Greetings from the Chair

The program and faculty continue to flourish and expand. We hired a new full professor who will develop our biomechanics and injury prevention curriculum. We launched our first international PT Exchange in Switzerland and are exploring more opportunities for global learning. Dr. Johan von Heideken, an orthopedic surgeon from Karolinska Institute in Sweden joined us as a Visiting Professor this past fall and leaves in March. We are in the process of hiring two more tenure-track faculty and have two new research labs, expanding our research space by 150%! You will find more information about these events inside the newsletter.

Please stop by our Alumni Event at CSM and help us celebrate our successes!

Save the Dates!
Combined Sections Meeting, February 8-12, 2012, Chicago, Illinois

Attend the Annual Alumni Event
February 9, 2012
6:00 P.M. - Chicago Hilton

Meet and greet classmates, friends, other alumni and faculty

Keep us up to date with YOUR activities

Learn about new and on-going activities within the department!

Attend Opening Ceremonies on February 8, 2012

Congratulate our two newest Board Certified Faculty

Diane Fitzpatrick, Associate Clinical Faculty will receive her GCS
Alycia Markowski, Associate Clinical Faculty will receive her OCS

Important New Faculty Announcement!

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jack Dennerlein has accepted the position of full professor with tenure in the Department of Physical Therapy. Jack comes from the Harvard School of Public Health and will serve as our Director of Research facilitating and monitoring research activities in the department. He will also play a pivotal role in developing programming to position the department for new educational offerings. Dr. Dennerlein will open a 2,000 sq. foot Center for Ergonomics Research this Fall. Please see page 5 for more details.
Physical Therapy Student Capstone Projects

Each year all 5th year PT students are required to participate in a 2 semester long Capstone Project. All faculty members develop projects that reflect their scholarly interests. Students work together in small groups to pursue projects while being mentored by faculty. These projects may be in the form of research, education, or service. Faculty are delighted to have their projects supported by enthusiastic students. Below we have listed a sample of projects that students are involved in this year.

Professor Susan H. Ventura and her students, Stephanie Koweek, Elise Walsh, and Caitlin Wilson have been invited to conduct a workshop at the next international conference of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America. The title of their project is *A Public/Private Partnership to Enhance the Massachusetts Assistive Technology School Share Program*. This service learning project is designed to improve a federaly-funded state administered program aimed at providing children in K-12 learning environments with the assistive technology they need to maximize their independence and participation in educational programs. Their work is funded in part by the Shapiro Family Foundation.

Professor Nancy Sharby and her students Emily Bloom and Emily Karlsson are working at the Barbara McInnis House which is run by the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. Clients are too well to be in the hospital, but too ill to be in homeless shelters or on the streets. The students will be assessing the clients for fall risks and providing a fall prevention exercise program. They have received a Provost’s Grant.

Professor Kristin Greenwood, Casey Fletcher, Kaitlyn Greene, Ashley Henry, Shaofen Huang and Richard Lai (left) recently completed filming an educational video “How Do Physical Therapists Promote Safe Bariatric Functional Mobility in the Inpatient Environment?” at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, MA.

DPT students Ben Miller and John Corsino are working on development of a new device to retrain Ankle motor control and balance using a virtual reality interface The "NUVABAT" - which is being developed by Professor Maureen Holden in collaboration with NU Engineering Professor Constantinos Mavroidis.

Physical Therapy Club News and Activities

**First Annual Evening Lecture Series:**

**February 28**th 6-8pm Lauren Maldonado PT, ATC. *Recognizing and Managing Concussion*

**March 14**th 5:30-8:30pm 3-hour lecture/lab Jackie Shaker PT, DPT, LMT *Introduction to the Graston Technique*

We will also be selling sweatshirts! All proceeds go to the Marquette Challenge.

Please refer to the NUPT club website below for more details: [http://neu.orgsync.com/org/nuptclub/Events](http://neu.orgsync.com/org/nuptclub/Events)

**ALL are welcome to attend**

**DPT Class of 2015: White Coat Ceremony**

The Welcome to the Profession – White Coat Ceremony for the PB-DPT student cohort was held November 16th, 2011. This special event acknowledges the pivotal curricular milestone just prior to the cooperative education experience. With the donning of each white coat and the collective pledge of the *Oath of the Physical Therapist* along with the PTD faculty, the class of 2014 was welcomed to the professional phase of their journey toward the DPT. NU Double Husky Christopher Diehl, PT, MHP was the key note speaker. As Director of the PT Department and Program Director of the Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury and Ortho/Trauma Programs for Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Network, Chris engaged and inspired all with his presentation on the innovative technological advances in rehabilitation. Upper class PB-DPT students, Ashley Henry and Anne Norton offered “pearls of wisdom” to assure their peers have a successful Co-op experience. **Congratulations PB-DPT class of 2014!**
Each year the University presents 8 Compass Awards, recognizing students who demonstrate the core values of leadership, volunteerism, academic integrity, and commitment to Northeastern. Students who display strength in these values are on a path to alumni leadership. The program offers an opportunity to spotlight one senior student from each undergraduate college, to recognize outstanding seniors for their contributions to campus life; to create an opportunity for the Office of Alumni Relations to engage with students who have strong potential to become active members of the alumni community upon graduation; and to provide a connection point for distinguished alumni and students to interact with one another.

Meaghan has made many contributions to campus life and to her physical therapy classmates. She is the President of the Physical Therapy Club and has been an important contributor to fundraising events. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and has been involved in several sports venues both as a participant and as a coach. Most impressively, she founded the Jamestown Summer Girls Lacrosse Camp! Meghan attended the APTA Student Conclave 2011 in Minneapolis and coordinated Northeastern University Third Annual Distinguished Lecture Series in Sports Medicine.

We can all be inspired by Meaghan’s future career goals. She states, “the more I grow and develop, the more I know that I want to more than just therapy. I want to be part of something bigger than myself, and the way I think I can best do that is by becoming a teacher.”

**Swiss Physical Therapy Educational Exchange Launched**

Fourteen 6th year physical therapy students along with department chair, Maura Iversen participated in a 15 day academic exchange program to the Physiotherapy program at HECV Sante in Luasanne, Switzerland. They were able to participate in the class in December during their break after completing Clinical Education II. While there they studied French in the morning. In the afternoons they worked in the CHUV hospital observing and engaging in patient care activities with the HECV students. They also participated in an elective on Rheumatology taught by Professor Iversen.

In the photo, above left, the students are pictured with Roland Paillex, Director of Rehabilitation at the CHUV, as well as President of the Swiss Physical Therapy Association.

The program will be expanded next year to include 18 physical therapy students who will be accompanied by Dr. Iversen and Diane Fitzpatrick, Associate Clinical Professor in the PT department.

Of course, a trip to a foreign country would not be complete without interesting and fun activities. The students enjoyed the hospitality of their Swiss hosts and were able to tour and enjoy many social activities with them.

**Physical Therapy Student Competes in Sweden**

Sixth year physical therapy student Jessica Trachuk has taken a leave of absence for a semester to play professional Volley Ball in Sweden for the Orebro Volley team. Jessica was a key new player on the team. She helped to add “great drama and great volleyball to the team who previously lacked courage in crucial situations” She will return this summer to complete her final clinical education experience.

By the looks of things she looks like a VERY serious competitor!
Service Learning in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program

What started as a service learning project associated with a course in geriatric physical therapy almost 20 years ago has grown to over 20 full time, year-round community programs through which students engage with hundreds of people of all ages and abilities to participate in physical fitness activities to promote healthful lives. Service Learning provides a venue for students to practice what they learn in a variety of courses, but in particular Psychosocial Aspects of Health Care.

Associate Clinical Professor Ann Golub-Victor was profiled in the November 2011 service Learning Newsletter. She states: “Within the context of service-learning and the rigorous curriculum, it is my responsibility to help student realize the active learning of “soft skills” such as effective communication, global awareness and cultural competency is as vitally important to being a physical therapist as is knowing the attachment of the rectus femoris muscle or the phases of gait. It is my job to facilitate their ability to make connections between an elder’s understanding of how to move better, to classroom topics such as social responsibility and leadership. Students have also taught me—and move me—by their sense of altruism, care and compassion.”

Congratulations Ann and thank you for your continued leadership.

We would also like to thank Diane Fitzpatrick and Sonya Larrieux who are also involved in supporting students in service learning activities.
Jack Dennerlein is our Newest Faculty Member

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jack Dennerlein has accepted the position of full professor with tenure in the department of Physical Therapy. Jack will serve as our Director of Research facilitating and monitoring research activities in the department. He will also play a pivotal role in developing programming to position the department for new educational offerings.

Dr. Dennerlein comes from the Harvard School of Public Health where he is a Senior Lecturer on Ergonomics and Safety in the Department of Environmental Health. His research aims to prevent work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) through understanding the injury mechanisms based on hypothesis-driven laboratory and field studies using biomechanics, neuromuscular and exposure-response protocols and models.

Dr. Dennerlein has 20 years of research in injury prevention and biomechanics with a focus on occupational ergonomics. He has been a member of the Harvard School of Public Health faculty since 1999. His research interest include the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders and injuries through studies of workstation and equipment design, neuromuscular and occupational biomechanics, office ergonomics, exposure assessment, and injury epidemiology. He has authored or co-authored over 75 peer journal articles, 25 conference papers, 100 conference abstracts, and several book chapters.

Annual Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Symposium Was Held at Northeastern University, Behrakis Center, Feb 4-5, 2012

- **Highlights of the program include presentations by current NU faculty and alumni include**
  - **Trevor Winnegge**, PT, DPT, MS, OCS, CSCS, Northeastern University Pediatric Elbow Rehabilitation
  - **Amee Seitz**, PT, PhD, DPT, OCS, Northeastern University, Scapular Dyskinesia
  - **Melanie Erickson**, PT, DPT & **Jacqueline Driscoll**, PT, DPT, Graston Techniques for the UE
  - **Trevor Winnegge**, PT, DPT, MS, OCS, CSCS, Northeastern University, Manual Therapy for the Elbow Complex
  - **David Nolan**, PT, DPT, MS, OCS, CSCS, Northeastern University GMH Sports Physical Therapy, Northeastern University

Pediatric Adaptive Equipment Course to be Offered at NU

**Pediatric Seating & Beyond**

March 31 & April 1, 2012

Presented by: Jon Greenwood, PT, MS, c/NDT, CEIS, Board Certified PC's

http://www.pediatricseminars.com/

Location: Northeastern University, Boston, MA

This course advances the clinician’s skills needed to address the indications, complications and complexities when choosing equipment for the pediatric client.
Thursday, February 9th from 8-11:30 Dr. Ann Marie Flores will speak about a special program sponsored by the Oncology Section entitled "Exercise Guidelines for Patients with Cancer: Where are we? Where would we like to be? Where's the physical therapy?"

Thursday, February 9th, from 10:30-12:30 Nancy Sharby, Carol Beckel and Susan Roush will present: Making the Decision: Developing reasonable Accommodations for Students and employees with Disabilities. This presentation is sponsored by the Education Section and will be held in room S501D at McCormick Place.

Thursday February 9th, Poster Presentation, Hayward LM. Charrette A, Li Li. Global Collaboration for Best Practice: An Inter-Professional Service Delivery Model for the Treatment of Children with Burns Living in China.

Friday February 10th, at 1:00 PM Dr. Amee Seitz, PT, PhD, DPT, OCS is presenting results of her research, titled Assessing Minimal Detectable Change in Scapulothoracic Neuromuscular Activity. Her presentation is sponsored by the Orthopedic Section.

Friday, February 10th, #2245, Education Section Poster Presentation, Professor Ann Golub-Victor. Obey, T., Quinn, S., Stephan, A., Webber, A. Anticipatory guidance on health and wellness in the birth to three population"

Friday, February 10th 8:00 AM Chicago Hilton, Maura Iversen, David Lake, Jennifer Rodriguez and Steve Tippett, How to Prepare an Abstract for Scientific Presentation.

NU Faculty Presence at MA Chapter Annual Conference and Exposition

Drs. Maureen Watkins and Marie Corkery presented a research poster with 6th year students Narzabal, Pann and Young entitled, Soft Tissue Mobilization Techniques in Orthopedics: A Systematic Review.

From left to right: Samantha Narzabal, Maureen Watkins, Sara Young, Marie Corkery, and Haley Pann.

Amee L. Seitz was awarded the best platform presentation for her research titled, "Neuromuscular Adaptations Following a Strengthening Exercise in Individuals with Shoulder Pain."

Drs. Dave Nolan and Trevor Winnegge led an educational program entitled, “Current Concepts in Managing Knee Dysfunction.”

Dr. Maureen Watkins presented an educational session entitled, “The Pelvic Floor and the Female Athlete”

Congratulations also to our NU PT Club which was awarded $100 for coming in third place in the Student Challenge (based on percentage of students from the program attending the conference).
The Center for Cancer Survivorship Studies (CCSS) is open and in the preparatory stages of developing and executing translational research projects. Dr. Ann Marie Flores (Director) and her team of DPT students are conducting research that describes and evaluates issues of cancer survivorship and tests interventions to improve physical and functional well being after cancer. The student members of the research team are Karen Bienenstock, Christina Caranava, Meaghan Hitt, Melissa McCarthy, Shane McCarthy, Mary Ann Roche, Brittany Smith, Haley Waud, and Caitlin Winters. The CCSS is located in Robinson Hall within the Department of Physical Therapy at Northeastern University. It is equipped with a Konica Minolta 3-dimensional laser scanner, electronic & hand held range of motion measurement devices, bioimpedence devices for fluid & body composition analyses, hand held force transducers, posture analyzer, survey software & scanners, volumeters, deluxe hi-lo table with adjustable supports, focus group/interview room, audio & video recording equipment, statistical analysis and project/data management software.

Sarah Laskey and Ricky Tapia, pictured at left, with a patient who is a stroke survivor in the Neurocognitive Research Lab directed by Dr. Prudence Plummer-D’Amato. The mission of the lab is to conduct interdisciplinary research along two main themes: analysis of the interactions between cognition and motor functions; and the design, development and evaluation of rehabilitation strategies for people with deficits in cognitive function and/or motor control after neurological injury. At right is a picture of the lab space.

The Department of Physical Therapy is Pleased to Welcome Visiting Professor, Dr. Johan von Heideken

Dr. von Heideken is an orthopedic surgeon at the Department of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery, Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden. Presently, he is a PhD student in clinical epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden. His major area of research is in femoral fractures in children. Dr. von Heideken will be teaching musculoskeletal and orthopedic content in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and working on his research with Dr. Maura Iversen through March 1, 2012.
Physical therapy students at Northeastern University have the opportunity to enrich their education with real life experiences in the field of physical therapy through our unique blend of experiential education offerings. Our foundation is our cooperative education program, one of the largest and most innovative programs in the world, and NU is the only Physical Therapy Program to offer it. Other opportunities involve clinical education experiences that provide extended exposure to current, state-of-the-art physical therapy practice in world renowned hospitals and clinics across the globe: from Boston to Peru, Hawaii to Costa Rica or Florida to Cape Town, South Africa.

http://www.northeastern.edu/bouve/healthprofessions/dept/PT_Welcome.html

Excellence, Distinctiveness and Innovation.