Looking back on the past 6 months, the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences has continued to have a presence in the University Community and Southwest Florida through all of our programs, Athletic Training, Exercise Science, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

In this newsletter, we have our student and alumni spotlights of a few of our graduates. Our website has spotlights from many other of our alumni.

The Athletic Training Program will begin it first class of Master’s student next summer 2019. This Fall is the last entering class for the Bachelor’s degree.

Our students and faculty have been active in the community and profession. Our students have received awards for their research and Dr. Colmer made the local news station with her research on golfers. Many other faculty and students presented at local and national conferences.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the exciting things happening in our programs! We look forward to the upcoming semester and more news to share.

Eric Shamus, PT, DPT, PhD
Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
Marieb College of Health & Human Services
Florida Gulf Coast University
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Improving Lives through Fitness
Darbie Napieralski, Exercise Science Program ‘19

My name is Darbie Napieralski and I am a senior in the Exercise Science Program. I love strength and conditioning and using it to help improve others’ lives through fitness. I have already learned so much in just one year in my program and I can’t wait to see what this next year is going to bring. I have this opportunity to become a certified personal trainer with the National Exercise Trainers Association (www.netafit.org). This will only continue my credentials as I will sit for either the National Strength and Conditioning Association, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, or the American College of Sports Medicine, Clinical Exercise Physiologist exam as part of my graduation requirement before I head into graduate school in physical therapy. This opportunity will expand upon my classroom education and allow me to further serve the needs of my clients. Opportunities like these are a strength of being a part of the Exercise Science program and I feel lucky to have had it.
This summer, a new, outdoor lab space behind Marieb Hall was installed. This space is ideal for labs involving speed and agility, power training, and group activities.
Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration within the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences are strongly encouraged to enhance the interactions between rehabilitation science professions. This summer, the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Programs joined together to form an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) module presentation and lab session in Marieb Hall. The objective of this module was to promote combined treatment methods to improve social, behavioral, and physical development for children with ASD. The presentation was led by Dr. Sarah Fabrizi and Dr. Annemarie Connor of the Occupational Therapy Program, and Dr. Ellen Donald and Karly Zengel, SPT of the Physical Therapy Program.

Obesity is considered to be a highly prevalent comorbidity in children with ASD, which can result in significant health consequences. As a result of impairments with social and motor skills, there are difficulties with the ability of child with ASD to participate in peer sport activities, leading to a general lack of physical activity. A central topic from the presentation included of a multidisciplinary care approach to combat the avoidance of exercise and sports within the ASD population. In relation to the role of occupational therapy, there was a presentation on sensory integrative techniques for improving fine motor skills. In relation to the role of physical therapy, there was a presentation on gross motor treatment strategies to improve coordination, reciprocal body movement, strength, and wellness.

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The physical and occupational therapy students formed small groups to present their multidisciplinary approach for treating a child with ASD and the integration of treatment methods within the school setting. Multiple stations were set up to demonstrate a variety of interactive activities for children with ASD. Some of the activities included: balloon tennis, tightrope walking, obstacle courses, body awareness activities, sensory integrative activities, and deep pressure therapy.

Interdisciplinary teamwork in the profession of rehabilitation is an essential part of delivering holistic care, with the expertise of each team member as they strive to meet similar goals for their patient. Through this module, the physical therapy and occupational therapy students were able to develop creative therapy techniques as well as be reminded the importance of teamwork for improving the quality of life for children with ASD.
Dr. Tim Vidale is a native of Youngstown, Ohio and graduate of Florida A&M University where he was a member of the Track and Field team. Dr. Vidale went on to attain his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Rutgers University. Following graduation, Dr. Vidale relocated to Washington, D.C. where he eventually earned his MBA from George Washington University. He is currently completing his fellowship work to attain the FAAOMPT distinction through the Institute for Athlete Regeneration. He is a former Assistant Professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Howard University and has lectured at Florida A&M and Rutgers University. He was the Head Physical Therapist for the DC Slayers and DC Furies Rugby clubs from 2012-2016 and served Team USA as a physical therapist at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada. He is a published author, with publications in internationally distributed text books and scholarly journals and is also a content reviewer for the International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy. While specializing in running analysis, runners, running related injuries and sports performance, Dr. Vidale is also trained in Functional Dry Needling. He has served as the Chairman of the State Board of Physical Therapy for the District of Columbia and is active in the APTA, AAPT, SPTS, FSBPT, ACSM and NSCA. Dr. Vidale owned and operated a sports physical therapy clinic in Washington, DC from 2014-2018 but is now the Physical Therapist and Assistant Rehabilitation Coordinator for the Minnesota Twins. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Jeanna and daughters, Taryn and Sage.

I had the privilege of having Dr. Vidale as my Clinical Instructor (CI) with the Minnesota Twins baseball team. The reason I chose a spotlight on my CI as an article is the incredible influence Dr. Vidale has had on me and my overall development in a short 6 weeks. He challenged me day in and day out to hone in on all my skills as a PT, like any good CI should do. But what he did beyond that is what I truly would like to thank him for. On day one, he asked me what my goals were and what I wanted for my future. The question he asked next was the one that really stuck with me, “how do you plan to get there?” He inspired me to push my limits, always think of growing, create a plan for your next step in life, and create steps to accomplish that plan. He mentored me to grow outwardly and not just as a PT. Every day we would discuss what I’ve learned from that day, sometimes PT related, often times not. He used his own experiences as examples of what he has learned, showed me how he has achieved his goals, and how he plans on achieving his future goals. Each day was a 6-10 hour day of learning experiences; and trust me I tried to absorb as much as possible. Every day was filled with bouncing non-PT related books off each other to read for personal growth, discussing future goals and plans to get there, we talked business, politics, networking, establishing long-lasting professional relationships, & everything in between. He gave me a road map for my own success. While I learned from him that the map will have curves, bumps, and detours, at least now all I have to do is keep driving. —James Porco, SDPT
After graduating and getting licensed, many physical therapists go on to further their education by earning certifications. Getting certifications allows physical therapists to explore and develop a deeper knowledge about pathologies, populations, and treatment techniques. We got in touch with Joshua Lewis, PT, DPT, a graduate of FGCU’s Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, to learn more about certifications he has earned and how they have helped shape his career.

What certifications do you have? Why did you choose to get certified in these areas?

ABPTS Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist: I chose this certification/board recognition to pursue because I saw it as the height of our profession to demonstrate advanced knowledge. This certification helped me to gain a significant depth of knowledge of our clinical practice guidelines, and further understanding the importance of quality research.

NSCA Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist: I chose this certification because I feel as though our profession is based on exercise. The more knowledge we can have on exercise in all fashion is pertinent to our everyday success. I also felt as though in school we did not concentrate on Olympic lifts. I use the concepts of this certification nearly every day in order to progress exercises, and to coach movement.

FIOMPT Certified Manual Physical Therapist: As I stated for the CSCS, I feel exercise is the basis of our profession. This year long course was beneficial in order to learn to progress a patient who is acutely painful to pain free and functional. They promote the use of more passive modalities in order to progress someone toward movement. A great example is if someone is unable to perform a movement, you then perform a passive treatment, such as joint manipulation, soft tissue mobilization, etc. This allows the patient is able to complete the previously painful movement with decreased or no pain.

APTA Certified Clinical Instructor: I feel as though it is our responsibility as professionals to ensure that our future is able to obtain high quality education. I pursued this certification in order to make sure I was practicing and able to provide quality feedback to be able to advance students through the adult learning process.

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How do you think your certifications have impacted your career?

The certifications I have achieved impact my career every day. I use portions of each of the above certifications to help educate, treat, and evaluate each of my patients, and students. I am not sure how they will affect me professionally, but I look forward to future opportunities.

Are you hoping to get more certifications in the future? If so, what other certifications do you want to pursue?

At the current time I am not looking to pursue further certifications. I will definitely continue to pursue further education as our profession progress, but do not feel a need to add additional certifications at this time. I have a few other certifications that I do not tend to list (Functional Movement Screen Level 1, RockTape Level 1, Star Oncology Level 1, and Blood Flow Restriction – Owen’s Recovery Science) which are more modality based rather than treatment based.

Do you have any advice for PT students or new grads about getting a certification, such as how to choose a certification and what to do to prepare?

Write a mission and vision state to state your values, who you are, and where you plan to be in 5 years. From a professional standpoint, most certifications won’t progress you further unless you are filling a niche such as pediatrics, vestibular, and women’s health. It is far more important to a company (in my opinion) that you are willing to learn and participate in their organization.

Do you have any other advice or words of wisdom for PT students or new grads?

Stay humble. Consistency and sweat equity always prevail!
I left high school knowing that I wanted to go to school for physical therapy but in my senior year I took my first psychology class. I was immediately captivated. As I was doing research for completing a bachelor’s degree in preparation for physical therapy school, I encountered psychology “pre-physical therapy” programs at some of the Texas public universities. This gave me the realization that I could go through my undergraduate degree, enjoying the course load while obtaining the pre-requisite courses that are required for most Doctor of Physical Therapy programs. I never regretted the decision for being a psychology major in my undergraduate career, but it certainly has its pros and cons. I offer this list to you and some accompanying explanations regarding the advantages and disadvantages of getting a B.S. in psychology, for those who may be unsure of the path they want to take to obtain their career goals.

**Advantages:**

- I quickly gained comfort with talking to individuals of different cultures, beliefs, religions, and interests. My classmates were all very different individuals. Some of them were outgoing athletes seeking out a foundational undergraduate degree. Others were introverted people wanting to be a counselor to help others’ psychological health.

*Continued on Page 14*
STUDENT EXPERIENCE

• I experienced less competitive pressure by my classmates for trying to get into physical therapy programs. Everyone valued helping each other and assisting with the success of their peers, which I believe is a strength that I have carried through to PT school with me.
• I got great exposure to professional writing and research due to the nature of psychology and the foundation of the field being heavily research based.
• I got to attend unique psychology courses that could benefit physical therapists (e.g. motivational psychology, positive psychology, behavioral psychology)
• I had an increased exposure to public speaking/classroom presentations and group work, which has been invaluable to me in PT school.
• My psychology classes required discussion participation, making me more comfortable with voicing my opinion with others and improving my leadership skills

Disadvantages:

• I had a lack of exposure to kinesiology and biomechanics courses. I had to actively seek out these courses.
• I had a decreased exposure to course structures similar to physical therapy courses. I must admit that kinesiology/science classes are structured much differently than psychology courses; especially, once it comes to testing.
• Being a psychology major meant that I was not surrounded by others with similar career goals to mine. I did make sure to participate in the on-campus Pre-Physical Therapy Club, giving me the opportunity to meet others who wanted to become physical therapists.
• I was constantly being asked how psychology relates to physical therapy. This is not only a disadvantage though. This is advantageous when it becomes an opportunity to improve patient outcomes by better understanding motivation, grief, and psychological co-morbidities.

The kinesiology/exercise science path to physical therapy is well structured and greatly prepares individuals for their graduate careers, but it does not have to be the only path for individuals to choose when planning to become a physical therapist. As long as you are driven, organized, and know the requirements for getting accepted into a physical therapy program, uniqueness should not be feared.
Tyler Capellan, SPT

I was born and raised in New York. Many people think of New York as the city with busy streets and tall buildings; few think of it as I know it. I grew up in Warwick, NY, a small town just north of New York City. I spent a lot of time outside playing sports and going on hikes when I was younger. Like many people in the program, my fascination with physical therapy began when I was treated for an injury I sustained playing football. I had strained my rotator cuff and wanted to be ready to play baseball the following year. My time with the therapist was enjoyable and I loved the environment, but the treatment wasn’t nearly as effective as I had hoped. I healed enough to regain full range of motion, but I couldn’t play baseball again. Although this was upsetting, I moved on to have a successful football and track career. After high school, I attended Stony Brook University in Long Island and earned a B.S. in Psychology. Earning my degree in psychology made me realize how much I was interested in helping people. I decided to take two years off to think of a career that I was passionate about. While out of school, my former resident director offered me a job at a Springfield College as a resident director and in exchange I could receive a Master’s Degree in Sport’s Psychology. I was excited about the opportunity, but deep down I knew I wanted a more hands on profession. As I struggled to combine my interests into a career that I would enjoy, I thought back to my time as an athlete and what I thought I lacked most in my development. It was then I realized how little I did to keep myself healthy and prepared for my events. I was talented, but not dedicated to my body and no one ever taught me how to care for myself. This was when I knew I wanted to become a physical therapist. I wanted to not only help athletes, but all types of people who might not know the best way to care for themselves. Whether it is healing from an injury or learning the best way to prevent injuries, there are many people who need help, no matter their age. I want to be the support for them that I believe I didn’t have when I was younger. My goal as a physical therapist is to make the life of each person I encounter better and more enjoyable, both inside and out.
FGCU DPT students Rachel Witkovski and Autumn Duyn had the unique opportunity to work with the NubAbility Athletics Foundation at a strength camp in Florida in February. The NubAbility Athletics Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to coaching children who are limb-different to participate in the game of mainstreamed organized sports. The foundation’s headquarters are in Southern Illinois but they travel around the world for children’s camps. The FGCU students participated in a camp which consisted of an entire week of sports; including a baseball session with the Minnesota Twins, basketball lessons with players from the UF basketball team, and strength training at a local Fort Myers crossfit gym. The strength training day taught the children how to build strength correctly with their limb differences and how to prevent imbalances. They did exercises including sprints, squats, pushups, box-jumps, rowing, and different circuits. As coaches, the DPT students helped adjust everything in order for the campers to be able to complete the exercise. For example, a child missing part of one of their arms can use a medicine ball to even out their base of support in order to perform a pushup. There were also adaptive attachments which can be used. An example of an adaptive attachment is a wrap that attaches at the wrist and has a double hook on the end so that children whose arms end at the wrist can accomplish pull-ups or rowing.

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The camp also brought in motivational speaker Nick Santonastasso. Nick was born with Hanhart syndrome, an extremely rare condition which affected the development of his legs and right arm. He related to the children on challenges associated with growing up with limb differences but inspired them to never give up on their dreams. All in all, it was an incredible opportunity for the DPT students to be inspired, and to use their knowledge to adapt exercises to meet the needs of children with limb differences.
The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Marieb College of Health & Human Services were well represented at FGCU Research Day by all of the scholarly poster presentations.

Above: Dr. Brigitte Belanger accepted the Distinguished University Research Award for Best Graduate Student Poster on behalf of occupational therapy students, Angelo Cruz, Emily Garcia, Victoria Spaziani, and Grace Stoner for their research entitled, Operation Teamwork: FGCU.

Also awarded, was Dr. Maria Colmer’s research team, comprised of occupational therapy and golf management (PGM) students. Thor Parrish (PGM) was awarded the Distinguished University Research Award for Best Oral Presentation. Read more about this research on page 30.
Above: Lizzy Dregne (Athletic Training), standing with Dean Joan Glacken, Dr. Felton, and Dr. Yih, was awarded the First Place Dean’s Award for Best Undergraduate Student Poster for her research: Torn ACL, MCL, Menisci, and Joint Capsule in College Football Player.

The second Place Dean’s Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research Poster was awarded to Hannah Jaruregui, Lauren Oster, and Kayla Harrison (Occupational Therapy) for their poster entitled, Exploration of Animal Assisted Therapy in Occupational Therapy.
Right: Stanley Octavius (Athletic Training), with his poster: *Osteochondritis Dissecans and Chondromalacia of the Talus in Male College Soccer Player*

Left: Jiana Lanza (Exercise Science), with her poster: *Physical Activity Breaks in FGCU Classes*

Right: Carlos Llanos (Athletic Training), with his poster: *Patient with a Right Ankle Haglund’s Deformity*
Congratulations to **Wanda Smith** on her retirement after 19 years of service at FGCU. Wanda served as office manager for the Occupational Therapy Program.

**Welcome New Faculty and Staff**

**Trinity Blan** Office Manager, Occupational Therapy Program

**Mark Erickson** Faculty, Physical Therapy Program

**Ireliam Guadalupe** Faculty, Athletic Training Program

**Valerie Weiss** Faculty, Anatomy & Physiology

**Amy Lehigh** Lab Manager, Anatomy &
Faculty Promotions

Barbara Tymczyszyn *Instructor III*

Instructor Tymczyszyn serves as the Clinical Coordinator for the Exercise Science Program. With her background in exercise physiology, she teaches mainly in the Exercise Science Program.

Lynn Jaffe *Full Professor*

Dr. Jaffe is Director for the Occupational Therapy Program. She teaches primarily topics including research methods, mental health practice, pediatrics, and human development.

Eric Shamus *Full Professor*

Dr. Shamus is the Chair for the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Director of the Exercise Science Program.

Arie van Duijn *Full Professor*

Dr. van Duijn is the Director of the Physical Therapy Program. His current area of teaching and research is in general outpatient physical therapy with a special interest in orthopedic manual therapy of the spine and the extremities.
FGCU’s Doctor of Physical Therapy Program provides its students with unique clinical opportunities and experiences. An example of such an experience is a private practice located in Naples, Florida called THRIVE Physical Therapy and Wellness Solutions. An acronym for Therapy and Healing to Restore Inspiration Vitality and Endurance, THRIVE is a facility that provides oncology rehabilitation, orthopedic rehabilitation, and wellness solutions. Owned by Dr. Mary Kaye Reuth, DPT, THRIVE prides itself in providing a concierge-style setting in conjunction with evidence-based practice in a diversified healthcare setting.

**How did you get interested in Oncology?**

I was hired on staff to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), my last clinical rotation facility, immediately after achieving my Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. My clinical instructor at RIC was the head of Women’s Health/Lymphedema and was just starting an oncology rehab program. Dr. Gail Gamble, head of physical medicine and rehabilitation specializing in Cancer rehabilitation, team-taught oncology rehabilitation classes for all clinicians at RIC. I continued to take more continuing education courses and subsequently met Julia Osborne, who is now the head of PORI (physiological oncology rehab institute).

After attaining professional experience at RIC and through continuing education courses, I saw the needs for this patient population. Furthermore, my cousin had been diagnosed with leukemia. She had a bone marrow transplant and subsequently had graft versus host disease. All her symptoms were related to wellness related issues such as poor nutrition, lack of exercise, and depression/ lack of mind body. Unfortunately, after only nine months post diagnosis she passed away. This gave me the conviction that patients needed to be empowered to achieve their best quality of life - by education- helping them move, what to eat, and assisting with giving them a positive outlook mindset and meditation stress reduction and relaxation etc.

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What drove you to start your own private practice? Can you explain your personal journey to achieving a successful private practice?

As I gained professional experience in my field, I started developing my own systems and styles of practice methods which I felt were best. Although, I was strongly influenced by the rehabilitation institute of Chicago and their systematic evaluation methods. I wanted to create an environment very different than your standard therapy clinic so that my patients would feel more exclusive while also being cognizant of immunocompromised patients. I have infused a lot of personal interests and creativity in developing what I believe my clinic should represent. Assuring that patients have a continuum of care, emphasizing consistency and continuity, and ensuring a successful transition to wellness-based programs. This has allowed me to incorporate a lot of my previous extensive experience in personal training and post rehabilitation clinical disabilities exercise programming. Success of my small private practice is 100% contributed to a phenomenal patient population that has a lot of word-of-mouth referrals.

What patient population do you treat at your clinic? What kind of treatments do you offer at your facility?

Generally, most of my patients are between 65 and 80 years old. We offer comprehensive evaluation, clinical exercise, manual therapy. My facility is one of only four providers for oncology rehab specialist in the state of Florida and the only one on the West Coast. In addition, I am always looking to add on services that will benefit and optimize patient outcomes.

What can students expect to get exposed to which they would otherwise not receive in a typical orthopedic outpatient facility?

Most specifically the PORI method of treatment for oncology rehabilitation and emphasis on that patient population. Extensive time is spent on learning interpretation of MRIs, coordinating care of patients following spine epidurals, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and post-surgical breast and oncology related interventions.

Among her personal and professional experience in oncology rehabilitation, Mary Kaye has the following credentials: PORI (Physiological Oncology Rehab Institute) Rehabilitation Specialist, Instrument-Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization Certificate Level 1, Microcurrent Point Stimulation Level 1, STAR-Certified Clinician for Oncology Rehab, Doctor of Physical Therapy (Rosalind Franklin University/Chicago Medical School), Master of Science (University of Illinois at Chicago Kinesiology, Clinical Disabilities), Bachelor's Degrees (Purdue University - Health/Movement Sciences and Exercise Physiology).

— Jose Sagastume, SDPT
Special Olympics (Pinellas County SUP Invitational)

This was the first time Pinellas County had hosted a Stand Up Paddle Board event with it taking place at Sunset Beach in Tarpon Springs, FL. The athletes competed in the Gulf of Mexico while braving windy conditions and choppy waters off the shoreline. The event was quite a success with 6 of the 59 athletes qualifying to compete in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games held in Seattle Washington on July 4th, 2018.

Four FGCU DPT students volunteered at the event and assisted with multiple aspects of the event as needed. In particular, they helped operate the Fit Feet station by assisting two licensed podiatrists with performing free foot screenings on the athletes and providing participants with necessary orthotics, insoles, and topical treatment agents. Over 50% of the athletes competing received their free screening! (Listed in order from left to right: Mitchell Todd, Marissa Callahan, Morgan Reed, Brittany Mouttet).
Surfers for Autism (Deerfield Beach, FL)

Surfers for Autism is an organization that has been going for 12 years strong and continues to grow each year. The events held by this organization are hosted around the nation and focus on providing participants with a new form of sensory and social integration through the fun activity of surfing! During volunteer orientation, the statement about a participant’s attitude completely changing once they catch his or her first wave was completely justified. Many participants arrived very shy and fearful of all the sensory stimulation taking place as one would expect at the beach. However, once they felt the mist of the ocean and the power of the waves underneath their feet, they instantly could not get enough and wanted to ride as many waves as possible.

(Listed in order from left to right: Kyle Bojda, Sean Gilbert, Marissa Callahan, Mitchell Todd, Brittany Mouttet, Tyler Capellan). Six FGCU DPT students traveled to Deerfield Beach, FL to work as volunteers for this event. As volunteers, each would help the participants learn the basics of surfing while on the beach and then guide them every step of the way once in the water. Typically each participant was assigned a team of 4 – 5 volunteers to help them with paddling out to the break, catching the wave, standing up, and then safely making it back to the shore. One of the truly magical aspects of this event is the fact that two of the volunteers were once participants in the event. They found the entire experience to be so rewarding and beneficial that they enjoy coming out each year to help other participants find their way out in the water so that others could experience the same growth that they did.
Adaptive Tango Class for Patients with Parkinson’s Disease

These classes were lead by a physical therapist at Lee Health as part of a funded research study by an FPTA community grant founded by Catherine Patla. The study investigates whether dance therapy is an effective neuro-therapy intervention for patients with Parkinson’s Disease. The whole concept behind the Adaptive Tango class was to use dancing to overcome some of the major obstacles patients with Parkinson’s deal with daily. Some of the issues this patient population deals with include walking backwards, freezing gait, and tremors. The idea is that by dancing they are exercising and moving to music, which is crucial for this population. The music gives a rhythm, which research has shown to help prevent freezing in patients with Parkinson’s. The majority of the class was spent with volunteers leading while the patients were following. The leader/follower roles switched occasionally, but the emphasis was on the patient’s ability to take big steps, move backwards, and maintain a rhythm. Five DPT students volunteered for the Tango class every Monday. We absolutely loved it! It started the week off with fun patient interaction while giving me the chance to cultivate my skills as a future PT. It honestly didn’t feel like volunteer work and we think the patients taught us more than we could ever have taught them in class.

STEM CAMP

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences hosted 55 high school students who were on campus for a summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Camp. Students from our department guided tours through each of our labs and hosted activities to help the high school students learn what the rehabilitation professions are all about.
National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Conference

Four exercise science seniors (Nate Garcia, Olivia Graffham, Laura Morgan, Archnell Souvenir) and Dr. Jason Craddock attended the NSCA conference in Indianapolis this July.

National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) Annual Meeting

Seven recent graduates of the athletic training program (Melanie Moore, Asja Morello, Brianna O’Neal-Belmont, Dominique Connolly, Sierra Schappacher, Amanda Zoghibi, and Jennifer Gentry) had posters accepted for presentation at the NATA meeting. FGCU also hosted their first alumni reception at the event in New Orleans. Pictured right are Jeremy Howard, FGCU alumni and Soaring Eagle award winner, and Chandler Kurtz, FGCU Athletics affiliate.
American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Annual Conference 2018

FGCU was recognized as a Gold Campus by the Exercise is Medicine Campus Initiative at the 2018 ACSM annual conference. This status recognizes FGCU’s commitment to create a culture of wellness and establish physical activity as a vital sign.

Visit to the Botanical Gardens

The Occupational Therapy program visited the Naples Botanical Garden in April and spent the day with Taylor Barnham, the director of the Enabling Garden, to learn about therapeutic horticulture. The class also spent time with Karen McNeil learning and experiencing the benefits of tai chi.
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Federal Advocacy Forum

Dr. Kathy Swanick, DPT program faculty, and Jennifer May, DPT student, attended APTA Federal Advocacy Forum in Washington D.C. along with other Florida representatives and advocated for the profession by visiting our legislators.

Interdisciplinary Research featured on WINK news story

Research conducted by Dr. Maria Colmer, OT program faculty, Tara McKenna, director of Golf Management, and occupational therapy and PGA Golf Management students involved a workshop titled: Occupational Wellness for Keeping Golf Performance on Par. The workshop included 36 participants from local 55+ golf communities. See the WINK news story here.
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference

The Occupational Therapy Program was well represented at this year’s annual AOTA conference. Dr. Edwin Myers presented his own research poster, titled *Assessing Impact of a Gamification Model in a Graduate-level Occupational Therapy Course: A Two-Year Study*. He also presented a poster with occupational therapy students Brittany Bancroft, Carter Hargreave, Joanie Howell, Meghan Kessler, and Alexandra Sabella, titled: *A Comparison of Millennials’ Grip and Lateral Pinch Strength to Current Norms*. Also presenting at this conference were Dr. Sarah Fabrizi and Dr. Maria Colmer.
EVENTS

CAREER FAIR

Join the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at FGCU for their annual Career Fair for medical centers, hospital, institutes and rehabilitation centers to meet and discuss job and internship opportunities with more than 100 of our Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy students.

FGCU Cohen Center Ballroom
Thursday, November 15, 2018
11 am — 2 pm

Registration:
Email eshamus@fgcu.edu for a registration form. The registration form can be mailed along with a check, or call and we can process your credit card payment over the phone.

Florida Gulf Coast University
Marieb College of Health & Human Services
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

For more information please contact eshamus@fgcu.edu or call 239-590-7530 or 239-745-4255
The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education has mandated that all professional preparation Athletic Training programs must be at the master's level by 2022. FGCU will welcome their first class of M.S.A.T. students in the summer of 2019. Our final class of undergraduate athletic training students will graduate with their bachelor’s degrees in the spring of 2020.

For more information on the Masters in Athletic Training Program, please contact Jason Craddock, Program Director at (239) 590-7535 or by email at jcraddock@fgcu.edu.
2018 Celebration of Excellence

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences congratulated Emily Garcia, student of the occupational therapy program, on receiving the Marieb College of Health & Human Services graduate student of the year award. This award recognizes Emily for her academics, leadership, and service.

Also recognized at the Excellence Awards were Dr. Jason Craddock and Dr. Jacqueline van Duijn for their respective 15 and 10 years of service to FGCU, as well as Dr. Brigitte Belanger who received the University Team Service Award.

FGCU Leadership and Involvement Awards

Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) and Dr. Edwin Myers, occupational therapy program faculty, were recognized at the 2018 Leadership and Involvement Awards in April. Dr. Myers, who serves as the advisor for SOTA, was nominated by students and selected as Student Organization Advisor of the Year. SOTA received the 2018 Registered Student Organizations Outstanding Service Award for their exceptional service, leadership and involvement.

2018 MCHHS Faculty Awards

This year, three faculty from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences were recognized in the college. Dr. Russell Hogg received the Faculty Senior Teaching Award, Dr. Edwin Myers the Faculty Junior Teaching Award, and Dr. Sarah Fabrizi the Faculty Scholarship Award.
Student Success & Enrollment Management

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences was proud to announce that two exercise science students were appointed to newly established committees by the Student Success & Enrollment Management initiative. Darbie Napieralski and Miller Quinones are great examples of our students’ passion and enthusiasm for improving student success at FGCU.

The Student Success—Enrollment Management Action Task Force was drawn together in October 2017 by President Martin to consider, assess and recommend innovative and bold initiatives to improve student success and graduation rates. Dr. Mitch Cordova, the previous Dean to our college was appointed as the Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management.


Jackson KL, Hunt D, Chapa D, Gropper SS. Sarcopenia- a baby boomers dilemma for nurse practitioners to discover, diagnose, and treat. Journal of Nursing Education and Practice. 2018;8(9). doi: 10.5430/xyz.v1n1p1


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Be sure to follow us on social media to keep up to date with the most recent happenings in the department!

Florida Gulf Coast University Department of Rehabilitation Sciences on Facebook

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www.fgcu.edu/mariebcollege/rs
DEPARTMENT SERVICES

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences offers metabolic testing, VO2 Max testing, and other performance measurements. Additional services include unweighted walking and running in the Alter G treadmill or in the Hydroworks pool. Training sessions can be purchased for different levels of customized exercise training.

Visit our store front website:
https://secure.touchnet.com/C20748_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=30&SINGLESTORE=true

Contact Melinda Coffey: mcoffey@fgcu.edu