule an initial meeting (in person or by phone) go to http://umt.edu/launchpad or e-mail paul.gladen@umontana.edu

Students Volunteer at Local Health Fair

Second year student Aurora Martin conducting balance assessment at the Peak Health and Wellness/Alpine PT’s Health Fair.
DOCTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

Nicholas Bechtold, Billings, Montana
Ellyse Kaitlyn Bruursema, Reed Point, Montana
Taylor Thomas Chadwick, Manhattan, Montana
Lauren Michele Christian, Missoula, Montana
Kelsey Nicole Compton, Worden, Montana
Kate Dolan, Bozeman, Montana
Jess Hunter Douglas, Western Montana
Sarah Fabry, Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Kyle France, Sandpoint, Idaho
Jennifer Gauthier, Columbus, Montana
Cody Haugen, Kalispell, Montana
Lindsey Ketterling, Hettinger, North Dakota
Julie Kuhlmann, Livingston, Montana
Jessica Kotoun, La Crosse, Wisconsin
Kevin D. Kuhns, Truckee, California
Amy Marie Lende, Clancy, Montana
Holly May, Libby, Montana
Megan Elizabeth Metzger, San Diego, California
Lauren Minto, Missoula, Montana
Michaela Mary-Kathryn O'Dore, Kalispell, Montana
Dan Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon
Sarah Rott, Missoula, Montana
Trenton Semmens, Soldotna, Alaska
Samantha Lea Shuss, Twin Falls, Idaho
Josie Christine Sweeney, Lewistown, Montana
Myriah Tollett, Helena, Montana
Christopher Paul Watschke, New Hope, Minnesota
Carly Hilley Wolstein, Bigfork, Montana
Jamie Jo Young, Great Falls, Montana

POST PROFESSIONAL FALL 2014

Alava, Jeffrey, South Richmond Hill, New York
Beaudet, Deena, Mattawan, Michigan
Birdsong, George, Woodstock, Georgia
Bower, Gillian E., Park City, Utah
Bucoy-Velez, Ramilla, Parkland, New Jersey
Caisip, Vicente, New York, New York
Ceballos, Bienvenido, P., Deer Park, New York
Colbo, Kelson, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina
David, June Ann, Hobbs, New Mexico
DeLizo, Cathy, Lynnwood, Washington
Diaz, Victoria, Manteca, California
Divinagracia, Elizabeth, Haskell, New Jersey
Dwyer, Jacqueline, Olathe, Kansas
Erfe, Dagnanae, Lexington, Virginia
Estrella, Rheimna, West Orange, New Jersey
Estuesta, Reynaldo, Mays Landing, New Jersey
Flores, Antonio, Mount Dora, Florida
Freas, Christopher, Wadsworth, Ohio
Hicks, Dawn, Stockbridge, Georgia
Hilario, Evangelina, Hobbs, New Mexico
Hiscoe-Ceballos, Leila M., Deer Park, New York
Hurst, Glendora, McDonough, Georgia
Ladd, Nina, Shawnee, Kansas
Lanip, Madelon, Roselle, New Jersey
Lastra, Mier Sun, Elmhurst, New York
Ligan, Janet, Valley Stream, New York
Mabutas, Melinda, Elmhurst, New York
Marcinko, Beverly, Snoqualmie, Washington
McEwen, Edward, Prairie City, Oregon
Meier, Karen S., Chicago, Illinois
Navea, Nieva, Chicago, Illinois
Nayon, Sybil, Woonsocket, New York
Pesta, Sheila, Toms River, New Jersey
Rosario, Shah, Modesto, California
Saclayan, Homer, Merced, California
Sarmogens-Zapanta, Meiden, Bronx, New York
Sebastian, Mercedes, Port Barrington, Illinois
Sewell, Odessa, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
Strickland, Victoria, Xenia, Ohio
Vallar-Juico, Jeimmy, Baltimore, Maryland
Vasquez, Ailyn, Palm Harbor, Florida
Villanueva, Icelle, South Sainte Marie, Michigan
Weinberg, Lesley, Seattle, Washington

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Bobis, Eunice, Shelby, North Carolina
Cabrera, Nerissa, Rockford, Illinois
Coolack, Joanne, Little Falls, New Jersey
Cua, Kendrick, Jacksonville, North Carolina
Cuenca, Darwin, Redmond, New York
Dano, Sherry L., St. Matthewsville, New Jersey
DeMundo, Jeffrey F., Rockford, Illinois
DeVeza, Marcey, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Espuna, Dranre B., Las Vegas, Nevada
Frees, Christopher, Wadsworth, Ohio
Garces, Maria, Columbus, New Jersey
Insular, Betsy M., Wilmington, California
Kibbane, Martin J., Rocky River, Ohio
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Lipana Jr., Arcadio C., Odenton, Maryland
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Soriano, Marlon H., Rego Park, New York
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Jacques, Kathryn F., Plantation, Arizona
Karlson, Tracee, Olympia, Washington
Kellogg, Krista, Manhattan, Kansas
Kennedy, Matthew, St. Louis, Missouri
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Nordman, Susanne, Hoschton, Georgia
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Pozi, Kevin, Bedford, New Hampshire
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Rogge, Jeffrey, Cheyenne, Wyoming
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Switzer, Ernest, South Euclid, Ohio
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Tryon, Kelli, Indian Trail, North Carolina
Verma, Manoj, Bad Axe, Minnesota

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Asuncion, Robert, Elk Grove, California
Atalig, Shannon, Kirkland, Washington
Baxter, Stephen, San Francisco, California
Calamiong, Aldwin, Elmhurst, New York
Carling, Lynn, North Ogden, Utah
Earl, Ivan, Boontiful, Utah
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Gaydeen, Deirdre, Seal Beach, California
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Liendo, Teri Jo, Tacoma, Washington
Miller, Don, North Ogden, Utah
Muellenbach, Elizabeth, Slinger, Wisconsin
Newsmoe, Sarah, Lawrenceville, Georgia
Omar, Abdi, Madison, Wisconsin
Staples, Rebecca, Rochester, New Hampshire
Zia, Farid, El Centro, California

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Carl DeRosas, PT, PhD, DPT, FAPTA
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Tim Fearon PT, DPT, FAAOMPT
Jody S. Frost, PT, DPT, PhD
Jennifer Gamboa, PT, DPT, OCS
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Katherine S. Harris, PT, PhD
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Reed Humphrey, PT, PhD
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Gregory F. Marchetti, PT, MS, PhD
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Karen Mueller, PT, PhD
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Steven H. L. Tepper, PT, PhD
Rita Wong, EdD, PT, FAPTA
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