Physical Therapy Program Receives Accreditation

On April 30, 2003, Mark Horacek, PhD, PT, Department Head of Physical Therapy was walking across the parking lot on the way to his office in the Physical Therapy Building when he received a telephone call. He flipped open his cellular phone and said, “Mark speaking.” The caller said, “This is Ellen Price, the Associate Director of PT Programs at the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).” At this point Dr. Horacek noticed a slight increase in his heart rate but soon recovered. Dr. Horacek was not surprised when he heard her next words: “I have some good news for you. SMSU’s Physical Therapy program has been accredited by CAPTE.” This was great news for the SMSU program, which was started from scratch by Dr. Horacek and the College of Health and Human Services in 1998. The term for this accreditation is five years, at which time documents will be submitted for renewal of accreditation.

For the Department of Physical Therapy, accreditation is the culmination of five years of hard work. Dr. Horacek and the departmental faculty worked very hard to establish a quality program. The self-study document was commended by the onsite review team during their visit to campus in January, 2003. Dr. Horacek believes that “The faculty and staff are among the best anywhere and we are thankful for the facilities, equipment, and support provided by CHHS and SMSU. Without the significant financial and administrative support of the university, we would not have been able to start this program successfully.”

About one-third of the time students are in this program, they are participating in clinical internships. Most of these internships are in the surrounding geographic area in clinics that have agreed to help train our students. The support of

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Physical Education Program Excels at the National Level

The self-study portfolio for the physical education program was submitted to the National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) in the Fall of 2001. It was fully accredited, meeting all nine standards on the first review in January 2002. In the NASPE accreditation process it is rare that a program does not have to file a rejoinder. As a result of our full compliance on the first submission, the program has been recognized nationally as a model for other programs to follow and was duly recognized at the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance national convention in San Diego, California in April 2002. Specifically, the

Continued on page 5

Flexibility Assessment
Standing (left to right) are Phillip Hodge and Jason Horne.
Sitting (left to right) Brent Thieman and Rory Henry.
Dr. Ann Powers, CSD Professor, Recipient of Sr. Mary Delaney Life Membership Award

Dr. Ann Powers, a professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, was presented with the Sr. Mary Delaney Life Membership Award at the annual conference of the Association of College Educators – Deaf and Hard of Hearing held in San Antonio, Texas in February, 2003. The recipient of the Sr. Mary Delaney Life Membership Award must be an active member of the association for 20 years or more. The award is given in recognition of teaching, research and service in the professional preparation of educators of children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing. The award is named for the late Sr. Mary Delaney who was the program chair of the teacher preparation program for educators of children who are deaf and hard of hearing at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Sr. Mary was a highly respected professional, who contributed greatly to the betterment of professional preparation of educators of children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing. She was a friend and a mentor to Dr. Powers, who was deeply honored to be the 2003 recipient of this award. Dr. Powers can be contacted at (417) 836-6347 or via email at arp862f@smsu.edu.

Correction and Update: Brian Aston

In the Spring/Summer 2002 issue of “Trends”, Brian Aston, a graduate of the Physician Assistant Studies program, was featured. Brian graduated from Marionville High School in 1990. As a Physician Assistant, he has the opportunity to see surgical rechecks (post-surgical patients) and surgical in-patients. He continues to practice as a Physician Assistant in Orthopedic Surgery at St. John’s with Richard Seagrave, MD. St. John’s Orthopedics recently merged into one group in the new St. John’s Surgery Center at National and Seminole, and things are busy. Brian reflects that more than eighteen months of experience has taught him that there is always so much more to learn. He continues to lecture for the Physician Assistant and Sports Medicine and Athletic Training programs at SMSU, in which he feels great satisfaction in giving back. Brian enjoys what he does and looks forward to new goals and challenges. His wife continues her pursuit of a Masters degree in accounting at SMSU and their children are happy, healthy and busy.
SMSU Centennial Celebration

Southwest Missouri State University will celebrate 100 years of service in 2005. To recognize the University’s contribution to the educational, social, and economic well-being of residents of southwest Missouri, the state, and beyond, the University will celebrate its Centennial from July 2004 through June 2005. Many individuals and groups have contributed to the growth and success of SMSU. A consistent trait of these individuals and groups, beginning with SMSU’s earliest days as the Fourth District Normal School, was their daring to excel.

Taking its cue from this trait, the Centennial Celebration Committee chose the theme “Daring to Excel” for the year-long celebration. Some of University events planned for the celebration include the Ozarks Celebration Festival taking place September 10-September 12, 2004, a Centennial Concert on September 26, 2004, 100 Years of Magical Milestones scheduled for October 22–October 23, 2004, a Centennial Exhibition planned February 18–March 13, 2005, the Founders’ Day Celebration starting March 17–March 19, 2005, the Centennial Gala and Art Auction on March 18, 2005, a Centennial Concert on March 19, 2005, and the Public Affairs Conference going on April 13, 2005–April 15, 2005.

The College of Health and Human Services will be joining in the celebration activities throughout the year. The CHHS Multidisciplinary Forum, scheduled for October 4, 2004, will focus on diabetes and will include a 100 year historical overview of the treatment of this disease. We are currently collecting information regarding the history of the departments and programs within the college to assist in the creation of a historical timeline, mural, and display case for the Professional Building. We will be interviewing several early graduates from programs within CHHS. Please contact Dr. Helen Reid at (417) 836-4176 or send an email to CollegeofHealthandHumanServices@smsu.edu if you have any pertinent information concerning the history of the departments and programs in CHHS, including pictures, or know of any early graduates who may be available for interviews.

Cell and Molecular Biology Undergraduate Awarded Research Fellowship

Kristan Hagan, majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology, was awarded a Summer 2003 Research Fellowship in the American Society for the Microbiology Minority Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. She had the opportunity to work and study at Emory University in Atlanta. She received a stipend, money for student lodging, travel expenses, and funding for research supplies. As part of the experience, she was able to submit an abstract to the American Society for Microbiology and will present her abstract at the ASM meeting in New Orleans this May.

Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Works on World Trade Center Forensic Project

Allison McClure, a 2002 BS in Cell and Molecular Biology graduate, is pursuing a PhD in Forensic Molecular Biology at George Washington University in Washington, DC. During her first year as a graduate student, Allison had an opportunity to work on the World Trade Center (WTC) project at the Bode Technology Group Forensic Laboratory in Springfield, Virginia. The Bode Laboratory is one of the major labs involved in the identification of victims of the WTC disaster. The goal of the project was to obtain DNA samples from some of the September 11th victim remains that did not initially provide DNA profiles usable for identification. Allison participated in drilling bones to retrieve samples of DNA and was involved in analysis of the samples.

Besides examining victims’ personal effects and relatives’ cheek swabs, bone samples from the remains can be examined and DNA extracted. The DNA samples can be amplified to increase the likelihood of identifying short tandem repeats (STRs), repeating sequences of DNA nucleotide bases such as AATG AATG AATG. Since the number of these STRs found on specific chromosomes is inherited, it is possible to match genetic samples from the bone DNA and relatives’ DNA.

As part of her graduate studies during the Fall 2003 semester, Allison is working in the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab in Rockville, Maryland, studying human chromosomal and mitochondrial DNA. Her course work includes advanced topics in molecular biology, physical aspects of forensic science, instrumental analysis, and forensic serology. Allison commented that “It wasn’t until I got in grad school that I fully appreciated the quality of the CMB program. It has given me such a good foundation to build on!”
On July 23, 2002 the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued the first patent to the SMSU Board of Governors resulting from the inventive work of SMSU faculty and their colleagues. The patent assigned for a “System and Method for Assessing Breathing and Vocal Tract Sound Production of a User” (U.S. Patent # 6,423,013 B1) was designed by Klaas Bakker, Richard N. Biagioni, Mary R. Byrne, Thomas A. Byrne, and Ronald W. Netsell. The system, also known as the Computer-Aided Training System for Speech Breathing (CATS-SB), is primarily a workstation for assessment, therapy and training of speech breathing coordination skills.

Klaas Bakker, Ph.D. and Ronald W. Netsell, Ph.D are professors of the Communication Sciences and Disorders in the SMSU College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Klaas Bakker is the coordinator of the development team. His research interests include development and testing of measurement systems for speech and fluency. Dr. Ronald W. Netsell’s research interests include speech and language functions in the brain and speech and voice disorders in children and adults.

The “System and Method for Assessing Breathing and Vocal Tract Sound Production of a User” can be used for the training of good speech breathing habits of a wide range of clinical populations including individuals with hearing impairments, speech-motor impairments, neurogenic communication disorders, voice disorders, and fluency disorders. The system is also adjustable for a variety of age groups. This system is an inexpensive tool for clinicians, that can be connected to portable laptop computers for convenience. The system provides feedback on speech and breathing that is specifically adjusted to the needs of speech language pathologists as well as trainers of speech for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The system consists of dual sensors and a signal processing unit. The first sensor detects speech related sounds produced by the user. The second sensor detects the abdominal and thoracic breathing behaviors of the user. Signals generated by the sensors are then processed to enable the user to view the speech and breathing performance.

The inventors have recently discovered that “step 2” following obtaining the patent is a lengthy and tedious process. Now they must find the correct marketing strategy, research the feasibility of a product, and write for grants to support technical upgrades that are necessary within the claims expressed in the patent. They are hoping to find a local company interested in developing the system. “I believe the system will sell itself if used, but before speech language pathologists and speech teachers for individuals who are profoundly deaf will begin to use it, it has to somehow be promoted,” says Dr. Klaas Bakker. The inventors have been surprised by the amount public interest raised by the patent over the past year, which has provided opportunities for promoting the system.


Dr. Ron Netsell (left) and Dr. Klaas Bakker (right) display a plaque of the patent.

Dr. David Dixon Returns from Teaching Assignment in China

Dr. David Dixon spent the 2003 academic year teaching at the Qingdao University in China. He speaks with great fondness of his time there and of his students. They were very respectful and eager to learn. He regrets that his time was cut short by the spread of the SARS. He hopes to return someday, but has continued to teach his courses over the internet this year.
Physical Therapy Accreditation

these clinics, and each physical therapist who trains our students, is essential to our success. Moreover, these clinical sites often employ our students after graduation.

According to CAPTE, “Specialized accreditation is a system for recognizing professional education programs for a level of performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public they serve. Accreditation status signifies that the program meets established and nationally accepted standards of scope, quality, and relevance.”

Now that our program is accredited, it will be more attractive to new students interested in the pursuit of a career in physical therapy. Recently, in a survey of potential students interested in a career in physical therapy, students listed three major criteria for choosing a school: accreditation status, degree level (Master of Physical Therapy or Doctorate of Physical Therapy), and cost. Being accredited means that our program should now be more marketable, especially with the relatively low cost of attending SMSU. Accreditation also allows our graduates to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination, which must passed in order to become a licensed physical therapist.

CAPTE requires a balance of courses in the foundational sciences, behavioral sciences and the clinical sciences. Not only are the core faculty important for this balance, but the per-course and adjunct faculty are also important for an appropriate balance. The Physical Therapy department has received much appreciated instructional help from the Biomedical Science Department in the areas of foundational sciences.

The physical therapy program incorporates information from the Normative Model for Physical Therapist Professional Education, following a traditional medical curricular model with foundational science courses at the beginning of the professional program. The program also incorporates a case-based curriculum by integrating patient problems and cases with clinical applications throughout all courses, including the foundational sciences.

The physical therapy program is a 27 month program including 30 weeks of clinical instruction, culminating in a Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree. A maximum of 25 students are accepted each year via a selective application process. Our first class graduated in May of 2003. All but one of our graduates are employed, with the remaining graduate not choosing to work at this time. Our graduating students have averaged at least two employment offers per graduate.

Applications are currently being accepted for the class of 2007 (i.e. entering the program in the Fall of 2004). For more information please contact Dr. Scott Wallentine at (417)-836-4514 or see the program’s web site at http://www.smsu.edu/physicaltherapy.
Congratulations!

2003 University Award Recipients:

For Research:  Sarah G. McCallister, Ed.D.
For Teaching:   E. Michael Hendrix, Ph.D. and Frank Ragozzine, Ph.D.

College of Health and Human Services
2003 College Award Recipients

Back (l to r): Joanne M. Gordon, PhD, RN, CS (Service); Thomas J. Kachel, MS (Service); Harry L. Hom, Jr., PhD (Research); Thomas C. Franklin, PhD (Teaching); Richard C. Garrad, PhD (Research); Front (l to r): Lola M. Butler, PhD (Teaching); Mary Ann Jennings, PhD (Service); Loretta M. Knutson, PhD, PT, PCS (Research); Mary C. Newman, PhD (Teaching); Diane Elliot, MSSA, LSW (Service); Not pictured: Janice Clark Young, EdD, CHES (Teaching).
Charitable Gift Annuities Program

Since the establishment of the Southwest Missouri State University Foundation in 1981, private contributions from a variety of sources have been given to the University’s departments and programs. Alumni and friends have a sincere desire to enhance particular areas of study or the overall quality of education. Whether for endowments, research, scholarships, student and faculty travel and development, facilities improvement, or other program enhancements, each and every gift is important to the future of education at SMSU.

With the low interest rates many are receiving on their investments, one of the most popular gift vehicles has been the charitable gift annuity. A charitable gift annuity is a gift that allows a person both to establish an annuity and to make a charitable contribution with one gift. Under the Foundation’s program, a donor transfers liquid assets to the Foundation in return for the Foundation’s promise to pay a fixed amount annually for life or other specified time period to the donor and/or to the donor’s designated beneficiary. The donor’s gift commitment is irrevocable.

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#Based on 35-month certificate of deposit account as of March 14, 2003

In the case of a deferred annuity, another factor, that being the number of years of deferral, is also taken into account. A member of the Foundation staff can provide interested persons with detailed illustrations.

Laws vary by state and it may not be possible for residents of all states to create a charitable gift annuity with the SMSU Foundation. Non-Missouri residents should inquire.

For more information please contact Mr. Bob Beumer, Director of Development, College of Health and Human Services/College of Humanities and Public Affairs at 417/836-4547 or rfb131t@smsu.edu

CHHS Teams Participate in Relay for Life

In the spring of 2002, Southwest Missouri State University held its first Relay For Life which was the first university sponsored Relay in the entire state of Missouri. After raising $117,596 in 2002, the SMSU Relay For Life committee received the national Heart of Relay award. This award recognizes Relay For Life events that display innovative and creative practices, and that support the mission of the organization before, during, and after Relay.

In 2003, the SMSU Relay increased it’s annual fund raising total to $138,000. The College of Health and Human Services sponsored a team and received special recognitions for their efforts. The team raised more funds than any other department on campus bringing in a total of $2500. The College of Health and Human Services was awarded the Dean’s Traveling Trophy and Dr. Pemberton was also recognized for the second highest number of laps completed by an individual. The team was recognized for the third highest number of laps completed by a team. Team members included Dr. Cynthia Pemberton (Dean), Dr. Helen Reid (Associate Dean), Mrs. Karen Herron (Executive Assistant), Mrs. Betty Young (Secretary), Mrs. Carolyn Nicholas (cancer survivor), Dr. Keith Ernce (Health, Physical Education and Recreation), Dr. Loretta Knutson (Physical Therapy), Dr. Elissa Lewis (Psychology), Mrs. Evelyn Maxwell (Secondary Education), Dr. Fred Maxwell (Psychology), Dr. Susan Robinson (Physical Therapy) and Dr. Carol Shoptaugh (Psychology) and, Ms. Lyndsey Hain (SMSU student).
What’s New?

We would like to know what’s new in your life. Please submit information about retirements, marriages, new address, or job changes by completing this form and returning it by mail or Email to bju014t@smsu.edu. The information will be used for purposes of maintaining your permanent alumni record. This information will be printed based on availability of space within the newsletter.

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Mark Your Calendars!
Homecoming Weekend
October 22 & 23, 2004

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