

Ithaca College Department of Physical Therapy Alumni Newsletter

January, 2006

Department of Physical Therapy Faculty and Staff

Ithaca Campus

Katherine Beissner, Professor and Chair
Barbara Belyea, Clinical Associate Prof
Michael Buck, Clinical Assistant Prof.
Charles Ciccone, Professor
Hilary Greenberger, Associate Professor
Terri Hoppenrath, Clinical Asst. Prof.
Steven Lahr, Associate Professor and
Director – Ithaca Planning Unit
Helene Larin-Associate Professor
Michael A Pagliarulo, Professor
Nick Quarrier, Clinical Assoc. Professor
Andrew Robinson, Professor
Kathy Schlough, Assistant Professor
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Gina White, Admin. Assistant

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Ray Boone, Adj. Associate Professor
Kathleen Buccieri, Assistant Professor
and DCE
Jeff Houck, Associate Professor
Ernest Nalette, Associate Professor and
Director – Rochester Planning Unit
Deb Nawoczinski, Professor
Karen Nolan, Associate Professor
Cynthia Zablotny, Associate Professor

Debra Burris, Assistant to Director
Cindy Calabrese, Admin. Assistant



News from the Chair

Wow, what a year! In December 47 students received their DPT degrees from Ithaca College – the first doctoral degrees ever awarded by the College. The commencement celebration in May 2006 will honor these students, who completed a rigorous transition DPT program. The transition program is designed to augment our Masters curriculum with content and competencies that are built into our professional level DPT. Beginning in fall 2006, freshmen admitted to our program will enroll in a six-year BS/DPT curriculum. It seems like a long way down the road, but in 2010 our current MS in Physical Therapy program will be no more. Only a few years ago we could not have envisioned this happening, but the reality of the DPT is here, and we are exceptionally proud of both the transition program and the new professional entry program.

As if all these curricular revisions were not enough, the Department underwent accreditation review in 2005. After an intense self study, we had a site visit by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education in September. As part of that process we surveyed relatively recent graduates about their post-graduation activities, and included a number of graduates, employers, clinical instructors in the site visit interviews. Many thanks for your participation in this important process. We expect to hear positive news about re-accreditation this spring.

Other good news – our licensure pass rate continues to be outstanding, with over 95% of our 2004 graduates passing the exam on the first attempt. This compares quite favorably with the national pass rate of 72%. Even better news is the response from the clinics, who continue to rate IC students very highly; and employers, who do the same with you, our exceptional graduates!

As you can see, things have been busy in the IC PT department. It has been an exceptional year, and we are buoyed, as ever, by the support and accomplishments of our alums. Keep in touch by viewing our website: <http://departments.ithaca.edu/pt/>. Cheers!

Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD
Professor and Chair

Visit us on the web at: <http://departments.ithaca.edu/pt/>

Join us at Alumni Weekend, June 2-4, 2006. For more info see:
<http://www.ithaca.edu/alumni/>.

Faculty News

This has been another exciting and productive year for the faculty. Excellence in teaching remains the foremost area of responsibility. New and revised courses were implemented as we make the transition to doctoral level education. Jeff Houck offered a new elective course titled, Quantitative Movement Analysis in Rehabilitation and opened it to students from selected programs at the University of Rochester (e.g., Biomedical Engineering). After completing the course, one of our graduate students, Sarah Collins, conducted a special Gait and Clinical Movement Analysis affiliation at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Houston, TX. Programs were also developed and offered to off campus audiences. An online Clinical Instructor Development Program was implemented to enhance the effectiveness of clinical supervision and clinical instruction for our students. After completing five modules, participants become eligible for benefits that include free access to the IC library (including electronic databases) and an IC email address. Barbara Belyea ('82, MS '94) collaborated with John Sigg ('98, MS '99) from the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences to conduct a weekend workshop for older athletes at The Miles Grant Tennis Association in Stuart, FL. The workshop titled, TENNIS S.H.O.T. (Staying Healthy Over Time), included classroom instruction, individual fitness evaluations, and on-court video analysis of tennis strokes on strengthening, injury prevention, and performance enhancement.



Barbara Belyea tests a participant's functional lower extremity strength at the TENNIS S.H.O.T. workshop.

Faculty members were recognized for their ongoing and unique activities. Our newest member, Terri Hoppenrath ('98), received her board certification as a Geriatric Clinical Specialist from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Jeff Houck and Karen Nolan were both promoted to the rank of associate professor.

Several faculty members received Instructional Development Fund grants to improve their teaching: Michael Buck, Karen Nolan ('80), Michael A Pagliarulo, and Cindy Zablony. Instructional topics varied and included mobilization, movement science, and professionalism. Deborah Nawoczenski was successful again this year with an outside grant for her work at the Center for Foot and Ankle Research on our Rochester campus. She received an anonymous grant of \$75,000 to support research activities that advance the clinical practice of foot and ankle care.



Terri Hoppenrath at the Clinical Specialist Certification ceremony, APTA Combined Sections Meeting, New Orleans, February, 2005.

Student News

In addition to the demands of the academic program, students on both campuses participated in several on and off campus activities. In Ithaca, students participated in the Relay for Life event and conducted the annual talent show to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. New this year was a pie throwing event at the talent show. Faculty bravely volunteered to be targets. Students also contributed to the Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge for the Foundation for Physical Therapy. Last spring, for the second year in a row, Jeff Feldman, father of senior Justin Feldman, conducted a scripted mock trial and engaged the students as participants to demonstrate the issues surrounding malpractice. Students were also active in the professional organization. Senior Basia Bujak was one of 2 student physical therapists selected to be a student delegate to the NYPTA Delegate Assembly.



On the Rochester campus, the graduate students continued in several community activities. Some of these included the NSCIA Sit Ski, Youth and Adult Alliance Retreat Weekend, and Breast Cancer walk. Over 40 students participated in the walk and raised over \$3,000! Students volunteered for several programs through Rochester Rehabilitation including Outrigging Canoeing, power wheelchair soccer league, and adapted swimming. Students also volunteered at AllStar Challenge, the annual fundraiser for SportsNet. Five students made the trip to New Orleans to attend the APTA Combined Sections Meeting. The academic year closed with presentations from 10 research groups at the annual research symposium.

Senior, Basia Bujak as Student delegate and Michael A Pagliarulo as Speaker of the Assembly, at NYPTA Delegate Assembly in May, 2005.



Graduate students at the Breast Cancer walk in Rochester raised over \$3,000.

Alumna Spotlight

Our alumna in the spotlight this year is Anne-Marie Sirois ('71), and it is clear that she deserves our recognition. She recently retired from a 30-year period of employment at the Burke Rehabilitation Center where most of her experience was in the position of Supervisor and Center Coordinator of Clinical Education. She has been a clinical instructor for 15 PT programs and has held a Clinical Assistant Professor appointment in 2 additional ones. She has served as an invited member of the New York State Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education Consortium and was instrumental in the development and revision of the New York State Student Performance Evaluation Form. Anne-Marie has a long record of service to the APTA at all levels. She has held elected positions in the Hudson Valley District, served as NYPTA Chapter Director from her District for 16 years, and has been an NYPTA delegate to the APTA House of Delegates for 30 years. At the Association level, she served on the Awards Committee and held positions in the Section for Education. For these and other related activities, she received the Signe Brunnstrom Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching from the APTA in 1992. Along these decades of professional service, Anne-Marie received the Outstanding Service to District Award and Merit Award, twice each. Last year, however, a new award was created in her honor, the Lifetime Service Award, and she was the first recipient at the NYPTA Delegate Assembly. This was a fitting tribute to her dedication and commitment to her profession. She was also honored by the creation of the Anne-Marie Sirois Clinical Education Scholarship by the New York/New Jersey Physical Therapy Clinical Education Consortium. We are proud to recognize her as an alumna and congratulate her for her recent award.



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