



## MPTA School News

### Summer 2009 *Shorelines*

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#### Central Michigan University

Submitted by Elizabeth Mostrom, PT, PhD

As always, there has been a great deal of activity for the students and faculty of the Program in PT at CMU so far during 2009. Thirty-nine students in the DPT Class of 2009 graduated on May 9th and are now completing final preparation for their licensure examination. All are looking forward to their future careers as physical therapists – we welcome them to the profession! These graduates formally presented findings from their doctoral projects at our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Case Report Colloquium held on the CMU campus on May 8. This event was attended by many clinical and academic faculty as well as family and friends of the graduates; it was a great time for celebrating the scholarly activities and contributions of these future therapists.

Our students stay very busy with school, professional activities, community outreach and service. In April of this year, the PT Student Organization (PTSO) planned and sponsored a 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The event was a huge success thanks to the efforts of many PT students, local event sponsors, and the able leadership of event co-chairs, Kristin Bloomquist, SPT and Aleece Andersen, SPT. There were 132 participants and almost \$5,000.00 was raised for this worthy cause!!

Our students continue to provide service to the community through our pro-bono “Hands for Health” clinic. Hands for Health is an award winning, student run, faculty supervised clinic that provides physical therapy services for individuals in the community who do not have health insurance or who are under-insured.

In regard to other professional organization activities, numerous CMU students attended MPTA Student Conclave held in Lansing on March 20. Also in March, our PT students sponsored a fundraiser at a local eatery to raise funds for the Georgia State-Marquette Challenge. This is a nationwide challenge event to raise money for the Foundation for PT which supports physical therapy research and researchers. These efforts, spearheaded by Natalie Dacho, SPT, resulted in a \$500.00 donation to the Foundation.

Finally, we were also very pleased to learn that for the fourth year in a row, two CMU second year students had their consumer education brochure selected as a “Winner” in an annual contest sponsored by the APTA’s Section on Geriatrics. This year, Sally Engler, SPT and Molly Russell, SPT were selected from a field of 73 nationwide entries as winners for their brochure on “Healthy Eating for a Healthy You.” They will receive a year of complimentary membership in the Section and their brochure will be displayed on the Section website ([www.geriaticspt.org](http://www.geriaticspt.org)) and at APTA conferences. In addition, two

other students, Bill Salfai, SPT, ATC, and Robin Webster, SPT were recognized with an “Honorable Mention” for their brochure “Fall Prevention: Keeping You Safe in Your Home.” Congratulations to these individuals who join many CMU students who have been recognized as winners or with honorable mentions in this contest the past! Several of our faculty members (and graduate students) have also been recognized recently for their scholarly and service contributions. Dr. Peter Loubert, PT, PhD was selected as a recipient of the APTA’s 2009 Lucy Blair Service Award. This is the highest award given by APTA to recognize service “of exceptional value” to the Association. As all of you know, Peter is extremely deserving of this recognition for his many years of leadership and contribution at both the state and national levels in Association activities. Dr. Deb Silkwood-Sherer, PT, DHS, was inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Hall of Fame for her many years of service to that organization at the local, state and national level. Lastly, two members of our faculty and two of our graduate students have had papers selected for presentation at the bi-annual conference of the International Society for Posture and Gait Research to be held in Bologna, Italy in June of this year. Graduate assistant, Emily van de Water, SPT will present a paper co-authored by her and Dr. Ksenia Ustinova, PhD, entitled “The Effect of Additional Hand Contact on Postural Stability Perturbed by a Moving Environment in Patients After Stroke.” Dr. Ustinova will also present a paper, co-authored by herself, Dr. Jan Perkins, PT, PhD, and graduate student, Lisa Szostakowski, SPT, and other College of Health Professions colleagues entitled “The Effect of Visual Perception on Coordination of Posture and Arm Movement During Standing.” Congratulations to our students and faculty on all of these recognitions and accomplishments.