



MPTA School News

Summer 2009 *Shorelines*

Kellogg Community College

Submitted by BJ Simmons, PTA M.E.d.

The faculty of the physical therapist assistant program is proud to announce the two Outstanding Clinical Instructors of the Year for the 2008-2009 academic year. They are Teri Abnet, PTA, and Gregg Tharge, PTA.

Gregg Tharge, P.T.A., is employed at Physical Therapy Services of West Michigan in Kalamazoo, Michigan where he has been for two and a half years. He received his Associate of Applied Science degree in physical therapy from Kellogg Community College in 2005. Later this year he will receive certification as a “Certified Integrated Manual Therapist.” Mr. Tharge has been a clinical instructor for five previous students, and received high compliments each time. Within the clinical environment, he specializes in the area of sports medicine, assisting athletes to return to their respective sports. He also enjoys working with patients during vestibular rehabilitation. He is married to Eva, and has 4 children, Peyton, Kamery, Haylee, and Shane. He is active in softball and spends much of his time playing with his children.

Teri Abnet, PTA, is employed by Agility Physical Therapy and Sports Performance in Portage, Michigan. She earned her Associates of Applied Science degree in physical therapy in 2004. She is currently working toward her certification in manual therapy. She has also received “Recognition of Advanced Proficiency” from the American Physical Therapy Association. Ms. Abnet has supervised approximately four previous students from various institutions. Her interests within the field of physical therapy are centered on manual therapies to release tightness of structures as other interventions are performed. Teri Abnet is married to husband Chuck and has a son, Ashton, and a daughter, Averi. Her personal interests include running (she is currently preparing for a 10k race) and scrapbooking.

Gregg Tharge and Teri Abnet have each provided excellent learning opportunities to the physical therapist assistant students. Kellogg Community College’s PTA Program wishes to publicly acknowledge the time and effort that both of them have put into their role as Clinical Instructor. KCC would also like to thank Physical Therapy Services of West Michigan and Agility Physical Therapy and Sports Performance for allowing their employees to take part in the training of future clinicians in the field of physical therapy.

Other news on the Battle Creek campus is that 19 students are graduating from the PTA Program this year. They took part in clinical rotations from Angola, Indiana to St.

Joseph, Michigan to Paradise, California. They show excellent promise as clinicians, as members of the Chapter (state) and national components of the APTA, and as colleagues within the field.

Our first year students are beginning summer courses which include pediatrics, neurology, functional skills, pathology, and therapeutic exercise. They have a condensed semester, so there is plenty of activity that will take place throughout the semester including a four hour tour where they take wheelchairs into the community and have to complete the transfers, push independently through doors and up/down ramps, and look for physical barriers along the way. It is always an eye-opening experience for them.

The KCC faculty would also like to acknowledge Charles “Chuck” Middleton, and Lisa Middleton who have graciously agreed to help with teaching and checkoff responsibilities for late spring and summer semesters while faculty member Tracy Wood is off on maternity leave. Their assistance is very much appreciated.

At the time of this writing, the results of the PTA licensure legislation are not yet finalized, so MPTA has been doing a great job of preparing for all possible scenarios. On July 31, and August 1st KCC will be hosting one of the national examination preparation courses this summer. Be sure to register soon for the course through the MPTA office (800) 242-8131. If you are not on MPTA’s list (non-members as well) be sure to provide them an e-mail address to keep you updated regarding the progress of the legislation. Also be sure to keep track of proof of any continuing professional development you attend—it will probably be needed at some point in the licensure process. As noted in the legislative update by Mike Shoemaker, graduates of CAPTE-accredited programs will be asked to apply for a limited license before the end of the year if SB 151 passes and those who have graduated after January 1, 2008 MUST take the exam before the end of the year regardless of the outcome of SB 151.

Kellogg Community College faculty and graduates would like to publicly thank the MPTA for all it has done to get SB 151 in motion with the time constraints imposed by the November 27, 2007 Medicare rule changes. There could have been a severe impact on the ability of PTAs throughout Michigan to practice, so thank you for your tireless efforts

If you would like more information on the KCC PTA Program, please visit our web site at www.kellogg.edu/pta or contact the Program Coordinator, Julie Roberts at (269) 965-3931 extension 2270 or e-mail her at robertsj@kellogg.edu .