



# ALUMNI

## Moffat Chair Leaders

### Vickie Kasserman

Vickie Muñoz was 19 years old when Dr. Howard Rusk came to her home city of Lima, Peru in 1963 to promote rehabilitation medicine and the physical therapy profession. As Dr. Rusk talked about the scope of physical therapy practice, Vickie knew she had found her destiny.

Shortly thereafter, a young, eager Vickie Muñoz arrived in New York City with the singular goal of becoming a physical therapist. Unsure of how to begin, Vickie decided to seek out Dr. Rusk, a man she knew only from his short Peruvian visit.

“Dr. Rusk couldn’t have been more gracious,” recalls Vickie. “He made a phone call and set me up with a job as a physical therapy foreign trainee (at Rusk Institute) and sent me to the American Language Institute to study English.”

See *Vickie Kasserman* on Page 4



(l-r) Vickie and Bill Kasserman and daughter Wendy Dwyer



(l-r) Wen Ling of NYU PT with Elizabeth and William Latham

### Elizabeth Latham

During the polio epidemic of the early 1950s, when the state of Virginia was in need of physical therapists, Elizabeth (Betty) Latham (BS '54) was offered a scholarship to train at NYU. Throughout the years, Latham has made generous contributions to NYU's Physical Therapy Program. She recently donated \$100,000 to the Campaign for the Marilyn Moffat Chair in Physical Therapy. Erin Dodd, a development officer at Steinhardt, recently caught up with Latham in a restaurant in Virginia.

**ED:** What was it like for you to study in New York City?

**BL:** The best part of coming to NYU was meeting people and making friends from all over the world. My roommate was from India. I brought her home

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## New Text Aims to Unify Guidelines

On May 9, 2006, WB Saunders Publishing released Dr. Mitchell Batavia's **Contraindications in Physical Rehabilitation - Doing No Harm**, a portable reference 5 years in the making designed to place most precautionary and contraindication physical rehab under one roof. Weighing in at over 900 pages, Dr. Batavia's text is the first ever publication to systematically organize over 100 tests and therapies in the field using ICD-10 categories and terminology from the APTA's *Guide to Physical Therapy Practice*. It is also the first to define clear therapy ration-

ales while discussing adverse therapy events, thus helping place concerns within their proper context(s).



**Dr. Mitchell Batavia**

The text covers everything from well-known physical rehabilitation approaches to often forgotten aspects such as hand washing techniques, communication (i.e., breaking bad news), and alternative and complementary therapies (i.e., acupuncture, aromatherapy, and cranial sacral therapy, among others).

When asked about his motivation for penning **Contraindications**, Dr. Batavia broke his impetus into four categories: Frustra-

See *Guidelines* on Page 2

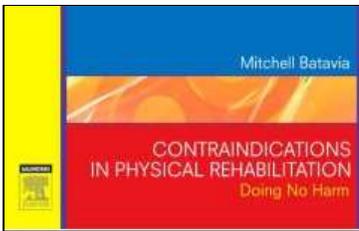
## Guidelines

*Continued from page 1*

**tion, Curiosity, Need, and Rational Decision Making.**

**Frustration:** “Concerns often vary (in textbooks) and few concerns are supported by a distinct *rationale*. Many authors also fail to provide either references or evidence.”

**Curiosity:** “How did these contraindications become so deeply ingrained in physical therapy culture?”



**Need:** “There was no one resource that systematically collected and reported contraindications across the field of physical rehabilitation.

**Rational Decision Making:** According to the gurus of Evidence-

Based Practice (EBP), EBP involves taking account of a therapy’s efficacy, its risks, and the patient’s preferences. That being said, this book should help address the ‘risk’ part of the equation.”

**Contraindications** contains a number of features clinicians will find useful including: multiple opinions from various sources such as PTs, MDs, OTs, RNs, and more; descriptive statistics; variability degrees; and a sort of “David Letterman” Top Concerns for each intervention.

Dr. Batavia hopes his work will promote more thoughtful clinical decision-making, reduce the number of potentially adverse events, highlight the gaps and sometimes extreme variability in contraindication guidelines, and promote future uniform guideline development. Now available from WB Saunders, Dr. Batavia’s **Contraindications in Physical Rehabilitation - Doing No Harm** joins the rich library of published works produced by our esteemed faculty.

## Moffat & Lewis Defy Aging

While age might be all in the mind, exercise sure can help. **Age Defying Fitness: Making the Most of Your Body for the Rest of Your Life** (Peachtree Publishers), a new, unique collaboration between Drs. Marilyn Moffat and Carole Lewis aims to teach Baby Boomers the art and importance of physical fitness as a means to overcome the aches, pains, stiffness, and unsteadiness that come with aging.

The book is designed to work not just as an educational tool, but as an assessment tool. Readers are encouraged to concentrate on five sections, or domains, of fitness - posture, strength, balance, flexibility, and endurance. Each domain receives its own chapter complete with a short explanation of the domain and common age-related physical changes, self-assessment tests, score sheets, suggested exercises, step-by-step photographs and diagrams, and daily tips and energizing ideas. Also included is a free Thera-Band® elastic exerciser to be used in conjunction with some of the described assessments and exercises.

The authors’ goal is to help readers

*See Age-Defying on Page 4*

## Latham

*Continued from page 1*

with me to Virginia, and she was as enthralled with the Southern hospitality as I was with her culture.

**ED: Why did you make this gift?**

**BL:** I want to help support good professors in the physical therapy profession.

I got a lifetime of knowledge that has served me well and to be able to give back is rewarding. The more I achieved in my field, the more I realized the advantage NYU had given me.

*Reprinted with permission from the Fall 2006 NYU Steinhardt Newsletter*

## New Faces

We are proud to announce the additions of Professor Louis N. Iannuzzi and Dr. Eugene Tunik to our esteemed faculty. Prof. Iannuzzi, an NYU PT Dept alumnus, served 26 years as a Commissioned Officer with the US Public Health Service. He retired in early 2006 with the rank of Captain after an extended deployment at Hurricanes Katrina and Rita’s disaster zones in Louisiana and Mississippi. Prof. Iannuzzi is an expert in wound care, a Corps Specialist in Insensitive Limb Management, and a board certified pedorthist.

Dr. Tunik, a graduate of Northeastern University (BS in Physical Therapy) and Rutgers University (PhD in Neuroscience), is knowledgeable in Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM2) for fMRI processing/analysis as well as Matlab and LabView independent programming and has extensive experience with motion capture systems and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

Prof. Iannuzzi and Dr. Tunik began teaching in September 2006.



**Prof. Louis N. Iannuzzi**



**Dr. Eugene Tunik**

## Q & A with Nicole Laufer, '03

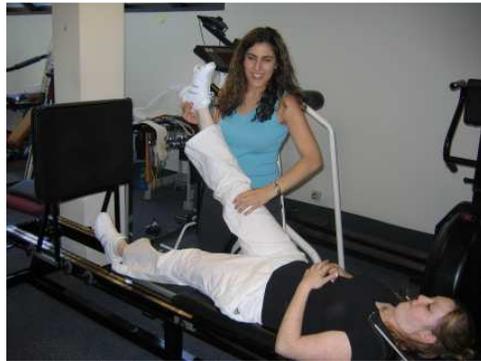
**Nicole Laufer** graduated from the New York University Department of Physical Therapy in 2003 with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Immediately upon graduation, Nicole began working at Lenox Hill Hospital where she performed vestibular rehabilitation and acute care. At the same time, she performed vestibular rehabilitation part-time at John G. Fletcher Physical Therapy located in Staten Island, NY. January 2006 was an incredible month for Nicole. She got engaged (she and her fiancé, Jordan, plan to marry in May 2007) and she officially took over Fletcher's practice and turned it into Healing Quest Physical Therapy, a private orthopedic and vestibular rehabilitation facility. We recently asked Nicole about life post-NYU.

**NYUPT: What was life like when you first graduated from the NYU Physical Therapy Program?**

NL: I already had a job lined up a month before I finished school. The job was at Lenox Hill Hospital where I'd done one of my clinical affiliations. It was great because they already knew me and I was familiar with the atmosphere. It was nice to be out in the real world. Initially I felt a bit scared, but you quickly pick things up and learn to feel comfortable. It was nice to be able to support myself. I love what I'm doing, so it just reinforces that I made the right choice with my career.

**NYUPT: Did you ever envision owning your own practice?**

NL: Never. I never would have envisioned having my own practice. I was working as an aide (for Gil Fletcher) for 2 years prior to PT school and Gil kept saying 'Hurry up! I want to retire!' and he meant it. I guess I always knew that he wanted me to take over, but you never really know if you can take someone seriously.



*Nicole Laufer puts her NYU DPT education into practice*

**NYUPT: How did you prepare for such an enormous undertaking?**

NL: First I had to decide that yes, I'm going to take on this responsibility. I had family support to run the business. I applied for a business loan and enrolled in continuing education courses in orthopedics. The whole thing is overwhelming, but exciting and a great experience. There's a lot involved in owning and running a business. Aside from actually performing physical therapy, you have to hire staff, meet with doctors, advertise, deal with insurance companies, organize schedules, etc.

**NYUPT: What advice do you have for someone looking to open their own practice?**

NL: Preparation. You have to have a lot of things set in place for you to have a successful private practice. You need to have support, both financial and emotional. You need to have a business plan and a marketing plan. You have to have a plan to meet potential referral sources such as doctors. You need to know about equipment. You need to develop the interpersonal and managerial skills to hire and deal with staff. And most of all, you need perseverance.

See Laufer Q & A on page 4

## Laura O'Kelly, '94

Laura O'Kelly graduated from the NYU Physical Therapy Program in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree and has since enjoyed continued personal and professional success. After beginning her career working in broad hospital and outpatient settings, she enrolled at Long Island University (LIU) in 1996 to pursue an athletic training certificate. To finance her continued education, Laura took a position at Park Terrace Care Center in Queens, NY, a 200-bed sub-acute/extended care facility affiliated with Mount Sinai Medical Center, which would change her life.

The facility had just launched a new and experimental rehabilitation program (certified by New York State) designed to specifically treat patients with traumatic brain injury while uniting various disciplines to diligently work together to find the most effective and productive comprehensive treatment approach for brain trauma residents. Although the job was difficult and very much "learn-as-you-go," Laura found brain injury rehabilitation intense, varied, and humbling. Residents and their families faced seemingly endless daily challenges, but their courage and determination was nothing less than awe inspiring. Laura was

See O'Kelly on page 10

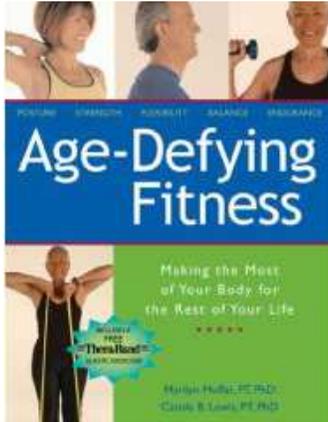


*Laura O'Kelly*

## Age-Defying

*Continued from page 2*

create personalized, easy-to-master exercise programs that can be done almost anywhere and often with little or no equipment.



Now available from Peachtree Publishers, **Age-Defying Fitness** will change how you, and particularly your patients, view fitness and exercise and will help you develop and maintain an easy-to-do fitness regime that will last you the rest of your life.

## Laufer Q & A

*Continued from page 3*

### **NYUPT: How do you balance your professional and personal lives?**

NL: It goes back to support, including a great staff. I hired other physical therapists to help with the burden. I make sure to take vacations and I don't work weekends so I can see my fiancé who lives in Baltimore. It's crucial to take time for yourself because it can definitely overtake you and run your life.

### **NYUPT: How well did the NYU DPT Program prepare you for life as a PT practitioner and business owner?**

NL: I'm very confident in my abilities as a result of the Program. I'm very comfortable as an independent practitioner in treating patients and performing differential diagnoses. This is even more important now that we have finally achieved direct access. We were taught to recognize pathology out of the normal PT realm and to know when to refer out. We were prepared to deal with anything - treatment, diagnosis, business

models - and were exposed to many different aspects of physical therapy: woman's health, vestibular rehabilitation, wound care, etc. I even relied on my notes regarding marketing plans and how to deal with insurance companies from Dr. (Kevin) Weaver's Business Practices course when I was preparing to take over Healing Quest Physical Therapy. NYU also stressed the importance of joining the American Physical Therapy Association. I also joined the APTA's Private Practice Section, which has resources, such as newsletters and a complete PT network. It's wonderful!

### **NYUPT: What would you like to accomplish in the future?**

NL: Besides having a family, I'd like for my practice to grow, and I'd like to possibly get into another specialty, such as women's health. I'd also love to teach at a university as an adjunct. Who knows? Maybe I'll even wind up back at NYU.

## Vickie Kasserman

*Continued from page 1*

Once she refined her English skills, Vickie was accepted into NYU and began studying under instructors including Dr. Marilyn Moffat, Dr. Arthur J. Nelson, and Dr. Neil Spielhotz, pioneering physical therapists that Vickie would one day be able to call colleagues and life-long friends.

"There were 30-35 of us in each class," Vickie says. "We became great friends. We studied together. We went to parties together. We were a family. All while getting a great education."

Meanwhile, Vickie's trainee job at Rusk proved to be just as fruitful. She began seeing a young PT intern named Bill Kasserman and in 1970, the two married and moved to New Jersey. A year later, the now Vickie Kasserman graduated from NYU after receiving "the best education possible."

In 1982, Vickie and Bill opened Somerset Rehabilitation Services, a central New Jersey facility offering treatments as varied as aquatic therapy and neurologi-

cal rehabilitation. Eventually their daughter, Wendy, followed in their footsteps by earning her Masters in Physical Therapy and joining her parents at Somerset Rehab.

And now, 35 years after graduation, Vickie's NYU family has come full circle. She and Bill have generously donated \$100,000 to The Marilyn Moffat Chair in Physical Therapy to make certain NYU students continue to receive the best physical therapy education possible.

"I know that (my classmates and I) received a terrific education and have gone on to great success," Vickie says, "and it's time we give back to ensure future physical therapy students get the same superior education and opportunities. It's the least we can do."

Thanks in part to alumni like Vickie Kasserman, NYU will always be able to continue its tradition of excellence in physical therapy education.

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## Alumni Updates

**1945 Faith (Lewis) Mayfarth** (Albuquerque NM) still volunteers at the hospital and, in fact, added another morning to her schedule because she loves to work.

**1951 Eleanor (Brox) Maavere** (Fairfield Glade TN) and her husband, Rein, recently retired from private practice to be closer to their children and grandchildren, play golf, and travel to fascinating locations such as the Panama Canal.

**1960 Phyllis (Samuels) Rappaport** (Ithaca NY) currently works in private practice and home care. She recently moved to Ithaca to be closer to her two grandchildren and their parents.

**1974 Karen Queally** (Millbrae CA) has risen through the ranks of health care administrators at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco and is now the center's AMGA and Director of Musculoskeletal Services.



**Karen Queally & Marilyn Moffat at the 2006 APTA House of Delegates**

**Joan Studer Smith** (Orangeburg NY) coaches girls and boys

varsity tennis at Pearl River High School. Joan received Coach of the Year honors for Rockland County, NY in the Fall of 2005.

**1976 Fatima Hakeem** (Sugar Land TX) has practiced in women's health for more than 25 years. Fatima consults with hospital-based practices and private clinics developing women's health programs. In 1996 and 2000, she was the subject of *PT Magazine's* cover feature story for women's health. She enjoys traveling to quiet, scenic places, watching grizzly bears and whales, reading, cooking for and planning parties, and entertaining. She and her husband have two children, ages 24 and 19.

**1977 Andrea (Ward) Antone** (Mt. Juliet TN) practices acute care at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. In December 2005, she received a Recognition Award from the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation for contributions to the department's targeted behaviors and goals.

**1978 Claudia G. Hix** (Moosop CT) opened her own business (Occupational Health Works LLC) in which she practices clinical occupational medicine and does insurance file and medical reviews. She has also completed medical school (osteopathic) and internal medicine and occupational medicine residencies. She has a total of 13 years of post-residency clinical practice. **Thomas P. Nolan, Jr.** (Martlon NJ) is an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

in Pomona where he teaches electrotherapy, orthopedics, and pharmacology. He is also co-editor of 2005's *Modalities for Therapeutic Intervention* published by FA Davis Co., for which he authored a chapter on electrotherapy and co-authored chapters on hydrotherapy and mechanical modalities.

**1980 Arlene (Kopolsky) Katz** (Marlboro NJ) practices outpatient orthopedics and earned her CSCS from the National Strength and Conditioning Association in June 2005. In addition, Arlene recently undertook her Pilates Teacher Certification training in New York City. She is also a brown belt in Kanzen Gojuryu Karate. **Peter Miller** (Mt. Laurel NJ) is the Director of Academic Assessment and an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at the University of the Sciences of Philadelphia.

**1982 Colonel (select) Robert M. Lucania** (Travis AFB CA) is currently a Physical Medicine Flight Commander at Travis Air Force Base where he is the Director of Physical and Occupational Therapy and the Base's Orthotics/Brace Laboratory. He was recently selected for promotion to Full Bird Colonel and was awarded the United States Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (fourth oak leaf cluster). His team, meanwhile, was awarded the Air Mobility Command Physical Medicine Flight for Year 2005. In addition, Robert recently attended the Army's Baylor 2-week Spinal Evaluation Course, celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> wedding

anniversary, and adopted his third cat (Tiger).

**1983 Jodi (Llacera) Klein** (Manchester MA) is the owner of a private practice in Manchester-by-the-Sea. She also volunteers with C.U.R.E. International for which she provides physical therapy services to the Dominican Republic. In 2004, Jodi received an Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching. **Tammy Lettieri** (Delray Beach FL) studied manual therapy with Dr. Ed Stiles (Osteopath formerly w/ MSU-COM and now w/ Pikeville COM) and is currently doing home health and private physical therapy in Florida. She is also a consultant for Walk Easy Forearm Crutches. **Akinniran Oladehin** (Bartlett TN) is a Full Professor of Physical Therapy at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Akin also has four children. His two daughters graduated from Northwestern University and the University of Memphis, while his two sons currently attend Princeton University and Harvard College.

**1985 John Geiselmann** (Massapequa Park NY) is a Home Care Physical Therapist and Certified Personal Trainer who integrates aspects of physical fitness, yoga, and resistance training in order to return his patients to their highest functional levels. John also holds Adult Education Programs in physical fitness and weight-training and works as a yoga instructor at Harmony Yoga Dance Studio in Wantagh, NY.

**1987 Margaret (Koczko) Leong's** (Sunnyvale CA) pri-

mary professional interest is her private practice, where she applies the wisdom of Carola Speads (author of *Ways to Better Breathing*), to both her PT business and wellness education. She continues to successfully juggle the many faceted challenges of profession, household management, and family life (including her husband, Koon-wah, and her two children, Susan and William). In addition, she sings in her church choir and cherishes her fitness walks, bike rides, and Qi Gung lessons. Recently, the Leong family traveled to Hong Kong where they spent time with family and friends, and enjoyed the sights, traditions, and of course, shopping.

**1988 David Bertone** (Freehold NJ), a 2005 OCS award recipient, is an Associate Partner at Marlboro Physical Therapy in Matawan, NJ. David is also the current host of "You and Your Health," a cable television program devoted to covering current health topics. **Elena Correnti** (Baldwin NY) sold Port Physical Therapy to retire from the field and subsequently received her MS in Physical Education from Hofstra University. However, after teaching for one year at a New York City alternative high school, she discovered she loved physical therapy again! She now works as a Home Care Therapist in conjunction with South Nassau Communities Hospital. **Carmen Young-Tucker** (New York NY) is the Director of Inpatient Rehabilitation at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

**1989 Nancy Neiditz-Pinillos** (Cresskill NJ), an Early Intervention Pediatric PT and a Feldenkrais Practitioner, has a thriving home practice working with infants and toddlers with severe motor delays. Nancy was married in September 2004. **Leslie (Kalick) Wolfe** (Atlanta GA), owner of 11-year-old Atlanta Orthotics, has created orthotics for the Atlanta Falcons, Cirque de Soleil, various other professional and collegiate institutions and athletes, and the general public. She and her husband, Alan, are the proud parents of three terrific children - Alexandria (10), Sydney (8) and Josh (5) who has autism, but has done amazingly well due to early intervention. Leslie and Alan currently work with CADEF (Childhood Autism Foundation), and have become very involved in fundraising for organizations that focus on autism awareness, research, and education.

**1990 Janine (Marchese-Dale) Hatch** (Fairfield CT) is a Clinical Adjunct and Wellness Director at Sacred Heart University. She is also a recent recipient of the Dorothy Briggs Award.

**1993 Andrea J. Prezwodek** (Oak Ridge NJ) has worked as a Senior Physical Therapist at Hackensack University Medical Center for the past 12 years. She is also employed per diem at a Northern New Jersey private practice. Andrea and David, her husband of 16 years, have 3 children: Alexa (10), Jenna (7), and Ian (5).

**1994 Seong-Shik (Daniel) Kang** (Syosset NY) received his New York Acupuncture License in 2002. Currently, he practices private physical therapy and acupuncture in Flushing, NY.

**1995 Elizabeth Anne (Malta) Ingalls** (Croton-On-Hudson NY) is in private practice and specializes in chronic pain management. She has advanced training in visceral manipulation including gynecological visceral/internal work. In addition, Elizabeth is certified in craniosacral therapy by the Upledger Institute. Her son, Gordon Victor Ingalls, is 3½ years old. **Elisa Schwartz** (White Plains NY) is a certified Lymphedema specialist. Two years ago, Elisa started a Lymphedema program and currently treats patients from New York's Westchester and Rockland counties. **Olga J. (Antzoulis) Tsunis** (Centerport NY) is currently employed by North Shore University Hospital in Glen Cove, NY. She and her husband, George, have been married since November 2004.

**1997 Andrzej Slugocki** (Jersey City NJ) currently produces outpatient orthopedics. He received his McKenzie Certification in 2005 and his DPT from UMDNJ in early 2006. Andrzej and his wife, Malgorzata, are expecting their first child in October 2006.

**1999 Tatiana Carett** (Briarwood NY) was the recipient of the 2005 New York Presbyterian Hospital - Cornell Outstanding Excellence Award. Since 1999, she has participated in the Minority Affairs Lobby Day in Albany, NY.

**2000 Rivi (Belach) Har-El** (Holliswood NY) owns Movement Therapy, a private practice located in both mid-town Manhattan and in Queens. She has also conducted movement therapy workshops in Baltimore area continuing education centers. Rivi and her husband are the proud parents of two sons, 13-year-old Ilan, who recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, and 17-year-old Amir, who will be heading off to college in 2007.

**2001 Amanda Hutton Parrott** (San Francisco CA), along with husband, Barry, and son, Tamir, recently returned from South Africa and Zimbabwe where Amanda had the opportunity to complete a clinical residency with HIV adults and infants at Groote Schuur Hospital in Capetown. Other highlights included bungee jumping off Victoria Falls (we assume Tamir did not participate), shopping, dancing to live music, and learning new songs from local children. Amanda reports that "the strength of the South African women, raised during apartheid, and now fighting the effects of HIV was enlightening. I left a piece of my heart with the people."



*Amanda, Barry, & Tamir enjoy a sunset safari cruise*

**Alyson (Pantony) Mescolotto** (Merrick NY) currently prac-

tices at South Shore Pediatric Physical Therapy in Nassau County, Long Island. She also provides early intervention services in the home for the 0-3 population. Alyson and her husband, Michael, are also busy raising 10½ month-old twins (Max and Sofia) and are expecting a new addition to their family in June 2006. **Laura Murphy-Tesch** (New York NY) works in private outpatient orthopedic physical therapy specializing in the neck and back. She is also currently taking her OCS and gave birth to a bouncing baby boy on December 22, 2005. **Andrea C. Smith** (Lavallette NJ) recently joined Fairfax Physical Therapy & Fitness located in New York City after beginning her career at New York-Presbyterian Hospital working in cardiopulmonary, acute rehabilitation, and outpatient physical therapy areas.

**2002 Miriam Weinberg Bacon** (Clifton NJ) currently practices with the New York City Department of Education. She and her husband, Ely, are the proud parents of three beautiful children: Temimah (4), Noam (3), and David (1).

**2003 Anna (Schmulenson) Len** (Brooklyn NY) currently is in pediatric private practice where she specializes in sensory integration, and also at William O'Connor Preschool in Bay Ridge. In the past year, Anna has given presentations dealing with the "Team Approach to Treating Children with Sensory Integration Dysfunctions." On July 19, 2005, Anna and her husband, Alexander, welcomed their first child,

Frederick Jacob Len, and in September 2006, NYU welcomed Anna to its growing team of Master Clinicians.



*Anna & Frederick Len strike a pose*

**Yoav Suprun** (New York NY) recently completed his McKenzie Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy Certification (Cert.MDT). He has also used his skills as a personal trainer, his Pilates and CSCS certifications, and of course his exten-

sive knowledge gained during our DPT program, to “Physical Solutions, LLC,” a company that specializes in customized workout routines for post/non-rehab patients, and educates clients and trainers (both at home and in the gym) in program design and prevention techniques. Yoav was featured in the November 2005 issue of *Redbook Magazine* in an article titled “What is Your Ideal Weight?”

**2004 Susan M. Schultz** (Wan-tagh NY) currently practices in the geriatrics unit at New York Presbyterian Hospital - Cornell in New York City.

**2005 Jennifer C. Teyfel** (New York NY) received her Manual Lymph Drainage/Complete De-

congestive Therapist (MLD/CDT) certification in September 2005 and currently works in neurological, cardiac, and orthopedic rehabilitation at New York Presbyterian Hospital - Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. Jennifer was also recently engaged and plans to marry in late 2006.

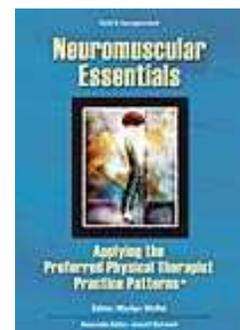
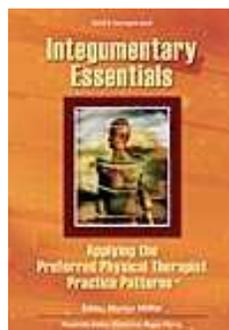
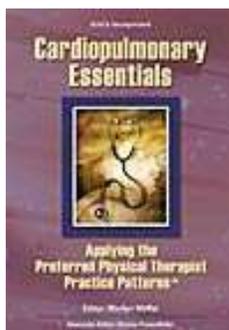
**2006 Benilda Buenaventura** (West Covina CA) accepted an acute cardiac therapy position at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. Benilda tells us that “after learning that I received my training from Dr. Moffat, Cedars-Sinai knew I would be more than prepared for the cardiac unit.”

### In Memoriam

Edward M. Berger, '70  
Lawrence Chojecki, '74  
Lavinia Davidson, '49  
Dennis Scott Davies, '74  
Patricia M. Enright, '81  
Stanley Farwig, '63  
Stephen Hucko, '54  
George P. Jessup, Jr., '57

Edna Knowlton, '49  
Adele McMahan, '68  
Eva Meyer, '58  
William Murray, '50  
Nora Ann Ramirez-Pelligra, '59  
Dante Torrese, '42  
Hsueh-Ming Tung, '95  
Jeremiah J. Wyatt, '51

### Essentials in Physical Therapy Series Editor Dr. Marilyn Moffat



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## *NYU at the 2006 APTA Combined Sections Meeting*

This past February, NYU DPT students attended the APTA Combined Sections Meeting held in San Diego, CA. The conference drew over 4,000 physical therapy professionals from across the nation and gave our students the opportunity to attend hundreds of informative sessions offered by the APTA's eighteen special interest sections. Students also participated in three days of events during which they learned about the latest technological advances, exchanged résumés, and met recruiters from all over the country.

The Section on Health Policy and Administration sponsored a Physical Therapy Political Action Committee (PT-PAC) luncheon at which students listened to Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA) as well as numerous APTA members regarding current health care issues and the importance of political involvement.

Meanwhile, the National Student Assembly approved the creation of a new PT-PAC club specifically for students. Jeremy Crow, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year NYU DPT student became the first Student Assembly Board of Directors Liaison to the PT-PAC. He will be responsible for facilitating dialogue and feedback between the SABOD and the PT-PAC as well as representing the opinions, stances, and decisions of the SABOD. For more information, please see the PT-PAC's website or contact Michael Matlack, Associate Director of Grassroots & Political Affairs ([michaelmatlack@apta.org](mailto:michaelmatlack@apta.org)).

Students also attended the NYU Alumni Reception where they had the chance to meet former graduates and future colleagues. They also joined in a Sports Physical Therapy Section-sponsored beach party and luau featuring live music, games,



**Dr. Marilyn Moffat and NYU DPT students at the 2006 APTA Combined Sections Meeting in San Diego, CA**

raffles, hula-hoop and limbo contests, and a silent auction.

In all, the 2006 Combined Sections Meeting was a wonderful experience for attendees and continued to bring excellent exposure to the NYU Physical Therapy Department.

## *Catching Up With O'Kelly* *Continued from page 3*

hooked immediately, so much so that after graduating from LIU, she chose not to pursue a sports medicine career and instead dedicated herself to neurological rehabilitation.

Within ten years, Laura worked her way up to her current position - Park Terrace Care Center's Director of Physical Therapy. Meanwhile, she and several treating therapists and doctors have collected data tracking Park Terrace residents throughout their recovery over a prolonged period and have presented their findings at the New York State Brain Injury Association Conference. Their findings and treatment approaches have led to a work titled "Recovery Patterns Following Long-Term Rehabilitation after TBI" that has been accepted for presentation at the upcoming American Society of Neuro-Rehabilitation. In addition, Laura and her colleague, Dr. Amy Shapiro, created and have been researching an assessment tool called the Rudimentary Observed Cognitive Assessment or ROCA that relates cognitive impairments to physical function, measures severity, and offers treatment approaches. According to Laura, preliminary data results

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**O'Kelly worked her way up to Director of Physical Therapy for Park Terrace Care Center**

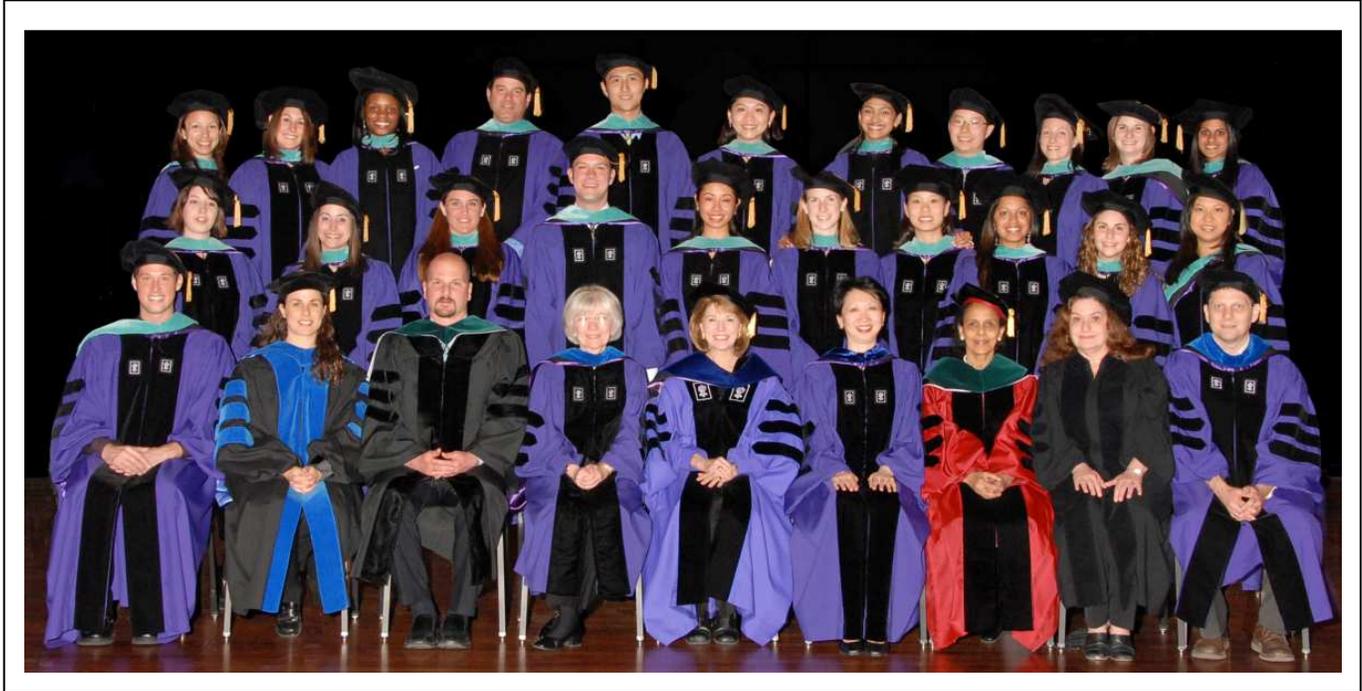
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suggest that ROCA is a reliable and effective tool.

Laura's personal life is just as rich as her professional life. She enjoys world travel and has had the opportunity to experience many exciting new places and cultures. She is currently training for her third NYC Marathon and hopes to again break the 4-hour mark. She has also recently reconnected with her Irish roots and now enjoys playing Ladies Gaelic Football. According to Laura, being the youngest of nine children has taught her how to work as a team as well as cherish alone time, and although she does not yet have children of her own, she has been blessed with nineteen nieces and nephews.

Laura tells us that she will always be a PT student (she earned her DPT from Boston University in 2005), and it was NYU that opened the door. Twelve years after graduating from NYU, Laura still looks to the Department's tradition of excellence, expectation, and camaraderie as the foundation for how she approaches and treats life - professionally *and* personally.

# Commencement 2006



## Congratulations to the Class of 2006!



**Benilda  
Buenaventura**

Benilda's Other Awards:

- 2006 NYU Samuel Eshborn Award for leadership in School activities



**Michelle Briancesco**

### Recipients of the 2006 Physical Therapy Department Awards:

*Elizabeth. C. Addoms Award*  
For Excellence in Academic and Clinical Performance  
**Michelle Briancesco**

*Arthur J. Nelson Award*  
For Excellence in Clinical Electrotherapy  
**Jeanne-Marie Schalestock**

*Department Service Award*  
For Outstanding Service to the School, Department, Faculty and Student Body  
**Benilda Buenaventura**  
**Jeremy Crow**



**Jeremy Crow**

Jeremy's Other Awards:

- 2006 NYPTA Student Participation Award
- 2006 APTA Outstanding Student of the Year Award
- 2006 NYU Samuel Eshborn Award for leadership in School activities



**Jeanne-Marie  
Schalestock**

**NYU Steinhardt**  
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**2006 NYU Steinhardt**  
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**Alumni Newsletter**

Editor/Writer  
Lorne Jaffe

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### **Become a Master Clinician and Clinical Affiliate!**

We are looking for interested clinicians and sites to serve as clinical affiliates and Master Clinicians. Clinical education is an important aspect of the Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum, and we are continuously looking for experienced clinicians to serve in these capacities. As an NYU graduate, your connection with the PT Department gives you a unique opportunity to serve as a mentor and assist current DPT students in their educational experience. By serving as a clinical affiliate or a Master Clinician, you will also earn tuition credits at NYU that can be used to further your own education free of charge.

As part of NYU's dedication to its students, the Physical Therapy Department is continuously looking to expand its network of clinical sites nationwide. Please contact Elaine Becker, PT, MA, ACCE at (212) 998-9407 or e-mail at eb2@nyu.edu to request more information.

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