Alumni Spotlight: Two Alums Tackle Adversity with Passion, Strength, and Character

Carsten Boesmann ('02) and Laura Vignola Kasych ('03) have a lot in common. Both are graduates of the NYU Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, both had their lives turned upside-down by currently incurable diseases, and both have proven to be extraordinary activists, fighters, and people.

Carsten, currently practicing orthopedic physical therapy at University Hospitals Landerbrook Health Center in Cleveland, OH, was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson’s Disease in 2003. Although more than one million Americans have Parkinson’s, unlike Carsten, most are diagnosed after the age of 60. Carsten, now 36 and an avid outdoorsman, was forced to give up scuba-diving, one of his favorite activities, due to Parkinson’s-related tremors. But what might be considered by many to be a crushing blow, he saw as an opportunity. He turned his attention to motorcycling and quickly fell in love with the sport.

This past June, Carsten set off on a cross-country motorcycle trek to raise funds for the Michael J. Fox Foundation and awareness for Parkinson’s. The trip through 24 states and 28 major cities lasted for 30 days and raised over $11,000. Along the way, Carsten, the father of five-year-old Molly, was welcomed warmly by people who had read of his mission in local newspapers or via a blog on his website (www.rideagainstparkinsons.com) or saw clips of his cycling on sites such as YouTube.

In Sandston, Virginia, he received a flag with an outline of the state signed by dozens of supporters. “I was a bit overwhelmed by the amount of support coming from these people that had just met me but been following my progress along on my blog,” says Carsten. “I’m beginning to believe that I did make a difference by doing the trip and that I have touched many lives as they have touched mine.” He was especially touched by a “fellow...
FROM THE CHAIR
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that licensed physical therapists can obtain advanced orthopedic knowledge and clinical skills, is part of the America Physical Therapy Association’s 2020 vision plan which stresses the increasing need of residency/fellowship education within a doctoring profession.

This is the first program of its kind in the NY/NJ/CT tri-state area. It will include a didactic component consisting of six courses at a total of 240 contact hours and a clinical component consisting of 3 internship experiences requiring 1596-1700 hours (including patient care, OCS mentorship, case presentations, teaching assistance, and physician contact hours). Courses, which will be available throughout the year in summer, fall, and spring (weekends and weekdays), will focus on advanced anatomy, physiology, pathology, and examination and intervention skills of the musculoskeletal system as well as evidence-based orthopedic physical therapy. Students can complete this program in 12 months. Upon graduation, therapists will be able to provide specialized care for this patient population and will be eligible to sit for the clinical specialist exam in orthopedic physical therapy offered by the American Physical Therapy Association.

Our new Clinical Residency Program in Orthopedic Physical Therapy is another example of how our Department remains at the forefront of physical therapy education, and we welcome all of our esteemed alumni to further their education here at NYU.

I would also like to take this time to congratulate and thank Dr. Andrew McDonough on his retirement after more than thirty years of inspiring teaching. We wish him and his wife, Nancy, all our best.

— Wen Ling, PT, PhD
Chair

1945 Faith (Lewis) Mayfarth mentions that the NYU website prompted her son, from whom she hadn’t heard in over two years, to call her! She is also thrilled that her granddaughter has decided to work towards becoming a physical therapist!

1957 Though retired, Gertrude (Hirsch) Schwarz (Jamaica, NY) continues to volunteer in both a local nursing home and civic organization. She spends her leisure time traveling, attending concerts, gardening, and visiting her children and grandchildren in MA and CA.

1957 Along with his private practice, Feraydoon (Fred) Khani (Hollywood, FL) is on the Admissions Committee for NOVA Southeastern Osteopathic Medical School in Wilton Manors, FL.

1969 Susan (Duckrow) Ryerson (Washington, DC), a recipient of the 2008 Henry O. & Florence P. Kendall Practice Award from the APTA, continues to own a private practice that focuses on adult neurological rehabilitation. She is also a research associate at the National Rehabilitation Hospital and a consultant to more than 200 physical therapy departments and practices.

1974 Jean (Dukker) Davis (West Hills, CA) is the Program Director for the in-development Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Concorde Career College in North Hollywood, CA. She is also a GLAD Assembly Representative for the APTA’s California State Chapter.

1977 Claudia Hix (Moosop, CT) practices clinical occupational medicine and always reads NYU PT happenings with interest. She and her partner, Rick, love spending time with their two dogs.

1978 Janice (Edelstein) Olshever (New York, NY) works with the New York City Board of Education in early intervention cases.

1980 Sharon (Gonzenbach) Cristofalo (Doylestown, PA), who followed up her BS degree from NYU with an MA degree in Pathokinesiology in 1986, does part-time orthopedic and neurological private practice. She is also a Reiki Master and Teacher, an Integrated Energy Therapy Practitioner, and a 3-in-1 Concepts One Brain Kinesiology Consultant Facilitator.

1985 John Geiselmann (Massapequa Park, NY) is a Home Care Case Manager who takes a holistic approach to patient care, incorporates yoga techniques with sound rehabilitation principles to maximize patient well being. South Nassau Home Care selected John as “Employer of Quarter” in 2007.

1986 Amy (Levinson) Kalb (Monmouth Junction, NJ) is the center manager of a small Kessler satellite. In addition, though she no longer treats animals, “Pet PT”, a small animal physical therapy practice she helped create, continues to flourish. Amy’s husband, Elliott aka “Mr. Stats,” recently published his fourth book entitled The 25 Greatest Sports Conspiracy Theories.

1988 David Bertone (Freehold, NJ) was recently elected Vice President of the NJ Society of Independent Physical Therapists (NJSIPT) and is the current host of “You and Your Health,” a monthly cable television talk show.

1990 Roger Rudzinski (Bayonne, NJ) is the Chair of Home Care for SIG of the APTA’s NJ Chapter and is pursuing his DPT at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Roger also promoted the 2007 NJ State Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship and on Sept. 21, 2007, was inducted into the American Okinawan Karate Association’s Hall of Fame.
Alumni Spotlight: Two Alums Tackle Adversity

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parkie” who wore “a T-shirt saying ‘Shaky’ and his wife had one saying ‘I’m with shaky.’ Even their baby girl had one with a wavy stick figure saying ‘That’s because my daddy has Parkinson’s.’”

The trip also gave Carsten the chance to meet with numerous members of Parkinson’s associations and support groups. In Denver, Colorado, he met a member of the Parkinson’s Association of the Rockies and learned of their programs and how they assist local people with PD as well as their caregivers. In Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he met with a fellow “parkie” and her support group, toured their community Wellness Center, and did an interview with a local radio station.

Near the end of an adventure that included brilliant scenery, throngs of cheerleaders, and at times some brutal weather (“Hypothermia is not good for the Parkinson’s symptoms,” he mused in one blog entry), Carsten even swung by alma mater and met with supporters by the famed arch in Washington Square Park.

“All in all,” says Carsten, “I feel good and I think I have accomplished everything I set out to do.”

Like Carsten, Laura Kasych decided to fight back and raise funds and awareness upon being diagnosed with a currently incurable disease. At the end of 2007, Laura, who lives outside Baltimore with husband Kevin, daughter Isabelle, and son KJ, received word that she has Lupus, a diagnosis that had been looming since Isabelle’s birth in 2005. Lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease affects 1.5 million Americans, and 9 out of 10 are women.

After graduating from NYU, Laura moved out to California with her husband and began working with the pediatric population, mainly early intervention and some preschool children. She was also involved in starting a much needed “Mommy and Me” program and worked with several county agencies giving lectures and educating their employees about physical therapy, a time she considers her “most challenging and rewarding PT experience.”

In 2005 the Kasych family moved to Maryland where Laura began contracting her services out to Baltimore-area infants and toddlers programs. But after being diagnosed, she decided to leave her position to spend more time with her family, take care of her health, and raise awareness and funds for Lupus.

Recently Laura raised money for The Alliance for Lupus Research (www.lupusresearch.org), where 100% of the proceeds go to research, and the Lupus Foundation of America (www.lupus.org), a site she turned to for information and support that has helped strengthen her resolve. “I’m angry sometimes,” she says, “sad that I can’t always be the mom that I want to be, scared that there is no cure, hopeful that there will be a cure, determined to beat this thing, motivated by all the love and support I am receiving, and thankful that I have the strength to fight this.”

Carsten and Laura will always be linked by the NYU DPT Program. Linking them even further is not their respective diseases, but the strength and character with which they have tackled adversity. With people like Carsten and Laura out there, there is no doubt that we will one day find cures for diseases like Parkinson’s and Lupus.

Physical Therapy Students Lend Caring Hand (and Exercise Routine) to the Elderly

Each week, Lindsey Viens, class of 2008, visits 92-year-old Dominick Danzo in his Manhattan apartment for an exercise session aimed at maintaining his balance, strength, and coordination. Danzo walks with a cane, so therapist and client work on weight shifting and muscle strengthening exercises designed to prevent falls.

Viens is one of 10 students who, for the last three years, have volunteered their services to The Caring Community, a non-profit organization established to assist and empower the senior citizens of Greenwich Village. The relationship between student and client is rewarding for both. “Not only do I get to help someone in need, I have the opportunity to practice what I’ve learned in the classroom and get experience teaching exercises and working with clients,” says Viens. Clients receive activities necessary to keep them fit and thriving, and get the added psychological boost of weekly contact with an NYU student and caring professional.

Marilyn Moffat, professor of physical therapy and author of Age Defying Fitness: Making the Most of Your Body for the Rest of Your Life created the community outreach program. “Aging doesn’t have to be a downhill slide,” says Moffat. “We’ve come to the realization that an awful lot of what we see with the aging process can be deterred, prevented, or altered. The message is exercise, exercise, exercise.”

Originally printed in the Spring 2008 NYU Steinhardt Newsletter
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To the Class of 2008

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The Class of 2008 with department faculty

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For Excellence in Academic and Clinical Performance

Courtney Valentine Jones Maytal Zlicha

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For Outstanding Service to the School, Department, Faculty and Student Body

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The Department Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

Professor Louis N. Iannuzzi. PT, CPED, received his BS in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in 1978 followed by his BS/Certificate in Physical Therapy from New York University in 1980. Amongst his many professional accomplishments, Professor Iannuzzi, a board certified pedorthist, spent 21 years as the Chief Physical Therapist of the NY Regional Ambulatory Hansen’s Disease Program and acted as a Clinical Consultant for Staten Island University Hospital’s Diabetes Treatment Center and Bellevue Hospital’s Center’s Department of Dermatology. He also spent 26 years as a Commissioned Officer with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), retiring in early 2006 with the rank of Captain after an extended deployment at the Hurricane Katrina and Rita disaster zones in Louisiana and Mississippi.

A former adjunct professor at NYU, Professor Iannuzzi is thrilled to be joining the NYU PT Faculty full-time. “NYU is the pinnacle of the physical therapy universe,” he says. “I have the privilege of working along side three of my own distinguished professors, Dr. Marilyn Moffat, Dr. Ann Goerdt, and Dr. Tsega Mehretab, and until last year, Dr. Andrew McDonough.”

When not lecturing on wound care, pathomechanics, electromyography, and bioelectronics, or treating Hansen’s disease (leprosy), diabetes, venous disease, and pressure ulcers, Professor Iannuzzi is a botany and horticulture enthusiast. Between classes, students can often find him maintaining the Department’s ever-growing “greenhouse” (aka lobby) and rehabilitating ailing plants. “Plants are just like people,” he says. “Each one needs a specific therapeutic technique and a lot of care.”

Below, new Department of Physical Therapy faculty member, Dr. Smita Rao, tells us about her research, accomplishments, and exciting future at NYU:

As a physical therapist and scientist, I am honored and delighted to join the distinguished faculty at the Department of Physical Therapy at New York University. I earned a Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy) and a Master of Science (Orthopedic Physiotherapy) at the University of Mumbai, India, followed by an academic doctorate at the University of Iowa in Physical Rehabilitation Science where I was mentored by the esteemed H. John Yack, PT, PhD and Charles Saltzman, MD. My dissertation examined foot and ankle changes in patients with diabetes. Most recently, I completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship funded by the Arthritis Foundation at Ithaca College’s Movement Analysis Lab in Rochester, NY, where I was mentored by Deborah Nawoczenski, PT, PhD, and Judith Baumhauer, MD, two exceptional clinicians, scientists, teachers and team-builders. It was the combination of outstanding role-models, a tradition of excellence in clinical biomechanics, and enduring commitment to evidence-based practice that drew me to the Department of Physical Therapy at NYU. I look forward to helping students learn about the intricacies of musculoskeletal examination and intervention, while exploring the incredible potential and rich resources that this position offers my own research into enhancing non-operative treatment of patients with foot problems such as diabetes and arthritis with the long-term goal of improving their quality-of-life.

Smita Rao

Farmer Lou’s Gardening Tip

“Plants tend to dry out more rapidly in the winter, as the ambient humidity is considerably less causing your plants to suffer. Remember, if your lips get chapped, your plants are at risk for low humidity, too!”

Farmer Lou
MARILYN MOFFAT ADVANCES THE PROFESSION AROUND THE WORLD

“Age-Defying Fitness: Making the Most of Your Body for the Rest of Your Life” – Canyon Ranch, Lenox MA, January 25-26, 2008


“Age-Defying Fitness” – Colony Club, New York, NY, May 8, 2008

“Age-Defying Fitness” – Older Women’s League, New York, NY, May 14, 2008


“Exercise Throughout Life” and “Exercise in Presence of Disease” – Reach MD X-M, one-fifty-seven (The Channel for Medical Professionals)” June 24, 2008


Marilyn Moffat traveled the globe this past academic year advancing the physical therapy profession. Below are highlights from her busy schedule.

**PRESENTATIONS**

“Age-Defying Fitness: Making the Most of Your Body for the Rest of Your Life” – Canyon Ranch, Lenox MA, January 25-26, 2008

“I managed to get a little R & R at the fabulous Canyon Ranch.”

“Activity: The Antidote To Aging” – 92nd Street Y, New York NY, April 6, 2008


“Age-Defying Fitness” – Colony Club, New York, NY, May 8, 2008

“I met with the Minister of Health and key medical personnel to assist their members in obtaining appropriate physical therapy recognition.”

“Not only did I take part in the 40th anniversary meeting of the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of the Nordic Countries, I lucked into having absolutely fantastic weather and actually stayed in a renovated prison turned hotel!”

FINLAND, APRIL 2008

FINLAND, APRIL 2008
ISRAEL, MAY 2008 – “I had the opportunity to meet with government officials to bring the WCPT’s support to the Israeli Association for the passage of their practice act.”

NIGERIA, AUGUST 2008 – “The banquet celebration pictured here was the culmination of a week of education and fellowship in Abuja with representatives from the Africa Region of the WCPT.”

Barbados, April 2008 – “I did a course for the North America Caribbean Region of the WCPT, attended their business meeting, and also met with local government officials and heads of hospital and rehabilitation facilities.”


CONTRIBUTED TO/CITED IN:

West Side Spirit News You Live By – “Stepping Up to the Barre” – November 1, 2007
Our Town East Side – “Stepping Up to the Barre” – November 1, 2007
The Westsider – “Stepping Up to the Barre” – November 1, 2007
Popular Science – Cracking Joints Query – March 2008
New York Magazine – “You Name It, and Exercise Helps It” – April 29, 2008 – Jane Brody’s column Science Section
Consumer Reports on Health – “How to stay fit, come what may” – May 2008

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

“Physical Therapists as Exercise Experts with the Aging Population” – Private Practice Section APTA – San Diego CA – November 10, 2007 (with Dale Avers)
“Physical Therapists as Exercise Experts for the Aging Population: Evidence-based Assessment and Exercise Prescription” – Section on Geriatrics APTA – New York University, New York NY - November 30- December 1, 2007 (with Dale Avers and Karen Kemmis)
“Age-related Changes and Functional Testing of Older Adults” – Staff Training Canyon Ranch – Lenox MA – January 25, 2008
“Physical Therapists as Exercise Experts for Aging Adults: Evidence-based Examination and Exercise Prescription” – North American/Caribbean Region World Confederation for Physical Therapy and Barbados Physiotherapy Association – Barbados, West Indies – April 25, 2008
“Physical Therapists as Exercise Experts for Aging Adults: Evidence-based Examination and Exercise Prescription” – Israeli Physiotherapy Association – Tel Aviv, Israel – May 27, 2008
“Physical Therapists as Exercise Experts for Aging Adults: Evidence-based Examination and Exercise Prescription” – African Region Meeting of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy – Abuja Nigeria – August 20, 2008
“Building Bone Health Into Your Practice: Osteoporosis Functional Examination and Exercise Interventions” – Private Practice Section, APTA – Orlando FL – November 2008 (with Karen Kemmis)

MEETINGS

European Region Meeting of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy – Athens Greece – May 21-24, 2008

Greece, May 2008 – “Over 30 member organizations of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy came together to discuss areas of concern in education, practice, and research.”

First Inter-professional and International Conference on the Regulation of Health Professionals – Geneva Switzerland – May 19, 2008

AWARDS

2008 Section on Geriatrics President’s Award
State of Israel Minister of Tourism Certificate of Appreciation
Honorary Membership in the Israeli Physiotherapy Society

PUBLICATIONS

Moffat M. The hidden causes of most deadly falls. BottomLine Health. 2008;22(5);3-5.
1991 Paula Haberman (Astoria, NY) does private acupuncture practice at Westside Dance Physical Therapy and Beyond Basics Physical Therapy in New York City. She recently joined the faculty of the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine where she teaches “Treatment of Orthopedic Disorders” to acupuncture students. | Lynn Marro (Stony Point, NY) manages three orthopedic practices and is an Orthopedic Certified Specialist. She is also pursuing her DPT.

1994 Elizabeth Crawford (Sunnyside, NY) works as a school-based physical therapist and has an early intervention private practice. She is currently pursuing her DPT at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is due to graduate in 2009 with the plan to focus on pediatrics. | Judith Deutsch (Millburn, NJ), a 2008 recipient of the APTA’s Lucy Blair Service Award, is an Associate Professor at UMDNJ’s School of Health Related Professions and Director of the University’s Virtual Environments and Rehabilitation Sciences Lab. She is also the Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy and an Associate Editor for the Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation.

2001 Phil Caraher (Chapel Hill, NC) does contract work for home health agencies throughout the Chapel Hill area. He is also studying for his GCS. | Meryl (Horowitz) Cohen (New York, NY) and husband, Andrew, welcomed baby Spencer Ross Cohen in early 2008.

2002 Liron Bensimon (Springfield, NJ) says he doesn’t have much to report except that he and Rachel were married last year. The PT Dept would like Liron to know that that’s pretty big news! Congrats! | Three years after Denise Jagroo (Staten Island, NY) was certified in Manual Therapy from the University of St. Augustine, she finds herself in the process of getting her CAPP (Certification of Achievement in Pelvic Physical Therapy) through the Women’s Health Section of the APTA. Once certified, she plans to start a women’s health rehab clinic at the VA Hospital in New York City where she currently works. | Philip Lombardo (Hackensack, NJ) is a Team Leader at Churchill Orthopedic Rehabilitation (bringing Vision 2020 to today) and practices outpatient orthopedic, sports, and neurologic physical therapy with the community, college, and high school athletic populations. In 2007, Phil received his SCS (the youngest ever from NYU) and had his article, “Direct Access—The Best Kept Secret,” published in the Professional Case Management Journal’s May/June edition. He has also lectured Columbia University nursing students and local medical offices and high school students about physical therapy, body mechanics, assistive devices, and orthopedics. Somehow, Phil found the time to get married in May 2008. | Grace (Lee) Tang (New York, NY) seems to be an NYU lifer, as she practices outpatient orthopedic physical therapy at the NYU Student Health Center. Grace married in October 2007, and by the time you read this, she and her husband, Jong, will have welcomed their first child, a baby boy.

2003 Roseanne Cruz (New York, NY) works at Beyond Basics Physical Therapy, a private practice located in Times Square. She is also working towards a certification in Lymph Drainage Therapy. | When she’s not working as a Supervisor of Physical Therapy for the NYC Board of Education, Lisa Hopson (Brooklyn, NY) enjoys spending time with her nieces, Blonshe and Angelique. | Anna (Schmulenson) Len (Brooklyn, NY) practices in a pediatric private practice specializing in sensory integration as well as with the William O’Connor Preschool in Bay Ridge. Anna continues to give back to her alma mater through numerous guest lectures and through participation in the NYU Department of Physical Therapy Master Clinician Program. | After passing the “long and difficult” Diploma Program in McKenzie’s Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy (MDT), Yoav Suprun (Miami Beach, FL) opened SoBe Spine, a physical therapy clinic specializing in MDT for the spine and extremities, in Miami Beach. He also treats males with pelvic floor dysfunction based on the “Stanford Protocol” from Dr. David Wise. | Ximena Zambrano (New Hyde Park, NY) continues to work in the New York City Department of Education while also seeing home care patients. In May 2008, Ximena and her husband welcomed Sarah, a new little sister for two-year-old son, Gabriel.

2004 Recently, Gloria Armstrong (now of London, England), adventurer and world traveler, has spent time in Fiji, Ireland, France, England, Costa Rica, Panama, Canada, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Minneapolis, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, and more. She just secured a five-year renewable work visa for the UK and got her physiotherapy licensure squared away, so by the time you get this newsletter, she’ll hopefully have found a job! Gloria also found time during her travels to attend a number of her fellow DPT Class of ’04 graduates’ 2008 weddings. | Tying the knot this year were Ryan Dashel (Morganville, NJ), Tejal Patel (Jersey City, NJ), and Lynda Resurreccion (Belle Harbor, NY), who wed long-time significant other, Michael Sala (Class of ’97/’04) in Orlando, FL. | Meanwhile, a wedding is in the works for Susan Schultz (Wantagh, NY), a Senior Physical Therapist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, who recently got engaged to fiancé, Bryan.

2005 Maya Caspi (New York, NY) has been practicing at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City since June 2006. She recently traveled to Ghana with the Foundation for Orthopedics and Complex Spine (FOCOS) where she treated patients recovering from major spinal surgery. | Martha Walker (Baltimore, MD), who works at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, is thrilled to announce that she bought her first house!

2006 Celia Crespo (Fords, NJ) had a very exciting year. In addition to traveling to Portugal to visit with family, she recently left Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation to work at an orthopedic facility in Sayreville, NJ, and in April, she married her now husband, KJ. Griepentrog. | Jeremy Crow (New York, NY) has a private outpatient practice and specializes in the lower extremities, particularly the hip. Jeremy spoke at the 2008 APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Nashville, TN, for the APTA’s Sports Section’s Complicated Patient Section.

2007 Elaine Borja-Jaffe (Jersey City, NJ) currently works at Professional Orthopedics in New York City. She and her husband, Lorne, whom she met at the NYU Dept. of PT, will soon celebrate their two-year wedding anniversary. | Joe Cicone (Port Chester, NY) works at Columbia Orthopaedics Sports Therapy in Manhattan. | In addition to recently marrying her now husband, John, Nancy Phelps Brauer (Brooklyn, NY) is in the planning stages of moving to Minnesota.
The Physical Therapy Recruitment Fair held on April 13, 2008, was an outstanding success! The first of an annual event, recruiters were very pleased with the caliber of students in attendance. The event provided clinical sites a cost-effective opportunity to share information about their facilities. All promised to be back next year.

The event was hosted by New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, Department of Physical Therapy in conjunction with the NY/NJ Physical Therapy Clinical Education Consortium.

It was attended by 120 students from various schools, 48 Clinics, Hospitals, and Private Practice PT facilities.

Students represented from various colleges were:
College of Staten Island
Columbia University
Dominican College
D’Youville College
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Hunter College
Ithaca College
LaGuardia Community College
Long Island University
Mercy College
New York Medical College
Northwestern University
New York University
Seton Hall University
University of Pittsburgh

JFK Medical Center - JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation
and Kessler Rehabilitation Centers
Life Care Centers of America
Matheny Medical and Education Center, Peapack, NJ
Montefiore Medical Center
Norwalk Hospital
Norwalk Rehabilitation
NovaCare Rehabilitation
NY Presbyterian Hospital
NYU Medical Center
Palisades Medical Center
PeopleFirst Rehabilitation
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
Physiotherapy Associates
Preferred Therapy Solutions
PRO Physical Therapy
Professional Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy
REHAB ALTERNATIVES, PLLC
RI Rehabilitation & Back On Track PT
SPORTSCARE INSTITUTE
St. Barnabas Medical Center
St. Joseph’s Healthcare System, Inc.
St. Joseph’s Medical Center
SunDance Rehabilitation
The Nicholas Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma
(NISMAT)
Therapy Professionals, Inc.
Visiting Nurse Service of NY
YAI/New York League for Early Learning
YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH
(Bridgeport Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital)

A sample of comments from recruiters in attendance:

Todd Bzdewka, Mentor Services Physical Therapy Coordinator, Fox Rehabilitation, Geriatric Therapy at Home

“The recruitment fair was very good. Probably one of the best I have attended. PT students attended from a number of different schools and I even was able to speak to some alumni looking for a change of jobs. Overall I think it was a great success and look forward to attending on a yearly basis. If I can be of any other assistance please let me know. Thanks again.”

Michele Joiner, Recruitment Manager, Sundance Rehabilitation

“Your career fair was great. The students were well prepared, most had resumes ready. I look forward to attending next year’s event”.

Carol Lewis, Professional Recruiter, JFK Medical Center – JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

“It was a terrific event, I attend many recruitment events and it was evident that there was a lot of attention to this fair. We had about 25 PTs come to our table and we were very pleased. Thank you for a terrific event”.

Jean M. Benson, Director of Human Resources, IVYREHAB Network, Inc.

“We thought it was a great event. A lot of students came to our booth and left their resumes and/or email addresses. Thank you for hosting the event and please keep us on your mailing list”.

The 2009 Physical Therapy Recruitment Fair will be held on Sunday, April 19th. For further information on this event, please see the back cover of the newsletter.
Remembering Theodore “Ted” Corbitt

MASTER TEACHER: THE SILENT BRAHMIN | 1919 – 2007

“The Silent Brahmin” is the name given to Ted Corbitt by the late international spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy. The Brahmins are the philosophers of India. The name refers to the peace and wisdom Sri Chinmoy saw radiating from this quiet champion of the running world.

My father died a month shy of his 89th birthday. In his 88th year he was still treating patients. On some days my father would see four patients a day using public transportation in New York City. I want to share some remembrances from people he touched in his physical therapy work. He began his legendary 44 year career at The Institute for The Crippled and Disabled in 1949. Ted received a certificate in Physical Therapy in 1947 and his Masters Degree in 1950 from New York University. He was a member of the American Physical Therapy Association since 1947. Ted taught for over 25 years at Columbia University and several years at NYU. The courses taught included; Progressive Resistive Exercise, Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation Technique (PNF), Connective Tissue Massage, and Guthrie-Smith Apparatus.

In my father’s latter years he mentored Jack Mantione. Here are Jack’s poetic words about his teacher:

“A master is an honorary title given by the people, Originating deep within the soul, Shining bright for all to see, If you were blessed to cross Ted’s path, Then you can’t help but smile like me, His secrets, Stay humble, Keep an open mind, Just Be.”

—Jack Mantione PT, DPT, CSCS

My father was also beloved and highly respected by his patients as shown in the words of Martha Morrongiello:

Lisa, my daughter became acquainted with Ted Corbitt at his 80th birthday celebration at the New York Road Runners Club. Lisa was associated with the Achilles Track Club. She asked Ted if he would help with her knees, which had been injured many years before. He came to our house on public transportation, probably a two hour trip, and worked with her for 4 hours making observations and giving suggestions. Then Lisa said “now I give you money right?” Ted said, “No money. My reward comes when you pass this knowledge on to somebody else.” I knew we had an angel in our house.

In 1989 The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University nominated my father for the Signe Brunnstrom Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching. Although he didn’t win, the nomination was just one of many acknowledgements my father received from his peers. Colleague and former Chair of the NYU Department of Physical Therapy, Arthur J. Nelson, remembers Ted Corbitt thusly:

To watch Ted Corbitt when he is treating a patient and demonstrating a clinical approach is an aesthetic experience as he moves with such grace and ease. He is the most important illustration of a selfless servant of the disabled through direct hands on therapy that has also been transmitted to countless number of clinical therapists throughout the United States.

Likewise, Professor Bernadette Hecox, my father’s former student and colleague at Columbia University recalls:

He was such a good teacher! Students from other P.T. programs told me that they had asked for the I.C.D. affiliation because they had heard that ‘you can really learn so much from Mr. Corbitt’ and indeed you could. He would spend hours with us, first teaching and letting us practice many techniques on fellow students, and later letting us use those techniques in treatments. He also spent many hours in open discussion with us about the many approaches to treating patients. How he found so much time to give to students, I’ll never know.

Ted Corbitt was many things to many different people — hero, sage, groundbreaker, healer — and he was certainly all of that to me, but most importantly, he was my father.

—Gary Corbitt
September 23, 2008

Gary Corbitt is building a database of former students and patients to learn and document the many stories about Mr. Corbitt in hopes to advance the physical therapy profession and inspire the next generation of therapists by persevering his father’s legacy.

If you would to contribute photographs, articles, personal statements, etc., about Mr. Corbitt, please submit materials to:

Ted Corbitt Archives
P.O. Box 23132
Jacksonville, FL 32241
corbittg@comcast.net

In Memoriam

Theresa Llewellyn-Colon, DPT ‘03

The NYU Department of Physical Therapy was saddened to learn of the passing of Theresa Llewellyn-Colon on April 10, 2008 at the too-young age of 29 after a short battle with lymphoma. Theresa, a member of the Doctor of Physical Therapy class of 2003, was born in Kingston, Jamaica and moved with her family to New York when she was 12.

Theresa decided to become a physical therapist after volunteering in a Bronx-area nursing home. “I saw how great the patients felt when they were able to do something as simple as taking five steps, almost as if it were for the first time,” she wrote. “It was so incredible to see them doing everyday things that people take for granted.”

In 2001, Theresa, who considered New York University the “school of [my] dreams,” was accepted into the DPT program. “She was an exceptional student,” remembers Dr. Marilyn Moffat. “She had a natural feel for physical therapy. You knew she would be a great success.”

After graduation, Theresa was employed at United Cerebral Palsy in the Bronx, NY, Holy Name Hospital in Englewood, NJ, and the McCall School in Somerset, NJ.

She is survived by her husband, Francisco Antonio Colon, and children, Felicity, Asani, and Leah.
The Year in Pictures

Morning News Shows
To celebrate October 2008 as National Physical Therapy Month, NYU professors and DPT students visited ABC, NBC and CBS morning news shows to raise awareness for the field they love.

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
NYU DPT students volunteer at the 2008 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer held October 5, 2008 in New York City.

A Letter to NYU Physical Therapy Students from Anne Giblin, P.T., Saint Barnabas Medical Center
I wanted to extend a huge THANK YOU to each of you for participating as Volunteers in the New York Avon Breast Cancer Walk 2008. This was the biggest Avon walk in history, with more than 4,500 walkers. The walk raised more than $11.5 million for distribution among various grants in the fight against Breast Cancer. We treated in excess of 350 walkers. The Physical Therapy tent has been privileged to get NYU PT volunteers for the past three years. Despite your very busy schedules, you made time to come to this event. Your willingness to give of your time, energy and knowledge was so greatly appreciated by the other crew members and the walkers. I sincerely hope that each of you enjoyed this event and were able to learn something at the event. I am very proud of the hard work and care the Physical Therapy Tent provided to the walkers during this event. THANK YOU again!
Become a Master Clinician and Clinical Affiliate!

We are looking for interested clinicians and sites to serve as Master Clinicians and clinical affiliates. 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 Master Clinician or clinical affiliate, 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 our Director of Clinical Education, Elaine Becker, PT, DPT, PCS, at 212 998 9407 or e-mail at eb2@nyu.edu to request more information.


- Prepare to sit for the clinical specialist exam offered by the American Physical Therapy Association
- Obtain advanced orthopedic knowledge and clinical skills at a top-ranked research university
- Learn about the latest developments in evidence-based orthopedic physical therapy
- Study with board-certified clinical specialists and physicians
- Complete the advanced certificate program in 12 months

Pursue your goals. Be the future. Be NYU Steinhardt.
Visit www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/ortho-pt2009 or call 212 998 5413.

2009 ANNUAL PHYSICAL THERAPY RECRUITMENT FAIR

April 19, 2009 (Sunday)
New York University
Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center, 10th Floor
60 Washington Square South

A unique opportunity for health care professionals to meet with members of the health care industry!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Health care organizations
Health care administrators
Health care representatives
Physical therapy students
Practicing physical therapists interested in relocation or opportunities for upward mobility

Exhibitors must register. For pricing information, please contact Anne Seaton at 212 998 9414 or write to mas2@nyu.edu

Registration deadline: March 6, 2009. Space is limited. Registration after this date will be accepted on a space available basis.

An Endowed Chair Honoring a Leader in Physical Therapy

To honor the extraordinary lifetime contributions of Physical Therapy Professor Marilyn Moffat, the Steinhardt School is raising $2 million to endow a chair in her name. The endowment will ensure funding in perpetuity for an outstanding professor to teach physical therapy at NYU. Many friends, patients, and students of Professor Moffat’s have made generous contributions, totaling $684,400 to date.

For more information about The Campaign for the Marilyn Moffat Chair in Physical Therapy, please contact Dr. Wen Ling at 212 998 9415 or write to wkl1@nyu.edu

2008 NYU STEINHARDT DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Lorne Jaffe Writer/Editor
Anne Seaton Collaborator