

Rockhurst Therapy News



Keep in Touch!

We'd like to hear from you and share your news in an upcoming issue of Therapy News.

Please mail your news to:
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You may also email your news to:

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 (PT Grads) or

Kris.Vacek@rockhurst.edu
 (OT Grads)

Photos are welcome!

Gifts allow PT to update teaching equipment

The Department of Physical Therapy Education received three generous gifts this year which will significantly enhance student learning in the entry-level DPT program.

A \$50,000 gift from the McGee Foundation was received in December 2007 and was used to purchase a 16 channel surface EMG system and a six camera video analysis system.

The EMG system comes from Motion Lab Systems, Inc. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It can record simultaneously from 16 different muscles or muscle groups. The system is also able to integrate EMG data with other movement analysis data from other testing equipment like force platforms or accelerometers.

Students will have opportunity to

use the EMG system in their kinesiology and functional anatomy classes as well as all of the courses in the patient management sequences.

The video analysis system is the Ariel Performance Analysis System (APAS) from Ariel Dynamics. It combines six high quality digital video cameras with the APAS software to allow students and faculty to study human functional movement patterns in 3-dimensional space.

PT students will be able to use this system to analyze human movement (in health and disease) in almost every foundational and clinical science course.

Many thanks to the McGee Foundation for providing such tremendous support of the physical therapy program at Rock-

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Departments welcome new secretary

The PT and OT departments extend a warm welcome to Amy McPherson. Amy joined the PT and OT departments as secretary in February 2008.

Before coming to Rockhurst, Amy worked with the Grain Valley School District. She says she loves the school/ education environment and interacting with students, and her position here at Rockhurst was exactly what she was looking for!

Amy has been married to her husband Chris for nine years and they have two children, Trevor who is seven, and Mackenzie who is five. She also enjoys studying photography, scrapbooking, and traveling.

Amy loves how warm and friendly everyone has been, so if you haven't already, please stop by her office and welcome her to campus.



Welcome Amy!

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Rumor central...Rues retiring?...well, not really...

The Department of Occupational Therapy Education honored Jane Rues in May 2008 as she officially retired from Rockhurst University as a full time professor.

Her family, friends and colleagues joined together to surprise Jane on the occasion of her retirement by establishing the Jane Rues Distinguished Teacher Fellowship. The Rues Fellowship ensures that her legacy as an outstanding teacher will continue by providing the resources to help develop innovative, productive and most importantly, student-centered teachers at Rockhurst. Teachers like Jane.

The purpose of the Jane Rues Distinguished Teacher Fellowship is to promote excellence in teaching at Rockhurst University. The Fellowship honors Jane's life-long commitment to teaching and learning. The Fellowship will be awarded to professors who are not only exemplary teachers, but who also serve as an inspiration to other faculty to enrich their own teaching skills. So far, at least \$50,000 has been pledged by friends and family toward the Fellowship.

Although we are excited to announce the creation of the Fellowship, we are even more pleased to announce that Jane will remain with us at Rockhurst and continue to teach in the Department of Occupational Therapy Educa-

tion. So, congratulations Jane on your retirement...but we are glad you're not really retiring!

Welcome to Laura Bowling!

Laura Bowling is a new addition to the staff in the PT and will be working as the assistant ACCE. Laura graduated from KU in 1994 and is proud to be a Jayhawk! She then worked in Community Service as a volunteer program manager for several years before deciding to go to PT school. We are proud to say she is a 2003 graduate from the Rockhurst PT program.

Since graduation, she has practiced in Kansas City for the St. Luke's Health System, first at St. Luke's on the Plaza and now in Home Care. Laura states, "I am committed to providing quality care for my clients and I love getting out there in the community!"

Laura is excited to be back at Rockhurst and feels that this will be a great way for her to impact students' educational experiences. Laura and her husband Steve are the proud parents of two boys, Nicholas and Matthew.

New adjunct instructors join PT for spring courses

The PT Department was happy to welcome two new adjunct instructors to the faculty in spring 2008. Julie Shappy, PT and Christina Wisdom, PT have both been a great addition to the educational experience here at Rockhurst.

Julie Shappy taught Clinical Procedures and the Clinical Procedures labs. Julie received her undergraduate degree in Athletic Training from Springfield College in Massachusetts. She then attended Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia where she received her Masters in Physical Therapy. Julie also received her PhD from Springfield College.

Over the years Julie has worked both in the clinic and served as an Athletic Trainer in the high school setting. Julie was the program director for the Athletic Training program at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor in Belton, Texas from 1999 until 2002.

Moving back to Massachusetts, Julie became a PT faculty member at Springfield College in 2002 until 2003. Julie joins us from being a Physical Therapist at Helen

Hayes Rehab Hospital in New York. Julie enjoys teaching in Athletic Training and Physical Therapy. She likes working in orthopedics, but has found a new love for the cardiac and bariatric patient. Julie has a son Parke who is nine months old.

Christina Wisdom taught one section of Functional Anatomy. Christina obtained her Bachelor of Education in Sports Science from KU and then went on to graduate from Washington University in St. Louis with her DPT. She is also a Certified Lymphedema Therapist through the Norton School of Lymphatic Therapy.

Christina currently works as an outpatient PT in the KU Hospital. She is an active member of the Kansas Physical Therapy Association and currently serves as the Communications Chair. Christina married her "high-school sweetheart" Ryan and they have two cats, Scardey Cat and Fraidy Cat. In their spare time they enjoy collecting antiques, which has allowed them to open up their own booth at the River Market Antique Mall.

Faculty Updates

Jean Hiebert, PT, PhD gave a platform presentation at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting 2008 in Nashville, TN. The presentation was titled, "Accuracy of pedometers during self-paced walking and ascending and descending stairs" and summarized a project that Jean completed with Carmen Briscoe, Emily Meyer, Sarah Schwandt, and Lauren Simpson from the Class of 2007.

Ellen Spake, PT, PhD has been elected Chief Delegate for the Missouri Chapter of APTA. She will represent Missouri at APTA House of Delegates meeting.

Janis Davis, OT, PhD published, "Occupational Therapy Students' Metaphors for Helping" in the March issue of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy entitled .

Jim Dronberger, PT, DPT, published "Secondary Impingement of the Shoulder: Examination and Treatment Techniques Used by Physical Therapists" in Orthopedic Physical Therapy Practice. His co-authors were Zak Hill, Kristin Sibilica, Janda Stone and Annahita Zandiehnadem from the PT class of 2007.

Don Hoover PT, PhD presented The Prediction of Functional Outcomes in Patients with Non-Surgical Shoulder Pathology at the ATPA Combined Sections Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on February 8, 2008.

Don also presented, "Predictive Validity of the Functional Movement Screen™ in a Population of Recreational Runners Training for a Half Marathon" at the 55th Annual Meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine on May 28th, 2008.

The second presentation, "A Comparison of Two Types of Orthoses for Children with Down Syndrome: A Case Series Report" will be presented at the APTA Annual Meeting in San Antonio Texas on June 12th, 2008.

Mohamed Kohia, PT, PhD co-authored two articles:

The first, "Effectiveness of Physical Therapy Treatments of Lateral Epicondylitis" was co-authored with students in the current second year PT class and was published in the Journal of Sport Rehabilitation (17:119-136).

The second, "Relationship of closed and open chain

measures of strength with perceived physical function and mobility following total knee replacement" was co-authored with colleagues from Walsh University and appeared in the Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy (30(1): 23-27).

Brian McKiernan, PT, PhD, was a co-author of the article, "Do Corticomotoneuronal Cells Predict Target Muscle EMG Activity?" which was published in March in the Journal of Neurophysiology.

Catherine Thompson PT, PhD, MS author of Prevention Practice in Physical Therapy, presented the 10th Annual Distinguished Lecture entitled "Prevention Practice: Making Healthy People 2010 a Reality" at Delaware Tech's Owens Campus on October 20, 2007. She also offered a 6-hour presentation on Friday afternoon (October 19) titled "Motor Imagery: Optimizing Therapeutic Interventions."

On Friday, February 8th, Catherine presented "Red Flags in Motor Development" to early childhood providers at UMKC as part of their state certification program for childcare. This in-service led to our partnership with the Children's Motivational Behavior Center, enabling DPT students to perform infant assessments and pediatric screenings as part of their service learning for pediatric coursework.

Kris Vacek, OTR, OTD authored a chapter and presented a poster at the AOTA national conference. The book chapter was co-authored with Omar Aragon is titled, "Upper Extremity Prosthetic Rehabilitation" and is included in the 2008 printing of Coppard BM & Lohman H (Eds.). Introduction to splinting, 2nd Ed. (Chapter 18. St Louis: Mosby).

The poster was presented at the AOTA National Conference in Long Beach, CA: Vacek. K. M., Brown, M., Roberts, E., Rhoten, L., & Lombard, D. (May 2008). Comparison of the Jamar Dynamometer and Greenleaf EVAL System for Measuring Grip Strength.

Special thanks to PT clinical education sites

The Department of Physical Therapy Education would like to thank the following clinics for supporting clinical education by supervising PT students during the past year.

21st Century, P.C.
 Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers
 Affiliated Physical Therapy of St. Mary's (ATSM)
 Alegent Health, Lakeside Hospital
 Athletic and Rehabilitation Center
 Barnes Jewish Hospital
 BarnesCare
 Baxter Regional Medical Center
 Blue Ridge Physical Therapy
 Boone Hospital Center
 Bothwell Regional Health Center
 Cass Medical Center (LifeWell Services, Inc.)
 Center for Athletic Performance & PT
 Central Kansas Medical Center (CKMC)
 Chesapeake General Hospital
 Children's Mercy Hospital
 Children's Physical Therapy Associates
 Children's TLC - Easter Seals
 Community Rehab- Eagle Run
 Community Rehab-LaVista
 Concentra Medical Center - Fenton
 Corporate Care of Shawnee Mission
 Cox Medical Centers
 Cox Rehab-Monett
 Creighton University MC
 Creighton University MC
 Dorland Physical Therapy & Rehab Specialists
 Excelsior Springs Medical Center
 Golden Valley Medical Center
 HealthSouth - Independence
 Heartland Health System
 Heartspring
 Heritage Physical Therapy
 Hillcrest Medical Center
 Hutchinson Hospital
 Idaho Sports Medicine Institute
 Industrial Physical Therapy, Inc.
 Integrated Therapy Concepts
 Jennifer Crooks, PT and Independent Practitioner
 Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital
 Kansas University Medical Center
 Kansas University Medical Center-West
 LDS Hospital

Liberty Hospital
 Liberty School District
 Life Care Centers of America-Corporate Office
 Lincoln City P.T./ Bayshore P.T. and Fitness
 Mary Greeley Medical Center
 Memorial Hospital - South Bend
 Memorial Medical Center- SportsCare of Illinois
 Menorah Medical Center
 Miami County Medical Center
 Mid-America Rehabilitation Hospital
 Missouri Baptist Medical Center
 Missouri Rehab Center
 Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems
 Modern Physical Therapy
 Monroe City Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine
 (Hannibal Regional Hospital)
 Neu Physical Therapy
 Nevada Regional Medical Center
 New Mark Care Center
 Norman Regional Hospital
 North Kansas City Hospital
 Northland Physical Therapy
 Northland Physical Therapy & Rehab Services, Inc.
 Olathe Medical Center
 Orthopedic & Sports Rehab Center of Lee's Summit
 Outpatient Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation
 Overland Park Regional Hospital
 Peak Performance PT & Sports Med
 Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab of Hastings
 Physical Therapy Specialists, P.C.
 Physiotherapy Associates - Fort Wayne, IN
 Physiotherapy Associates - Harrisburg, PA
 Physiotherapy Associates Bellevue - Nashville, TN
 Physiotherapy Associates: Children's Therapy Center
 Physiotherapy Associates-Scottsdale
 Pinelake Medical Plaza
 Pinnacle Therapy Services
 Pro Rehab Impact
 Professional Rehab Services (PRS)
 Promotion/ Human Performance Center #5
 Providence Medical Center
 Ransom Memorial Hospital
 Rebound Physical Therapy
 Regional Rehab Services-Ironman Institute
 Rehab Xcel
 Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City
 Research Medical Center

Clinical sites continued...

Research Towers & Sports Medicine & Physical Therapy
 Select Physical Therapy - Broadway (KC)
 Select Physical Therapy - Columbia
 Select Physical Therapy - Independence
 SERC of Lee's Summit
 SERC of Raytown
 Shawnee Mission Medical Center at Shawnee Crossing
 Shawnee Mission Medical Center Therapy Plus
 Shawnee Mission School System DO Trailwood
 Specialty Hospital of Mid-America
 Sports Institute of Physical Therapy
 Sports Rehabilitation & PT Associates
 SSM Physical Therapy Outpatient Center
 St. Anthony's Center for PT & Sports Medicine
 St. Elizabeth's Hospital - Mascoutah Location
 St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center
 St. Joe Rehab and Sports Medicine
 St. John Hospital
 St. John's Focus on Physical Therapy
 St. John's Health System
 St. John's Mercy Medical Center
 St. John's Regional Health Center
 St. Joseph Hospital, General Hospital Campus
 St. Joseph Medical Center - Carondelet
 St. Louis Children's Hospital
 St. Luke's East
 St. Luke's Hospital
 St. Luke's Smithville

St. Luke's South Outpatient Rehab
 St. Luke's South-Inpatient Rehab Dept
 St. Margaret's Center for Physical Therapy
 St. Mary's Regional Rehabilitation Center
 St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center
 Stormont-Vail Regional Med. Center
 Summit Rehab and Wellness
 Sun Lakes Rehab
 Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital
 Synergy Therapies
 Tabitha Health Care Services
 Tenet-St. Louis University Hospital
 The Physical Therapy Center
 Timberlake Care Center
 Truman Medical Center- Hospital Hill
 Truman Medical Center Lakewood Campus
 UAW Ford Plant--Rehab Center
 VA Medical Center of Kansas City
 Vail Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy
 VAMC: Jefferson Barracks Division
 Via Christie Hope Rehabilitation
 Via Christi-St Francis
 Village Shalom
 Wesley Medical Center
 Western Missouri Medical Center
 Woodbine Rehabilitation
 Work Conditioning System -Palo Heights/Overland Park

PT students travel to APTA Combined Sections Meeting

Seventeen members of the 2nd year PT class (Class of 2009, pictured at right with several PT faculty) traveled to Nashville, Tennessee in February 2008 for APTA's annual Combined Sections Meeting. The students report that it was a great learning experience (and...OK...a little fun, too!).

This marks the first year that a large group of Rockhurst PT students have traveled to a national APTA meeting. Our current 1st year students (Class of 2010) are already making plans to travel to CSM in Las Vegas, Nevada next February.

We'd love to meet up with any Rockhurst PT alumni who also make the trip. Hope to see you there!



Thanks to OT fieldwork sites

A tremendous THANK YOU to the following sites that supported the Occupational Therapy Education Department by supervising Level I and Level II fieldwork experiences for Rockhurst Student's this past year.

Parkview Healthcare – Bolivar, MO
 Minds Matter – Prairie Village, KS
 Lakeview Village – Lenexa, KS
 KU Med – Kansas City, KS
 Leavenworth County Special Education Cooperative – Lansing, KS
 Olathe Medical Center – Olathe, KS
 Naval Medical Center – Portsmouth, VA
 Children's Mercy Hospital – Kansas City, MO
 Via Christi Outpatient – Wichita, KS
 Rush Medical Center – Chicago, IL
 Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, NE
 North Kansas City Hospital – North Kansas City, MO
 Children's Therapy Group – Overland Park, KS
 Manorcare Webster – Webster, TX
 Tiny Tots Therapy – Kansas City, MO
 Blue Valley School District – Overland Park, KS
 Manorcare Overland Park – Overland Park, KS
 St. Francis Medical Center – Topeka, KS
 Visiting Nurses Home Health – Kansas City, MO
 Capitol Region Medical Center – Jefferson City, MO
 Providence Medical Center – Kansas City, MO
 Truman Medical Center Clubhouse – Kansas City, MO
 VA Leavenworth – Leavenworth, KS
 Giant Steps – St. Louis, MO
 Rehabilitation Institute – Overland Park, KS
 Midwest Rehabilitation – St. Joseph, MO
 Barnes Jewish Extended Care – Clayton, MO
 Research Medical Center – Kansas City, MO
 John Knox Home Health – Lee's Summit, MO
 Truman Behavioral Health – Kansas City, MO
 KUMC West – Shawnee, KS
 Carondolet Home Health – Overland Park, KS
 Olathe Medical Center – Olathe, KS
 Quality Living Incorporated – Omaha, NE
 Alphapointe – Kansas City, MO
 HealthSouth – Kansas City, MO
 Research Psychiatric Hospital – Kansas City, MO
 St. John Home Care – Joplin, MO
 North Kansas City Hospital – North Kansas City, MO
 Truman Behavioral Health – Kansas City, MO
 Accelerated Rehab – Des Moines, IA

Baylor Medical Center at Garland – Garland, TX
 Western Medical Center Santa Ana – Santa Ana, CA
 Olathe Home Health - Olathe, KS
 Georgetown University Hospital – Washington D.C.
 Children's Mercy Hospital – Kansas City, MO
 The Damien House - Guayaquil, Ecuador
 St. John's Contract & Home Therapy – Springfield, MO
 Newmark Care Center – Kansas City, MO
 Ozark Medical Center – West Plains, MO
 VNA KC – Kansas City, MO
 New Hope Village – Carroll, IA
 Mid-America Rehabilitation Hospital – Overland Park, KS
 Truman Medical Center Lakewood – Kansas City, MO

OTs travel to Long Beach

A group of Rockhurst OT students and faculty attended The Annual AOTA Conference & Expo that occurred April 9-12, 2008 in Long Beach, California.

OT students Julie Caffery, Lauren Rhoten, and Emily Roberts not only attended the conference, they also presented their research posters. Julie and Janis Davis presented their research poster "The Relationship between Listening and Clinical Reasoning in a Problem-Based Learning Course." Lauren, Emily and Kris Vacek presented their research poster "Comparison of the Jamar Dynamometer and Greenleaf EVAL System for Measuring Grip Strength."

Lauren, Emily and Kris also spent some time with George Kramer of Greenleaf EVAL to develop future research studies using the Greenleaf EVAL System.

Other OT students and faculty in attendance were Kristina Ursick (faculty) along with Teryn Ebert, Rachael Rama, and Teresa Campbell (students).

Not only were we were proud to represent Rockhurst University, we were happy to get out of the Kansas City winter weather and spend some time in the 80 degree sunshine!



Students Volunteer at Special Olympic Track Meet



First year students test balance and strength of Special Olympics participants.



Second and third year students helping with Special Olympics.

First year students with Dr. Catherine Thompson at the Special Olympics event.



Over 20 graduate physical therapy students, under the organization of Catherine Thompson, PT, PhD, offered their services at the Track and Field events of the Special Olympics at Lee's Summit North High School on April 19, 2008.

At this event, DPT students evaluated the flexibility, strength, and balance of individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, the PT students led the Special Olympic athletes through some relaxing and fun activities

This is the first year that a large group of DPT students participated in this event. The plan is to set up a separate Rockhurst booth featuring physical therapy activities for health, fitness, and wellness at next year's event. Students interested in the allied health professions are invited to join us next year. For more information contact Dr. Catherine Thompson in the Department of Physical Therapy Education.



Other PT student activities



Second year student Amanda Jennings (above) takes time to read to a child at Parent's Day Out.



Physical therapy students hard at work for Habitat for Humanity! First year girls celebrate after they completed painting the inside of a house (left). Two first year boys nailed down some siding outside (right).



Students Present Research Projects

Third year students of the class of 2008 presented their student research projects in a public forum on the Rockhurst campus the afternoon of March 7, 2008. In addition, the students created posters of their projects which they presented at the spring 2008 MPTA meeting in Branson, MO. Congratulations to all of the students and their faculty mentors for such interesting and clinically meaningful projects.

The Effect of Body Position on Maximum Inspiratory and Expiratory Pressures and Forced Expiratory Flow Rates

Amy McKenna, SPT; Travis Nichols, SPT; and Kelly Nitsche, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Jean Hiebert PT, PhD

A Comparison of Lower Trapezius and Serratus Anterior Muscle Activation Patterns During Upper Extremity Forward Flexion in Younger and Older Adults

David Fuller, SPT; Melissa Muller, SPT; and Brett Thompson, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Ann Marie Decker PT, GCS, MSA

The Development of Leadership in Physical Therapy: Component Leaders

Amber Klassen, SPT; Jamie Madeo, SPT; Holly Reeder, SPT; and Liza Warner, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Ellen Spake PT, PhD

Comparing the Effects of Bilateral Shoulder Exercises to the Effects of Unilateral Shoulder Exercises on Unilateral Shoulder Dysfunctions

Vanessa Beachner, SPT; Chris Johnson, SPT; and Kristin Racine, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Jim Dronberger PT, DPT, OCS, MBA

Pediatric Physical Therapists Provide Primary Care

Lori Dunn, SPT; Kristin Perkins, SPT; and Cassandra Steele, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Catherine Thompson PT, PhD, MS

A Comparison Between Heart Rate and Oxygen Consumption in Top Rope vs. Lead Rope While Indoor Rock Climbing

Tara Marmie, SPT, Shayla Rhoads, SPT, and Dylan Padberg, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Jean Hiebert PT, PhD

Effects of Treadmill Training with Partial Body Weight Support on Patients Following Total Knee Arthroplasty

Charles Steger, SPT; John Mandacina, SPT; and Kyo Hwang, SPT
Faculty Mentors: Amy Foley PT, DPT, MA and Mohamed Kohia PT, PhD

The Effects Of An Audience Response System On Quiz Scores In A Physical And Occupational Therapy Neuroscience Course

Natalie Razey, SPT and Rebecca Rubin, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Brian McKiernan PT, PhD

Audiovisual Parent Training with Motor Practice May Promote Postural Stability in Healthy Infants: A Pilot Study

Sara Pohl, SPT; Heidi Beardslee, SPT; and Emma Bucher, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Catherine Thompson PT, PhD, MS

Exercising Consistent Vocabulary in Physical Therapy Documentation

Justin Tepen, SPT
Faculty Mentor: Steve Wilkinson PT, PhD

Biomechanical Analysis of Gait During Unloaded Walking in Normals and Patients With Total Knee Arthroplasty

Anna Uhlrich, SPT and Adam Rolf, SPT
Faculty Mentors: Amy Foley PT, DPT, MA and Mohamed Kohia PT, PhD

First Megan Lynn Barnett Scholarship awarded to PT student

Anna Uhlrich was selected as the first ever recipient of the first Megan Lynn Barnett Scholarship Award. The presentation of the scholarship was made on March 7, 2008 as part of the student research day activities.

Megan Barnett started the PT program in June 2005 as a member of the class of 2008. Unfortunately, on December 15, 2006, Megan was killed in an automobile accident after having completed over half of the physical therapy curriculum.

In the midst of their hurt, Megan's family decided that something positive and life affirming would come from their loss. Megan's parent's (Mark Brown-Barnett and Patricia Brown-Barnett) gave a gift of \$50,000 to Rockhurst to endow a scholarship in Megan's name.

They believed that progressing through the PT program had been a transformative experience for Megan and they wanted to support future PT students who were making the same journey.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in the Rockhurst physical therapy program. Since the endowed fund will not yield dividends until next year, Megan's parents made a further gift of \$1,500 so that the first scholarship could be awarded to a member of Megan's class.

The family and faculty decided that the award would be given to a student who could clearly articulate



Anna Uhlrich (second from left) poses with (from left) Mark Brown-Barnett, Patricia Brown-Barnett and Jenny Brecht after the first Megan Lynn Barnett Scholarship was awarded on March 7, 2008.

growth and transformation while enrolled as a student in the PT program. The scholarship requirements state that applicants must submit a formal application and typed essay that demonstrates self-reflection and articulates how experiences in the DPT program at Rockhurst University have transformed his/her attitudes and behaviors consistent with the core values of Rockhurst University and the physical therapy profession.

PT students participate in Honduras service trip

Two PT students (1st year student Natalie Bliss and 2nd year student Jackie Karther) traveled with other Rockhurst students to Honduras on a service trip over spring break.

The students all stayed at a Honduran orphanage while on the trip. The volunteers did a lot of work during their week's stay, including health and wellness education with the children at the orphanage, schools, and in the village. The group also did a presentation to grade school children educating them about healthy hygiene techniques.

According to Jackie, "It was a great opportunity to be able to help those who are less fortunate. It is so fulfilling to know that you have made a difference in the lives of others."



1st year PT student Natalie Bliss (center with hat on) and 2nd year student Jackie Karther (left of Natalie) pose with other Rockhurst students and residents of the community they visited during spring break.

Rockhurst hosts first health career job fair

Forty local, regional and national healthcare employers were represented at the first Rockhurst Health Career Job Fair on Thursday, March 6, 2008.

Human Resources staff and healthcare professionals presented a wide range of career options to OT and PT students and gave the students a feel for the current job market.

We would like to thank the following employers for participating and providing valuable information that will help students prepare for their future careers.

A very special thanks also goes to Mr. Mike Theobald and Ms. Anne Skinner of the Rockhurst Career Services Office for organizing this great event.

Aegis Therapies
Athletic & Rehab Center
Biolife
Bothwell Regional Health Ctr.
Brewster Place
Blue Valley Schools
Cox Health – Springfield
EnduraCare Therapy Mgmt.
Five Star Quality Care
Freeman Health Ctr.
Genesis Rehab Services
Golden Valley Hospital
Hallmark Rehab.
Integrity Home Care
John Knox Village

Leavenworth Co. Special Ed.
Liberty Hospital
Life Care Center of Grandview
Menorah Medical Ctr.
Mercy Health Systems of KS
Mercy Regional Health Ctr.
Mid-America Rehab Hospital
Minds Matter
Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Ctr.
N. KC Hospital
Olathe Health System
Pinnacle Therapy
Quantum Health Professionals
Rehab Institute of KC
Research Medical Ctr.
Select Physical Therapy
Sports Rehab
St. Francis Health Ctr.
St. John's – Springfield
St. John's – Joplin
St. Josephs Medical Center
St. Luke's Northland
Summit Care
Sunshine Center
Supplemental Healthcare
Therapeutic Living Solutions
Trinity Regional Medical Center
University of KS Medical Center
Wesley Rehab Hospital

OT partners with community through service learning

The OT department has implemented course-based service learning into MOT curriculum. OT students spent this past semester not only attending class on-campus, but also attending class in the community.

Students found these experiences to be a great way to practice the skills they are learning in school and integrate them into real-life situations. We'd like to thank the agencies we worked with.

Operation Breakthrough - working with OT from Children Mercy Hospital to provide fine motor and gross motor interventions to children.

Rebuilding Together – providing home analysis, developing educational materials using universal design principles for those with commonly seen impairments

(low vision, balance disorders, etc).

Hope Care Center – spending time with men and women with HIV/AIDS, engaging residents in meaningful occupations.

Rainbow Care Center – assisting with children with severe developmental disability with daily activities.

American Stroke Foundation (ASF) – assisting with programming.

This summer we will be traveling to Guayaquil, Ecuador to provide service to the Damien House for the fourth time. We are excited to be taking eight OT students and five PT students. We will be working with clients diagnosed with Hansen's disease (leprosy).

OT Education bids fond farewell to faculty members

The excitement of spring semester graduations and accomplishments was dampened a bit this year for the OT Department as they said farewell to Dr. Kristina Ursick and Dr. Janis Davis at the end of the semester.

Kristina Ursick will be moving to Los Angeles, CA with her husband Joe and son Soren. Joe is a physician and has been offered a fellowship in Neurotology (a subspecialty of Otolaryngology) at the House Ear Clinic in LA. He will specialize in ear and skull base surgery

Kristina plans on spending time in LA with her son, working on research projects and writing papers.

Hopefully, the farewell is only temporary, though. Kristina and Joe would like to return to the Kansas City area after his fellowship is completed. Kristina is taking a leave of absence and hopes to return to Rockhurst in two years. We all wish the Ursick family the best of luck!

Janis Davis left the OT Department at the end of the spring semester after 15 years of service at Rockhurst University.

Janis has accepted a position at Dominican University in San Rafael, CA. We are all sad to see her leave and wish her the best.

Student & Alumni updates

Ashlie Black (PT 2007) reports that she has a new man in her life...Hunter Mason Black...who was born Tuesday February 19, 2008. Hunter came five weeks early but still check in at 6 pounds 8.2 ounces and 19 inches long. He had no health problems and was discharged home two days after he was born.

Jennifer Bohan (OT 2009) got engaged to Seth Sakovitz on March 10, 2008.

Kayla Courtney (OT 2008) will be getting married to Nick Henderson in Joplin, MO at the St. Paul's United Methodist Church on June 28, 2008.

Isaac Cowart (PT 2009) got engaged to Amanda Knox on December 19th, 2007 and was married in East Troy, WI on May 31st, 2008.

Melissa Dieker (OT 2006) reports that Harrison Reid Dieker (photo below) was born March 27, 2008 at 10:11 am. He weight 8 lbs 1.8 oz and was 20 3/4 inches long. Melissa says she is really enjoying being a mom and seeing her boy change daily!

Mindy Frederick (PT 2009) gave birth to a baby boy, Brody James Frederick, on January 18, 2008. He was 7lbs 14 oz and 20 inches long.

Kim Freed (PT 2009) got engaged on August 31st, 2007 to Quincy Wiley.

Amanda Jennings (PT 2009) got engaged to Robert McSwain on February 16, 2008.

Melissa Mickelson (OT 2004) was on NPR April 2, 2008 speaking with listeners about the autism spectrum. April was Autism Awareness Month. Melissa invited RU faculty, staff, students and alumni to participate in Autism Awareness Month activities.

Megan (Leif) Neill (OT 2007) is proud to announce the arrival of a baby boy! Ashton Paul Neill was born on Monday, February 4th. He weighed 8lbs. 10 oz. and measured 21 in. long. They are now at home have adjusted to life with little sleep! :)

Correction from the last issue of the newsletter: **Lauren Rhoten (OT 2008)** and Cory Schmidgall are getting married September 20, 2008 at the Arrowwood Resort in Okoboji, IA.



Harrison Reid Dieker

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Learning, Leadership and Service in the Jesuit Tradition

Gifts allow PT to update teaching (*continued*)

hurst.

After the department received the gift from the McGee Foundation, PT faculty member Dr. Don Hoover worked with Ariel Dynamics and Dr. Gideon Ariel to secure an in-kind grant for a second copy of the APAS software and the donation of additional analysis tools to the department. The in-kind grant and additional donations have a combined value of \$46,500. Among other things, the additional software will allow the department to connect the video cameras to a laptop computer and take the video analysis system “into the field”.

This capability significantly expands the tasks and conditions under which students can study human movement. Many thanks to Ariel Dynamics for this generous contribution to the physical therapy program and to Dr. Hoover for his tireless work in the lab.

In November 2007, Amy McDaniel, MS, PT (RU PT Class of 1998) donated a Cybex 6000 isokinetic dynamometer system from her clinic to the Rockhurst PT department.

Amy owns Princeton Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine, LLC in Princeton, Missouri. She was in the

process of upgrading the equipment and facilities in her clinic and offered the Cybex system to Rockhurst.

We are very grateful to Amy for this most generous gift. Although used, the Cybex 6000 system is currently valued at over \$15,000. The addition of this equipment will significantly enhance student learning in the area of musculoskeletal physical therapy. Many thanks to Amy and to Princeton Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine for this generous contribution to the Rockhurst physical therapy program.

Look for photos of our upgraded human performance lab in the fall 2008 issue of Therapy News.

PT to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Rockhurst PT program will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first graduating class in May 2010. That's right, although it seems like only yesterday, the first PT class graduated from Rockhurst in May 1985.

We're planning a big celebration (or two...or three) for the year leading up to the anniversary in 2010. Stay tuned to the fall newsletter for more advance details!