Dr. Becker to direct physical therapy education

Betsy Becker, PhD, DPT, has been promoted to director of physical therapy education in the College of Allied Health Professions. Dr. Becker had previously been associate director. She succeeds Joseph Norman, PhD, who stepped aside as program director to spend more time with family. He will remain on faculty.

Dr. Becker, who holds master’s and PhD degrees from UNMC, joined the allied health professions faculty in 2013. She was an inaugural inductee in the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators, and currently serves as co-chair of the UNMC E-Learning Steering Committee. She has her clinical doctorate in physical therapy from the University of South Dakota.

Kyle Meyer, PhD, dean of the college, said he was delighted that Dr. Becker accepted the appointment: “I look forward to working closely with Dr. Becker as she leads our outstanding program in physical therapy education, and I invite the college and the greater campus to join me in welcoming Dr. Becker to her new role.”

Dr. Becker said: “I look forward to serving in this leadership role and working closely with the faculty, staff and students.”

Dr. Becker’s scholarly agenda focuses on education, chronic disease management, and the role of professional networking in faculty development and career advancement. She is nationally recognized for her work related to the development and implementation of innovative educational technologies, and recently completed the requirements for a Medical Education Research Certificate from the American Academy of Medical Colleges (AAMC).

She was founding director of the Southeast Community College physical therapist assistant program. She is currently vice chair of the Nebraska State Board of Physical Therapy, and serves as a director on the board for the Foreign Credentialing Commission of Physical Therapists.

Dr. Becker’s appointment is effective January 1.
Cochran named Interim Assistant Dean at HSEC

In April, 2018, Associate Professor Teresa Cochran, PT, DPT, MA, GCS, FNAP was named the Interim Assistant Dean at the Health Science Education Complex in Kearney.

Teresa joined the Physical Therapy Education faculty in May, 2017, with primary assignment at the Kearney campus. Teresa earned a Master of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Nebraska, a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Creighton University and has held national board certification in Geriatrics from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties since 2001. She spent 15 years on the Department of Physical Therapy faculty at Creighton University, serving as Vice Chair and directing the Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service and Education in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Dr. Jones retires

On June 30, 2018, Associate Professor Katherine Jones, PT, PhD, retired from the Division of Physical Therapy Education.

Dr. Jones joined the division in 2007. In addition to teaching in the Critical Inquiry course, Dr. Jones led the integration of TeamSTEPPS, an evidence-based program aimed at optimizing performance among teams of health care professionals, into the physical therapy curriculum.

Dr. Jones was instrumental in developing patient safety research in the College of Allied Health Professions. Over the years, she has developed extensive relationships with health care professionals and administrators in critical access hospitals across Nebraska to improve patient safety, most notably in the area of inpatient falls.
New Faculty Member: Jung Hung (JC) Chien, PhD

On August 15, 2018, Jung Hung (JC) Chien, PhD, became an Assistant Professor in the Division of Physical Therapy Education. Dr. Chien joined the Division of Physical Therapy Education in August, 2016, as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate working with Dr. Joseph Siu in the CMOVA laboratory to investigate the sensorimotor integration in healthy populations and patients with sensory impairments. Dr. Chien also develops advanced biomechanics research platforms using virtual reality and remote sensors to study normal and abnormal human movement.

Originally from Taiwan, JC immigrated to the United States and earned both a Bachelor’s degree and a Master’s degree at the University of Oregon. His expertise is writing computer programming, composing equipment, and designing experimental protocol in the research of human movement science.

As an assistant professor, Dr. Chien intends to continue his research and work with international students.

Bills Inducted

In September, Assistant Professor Sara Bills, PT, DPT, GCS, was inducted into the Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE). The IAE, an organization by educators for educators, is a community of more than 90 educators from across UNMC’s campuses, representing every college, and dedicated to serving our educational mission.

Gossman Certified

In June, 2018, Assistant Professor Kellie Gossman became board-certified in pediatric physical therapy.

Story 2 continued from pg 1

to work with such a devoted team of colleagues,” he said.

His tenure as PT director drew wide praise:

“Joe’s expertise has been invaluable, but in addition to that, he is an individual who really cares about the people he works with – colleagues, patients, students. He is one of those individuals you feel very fortunate to know and to work with,” said research colleague Bunny Pozehl, PhD.

“He was a steady hand and would always take the time to lend an ear and be present to help. I knew, without a doubt, his true intentions were to do what was best for the UNMC PT program,” said alum and UNMC PT Alumni Committee Chair Elliott Tapprich, DPT.

“Dr. Norman, Joe, has been an exceptional leader for the physical therapy program during a period of substantial growth and transition for physical therapy education,” said colleague and former director Pat Hageman, PT, PhD, FAPTA.

“Under Dr. Norman’s leadership, some of the best students and faculty from China come to UNMC to study, train, and conduct research, while American UNMC students travel to China to gain a different perspective on physical therapy. Dr. Norman has been critical to fostering these partnerships and is a leading ambassador between UNMC and China,” said Hannah Tong, PhD, associate director of the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program.
On October 25, 2018, division of physical therapy education program director Joseph Norman, PT, PhD, CCS, FAACVPR, and global director of the Chinese MS-DPT program Ka-Chun (Joseph) Siu, PhD, participated in the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Chang Gung University in Taiwan, to build a collaboration in PT education and research.

On Friday, August 17, 2018, family members and friends came to support and celebrate the PT1 students as they received their white coats in the College of Allied Health Professions Professionalism Ceremony held at the CHI Health Center in downtown Omaha.

The Professionalism Ceremony is a rite of passage for students as they begin their journeys in each of the respective College of Allied Health Professions’ programs. Dean Kyle Meyer welcomed the students and their guests and served as the host for the ceremony. The keynote address was given by Dr. Michael Ash, Executive Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer of Nebraska Medicine. Program Director Joe Norman introduced the physical therapy profession. Then, the students were called forward to receive their white coats. When each student had received a white coat, Associate Director Betsy Becker led the students in reading the physical therapy oath.

A reception followed the ceremony.

Three PT Education faculty-student teams were awarded grants for eLearning modules. These teams are:

- Betsy Becker, PT, DPT, PhD, CLT-LANA, Robert Fuchs, PT, MA, ATP, PT2 Ella Buxton, and PT2 Alison Drey
- Sara Bills, PT, DPT, GCS, PT2 Chun Feng, PT2 Grace Haider, PT2 McKenzie Vermeire
- Kellie Gossman, PT, DPT, CLT, PCS, Tessa Wells, PT, DPT, CEEAA, GCS, PT2 Bailey Lehmkuhler, PT1 Caleb Nabower, PT2 Devan Sedlacek, and PT2 Brooklynn Trew
Class of 2018 Graduation

Celebratory graduation events for the Class of 2018 began with the Division of Physical Therapy Education Convocation on Friday morning, May 4, in the Truhlsen Events Center at UNMC.

The members of the Class of 2018 and their guests were warmly welcomed by Program Director Dr. Joe Norman. Class President Trent Werner gave the student address. Alpha Eta Society inductees, LEND participants, research contributors, and recipients of the Service, Professionalism, and Leadership awards were recognized.

Elliot Tapprich, DPT, Chair of the Physical Therapy Alumni Committee, was also on hand to congratulate the graduates and encourage future participation in the UNMC PT alumni committee.

Also at this ceremony, the division honored Kim Marlatt, PT, an alumnus who served as the part-time clinical coordinator for 25 years until her retirement earlier this year.

The graduating students also participated in the College of Allied Health Professions Convocation ceremony on Friday afternoon at the Holland Performing Arts Center and the UNMC Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 5, at the Baxter Arena.

Congratulations, Class of 2018!
Class of 2018 Awards

**Alpha Eta Society inductees:**
Taylor Johnson, Brittni Klostermeyer, Amanda Lauer, and Jennifer Lauer

**Service (selected by class):**
Jessica Finnegan, Brittni Klostermeyer, Danielle N. Nelson, and Sydney Pokorny

**Professionalism (selected by faculty):**
Audreana Bombeck, Amanda Lauer, Jennifer Lauer, Keriann Shaw, and Vince Van Haute

**Leadership (selected by class):**
Trent Werner, Kenda Frenzel, and Natalie Albretsen

**LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Certification recipients:**
Taylor Johnson, Danielle N. Nelson, and Keriann Shaw

**Recognized for contributions to research:**
Audreana Bombeck, Anna Calgaard, Elizabeth Damman, Neleigh Frandsen, Kenda Frenzel, Miao He, Taylor Johnson, Amanda Lauer, Jennifer Lauer, Meng Liu, Min Liu, Melissa Parks, Kristine Polacek, Samantha Salerno, Keriann Shaw, Trent Werner, and Alyssa Zumpfe

Student News

**SUN-APTA Career Fair**
The Students of the University of Nebraska American Physical Therapy Association (SUN-APTA) Career Fair was held on Friday, October 5, in the Truhlsen Events Center at UNMC. Forty-two physical therapy vendors attended. The fair introduced PT students to possible employment opportunities, clinical sites, and many aspects of physical therapy. Funds raised through the Career Fair will be used to supplement costs for the following: scholarly and professional development of students, hosting PT awareness events, community service, and Special Olympics/Arthritis Foundation fundraising events. Thank you to all our vendors!

SUN-APTA officers (l-r): 2019 Vice President Meagan Reiners, 2018 Vice President Kristin Ramirez, 2018 President Justine Sebade, 2019 President McKenzie Vermeire. The SUN-APTA Career Fair was planned by Kristin Ramirez with assistance from Meagan Reiners.

**UNMC PT students team with UNK faculty to help kids with developmental disabilities**

Students in the UNMC Physical Therapy Education program in Kearney, along with engineering faculty at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, recently made three children and their families very happy.

The students modified children’s electric cars for three girls between the ages of one and three. The project is part of GoBabyGo!, a national program that provides modified ride-on cars for kids with developmental disabilities. The cars are provided at no cost to the families to promote early independent mobility.

Maggie Urbanek, a UNMC physical therapy student, was involved in the project.

See story 3 pg 7
Global PT Day of Service
Approximately 30 student volunteers from both UNMC and Creighton University turned out for the Global PT Day of Service at Leve Carter Park on October 13. Physical therapists from the community, including the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association president Grace Knott, PT, also came to serve.

Groups paired up to fill bags with trash and debris from around the park and lake. Supplies were provided by Keep Omaha Beautiful. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful way to serve the community!

Students and therapists are looking forward to continuing the tradition next year.

Student-led Interdisciplinary Presentation
On October 1, in an effort to promote interdisciplinary care, a group of UNMC physical therapy students delivered a presentation to educate medical and physician assistant students regarding when to incorporate physical therapy into a patient’s plan of care. Several areas of physical therapy practice were presented, including musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary, neuro, geriatrics, pediatrics, and women’s health. Each section included information about health conditions with which physical therapists typically work and interventions a physical therapist would provide in a patient’s plan of care.

The following students presented: Alex Eilers, Maggie Morehouse, Justine Sebade, Alison Drey, and Raymond Peitzmeier. Students who also contributed to the presentation include: Daniel Buss, Ella Buxton, Cara Cameron, Normajean Driscoll, Blake Jeffries, Morgan Newman, Allie Schulte, Rachel White, and Kassi Williams.

Physical therapy students intend to deliver this presentation annually to students studying different medical disciplines.

And the Winner Is…!
A group of PT3 students produced a video to win the APTA student competition for Falls Prevention Challenge sponsored by the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy. The students – Alex Eilers, JD Freeman, Halle Hart, Emilie Hicks, Dana McKenzie, Maggie Morehouse, Morgan Newman, and Nicole Potthoff – won $500. The winning producers will be recognized in the November Balance and Falls SIG newsletter. View the winning video.

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“With my interest in pediatric physical therapy, I was thrilled with the opportunity to help with the set-up and coordination of the first Go Baby Go! event in Kearney,” Urbanek said. “I love working with other programs, practicing physical therapists, fellow classmates and most importantly, the families. Seeing the smiles on the kiddos’ faces when they get their cars going is priceless.”

Kellie Gossman, DPT, assistant professor in the Division of Physical Therapy Education, UNMC College of Allied Health Professions campus at Kearney, said the credit goes to the hard work from the students, community clinicians and engineers. “Without their collaboration, none of this could happen,” Dr. Gossman said. “I was thrilled to see everyone working together and problem solving to make each car completely unique to what each child would need to be as independent as possible.”

The event was made possible by funding from the Munroe-Meyer Institute Guild and a grant awarded to Sandy Willett, director of physical therapy at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.
PT3 Farewell

On October 11, the Division of Physical Therapy Education sponsored a farewell pizza party for the PT3 students in Omaha and Kearney (pictured below) prior to their departure for clinical rotations.
New Staff

On July 16, Michelle Hawkins, MS, joined the Division of Physical Therapy Education as the clinical education associate. Michelle’s most recent work experience includes employment at Colorado Christian University for more than six years, first as an enrollment counselor (three years), and then as a field enrollment counselor. Michelle earned a BA from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and an MS in Organizational Leadership from Colorado State University.

On July 23, Patti Jones, BA, joined the Division of Physical Therapy Education as an Office Associate. Patti earned a BA in Business Management from Doane University. She comes to us from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where she worked in the College of Law for nearly four years.

New CAHP education program

On November 1, 2018, Nancy E. Krusen, PhD, OTR/L joined the College of Allied Health Professions (CAHP) as founding director of the college’s new occupational therapy education program. Dr. Krusen joins the college from the School of Occupational Therapy, College of Health Professions at Pacific University.

Dr. Krusen’s research interests and expertise reside in the scholarship of teaching and learning, specifically curriculum design and learning analytics. She was instrumental in developing an interprofessional PhD program in education and leadership at Pacific University.

Dr. Krusen has served as an accreditation evaluator for the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) for over 15 years and also serves as an invited mentor for the American Occupational Therapy Association/ American Occupational Therapy Foundation Scholarship of Teaching and Learning initiative. This initiative supports the development of educators in occupational therapy through the dissemination and application of evidence-based education practices.
Locations:
Omaha, Nebraska:
UNMC, Bennett Hall Lab, Room 4016

Kearney, Nebraska (connected virtually and with onsite lab assistant):
Health Science Education Complex, Rooms 204/206

Registration: Register at https://app1.unmc.edu/forms/alliedhealth/education/

Course Fee:

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Space is limited. Register soon!

Approved by the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association for 16 contact hours.

Lecturer:
Jeff Moore, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT | Bio

Supported by the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions
Division of Physical Therapy Education and the Alumni Council

For more information:
unmc.edu/alliedhealth/profdev/pt-ce.html
michelle.hawkins@unmc.edu | 402-559-8173

ATTENTION CLINICAL EDUCATORS! The UNMC Division of Physical Therapy Education invites you to a complimentary evening of continuing education (two contact hours) and networking. Dinner will be provided.

Thursday, March 28, 2019 | 6-9 pm
UNMC Omaha Campus
Michael F. Sorrell Center (Room 2014)
42nd & Emile Streets
Omaha, Nebraska

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 | 6-9 pm
UNMC Kearney Campus
Health Science Education Complex (Room 104)
2402 University Drive
Kearney, Nebraska

Topics:
Use of the 2:1 Model in Physical Therapy Clinical Education
Presenter: Lindsay Nichols, PT, DPT

Addressing Professional Behaviors in Clinical Education
Presenters: Nicole Sleddens, PT, MPT, and Tessa Wells, PT, DPT

UNMC Physical Therapy Clinical Education Curriculum Revision
Presenters: Nicole Sleddens, PT, MPT, and Tessa Wells, PT, DPT

Register by March 22: https://app1.unmc.edu/forms/alliedhealth/education/dinner/

For more information, please contact Clinical Education Associate
Michelle Hawkins at michelle.hawkins@unmc.edu or 402-559-8173.