

2007

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Monica R. Lesslie



B.S. Clinical Science / Physical Therapy

My eyes were opened to the world of physical therapy as I spent my senior year of high school participating in a New Visions program at Geneva General Hospital near my hometown of Seneca Falls, NY. Since then, my experiences here at Ithaca have inspired my intense interest in health promotion. I have gained the knowledge to develop quite an open mind toward the many influencing factors of human health and happiness. I have also discovered my passion for exploring the world!

Experiences such as building houses in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina and performing physical therapy service projects to help children with disabilities in Antigua have been both physically and emotionally inspiring. The motivational energy that results from helping others is invigorating! I never expected to learn such an incredible amount from a third world country. As I worked side my side with Dr. Buccieri and came face to face with a very unfamiliar world, I realized that our most important resources were the people that surrounded us and our ability to educate. Through our actions we enabled a circle of knowledge to expand and grow into future generations beyond our direct influence. Unforgettable.

My next journey will be traveling to China the day after graduation to study Chinese medicine. This will only commence an entirely new adventure; becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy and implementing everything I have learned and discovered into the lives of others.

Academic Achievements

- Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society
- Peggy R. Williams Award for Academic and Community Leadership
- Arkell Hall Foundation Scholarship Recipient
- National Oracle Society Executive Board
- Emerson Scholarship Recipient
- Dean's Scholarship Recipient
- Dean's List 2003-2007
- Selected as an Usher for the APTA Annual Conference – Denver, CO 2007
- APTA Student Liaison for Ithaca College

Personal Highlights

- Independent study with Dr. Kathy Beissner – designed 'You Can Step Up' fitness and nutrition program. Presented at A.G.E.S. Conference 2007
- Semester Study Abroad: Ithaca College London Center 2004
- China: Short-term study abroad program 2007
- Antigua: Physical therapy and mobility service projects; teaching assistant 2006
- Habitat for Humanity (life inspiring trip to help rebuild New Orleans) 2006

The Professional Excellence Award is given in recognition of undergraduate student(s) who exhibit excellence in one or more of the following areas: leadership, clinical practice, service, professionalism, academics, or scholarship.

