

The Health Sciences Herald

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Greetings from the Physical Therapy Program!

Dr. Ronald De Vera Barredo, Head, Department of Physical Therapy

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Physical Therapy, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you in this issue of the Health Sciences Herald.



The physical therapy program at Tennessee State University began in the early nineties as an undergraduate entry-level program. The program was the *first* PT program in middle Tennessee, serving the needs of both the Nashville area and the state of Tennessee. When the undergraduate program closed in 2000, work began to offer the program at the graduate level in compliance with accreditation requirements to offer the entry-level degree at the post-baccalaureate level. The first class of graduate students was admitted in 2002, graduating with Master in Physical Therapy (MPT) degrees in 2005. From 2005 to 2008, the program offered the MPT degree.

In 2006, the program transitioned to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, admitting its first class in 2006, which graduated in 2009. The move to the DPT was a hallmark event for TSU by being the *first* clinical doctorate offered by the institution. The DPT program continues to grow in reputation, enrollment, and stature. With over 400 applicants annually for a cohort of 36 students, admission to the program continues to be highly competitive. Currently, the program boasts of a 3 year passing rate in the licensing exam of 94% (with the Class of 2011 having a pass rate of over 95%) a retention rate of over 90%, and an employment rate of 100% for licensed graduates.

In addition to offering the entry-level doctoral degree, the program has further distinguished itself in teaching, research and service, with faculty members presenting at the state, national, and international levels; publishing scholarly work in a number of peer reviewed publications; and receiving accolades in teaching and service.

This issue of the Herald provides a glimpse into the activities of the program. I hope that you will not only enjoy reading the issue but also celebrate the successes of the program.

Orthopedic Certified Specialists Join the Physical Therapy Faculty Ranks

Dr. Ronald De Vera Barredo, Head, Department of Physical Therapy

The Department of Physical Therapy would like to welcome two members to its faculty ranks. **Dr. Kevin J. Lawrence** joined the faculty in Fall 2011 and **Dr. Derek Charles** joined the faculty in Spring 2011. Both Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Charles are Diplomates with the **American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS)** and carry the Orthopedic Certified Specialist (OCS) designation from the ABPTS.



Physical Therapy Faculty and Students Lend Support in Special Olympics Basketball

Ms. Julie Vu, DPT Class of 2013

"...watching them play... opened my eyes to what the term 'disability' really means..."



Students from the DPT Class of 2013 attended the **Nashville Special Olympics Basketball Tournament** held at the Belmont University campus on February 21, 2012 to show their support for the players. Many of the tournament participants served as guests in **Dr. Natalie Housel's** pediatrics class, where they shared their experiences with the DPT students.

Attendance at the tournament underscored how having a diagnosis such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Autism, or ADHD does not necessarily hinder a person's ability to play basketball. Physical therapy student Beth Cox said, "Taking this course and watching them play basketball was incredible! It's amazing how awesome they are in basketball and it has opened my eyes to what the term disability really means: it's not what they can't do, it's what they can do and they are no different from me at all."

Thanks to Metro Parks and Recreation for providing an open, welcoming environment for people with these abilities to come and enjoy a variety of activities ranging from cooking, basketball, swimming, and volleyball, among many other sports.



Physical Therapy Faculty and Students to Present at Experimental Biology 2012

Dr. Edilberto A. Raynes, Head, Department of Physical Therapy

Dr. Edilberto A. Raynes, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, and his research team from the DPT Class of 2013 (L-R: Amber Brown, Renee' Rawson, Kim McNair, and Turner Sibley) will be presenting a poster at the Experimental Biology 2012 Annual Convention in San Diego, CA on April 21-25, 2012. The title of their paper is "Does estrogen have immunomodulatory effects on pregnant women diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis?" Additionally, **Ms. Amber Brown** is a recipient of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Minority Travel Fellowship Awards.



Established in the early nineties, the physical therapy program at Tennessee State University is the first institution to offer a physical therapy program in middle Tennessee. Today, TSU is one of two universities in middle Tennessee offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

*** News Around the College ***

Ms. Burrell Acknowledged as Textbook Reviewer

Ms. Wanda H. Burrell, Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences



Ms. Wanda Hawkins Burrell, MT(ASCP), MSPH, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health, Health Administration and Health Sciences, was acknowledged as one of the reviewers for a newly released textbook by Leventhal, R., Cheadle, Russell F. *Medical Parasitology* Sixth Edition. Philadelphia: F.A.Davis 2012. Prior to her current appointment in the Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences, Ms. Burrell was a faculty member and Interim Head of the Department of Medical Technology at TSU.

Two COHS Faculty Members Participate in Health Disparities Conference

Dr. Tina Smith, Interim Head, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Dr. Tina T. Smith, Chair, Department of Speech and Audiology (first picture from left) and **Dr. Edilberto A. Raynes**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy were the two grant participants in Alabama State University's Center to Advance Rehabilitative Health and Education. The specific aims of this conference are to: 1) facilitate the development of a national research agenda that addresses rehabilitative health and health disparities; 2) create a network of faculty members and others who collectively work to improve health equity for African Americans and other minority populations in rehabilitation settings; and 3) facilitate faculty development through collaborative research efforts.

Dr. Louis Sullivan, former Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources gave the keynote address during the conference. Pictured are Drs. Smith and Raynes and faculty members from other institutions: Dr. Corine Myers-Jennings, (next to Dr. Smith), Chair, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Valdosta State University and Dr. Regina Lemon, President of South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association.



"Dr. Louis Sullivan, former Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources gave the keynote address during the conference."

Dental Hygiene Clinic as Clinical Testing Site

Dr. Marian W. Patton, Head, Department of Dental Hygiene

In May 2012, the Dental Hygiene Clinic will serve as a clinical testing site for the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA). Graduates from TSU's Dental Hygiene program will have their clinical tests in the Dental Hygiene Clinic along with graduates from other programs in the region. Ms. Janice Williams (pictured on right) will be responsible for spearheading this activity with the SRTA.



*** News Around the College ***

COHS Faculty Partner with Breast Cancer Organization

Dr. Elizabeth Williams, Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences

"The project included... information sessions to elicit survivors' insights about depression and coping strategies."



Dr. Elizabeth Williams and Dr. Mohamed Kanu in partnership with Sisters Network Nashville (SNN), an affiliate of Sisters Network, Inc., a national African American breast cancer survivor organization received a contract from the Office of Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services (OWH/DHHS) to study depression, faith and coping among African American breast cancer survivors. The Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) project (August-October 2011) included photos taken by survivors, journaling, group discussions, photography, and depression information sessions to elicit survivors' insights about depression and coping strategies. Several community partners supported the project including: Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, WFSK 88.1FM, Fisk University's radio station, Meharry Medical College, and Writing with Light Photography.

Comings and Goings in the Department of Occupational Therapy

Dr. Larry Snyder, Department of Occupational Therapy

The Department of Occupational Therapy is fortunate to have had the services of the following faculty members (pictured left to right), who have since left the institution: **Dr. Michelle Bradshaw**, **Dr. Terri Thompson**, and **Dr. Sandy Stevens**. Although the department is sad to see them go, we also wish them the best in their future endeavors.



Similarly, the Department of Occupational Therapy would like to welcome three new faculty members into the program. **Ms. Cassandra Penick, PT**, joined the faculty as a full time temporary faculty member in Fall 2011. **Ms. Christine Watts, ABD, OTR/L**, will be joining the faculty in April 2012. **Dr. Senya Speaks, DOT, OTR/L** will be joining the faculty in May 2012.

OT Reaffirmation of Accreditation Visit Upcoming

Dr. Larry Snyder, Department of Occupational Therapy



The Department of Occupational Therapy will be having their reaccreditation visit this fall. Dr. Snyder and his team have completed their self study report and are diligently preparing for the visit. The visit is scheduled for June 18 to 20, 2012.

DPT Students Study the Effect of Aquatic Therapy on Fall Prevention Among the Older Adults

Dr. Natalie R. Housel, Department of Physical Therapy

For six weeks, students in the DPT program were holding aquatic exercises at the Del Webb community in Mount Juliet to ascertain its effectiveness in fall prevention. The student-led study is being conducted by Allison Lamb, Brad Ellis, and Aaron Greear under the tutelage of their research advisor Dr. Natalie Housel and the assistance of Dr. Tim Jones from the Department of Human Performance and Sports Science, who served as a consultant for the study. It is the hope of the student researchers that the results of the project be disseminated to the professional and the local community at the conclusion of the study.



PT Faculty Named to Access Nashville Board

Dr. Ronald De Vera Barredo, Department of Physical Therapy



Dr. Kevin J. Lawrence, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, has been named to the board of **Access Nashville**. According to their website (<http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/accessnashville/>), Access Nashville is a project of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, managed by Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, and guided by a coalition of volunteer representatives in the business, aging, government, advocacy, and disability fields. The goal of Access Nashville is to gather information about "accessibility-friendly" restaurants, entertainment attractions, hotels and transportation services so that all customers can make informed choices about where to go in Nashville, Tennessee.

"The goal of Access Nashville is to gather information about 'accessibility-friendly' [establishments] so that all customers can make informed decisions about where to go in Nashville...."

DPT Students Provide Service at the Buddy Walk

Dr. Natalie Housel, Department of Physical Therapy

Students in the physical therapy program, under the direction of **Dr. Natalie Housel**, provided a community service by assisting with the 2011 Buddy Walk in Centennial Park on Saturday, October 22, 2011. The Buddy Walk is a yearly event organized by the **Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee**.

Individuals with Down Syndrome are honored as they walk around the park with family and friends in a one mile awareness walk. Dr. Housel, along with the students in the PT program, volunteered to help set up tables and display signs, welcome visitors, and provide supervision for various activities. They also provided a warm-up routine for those getting ready for the walk, and helped award medals and ribbons to the participants.





College of Health Sciences



The Spring 2012 issue of the Health Science Herald highlights our Physical Therapy program. You will read about service learning activities, faculty awards, transitions, and conference attendance. We are so proud of the contribution that our students, our faculty, and our alumni have made to our community. A major focus is on service learning activities that help our students learn while providing a valuable service to strength our community.

Of special note is TSU's Centennial Week from April 14-21, 2012, during which we celebrate TSU's one hundredth birthday with a theme of Excellence, Resilience, and Unity. Please join the TSU family while we engage in a wide-ranging series of events – everything from academic presentations to social get-togethers to historical overviews to gala celebrations. Among those featured are Donna Brazile, Bobby Jones, the Freedom Riders, Mayor Karl Dean, former TSU presidents, and current President Portia Holmes Shields. For a full view of the events, please visit <http://www.tnstate.edu/centennial/images/FINALCentennialSchedule.pdf>

Graduation will be held on May 5, 2012. Please join me in congratulating the many graduates of our programs, and wishing them every success in their careers. These Tigers will have an important impact on healthcare throughout our community for many years to come.

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