Greetings from the Chair

This has been an exciting school year for the Physical Therapy Department. Our faculty and students have many accomplishments and achievements that I am very pleased to share with you. If you are an alum, please let us know about your successes! Dr. Iversen, Professor

NU Faculty and Student Honored by APTA

Sonya Larrieux, Received 2011 APTA Minority Faculty Development Award.

This award provides funding to support the doctoral work of minority faculty. Professor Larrieux is the Director of the Direct Entry Physical Therapy Program and is pursuing her doctoral degree at NU in the area of Law, Policy and Society. Her work focuses on health disparities in the delivery of PT services among minority groups. At the APTA Combined Sections Meeting this year she presented her research entitled, “Cultural Competency in the Context of Disaster Relief in Haiti: Experience and Reflections of a Haitian-American Physical Therapist Volunteer”. This work was performed in collaboration with Dr. Marilyn Randolph from Florida International University.

Dr. Lawrence Cahalin, PhD Received the 2011 APTA Linda Crane Award

This award is given each year to acknowledge an individual who has made outstanding and enduring contributions to the practice of cardiopulmonary physical therapy. Dr. Cahalin received this award in recognition of his expertise in clinical practice, and teaching in cardiovascular physical therapy. In addition he is being honored for his recent scholarly contributions to the field, specifically in the areas of inspiratory muscle training in athletes. Dr. Cahalin will present the Annual Linda Crane Memorial Lecture at CSM, 2012.

6th year Physical Therapy Student Wins Prestigious APTA Minority Affairs Scholarship Award

This national award is given annually to six physical therapy students to acknowledge and reward demonstrated participation in minority affairs, activities and services, and to recognize the potential for superior achievements in physical therapy and academic excellence. Li Li is a 6th year student who also earned the Bouve College Kennerson Award in recognition of her work in Chinatown providing exercise programs to Chinese elders. Shortly after the earthquake in China two years ago she volunteered with Hand Reach, an organization that treats people recovering from burns. She was able to travel to China and provide medical assistance to people who had been injured. She returned to China in the summer of 2010 with PT faculty member, Dr. Lorna Hayward. The PT Department is working to establish a Cooperative Educational site with the Hand Reach group in China.
Cherishing the Teachable Moments—MEDITECH and NUPT

Students can now take their learning process well beyond the pages of their textbooks. Information technologies provided by MEDITECH and its business allies allow students enrolled in the PT program to gain first-hand experience with state-of-the-art tools, as they expand their knowledge and prepare for careers as health care providers.

During a recent two-day introduction to MEDITECH software, physical therapy faculty and students were able to view a patient via video along side images within the Electronic Medical Record (EMR), then documented their findings into the system. This session took place within the college's new virtual PT lab, which is equipped with MEDITECH's software on laptops that sit on ACS MediHealth mobile carts. Faculty believe that gaining experience in documenting electronically and compiling a complete and concise chart will enable students to develop cutting-edge skills.

NU Applications on the Rise

Boston Globe, 1/24/11

Nearly 43,000 hopefuls applied to Northeastern for 2,800 incoming freshman seats — a 15 percent surge of applicants from last year and triple the number from a decade ago. While other major Boston-area institutions, including Harvard, Tufts, Brandeis, Boston College, and Emerson, have experienced double-digit increases in applications as high school seniors apply to more colleges, the rise at Northeastern stands out because of its sheer size. “It comes down to our relevance as a university,” said Philomena Mantella, senior vice president for enrollment. “Experiential learning really resonates with this generation, especially in this economy, with their concerns about job opportunities and getting an edge up. We are just so well positioned for today’s prospective students.” Prospective students are also lured by the university’s growing global reach and overseas connections, offering more opportunities for students not only study, but also work abroad. Northeastern's 15,000 undergraduates have been placed in co-ops in 69 countries on all seven continents, including Antarctica.

Some of the largest increases in applicant interest have been in the emerging fields of behavioral neuroscience, digital arts, health, sustainability, and security — areas in which Northeastern has recently developed degree programs. Northeastern is not simply getting more applicants, it has become increasingly selective as the university’s reputation has skyrocketed among a stronger, more diverse pool of prospective students. The academic caliber of applicants has risen, and the number of students scoring more than 1,400 on the SAT jumped by 37 percent. More African-American and Hispanic students are applying.

Shriner’s Hospital Staff Receive Cooperative Education Centennial Employer Recognition Award

In the Fall of 2010 NU Alum, Elizabeth “Beth” Hickman, Shriner’s Hospital for Children PT Co-op Supervisor received an NU Cooperative Education Centennial Employer Recognition Award. The award was presented by Alicia Canali, Senior Cooperative Education Coordinator. Current Coop student Jennifer McBride, happily participated in the occasion.

PT Students Win Best Student Platform Presentations.

We are pleased to announce that our students were well represented in the educational programming, poster and platform presentations of the APTA of MA Fall Conference. Kristen Edgar and Christine Smith (class of 2011) won the prize for the best student platform presentation. Their presentation was titled: “A Review of Practice Guidelines and a Survey of Current Clinical Practice for the Management of the Patient with Whiplash Associated Disorder (WAD)” Their faculty mentor was Dr. Marie Corkery. Dr. Corkery presented this work at CSM in New Orleans, February 2011.

Pictured at left are: Reg Wilcox, Chair of the MA Education and Research Committee, with Kristen and Christine.
“Today I helped a physical therapist, an occupational therapist and a speech therapist reenact Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the new world with students at the Carter School. However, instead of scripts or costumes, or even historically accurate facts, we focused on the motion, sights, smells and sounds that the famous explorer may have encountered. In a makeshift boat, comprised of a platform swing, parachute sails, and a rubber ring for an anchor, the students experienced the swaying motion that might occur on the sea. We listened to ocean waves and thunderstorms to mimic a journey across the sea. An intermittent spray of water, combined with the wind from a nearby fan, blew across the students’ smiling faces as they took turns pushing the boat, or sitting upon it. Just one student’s laughter was enough to know that we had accomplished our goal — A passerby might not notice the small brick building sandwiched between the tracks of the Orange Line and an expansive stretch of apartment buildings, which serves as a unique and accepting haven for students with intensive special needs. The students that attend the Carter School have multiple disabilities and profound special needs. At the Carter School they are able to receive the special education services and therapies that they require, but are unable to receive in mainstreamed Boston Public School classrooms. A special feature that sets the Carter School apart, is its newly constructed Sensory Garden. The garden has rubberized paths running through it to allow wheelchairs to travel safely. It has fountains and sprinklers that can be activated by a light touch of a giant sensor. Wheelchair-accessible swings sit on the edge of the garden, allowing students who find it difficult to sit up outside of their chairs, the experience of swinging in a park. “The Carter School is definitely one of the rarest and unique places I have had the opportunity to encounter thus far. I am so grateful that the experience of Service-Learning has led me to this exceptional school, and allowed me to meet such extraordinary individuals.”

Meet Our New Clinical Education Team

The PT Department welcomed two new members to the Clinical Education team this fall: Chris Cesario, PT ('95), MBA; and triple Husky, Kristin Curry Greenwood, PT, MS, DPT. Chris and Kristin joined Susan Hallenborg Ventura, PT, MEd, PhD, who has been with the department since 1997. Completing our team is Khrystal DeHate, BA, our Administrative Assistant. Our office coordinates approximately 300 clinical education experiences each year. We are fortunate to have clinical education affiliation agreements in 38 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. We are always interested in expanding the number of exceptional sites who would like to be part of the clinical education experience for our students. If you would like information on establishing a clinical education experience at your facility, please contact Chris Cesario at c.cesario@neu.edu or 617-373-5536. Our office door is always open!

Susan Lowe Retires

It is with both joy and sadness that we announce the retirement of Dr. Susan Lowe, from the Physical Therapy Department. Susan has been a dedicated faculty member for over 20 years. However, we are pleased to announce that she is moving to another position at NU where she will direct the transitional DPT program. We look forward to her leadership of this program.

In addition to her many years of teaching and advocacy for the health needs of elders, Sue has been instrumental in establishing the Service Learning (S-L) component of our curriculum. She developed partnerships with various community-based organizations including the YMCA, Whittier Street Health Center, Boston Housing Authority, and HEARTH.
NU Alums Recognized During Clinical Specialist Ceremony at CSM

Congratulations to our alums on the achievement of their clinical specialization certification awarded by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties at CSM, February, 2011.

Gregory E. Crossman, Jr., PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS. NU2008
Joseph J Di Vincenzo, PT, MSPT, OCS, COMT. NU2005

Catherine Donahue, PT, SCS. NU1985
Linda Marie Evans, PT, DPT, OCS. NU2008
Melissa Graham, PT, DPT, OCS. NU2008
Beth Shane Grill, PT, NCS. NU1989
Jason Havantavis, MSPT, OCS, CSCS. NU2004

Tamara Marlin Norton, PT, MSPT, PCS, ATP. NU2003
Brian P O’Neill, PT, OCS, CSCS. NU2000
James Robert Spencer, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS. NU2006
Jessica Marie Ross, PT, MS, PCS. NU2006

PT Club Students Network at APTA Student Conclave

NUPT students traveled to the APTA National Student Conclave in Cherry Hill, NJ in Nov, 2010 and attended lectures presented by expert clinicians. Popular topics included: The Use of Mental Imagery in patients after Stroke, Dizziness in Orthopedics, and Why are Vital Signs so Vital? Students gained insight and knowledge about how to advance into the next phase into their profession smoothly and successfully. When not in lectures or sessions, students participated in advocacy events presented by the PT – PAC. As always, the highlight of the event was being able to interact and network with students and employers from across the country.

Featured at right-NUPT students with APTA Board of Directors Member, Dr. Aimee Klein.

Alumni Event at CSM

NU hosted a reception at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in New Orleans bringing together current students, faculty and alumni to promote networking. The department will continue to hold events at CSM each year, so be on the lookout for our event on the CSM programming for next year!

At left is a photo of Dr. Corkery, Dr. Iversen, Dr. Hickey and several current NU PT students.

Save the Date

The PT White Coat Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 10:30 AM in the McLeod Suites. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Aimee Klein, APTA Board Member and Associate Clinical Professor, MGH Institute of Health Professions

PT Students Travel to South Africa and Europe, Summer 2011.

Thirty-one PT sophomores will be traveling abroad for Summer 1, 2011 for several Dialogues in Diversity Seminars. Twenty-five students will be traveling to South Africa with Professor Thomas and Dr. Fitzpatrick. This credit bearing learning opportunity focuses on health care systems and different cultures.

Other students will be traveling to Spain, France and Ireland for 4-6 week immersion programs to study healthcare systems and public health concerns in these countries.

PT Students Raise Funds for Marquette Challenge

The PT Club has raised $3000 for the 2011 Marquette Challenge. Their donation will be presented at the APTA Annual Conference in Baltimore June 9, 2011 during a reception from 6—9 pm. Come join the students in presenting this much needed scholarship money!
In Memorium-Polly Cerasoli

Pauline "Polly" Cerasoli, clinician, teacher, mentor, scholar, leader, skier and friend, passed away on September 11, 2010 at the age of 71 in New Hampshire. Polly’s career was cut short in 1996 when she sustained a traumatic brain injury from an unknown assailant while attending the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Atlanta.

Polly received her BS in PT from the University of Connecticut, a MEd from Boston University, and a Doctor of Education from Northeastern. She joined the PT faculty at Northeastern in the early 1970s. As a teacher, her specialty was therapeutic exercise. She also served as an Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education and acting chairperson of the physical therapy department. Polly loved teaching and was devoted to nurturing the best in those around her. She always had time to mentor and inspire students and colleagues. Polly left NU to become Director of Rehabilitation at Massachusetts General Hospital and to teach at the MGH Institute. From there she moved to Denver, Colorado to live and ski in the Rocky Mountains. She became the Assistant Dean of Allied Health and Director of the Physical Therapy Program at the University of Colorado, where she continued working to advance the profession of physical therapy. Polly also served the profession through her activities with the APTA: she was an active member of the House of Delegates and the Education and Legislation/Regulations Sections. She also served on evaluation teams for the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education as well as participating in various task forces.

In spite of her career moves, Polly always maintained her ties to Northeastern. She has inspired students and colleagues to excel both personally and professionally. We would like to invite you to help cultivate Polly’s ideals and qualities in the next generation of physical therapists by contributing to the Polly Cerasoli Scholarship Fund. This fund provides an annual scholarship in her name to a physical therapy student who exemplifies the characteristics that reflect those Polly displayed throughout her life and career. If you would like to contribute to the Polly Cerasoli Scholarship Fund, please contact Steven Tanne at 617-373-2637 or send a check to 215 Behrakis Health Sciences Center, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

Bouvé College of Health Science Celebrates the Opening of Founders Room

The Bouvé College of Health Sciences dedicated a space on the 7th floor of the Behrakis Health Sciences Center to honor college founders. The university raised more than $230,000 to build the room and design an online archive of the history of Bouvé, from 1913 to 1977. The room will serve as a meeting place and classroom for Bouvé students and is surrounded by portraits of the founders, including Marjorie Bouvé, for whom the school is named; Ruth Page Sweet; Minnie L. Lynn; and Catherine L. Allen. On Oct 19, 2010, some 40 female alumni of the college joined faculty and administrators to dedicate the room in a moving ceremony. “We wanted to be sure that the students would know the rich history of Bouvé,” said Mary Jane Nichols, BB’61, one of the project’s four lead donors. “We never gave up and never lost our vision,” she added. “We are overwhelmed and have much gratitude to those who helped make our dream come true.” An important part of this event occurred when the alumni were able to meet current students and learn from them about current initiatives and programs.

Bouvé College was established in 1913, as the Boston School of Physical Education. In 1930, the school became affiliated with Simmons College and in 1942 began an affiliation with Tufts University. The current program merged with the NU in 1963 and has become the Bouvé College of Health Sciences. There are more than 3500 students enrolled in six undergraduate and 39 graduate programs.

In Memorium: Nancy Reid

Nancy Reid, was one of the original “Bouvé Ladies” who provided a legacy of service to the Profession and Community.

Nancy attended Boston-Bouvé College when is was still located at Tufts University. She majored in Physical Medicine. Following graduation she worked at a Children’s Hospital in Boston, then returned home and joined the staff at St. John’s Rehabilitation Hospital in Willowdale. She eventually became Director of Rehabilitation Medicine at St. John’s - a position which she held for many years. After retirement, she was able to maintain contacts and friendships with the many therapists who worked under her leadership. Retirement allowed her much more time to enjoy her golf games and went on to become a Rules Official at Tournaments.

She has been noted for her help to players in a kind and courteous manner, for her good decisions and her wonderful encouragement especially to junior players during and after their rounds. She had an undying love of the game and particularly encouraged junior players to excel and improve their game. Everyone who worked or played with Nancy loved and respected her. The golf world and all of those who were her friends have experienced a great loss in her passing January 5, 2011. May she rest in peace and may the fairways in heaven all be straight.
Northeastern University

Faculty Hiring News: Welcome Doris, Ann Marie and Kristin

Doris Chong, DScPT, MSc, NCS

Dr. Chong joined Northeastern University in January, 2011 as an Assistant Clinical Professor. Before joining NEU, she worked for 5 years at Stanford University Medical Center in California as the Neurologic Clinical Specialist in acute care and inpatient rehabilitation. She has been a volunteer Clinical Assistant Professor at San Francisco State University since 2006 and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Samuel Merritt University from 2009-2010. Doris has 14 years of experience in a variety of settings including acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. She had worked in Canada, Hong Kong, and California. She graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy program at Queen’s University in Canada in 1997, and obtained a Master of Science in Sports University from the University of Hong Kong in 2001. In 2009, she obtained an advanced clinical degree - Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy from University of Maryland Baltimore. She is also an ABPTS Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist, an NDT-trained therapist, and a LSVT BIG certified clinician.

Ann Marie Flores, P.T., Ph.D., M.S., M.A., CLT

Dr. Flores joins us as a Research Faculty member and Assistant Professor. She was the leader of the Rehabilitation Oncology Program in the Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is a former member of the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center where she directed the Sociobehavioral Research Working Group for the Pain & Symptom Management Program. Dr. Flores is also the Director of Research for the Section on Women’s Health for the American Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Flores' research on cancer survivorship has been supported in part, by grants from the National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure - Greater Nashville Affiliate.

Dr. Flores received her MS degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Miami where she received awards in Neuroanatomy & Physiology and for her outstanding academic performance. She received her MA and PhD degrees in Sociology/Medical Sociology from The Ohio State University where she was awarded a Dean's Fellowship and a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education. She has also completed an NCI funded fellowship in Cancer, Culture & Literacy at the University of South Florida, Moffit Cancer Center. She has received awards for her research from the American Association of Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, InterCultural Cancer Council, University of Maryland, and Meharry Medical College. Dr. Flores is the recipient of the Sister's Network (Nashville).

Kristin Curry Greenwood, PT,DPT,MS

Dr. Greenwood joined us as an Assistant Clinical Professor and Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education. We are delighted that she is a “triple Husky” alumna having received her Bachelor’s (98), Master’s (99) and Doctorate (2010) from Northeastern University. Kristin brings to the department over twelve years of experience in the acute care, transitional care and home care settings. She has treated patients of all ages with her largest focus in the geriatric and complex medical patient populations.
Associate Professor Maureen Holden’s research uses a virtual environment (VE) to retrain upper extremity movements in patients with stroke and acquired brain injury. Her studies use an instrumented glove (‘Cyberglove”) to measure hand gestures and different types of functional grasp in subjects with brain injuries and compares this data to a set of age and gender matched healthy subjects.

In collaboration with Prof. Mavroidis, an engineering professor at NU, she is developing two novel training devices that are designed to interface with virtual reality. The first is development of a low-cost instrumented VR-based glove system (‘Smart Glove’) to be used independently in the home by patients with stroke. The second project, dubbed the ‘NUVABAT’ (for Northeastern University Virtual Ankle and Balance Trainer), is a mechanical system for exercise of the ankle. This device will be interfaced with a large screen stereo display that will monitor patient performance and provide feedback to enhance dynamic motor control of the ankle.

**Recent Publications**


Yang NH, Nayeb-Hashemi H, Canavan PK, Vaziri A. Effect of frontal tibiofemoral angle on the stress and strain at the knee cartilage J Orthop Res 2010;28 (12): 1539-1547. * This article was highlighted on the cover of the journal


**Select Faculty Presentations**


Iversen MD, Intersection of Rehabilitation and Technology. Department of Engineering, Southern Denmark University, October 25th, 2010.


Sonya Larrieux and Lorna Hayward presented their global projects at the Global Health Reception at CSM, New Orleans.
As a physical therapy student at Northeastern University you will have the unique opportunity to enrich your education with real life experiences in the field of physical therapy through our cooperative education program, one of the largest and most innovative programs in the world. These experiences provide extended exposure to current, state-of-the-art physical therapy practice in world renowned hospitals and clinics across the globe. In addition to experiences in Boston and the continental United States we have opportunities in Hawaii, Peru, Costa Rica, China, Cape Town, South Africa, Ecuador, and Switzerland.