Fall 2016
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Reconnect with OHIO Physical Therapy

Connection Form
Please complete our OHIO PT Connection form by clicking here so that we can build a stronger alumni community!

New Facebook Group
Join our new Facebook group here, a place for students, faculty, and alumni to collaborate and share ideas, news and opportunities. Once you're a member, help others reconnect by inviting your classmates to join!

Annual Reunion
Plans are in the works for an annual fall reunion event in Athens. Be on the lookout for more announcements in the coming months.

Connect on Social Media:
Dr. James Thomas named Presidential Research Scholar

OHIO Physical Therapy is proud to announce that Professor James Thomas, PT, Ph.D., has been named a Presidential Research Scholar by the Ohio University Research Division. The Presidential Research Scholar award recognizes mid-career faculty members who have garnered national and international prominence in research, scholarship and creative activity.

Dr. Thomas’ work focuses on understanding how fear avoidance behavior affects motor behavior in low back pain sufferers. Dr. Thomas is currently principal investigator on two NIH funded projects examining the efficacy of classic and novel interventions for chronic low back pain and just received a $100,000 award from the NIH to examine sex-specific changes in trunk stiffness in response to the two of the most popular manual therapies for the treatment of LBP. Click here for more info.

Annual Fourplay! Quad Rugby Event Held

The 10th installment of the Fourplay! Buckeye Blitz Quad Rugby Tournament took place Saturday, Sept. 17. Students and faculty squared off against the Buckeye Blitz, a semi-pro Columbus, Ohio-based quadriplegic team, with all proceeds going to the Blitz.
Player Brett Harbage gave us his take on the impact of this event:

This has been a great fundraiser for the last few years, not only from a funding standpoint. We do benefit from the monies raised as we use it for equipment, tires, tubes, tournament fees and travel expenses. However, I think the more important side of this event is the exposure to wheelchair rugby and adaptive sports for the PT students early in their PT lives. This is a real life experience for the students, not only getting to meet the guys on the team, but to see that there are opportunities for people with various disabilities to still be competitive and live an active lifestyle after an injury or if they cannot compete in regular sports or recreation activities.

This exposure allows them, once they leave OHIO and go on to their PT careers, to maybe expose a patient they are treating to an adaptive sport that could really improve their lives. Physical therapists can play a critical role in patients' lives, not only by helping them to regain function and get them back to a regular life after an accident, but also to provide them with opportunities like exposing them to adaptive sports that will have a far greater impact than treatment in an inpatient or outpatient clinic. I think this event can be the starting point of that happening.

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**PT Day of Service**
Check out what our students & faculty did for PT Day of Service.
#OUDPThelpingathenscounty

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Class of 2018: Trail Clean-up at Strouds Run State Park

Class of 2019: RallyCap Sports – an
Class of 2017: Food & Clothing Drive benefiting My Sister's Place & the Athens County Food Pantry

OHIO PT Alumni Board Meeting
The Alumni Board met on campus on Oct. 14-15 for a meeting, mock interviews with the third-year students and a trail clean-up for PTDOS. Some topics discussed included an annual reunion event, the third-year students' career fair and recruiting regional representatives to set up social events in certain cities. Click here if you are interested in being on the Alumni Board.

Alumni Board & Faculty: Trail Clean-up at The Ridges

Some members of the Class of 2006 met on campus this month for a 10-year reunion.

Student Spotlight
Frank Baker, SPT Class of 2017
Current students from all three classes attended the APTA Leadership Development Conference in Columbus.

Students and faculty presented at the APTA Scientific Symposium this month, which focused on gait.

Scholarship Fund Donations
Click here for instructions on how to donate

First-year student Frank Baker was selected as a candidate for vice president of the APTA Student Assembly Board of Directors. Frank was nominated for the position, submitted an application, and was selected from among thousands of other candidates after an interview process.

Frank's experience with the APTA includes serving as the APTA Student Assembly Core Ambassador of Ohio, a current APTA Brand Champion, and the Flash Action Strategy representative for OHIO PT. He traveled to Miami, Florida to represent OHIO PT at the National Student Conclave October 27-29.

Botswana Rehabilitation Study Abroad

Kyle O'Donnell, Class of 2017 SPT, recently returned from an annual Global Health Initiative service trip to Botswana. Kyle shared some of his experiences with us:

Q: What is the purpose of the trip?
A: Our main focus was to use inter-
1. Cynthia Norkin Scholarship (Service and Leadership)
2. Joy Boyd Memorial Scholarship (Academic Merit and Professionalism)
3. Southpaw Enterprises Scholarship (Pediatrics)
4. Carole J. Marchal Scholarship (Pediatrics)
5. Po Hickenbottom Scholarship (Pediatrics)
6. OUTA Steve Trotta Scholarship (SE Ohio Resident/Nontraditional Student)
7. Trotta, Haste, Schulman Scholarship (Faculty Choice)
8. PT Student Support Fund (Student Research Projects)
9. PT General Fund (Multipurpose)
10. Botswana Fund (Yearly Student Study Abroad Trip)

Botswana to help raise awareness of certain disorders, educate teachers/parents/clinicians on possible solutions for given patient presentations and to raise our own understanding of cultural competency in Botswana’s developing healthcare.

Q: What experience had the greatest impact on you?
A: At one of the unique-needs schools, I saw a seven-year-old in a wheelchair conquer the challenge of using a public bathroom. I watched the child – with no adult supervision – roll into the bathroom, safely get out of his chair onto the ground, slide across the ground using his hands over to the toilet, do toilet transfers safely and independently, slide back across the floor to his locked chair, get back up into the chair with only slight help from his friend, and roll out of the bathroom with no problem at all. I was shocked; I can’t imagine I would ever see a seven-year-old that independent and responsible in the United States.

Alumni Apparel

OHIO PT Alumni T-shirts are available for purchase through the Bobcat Store! View and purchase the black shirt here, and the heather gray shirt here.