

Ithaca College Department of Physical Therapy

Department of Physical Therapy Faculty and Staff

Ithaca Campus

Katherine Beissner, Professor
Barbara Belyea, Clinical Asst. Prof
Michael Buck, Clinical Asst. Prof.
Charles Ciccone, Professor
Hilary Greenberger, Associate Professor
Terry Hoppenrath, Clinical Asst. Prof.
Steven Lahr, Associate Professor and
Director – Ithaca Planning Unit
Winnie Mauser, Associate Professor
Michael Pagliarulo, Associate Professor
Nick Quarrier, Clinical Assoc. Professor
Andrew Robinson, Professor
Kathy Schlough, Asst. Professor
and ACCE

Cheryl Tarbell, Administrative Assistant
Gina White, Administrative Assistant

Rochester Center

Ray Boone, Adj. Assoc. Professor
Kathleen Buccieri, Clin. Asst. Professor
and ACCE
Jeff Houck, Assistant Professor
Ernest Nalette, Assoc. Professor and
Director – Rochester Planning Unit
Deb Nawoczenski, Associate Professor
Karen Nolan, Assistant Professor
Cynthia Zablontny, Assistant Professor

Debra Burris, Adm. Asst. to Director
Cindy Calabrese, Adm. Assistant



News from the Chair

Greetings from snowy Ithaca! As this letter is written, it is mostly outside. Hopefully, as you read it things will have greened up a bit

This year the primary new initiative for the Department is our DPT proposal, which is being considered by the campus community this spring. We hope to have engaging conversations with our colleagues across campus as we introduce the concept of the doctorate at Ithaca College. To bring you up to date on what this degree will mean to Ithaca, I want to devote this space to describing our program and the concerns that we anticipate will be raised as we seek approval of this degree.

Our DPT is designed as a “first professional degree” – it serves as the entry point to the profession of physical therapy and prepares students as generalists. The degree will be offered as a six-year program, with two years of preparatory coursework, and three largely devoted to professional study. In the preparatory phase, students will be completing a minimum number of general education requirements and the prerequisite sciences. In the professional phase, we have resequence courses, added depth in the area of differential diagnosis, added capstone experiences designed around case study analysis, and lengthened the clinical education component. We have retained our freshman-entry option for students, and also will accept transfer students either with a bachelor’s degree or with substantial relevant coursework.

One of the concerns that may arise as the doctorate is considered at Ithaca College is whether this means that we will become “Ithaca University.” This is certainly not the case, as the DPT is not a research degree, and cannot be considered a “terminal degree.” The DPT is comparable to other clinical doctoral degrees such as those offered in Pharmacy, Audiology, Optometry, and even Medicine. We will be helping the campus community understand that the degree title reflects the level of complexity of the material being studied in physical therapy education and the increasing autonomy of physical therapy practice.

I hope that you are as excited about this change in the Department’s offerings as we are, as this is certainly an important point in the history of physical therapy education at Ithaca College. I look forward to next year’s newsletter, when I hope to let you know that the proposal has been approved and we are on our way to preparing doctors of physical therapy. Until then, please visit our web site frequently to get the latest program news. Best wishes.

Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD
Professor and Chair

Faculty News

Several changes and achievements for the faculty on both the Ithaca and Rochester campuses have created a new sense of excitement within the Program. The year opened with warm farewell wishes for Renee Brown (Acting Chair) as she and her family completed their summer move to Knoxville, TN. We received great news in the fall when Deb Nawoczinski was funded for a two-year grant for \$120,000 from the Spinal Cord Research Foundation. These funds will support her research using 3D kinematics and EMG-biofeedback to examine the effects of PT intervention on shoulder kinematics in persons with paraplegia who have impingement. The good news continued into the spring. Ray Boone and Katherine Beissner returned from their fall sabbaticals, and we were pleased to greet Terri Hoppenrath ('89) as the newest member of our faculty on the Ithaca campus. Terri's role will focus on the OT/PT Clinic as we continue to address the rehabilitation and prevention needs of the campus community.

Faculty members continue their outstanding broad scholarly activities, but it is interesting to highlight the new endeavors of the statewide clinical education consortium. Under the leadership of Kathleen Buccieri ('82) as Chairperson, the NY and NJ consortia combined to form the New York New Jersey Physical Therapy Clinical Education Consortium (NYNJPTCEC)! The new unit has completed a project examining the expected level of performance of first time students in the clinic using the CPI as the measurement tool and is conducting a second one to investigate the profile of the "typical" clinical instructor.

The activities and talent of the faculty have been recognized by a variety of organizations. Kathleen Schlough was awarded the Doctor of Science degree in Pediatrics from Rocky Mountain University of the Health Professions, Barbara Belyea ('82) and Michael Buck received the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certification, and Katherine Beissner was inducted into Phi Beta Delta (the honor society for international scholars) in recognition for her work facilitating faculty and student study abroad and courses related to cultural issues. Finally, we are particularly proud of our Rochester staff member, Cindy Calabrese, who received the IC Choice Award for her outstanding contributions to the program and College community. Congratulations to all!

Student News

Students have been active in physical therapy and related endeavors. In Ithaca, a pinning ceremony was initiated for the juniors as they entered the professional phase of the program. Patrick VanBeveren ('72) immediate past president of the NYPTA, was the guest of honor and awarded the pins. A class in core strengthening and stability as conducted by two PT seniors, Magen Vanderhoof and Sarah Collins, under the supervision of professor Barb Belyea ('82). The class was held several times a week and was free for all students in a performing arts course or involved in dance or music (see below). Under the supervision of a physical therapist, students have provided services at Longview, a residential facility for older adults adjacent to campus. Students have also been active participants in Habitat for Humanity, IDEAS, the Buddy Program, the Special Olympics, and several received All-American honors for their sports activities.



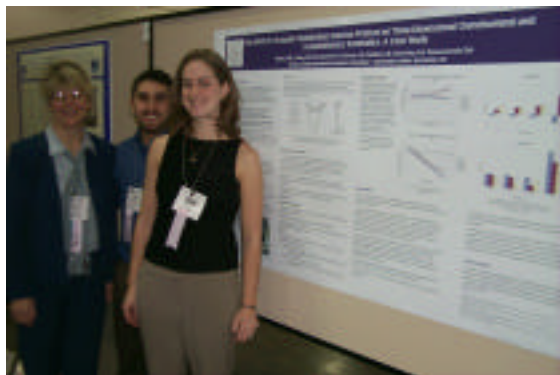
In Rochester, the graduate students have also been very active in the community. They have participated in the Breast Cancer Walk, a weekly Respite program for children with disabilities and a literacy program at St. Monica's Elem. School, Light the Night Walk to benefit the American Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Special Olympics (bowling and winter games), Sports Net power soccer and basketball, Habitat for Humanity, the Monroe Co. Health and Fitness Fair and the Heritage Christian Home's Hippotherapy program. In October, Erin Clarke ('03); Jennifer Collins, PT, NYPTA Finger Lakes District Chair; Kenneth Dean representing the Major's Office; Laura Miller ('03); and Ernie Nalette ('72), Director of the PT Rochester Center, celebrated PT Month with the Mayor's proclamation (see above).

Alumna Spotlight:



We are pleased to highlight Mary Jane Harris ('69) in our alumna spotlight this year. In her current role as the Director of the Department of Accreditation of the APTA, she has been instrumental in assisting PT and PTA programs as they address the evolving evaluative criteria for accreditation and the advent of the DPT. These skills are built upon a rich record in PT education. This began in 1971 when she was a clinical educator and adjunct clinical instructor for the PT program at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1979, she joined the PT faculty at Northern Illinois University and held several positions, including ACCE, Program Director, and Acting Chair of the School of Allied Health Professions. She became integrally involved in the accreditation process as an on-site reviewer, member of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, and finally as a staff member in APTA in 1994. In addition to her degree from IC, she holds an MS in Allied Health Professions from the University of Pittsburgh. We congratulate her on her personal success and achievements in the PT education/accreditation arenas.

Recent grads ('02) Amy Reidy and Frank DiLiberto proudly present their poster, *The Effect of Scapular Stabilization Exercise Protocol on Three-Dimensional Glenohumeral and Scapulothoracic Kinematics: A Case Study*, at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Tampa this February. Professor Deborah Nawozenski (far left) was the supervising faculty member.



Alums present at CSM 2003



Alumni donations link Ithaca and Rochester units with live video

Thanks to generous donations to the PT Department from PT alumnae/i, we were able to purchase video conference units for both the Ithaca and Rochester facilities of our Department. Besides using the technology for committee meetings and class presentations, the units are shown here linking the Rochester personnel with a School faculty meeting in one of the PT labs in Ithaca. With additional departmental donations from alumnae/i, the Department will expand the College's support for equipment and services for the program.

Alumni Weekend

Join us for Alumni Weekend!

Ithaca College will again host the annual Alumni Weekend (formerly known as Reunion Weekend) on May 29-June 1, 2003. All alums welcomed, especially the celebrated classes of '03 and '08. The program is filled with activities for alumni and families including a popular family picnic on Saturday. For details on registration and information call the Office of Alumni Relations toll free at 866-442 or visit their website at <http://www.ithaca.edu/alumni/>. Come see our new PT facilities!

Former Department Leaders Enjoy Retirement

Justin Alexander (PT Department Chair and Director from 1959-1986) continues his retirement with his wife, Blanche, in the Florida sunshine, while Herc Merrifield (Assistant Director from 1962-1982), just begins his new lifestyle in the Oregon Cascades. Each of these leaders provided decades of dedicated service to the Department on the Bronx and Ithaca campuses, respectively. Their legacies continue. After retiring in 1986, Justin and Blanche have lived in Tampa, FL. Over the years, Justin has been involved with the local VA facility, traveled to Elder Hostels, and has thoroughly enjoyed tutoring children in grades 3-5 for 12 years. More recently, he has served as a major caregiver for Blanche as she continues with high spirits following a stroke.

Herc left Ithaca in 1982 to move into an administrative position at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX (another warm state!). He was instrumental in incorporating extensive distance education technology in the PT program there to conduct education among several satellite facilities across Texas. He retired last year as Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions and moved to Bend, Oregon to be closer to his family. As shown below, he also takes full advantage of the year-round outdoor opportunities as a part time ski lift operator in Bend, Oregon.



Reconnect with them at JALEXAND@TAMPABAY.RR.COM and HERC_MER@MSN.COM

Department of Physical Therapy
335 Smiddy Hall
Ithaca College
Ithaca, New York 14850