As we begin a new calendar year and reflect on this past year, we have made some great accomplishments. The Occupational Therapy program had their 10-year accreditation on site review. It went extremely well with their exit interview and we expect the maximum 10-year re-accreditation. The OT program also had a 100% first time student pass rate on the national board exam.

The Physical Therapy program is proud to have Dr. Ellen Donald receive her doctorate degree and also be named to the Florida State Board of Physical Therapy. Dr. Swanick, who is the current president of the Florida Physical Therapy Association, was nominated to run for a position on the board of directors for the American Physical Therapy Association. The Physical Therapy students will be hosting the Florida Physical Therapy Association Student Conclave in January. This event will be an opportunity for Physical Therapy and Physical Therapy Assistant students, from around the state, to come to campus and meet future colleagues.

The Exercise Science students have been active with the American Heart Walk in Fort Myers and participating in community education events. The students and faculty have been working closely with athletics on metabolic testing and exercise training for performance enhancement. They have also been collaborating with the Boston Red Sox and the Homebase program. These activities are helping shape our future exercise science professionals.

The Athletic Training program is in the process of looking at converting to an entry level master’s degree program. The accreditation body for Athletic Training has put a mandate out that all programs will be converted to a masters degree program. This will allow for some additional research and professional development classes.

All in all it was a great second half of the year for scholarly activity with student and faculty poster presentations, journal articles, national and international lectures and textbook chapters and textbooks.

We are looking forward to a Happy New Year and more great things to come.

Eric Shamus, PT, DPT, PhD, CSCS
Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
College of Health Professions and Social Work
Florida Gulf Coast University
INSIDE

4,5 Awards and Honors
6 Alumni Spotlight
7 Conferences
11 FGCU In the Community
14 OT Goes Global
15 Homebase, CE Program
16 Sports Performance Clinic
17 Student Wellness Fair
18 Scholarly Activity
19 Make Your Own Impact
On October 31, 2016 Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Dr. Ellen Donald, PT, PHD, to the Board of Physical Therapy Practice. This position will be held until October 31, 2020.

Dr. Kathy Swanick, DPT was awarded the APTA State Legislative Leadership Award in September during the APTA State Policy and Procedure meeting in Pittsburgh. She received this award for advocacy efforts in the State of Florida and passage of 4 pieces of legislation affecting physical therapy practice including improved direct access to PT.
We would like to congratulate Barbara Hess, faculty in the Exercise Science program, on being awarded the inaugural Marieb Faculty Teaching Excellence award.

Dr. Mollie Venglar received the Outstanding Service Award from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) in November, 2016.
Edgar Baretto

Why did you choose FGCU for your education, how has it helped you toward your career goals?

FGCU offered a vast selection of career opportunities while allowing me to stay close to home. As a former baseball athlete, the Human Performance Program now called Exercise Science in the College of Health Professions and Social Work gave me an opportunity to realize my dream of being in Professional Baseball. The program continues to have an affiliation with the Boston Red Sox where students have the opportunity of interning with the Strength and Conditioning staff and work hands on with the players. My career started with this program and I am forever grateful to all of the individuals that helped me along the way.

What led you to pick your major at FGCU?

I wanted to pursue a career that gave me an opportunity to make an impact in other people's lives. In my opinion, there is nothing better than building relationships and enhancing the quality of life of individuals. This program offered that and much more.

What assignment/activity in your program has had the most impact on you as a student?

My first internship was the most impactful during my time as a student. It was the "Train-to-Train Program" in the Human Performance Lab. This is where I had the first opportunity of working with great people and witnessed their development throughout time. There is no better feeling than helping others achieve their goals!

Describe your most rewarding or memorable college experience.

The most memorable college experience I had was traveling to the Dominican Republic with the Spanish Club to partake in a program that helped young working children with their general education. These kids would spend the entire day walking with their shoe boxes trying to make a living to help support their families. For the duration of our stay, we helped them enhance their reading, writing and communication skills. What was most important for me was to see how happy they were while living in very poor conditions. It made me realize how we take so many things for granted while having all the possibilities and resources in the world. It made me have a different perspective on life and what really matters, happiness!

Any words of wisdom to students who choose your program?

As I stated above, happiness is the only thing that matters in life! No one could ever take that away from you. It doesn't matter which path you may take as long as you are doing something that fulfills you as a person, you will be rich! If you follow this career for the right reasons, you will be successful. Be persistent and determined to achieve your goals and reach that maximum capacity of your abilities!

"Persistence and Determination alone = unlimited power" - (Calvin Coolidge)
AAOMPT-American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists, St. Louis

Dr. Arie Van Duijn and Dr. Eric Shamus presented at the AAOMPT conference in St. Louis, MO. The talk was on “Regional interdependence of shoulder girdle pathology and spine dysfunction: implications for manual therapy examination and intervention.”

8th Congresso Internacional De Fisioterapia, Salvador Brazil

Dr. Eric Shamus, PhD, DPT, CSCS, travelled to Salvador, Brazil as an invited speaker to the 8th Congresso Internacional De Fisioterapia (8th International Congress of Physical Therapy). His talk was titled “Regional interdependence of the hip and spine.”
Dr. Sarah Fabrizi, OT faculty, presented at the Division for Early Childhood Conference in Louisville, KY and the Zero to Three in New Orleans, LA. She received a Community Engaged Scholar Grant for her work with the Playgroup Project.

Lucas Symposium, Fort Myers FL

Drs. Lynn Jaffe and Edwin Myers presented at the first annual Lucas Symposium: Showcasing Creative Strategies for Teaching and Learning on September 22nd, 2016. Dr. Jaffe did a session on “Choice & Chance: An Experiential Approach to Studying Human Development” and Dr. Myers had a poster on Gamification in Higher Education.
OT students presented a poster at the FOTA conference in Orlando, FL. The poster was “Ergonomics and Body Mechanic Techniques in a Fast Food Restaurant.” Researchers designed and implemented a training workshop to educate fast food employees on ergonomics, proper body mechanics, proper lifting techniques, exercises to reduce the risk of work-related musculoskeletal injuries, and workstation redesign. Researchers: Ginger Correnti, Patrick Dooley, Kara Fahey, Rachel Gardner. Mentor: Maria Colmer, OTD, MEd., OTR/L.

From L to R: Patrick Dooley, Ginger Correnti, Rachel Gardner, Kara Fahey.

OT students presented a poster: “Little Sprouts” which is a project promoting social-emotional growth, parent competence, and participation through early childhood playgroups. Their mentor is Dr. Sarah Fabrizi.

From L to R: Kellie Bellamy, Sarah Briggs, Whitney Kummer, Elsvina Jankauskaite, and Brittany Stirling.
American Physical Therapy Association National Student Conclave

Physical therapy students traveled to Miami to attend the APTA National Student Conclave to attend talks and stay involved in the physical therapy profession.

Left: PT students with Dr. Kathy Swanick at the APTA Student Conclave.

Below: Dr. Kathy Swanick and DPT students featured with APTA president Dr. Sharon Dunn.

Left: FGCU DPT representation is strong at the APTA Student Conclave!

Right: Getting a breath of fresh Miami air in-between talks at the APTA student conclave.
Students sometimes have difficulty transitioning from classroom to clinical learning. Dr. Maria Colmer, OTD and Dr. Jackie van Duijn, DPT have been traveling around Collier and Lee counties sharing remediation strategies and activities in regards with student skill performance levels and professional behaviors to Lee Health and NCH clinicians.

Dr. Colmer and Dr. van Duijn have presented 11 continuing education presentations on Therapist Student Communication in Clinical Education and Fieldwork. The topics of focus include: formal and informal feedback, verbal and nonverbal communication, systematic approach to assessment, clinical judgment, time efficiency, and performance expectations. These inservices have been another way to educate our clinical faculty, share program specific information including our curriculum designs and performance expectations and strengthen ties with our community partners.

FGCU- Amputee Clinic

In November the department hosted an amputee clinic. Here, amputees were able to have their questions answered and help them move better for improved quality of life in the community. FGCU DPT students with help from PTA students from Hodge’s University help run stations analyzing gait, assessing vitals, and improve their balance.
Awareness walk- Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) and Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

FGCU DPT students joined forces with the GBS/CIDP Foundation for a “Walk and Roll” charity walk. The purpose was to raise awareness for CIDP and GBS as well as to raise money to help those suffering from these conditions. FGCU volunteers also helped set up and conduct the event, their help was much appreciated!

The Student Occupational Therapy Association - Volunteer Work

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) has volunteered with Lighthouse for the Blind with: White Cane Awareness Day, Blind Feet in the Street, and in agency projects. They also participated in the Relay for Life and the Amputee Clinic.
American Heart Association - Heart Walk

Exercise Science students helped with the American Heart Association Heart Walk aimed at raising money to help save lives from heart disease and stroke. The Lee County Heart Walk promotes physical activity and heart healthy living. The event was co-chaired by the CHPSW Dean Dr. Mitch Cordova and by Danny Pate, senior vice president at Century Link. The fundraising goal was $580,000.

Occupational Therapy - Mobility Clinic

The Occupational Therapy students visited the mobility clinic in Largo, FL to learn about assistive devices and various options available for wheel chairs. The students were able to apply this knowledge to their study and practice for when they become practitioners.
OT GOES GLOBAL

Occupational Therapy Students Dolores Wallen, Kara Fahey, and Jennifer Balchunas traveled to Quito, Ecuador to complete their level 1C fieldwork experience for the OT program. They worked with CRECER which provides volunteer opportunities for human services and health professionals in Ecuador.

While in Ecuador they worked at an adult daycare facility and with a senior center where they organized a senior Olympic games for approximately 40 senior citizens. All-in-all they were able to experience 3 different clinical settings in one week! Their experience abroad gave them quite the education both clinically and culturally.
Sensory Motor Interventions for Rehabilitation of Individuals with Lower Extremity Amputations

July 8, 2017
8:00am – 5:00 pm
8 CEHs

Course Objectives:
- Optimize intervention plan for different stages of amputee rehabilitation
- Targeted therapeutic exercise to maximize functional gains during recovery.
- Realize how movement strategy changes following amputation for various functional tasks.

Course Instructor: Verner Swanson Jr, MSPT
Instructor Swanson is a faculty member at FGCU. Mr. Swanson was a prosthetic technician for 13 years prior to pursuing his career in Physical Therapy.

Cost: $325.00*
*FGCU Alumni and Clinical Instructors receive $50.00 discount

Please visit the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences “Department Store” to register for this course
http://www.fgcu.edu/chpssw/rs
239-590-7530

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I RUN FOR...
My Country

RUN TO HOME BASE FLORIDA
JANUARY 28, 2017, 10 A.M.
JETBLUE PARK

Support our Veterans by participating in a 10K/5K Run or 1 mile walk, with the unforgettable experience of crossing “home base” at JetBlue Park.

Register today at runtohomebaseflorida.org
Sports Performance Clinic

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences has established a Sports Performance Clinic. Available services include metabolic testing, VO2 Max testing, and other performance measurements. Additional services include unweighted walking and running in the Alter G treadmill or in the Hydroworx pool. Training sessions can be purchased for different levels of customized exercise training. Appointments are scheduled to meet your individual needs.

For more information visit our department store: https://secure.touchnet.com/C20748_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=30&SINGLESTORE=true
STUDENT WELLNESS FAIR

These FGCU eagles soared towards the sky! Students had the opportunity to use the electronic jump mat to see how high they could jump. These numbers were compared to their performance on the vertex (see below).

An FGCU student performing a vertical jump on the vertex. Students were tested in their jump height using the vertex and electronic jump mat to infer how much shoulder mobility plays a part in jumping and reaching when compared to BMI.


