Class of 2017 Graduation

Celebratory graduation events for the Class of 2017 began with the Division of Physical Therapy Education Convocation on Friday morning, May 5, in the Truhlsen Events Center at UNMC.

The members of the Class of 2017 and their guests were warmly welcomed by Program Director Dr. Joe Norman. Class President Matthew Giffin 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.

The students also participated in the College of Allied Health Professions Convocation ceremony on Friday afternoon at the LaVista Conference Center and the UNMC Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 6, at the Baxter Arena.

Congratulations, Class of 2017!
On Friday, August 18, 2017, family members and friends came to support and celebrate the PT1 students as they received their white coats in the Division of Physical Therapy Education Professionalism Ceremony.

The Professionalism Ceremony is a rite of passage for students as they begin their journey in the Physical Therapy Education program. Program Director Dr. Joe Norman welcomed the students and their guests and served as the host for the ceremony. Physical Therapy Alumni Committee Chair Elliot Tapprich, and alumni-turned-faculty-members Sara Bills, Megan Frazee, and Dawn Venema, were on hand to assist the students with their coats. Assistant Professor Grace Johnson led the students in reciting the Physical Therapy Oath.

This year, 2017 Physical Therapy Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Sue E. Schuerman, PT, GCS, MBA, PhD, gave the keynote speech. Through humorous and touching anecdotes, Dr. Schuerman inspired the new students with stories from her own practice.

A reception in the Sorrell Alumni Commons followed the ceremony.

For a complete list of the Class of 2020 and their hometowns, see page 7.
Venema receives Outstanding Teacher award

Dawn Venema, PT, PhD, assistant professor in physical therapy education, recently received both a UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award and a College of Allied Health Professions’ Excellence in Teaching Award.

Nominees for these awards must demonstrate outstanding skills in directing learning, advising students, and facilitating effective interaction between faculty and students and between students.

Dawn received the UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award at the UNMC Annual Faculty Meeting on April 20. She was honored by the College of Allied Health Professions at their May 3 Awards Ceremony.

Congratulations, Dawn!

New Faculty Member Teresa M. Cochran PT, DPT, MA, GCS, FNAP

Teresa Cochran, PT, DPT, MA, GCS, recently joined the Division of Physical Therapy Education faculty as an Associate Professor. She will be based on the Kearney campus.

Originally from southwest Iowa, 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.

Following practice in Alabama, Teresa returned to resurrect rehabilitation practices on the Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations in northeast Nebraska. She also 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.

see Cochran pg 5

New Faculty Member Kellie Gossman PT, DPT, CLT

Kellie Gossman PT, DPT, CLT, recently joined the Physical Therapy Education faculty as an Assistant Professor, with primary assignment at the Kearney campus.

Originally from Kansas, Kellie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Medicine and her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2012. She began her practice with pediatrics in Lincoln before moving to rural northeast Nebraska. She gained her lymphedema certification through Klose Training and also specialized in women’s health. She continued to practice pediatrics, as well as adult neurological rehab, mainly in an outpatient setting with emphasis on seating and mobility evaluations.

Kellie enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 young boys. Her hobbies and interests include camping, running outdoors with her Vizsla, practicing yoga, and listening to Mumford and Sons.
Wonder Woman Wellsandt

What did you do on your summer vacation? For Liz Wellsandt, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, assistant professor in our division of physical therapy education, it was an exciting and busy few months! The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) named Liz an APTA Emerging Leader, she received an APTA New Investigator grant, and she just had a baby (her third) on July 16, 2017.

The Emerging Leader Award identifies and honors one physical therapist (PT) or PT assistant “emerging leader” from each APTA component (state or section) who demonstrated extraordinary service early in his or her physical therapy career. The individual should have made exceptional overall accomplishments and contributions to APTA, the component, and the physical therapy profession to advance APTA’s vision.

The $100,000 New Investigator Fellowship Training Initiative (NIFTI) fellowship will include a research training experience entitled “Role of Physical Activity in Post-Traumatic Osteoarthritis.” Liz will be under the mentorship of Kaleb Michaud, PhD, associate professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology in the department of Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Yvonne Golightly, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The APTA Supporting the Profession Fund and the APTA Scholarship Fund made the NIFTI award possible.

The NIFTI supports post-professional, doctoral prepared physical therapists as they begin their research careers. It is designed to accommodate both traditional postdoctoral and new faculty applicants for a closely mentored research experience.

Alumni News

Schuerman honored at All-College Reunion

At the College of Allied Health Professions’ All-College Reunion evening reception on June 10, 2017, the Physical Therapy Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Sue E. Schuerman, PT, GCS, MBA, PhD ’75, ‘98.

Throughout her career as both a clinician and teacher, Sue’s primary passion has been providing geriatric clients with good clinical care. Sue was active in the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), serving in a variety of volunteer and elected positions in state chapters. She also served on the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties’ (ABPTS) Geriatric Specialty Council and later as the ABPTS Women’s Health Council liaison.

Sue’s husband, Raymond E. Records, MD, was Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at UNMC from 1969 to 1989. Following Ray’s passing in October 2016, Sue is relocating back to Nebraska this summer to be near family. She enjoys gardening and hiking with her dogs.

Earlier in the day, tours were provided of the Division of Physical Therapy Education’s facilities, including labs in Bennett Hall and the Student Life Center. The C-MOVA (Clinical Movement Analysis) lab was also open for tours.

In conjunction with the reunion, a three-hour continuing education course was offered to physical therapists titled, “An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing,” by Dr. Dennis McChargue of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Department of Psychology.
China Update

This summer, ten students from Capital Medical University in Beijing came to UNMC for a three-week summer school hosted by our Division and the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program at UNMC. The new Summer PT Education for Chinese Students (SPECS) program allows students to observe PT clinical practice, gain advanced PT knowledge, and participate in clinical research activities in Nebraska.

Likewise, three UNMC DPT students, Meng Liu, Danielle N. Nelson, Katie Shalon, visited the Sunshine Rehabilitation Hospital, Shanghai, through the new China Clinical Education Opportunity (CCEO) program for four weeks of clinical experience, observation, and culture in China.

UNMC faculty members Ka-Chun (Joseph) Siu, PhD, and Kathleen Volkman, PT, MS, NCS, also traveled to China, visiting four cities in two weeks – Chengdu, Kunming, Nanjing and Shanghai – to promote the UNMC MS-DPT program. They were in Shanghai to welcome our students when they arrived. In addition, Professors Siu and Volkman presented a continuing education course in Chengdu, Sichuan, at the first annual conference of the Sichuan Association of Rehabilitation Therapists. They also conducted a two-day summer course at Sichuan University.

Cochran continued from pg 3

Most recently, Teresa has specialized in vestibular rehabilitation and care for older adults with balance dysfunction in outpatient and home-based clinical practice. She has served as Federal Affairs Liaison and Past President of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association and was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice in 2016.

Teresa enjoys landscape painting, learning to play bagpipes, Red Sox at Fenway Park and is particularly fond of views from the Tetons and Cannon Beach, Oregon.
Katherine Jones, PT, PhD and Victoria Kennel, PhD are conducting an evaluation of an automated video monitoring system developed by Ocuvera, a technology development firm based in Lincoln, NE.

This study, “Pilot Study of Prospective 3-Dimensional Imaging to Decrease Unattended Bed Exits in Patients at Risk for Falls,” is funded by a Nebraska Research and Development (R&D) Grant from the State of Nebraska. This technology is innovative because it uses algorithms to predict the likelihood that a patient at risk for falling may attempt to exit the bed prior to the exit.

Siu and Wellsandt receive research funding

Drs. Siu and Wellsandt each recently received University of Nebraska System Science Planning Grants ($15,000) for the following projects:

Elizabeth Wellsandt, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS
1. University of Nebraska System Science Planning Grant | 04/01/17-3/31/18
   Project Title: Clinical and Biomechanical Factors in Lower Extremity Osteoarthritis ($9,825.00)
   Role: PI
   Co-Investigators: Knarr, B. (UNO), Youn, J. (UNO), Rosen, A. (UNO)

2. Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior Seed Grant (University of Nebraska – Lincoln) 03/13/17-06/30/17
   Project Title: Role of Cumulative Joint Loading in Healthy Articular Cartilage ($6,900.00)
   Role: PI

Ka-Chun (Joseph) Siu, PhD
Dr. Siu’s planning grant established the Nebraska Virtual Reality Network for Education and Research (NeVRNER). NeVRNER includes faculty members from UNMC, UNO and UNL who are interested and engaged in using Virtual Reality (VR) to promote medical education and clinical practice. This group includes experts in surgery, nursing, technology, computer science and engineering. The goal of this planning grant is to nurture research teams and brainstorm research ideas for collaboration and grants.

In addition, collaborators from UNO (PI: Dr. Zuniga and Dr. Mukherjee), UNL (Dr. Nelson), UNK (Dr. Abushamieh) and UNMC (Dr. Siu) were recently awarded a two-year University of Nebraska System Science Seed Grant ($150,000). Their project will develop and test low-cost 3D printed prostheses to restore and improve function for children with congenital or traumatic below-elbow amputations.

The Box and Block Test. A) A research subject using a 3D printed partial hand prosthesis. B) A research subject using a 3D printed arm prosthesis.

3D Printed arm prostheses. A. shows the trans-radial arm prosthesis in the open position. Elastic cords placed inside the dorsal aspect of the fingers provide passive finger extension. B. Finger flexion is activated through 10-20° of elbow flexion of the residual functional joint. The red arrow shows the direction of elbow flexion to close the fingers and produce a functional grasp. The wrist can be manually adjusted. No harnessing is required to suspend the prosthesis.
Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., dean of the College of Allied Health Professions, recently was honored with a 2017 University of Nebraska-Omaha College of Public Affairs and Community Service Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service. The award is presented to

Kyle Meyer, Ph.D.

See Meyer pg 8

Students who entered our Physical Therapy Education program this August

Courtney Allen Lincoln, NE
Amanda Beisner Cheyenne, WY
Paige Benner Central City, NE
Brandon Bischoff Omaha, NE
Jerry Bockman Weeping Water, NE
Jackson Buck Grand Island, NE
Jordan Bussinger Valentine, NE
Ella Marie Buxton Omaha, NE
Andrew Cartmill St. Louis, MO
Andrew Chleborad Ralston, NE
Tanner Dewey Red Cloud, NE
Alison Drey Utica, NE
Abbi Ebel Beatrice, NE
Rachael Ernest Omaha, NE
Sean Feehan Wisner, NE
Chun Feng Rapid City, SD
BreAnn Ferris-Rainey Wuxi, CHINA
Jaelynn Griess Omaha, NE
Grace Halder Lincoln, NE
Kristina Hedun Seward, NE
Morgan Hill Eagle River, AK
Paul Hoppmann Crete, NE
Nicholas Hunter Concordia, MO
Brett James Kearney, NE
Blake Jeffres Fort Madison, IA
Kyndra Jensen Kearney, NE
Jill Kieffer Burwell, NE
Marissa Knott Papillion, NE
Michaela Kozeny Lincoln, NE
Marisa Laue Pisgah, IA
Amanda Ledall Omaha, NE

See Meyer pg 8

**Dean Meyer honored by UNO**

Gregory Karst, PhD

At the annual College of Allied Health Professions (CAHP) Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 3, Gregory Karst, PT, PhD, executive associate dean, was recognized with the 2017 Outstanding Service to the Allied Health Professions Award.

Dr. Karst received this award as a result of his extraordinary contributions to the CAHP’s expansion to the Health Science Education Complex in Kearney, Nebraska. Dr. Karst’s involvement in this project spanned from design and construction to willingly serving as the lead CAHP administrator when the building opened. Six CAHP programs, including Physical Therapy Education, have expanded to Kearney.

**Karst honored for service**
alums who have distinguished themselves through contributions to the public good.

“I am honored and humbled, knowing the outstanding reputation of the School of Public Administration and the accomplishments of so many of the alums,” said Dr. Meyer.

Dr. Meyer earned his M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees from UNO. He holds a physical therapy degree and master’s in anatomy from UNMC.