

STUDENT ASSEMBLY PULSE

NEWS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST AND PHYSICAL
THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENT AND FACULTY LIAISONS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EMORY STUDENTS TRAVEL TO NICARAGUA! 2

THE MAYO CLINICS STUDENT DIVERSITY NETWORK 3

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT APTA'S HOOKED ON EVIDENCE 3

Celebration of Diversity: Commitment for the 21st Century

Leah Frazier, PT: Former Student Assembly Board of Directors Secretary

"Celebration of Diversity: Commitment for the 21st Century" What better way to celebrate the diversity and leadership within our profession than by acknowledging those who have made a difference by going above and beyond what is required of them? These leaders have contributed time and ideas to minority services and their communities, and demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. They also possess the potential to contribute to the profession of physical therapy in the future. I had the privilege of attending such a celebration organized by APTA's Minority/International Affairs staff, and the Academic Administrators and Clinical Educators Special Interest Group of the Education Section, to benefit outstanding minority students and faculty in the physical therapy profession. An added benefit was the great view of Washington DC at night. More than 220 leaders, members, and

APTA staff attended this fabulous evening event held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The event featured cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a gourmet dinner, presentations to congratulate the Diversity 2000 and Minority Scholarship Award recipients for 2006, dancing, and a silent auction.

The goal of the Minority Scholarship and the Celebration of Diversity, stated by the APTA Minority/International Affairs Department, is "to assist minority students in completing their physical therapy education, and to significantly increase the Minority Scholarship Fund so that more scholarships in more significant amounts may be awarded to student and faculty recipients." Physical therapy students in the final year of their education and faculty members pursuing their postprofessional doctoral degree apply for this award. They undergo an individual review

to determine if all criteria have been met to be considered one of the honored recipients. This scholarship recognizes those individuals that are excited about the profession of physical therapy and encourages them to continue on their educational journeys.

This event was definitely memorable and well worth supporting. The efforts of those involved produced and remarkable outcome. I look forward to the opportunity to attend and offer my support at future events.

For additional information on the Fundraiser, please contact the Department of Minority/International Affairs at the American Physical Therapy Association at 800/999-2782, ext. 3143 or fax 703/684-7343 or E-mail to Min-Intl@apta.org. The 2007 Diversity Celebration is tentatively scheduled for October 6th at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.



netz4Life

Nicole Hignojoz, PT: Former Student Assembly Nominating Committee Member

Ray Roman, PT, a recent graduate from Chapman University in Southern California, started his own nonprofit organization devoted to revitalizing neglected community athletic infrastructure. The organization, **netz4Life** is a program with an emphasis on

basketball to engage and motivate disadvantaged youth to restore their communities, one neighborhood at a time. By replacing basketball nets, revitalizing park basketball courts, hosting basketball tournaments and clinics, and offering a variety of trainings and events, they are able to bring a new energy to long-neglected neighborhoods. In addition, **netz4Life** possesses a concern for the

emotional and educational development of our youth. The organization invites motivational speakers, offers a scholarship program, and provides the youth access to academic advisors in an effort to encourage disadvantaged youth to pursue higher education.

EMORY STUDENTS TRAVEL TO NICARAGUA

Talitha Rector, SPT, Emory University DPT Class of 2007

Three students from Emory University, Talitha Rector, Elise Nathan and Kendra Richardson, traveled to Nicaragua on a medical mission trip. These students had the opportunity to interact with people of another culture and provide care to those in need. They traveled with a team of twenty-seven people from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atlanta, GA, through God's Ministry International. Their team included physicians, physician assistants, nurses, physical therapists, interpreters, a pastor, and laypeople who provided general assistance. Each team member brought two suitcases filled with supplies. They brought a full pharmacy of prescription drugs, wound care supplies, clothes, toys, toothbrushes, and personal care kits. This was Talitha's and Elise's second trip to Nicaragua. They had the chance to

return to many of the schools and communities they had visited the previous year. It meant a lot to the patients and community members that the students came back on a second mission trip.

The medical team set up clinics to provide services to those in need. They worked with children in association with the God School in Nicaragua, as well as adults in the community. The team provided general medical care, assistance, and referral services. The students from Emory provided physical therapy treatments for wounds, back pain, varicose veins, and plantar fasciitis. They also provided equipment including canes, walkers, back braces, compression wraps, and neck rolls. The people in Nicaragua would not normally have access to these types of devices.

For more detailed descriptions on their experiences and interactions with patients visit: www.rehabmed.emory.edu/pt/Emory%20Class%20of%202007%20Website/index_files/Page337.htm. This is a link to stories from their trip the previous year.

If you are interested in participating in an international service project, a good place to start is your school's community service/service learning office. Schools often have staff that plan service trips nationally and internationally, or they can provide you with information on organizations that regularly provide international aid. You may also find organizations in your community that plan medical mission trips to other countries, like the students from Emory University.



Elise Nathan, SPT



Kendra Richardson, SPT



Talitha Rector, SPT

THREE CHEERS!



*Megan Henninger, SPT
Drexel University*

"Three Cheers" to students involved in activities to increase public awareness of minority student involvement in physical therapy, and of their work with underserved populations. Those involved in such activities promote our profession, get involved with the community, and provide leadership. For more information visit www.apta.org, click on "Advocacy," and then "Minority Affairs."

"Three Cheers" to PT students from the University of Iowa, Katie Bossen, Keith Cole, and Becky Brown, and

Kirkwood Community College PTA student Kara Clark, for beginning a Student Special-Interest Group in the Iowa Physical Therapy Association.

Three Cheers to **Daniel Gehret from Slippery Rock University**, who won \$100 APTA for participating on the Student Message Board on the APTA website. Haven't been on the message board yet? Post a topic of your own, or respond to one that is already posted. Go to apta.org, click on 'Students', then 'Message Board' to peruse all this board has to offer.

"Three Cheers" to Laura Philipps and Christine Berglund who received the 3rd annual Performing Arts SIG Student Scholarship for their paper "Flexor Hallicus Longus".

"Three Cheers" to all students who have added new articles to Hooked on Evidence!

Remember, the "Three Cheers" section of the *Student Assembly Pulse* is all about recognizing you, the student! If you would like to recognize classmates or friends who have shown extraordinary dedication to the field of physical therapy,

e-mail me at meh392@drexel.edu and you may see their names in an upcoming issue of the *Pulse*!

February is Black History Month!

"Truth comes to us from the past, then, like gold washed down from the mountains."

–Carter G. Woodson, PhD, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; originator of Black History Month.

THE MAYO CLINIC STUDENT DIVERSITY NETWORK (SDN)

Erika Merriwether, SPT
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, DPT Program

The Mayo Clinic is committed to developing a diverse and talented team of individuals whose differences enhance the experiences of all those who work, learn, and receive care within the Mayo Health System. In an effort to do so, the Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS) has established the Student Diversity Network.

The Student Diversity Network (SDN) was created under the umbrella of the MSHS Student Alliance in March 2006 to help promote and celebrate the diversity that currently exists within the Mayo College of Medicine and its respective academic programs. The Student Diversity Network endeavors to create and foster an environment in which social, political, cultural, and religious

diversity can be effectively incorporated into the Mayo student and faculty experience.

SDN's objectives are to:

- * Promote unity among the students, physicians, residents, patients, and staff at Mayo Clinic
- * Cultivate friendly relations with the community through education and outreach
- * Conduct social, cultural, religious, and other activities
- * Endeavor to make diverse cultures known to those interested

Since March 2006, SDN has hosted programs and events open to all students, faculty, and other Mayo Clinic professionals, and also circulates a monthly newsletter that provides information on each

month's cultural celebrations, upcoming events, and other pertinent information related to culture and diversity.

The chair, Erika Merriwether, and most members of this organization are second-year DPT students, but other members include students from the Mayo Medical School (MMS) and the nursing anesthesia program. SDN has received executive recognition for its efforts and continues to be driven by the energy and input of a dynamic group of students committed to promoting diversity through peer education.



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT APTA'S HOOKED ON EVIDENCE PROGRAM

David Scalzitti, PT
APTA's Research Services Department

APTA's Hooked on Evidence Program (www.hookedonevidence.org) has recently added patient clinical scenarios to provide quick access to evidence for conditions commonly seen in physical therapist practice. This unique and valuable feature gives you a list of relevant studies and study results so that you can select effective interventions for your patients. Currently, 73 clinical scenarios are available for management of persons with stroke, cerebral palsy, low back pain, knee conditions, and shoulder conditions. Additional scenarios will be added as the initiative continues to grow and evolve.

Hooked on Evidence also allows you to search more than 3,350 extractions of research studies using keywords related to a patient's problem, physical therapy interventions, or desired outcomes. Each

extract, entered into the database by an APTA member including student members, offers information about the study's methods, characteristics of the study's participants, the interventions studied, and the outcomes of the interventions.

Slides from a presentation given at the 2006 National Student Conclave are available at <http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Students&CONTENTID=36603&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>. Students are encouraged to use this overview and to share the information with others to increase awareness of all that Hooked on Evidence has to offer.

