UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

OPTIMUM

PROGRAM IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

SPRING 2016

Celebrating

75 years of teaching, learning, research, and excellence
SPRING 2016

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OPTIMUM is compiled, edited, and printed by the Program in Physical Therapy at the University of Minnesota, April 2016, and is made possible through the generous support of our donors. It is produced bi-annually for our alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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Dear Alumni and friends,

We invite you to take a moment to think about one (or more) of your favorite memories from your days as a physical therapy student at the University of Minnesota... What made it so special? What feelings did the memory generate?

In this busy world of 2016, technology grants us the ability to be in many places at once. Social media, e-mail, text messaging, and overall enhanced communications have allowed us to stay better connected than ever before. While stories communicated through these methods allow us to share information, they do not allow for the sharing of true joy and emotion to be genuinely conveyed. Looking into someone’s eyes -- seeing the joy, the tears of happiness, the rush of excitement... These sentiments can only be truly experienced in-person.

The best stories and memories about your physical therapy education always involve people -- who you were with when something wonderful happened to you... That is what makes the story and memory wonderful.

Whether you graduated five years ago or fifty years ago -- plan to come back to campus this September.

The Program is grateful to our Alumni Board for all their incredible efforts to help plan this reunion (read more about the Alumni Board on page 18). While the Board is doing an excellent job, we also need your help in order to make this a special event. We hope all alumni will get involved today! To find out how to get involved with your celebration, please go to: http://z.umn.edu/PT75

As a physical therapist, you are certainly aware of the importance of establishing a trusted relationship, and we cherish our relationship with you. We sincerely hope you plan on joining us for this important milestone the weekend of September 16-18, 2016, as we celebrate 75 years of teaching, learning, research, and excellence with you.

Sincerely,

Your Program in Physical Therapy
The Rehabilitation Science Program is proud to announce Tammy Vos-Draper (pictured left) has been awarded a NIH R21 grant. Tammy and her Mayo colleague, Dr. Melissa (Missy) Morrow, were awarded the grant for their project entitled: *Mobile and Remote Monitoring of Seating Pressure for Wheelchair Users with SCI*. Tammy is a current Rehab Science student and Occupational Therapist working in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Mayo Clinic - Rochester. Tammy is co-advised by Drs. John Ferguson and Virgil Mathiowetz, both faculty members within the Rehabilitation Science Program. The award starts this September and runs through August 2017.

The NIH R21 grant is intended to encourage exploratory/developmental research by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of project development. This award will allow Tammy and Dr. Morrow the opportunity to further develop a prototype personal-use seat interface pressure monitoring system, which is the basis of Tammy’s thesis project. The system utilizes a combination of wireless data streaming, strategically designed user interface and display of appropriate information, mobile technology and a commercially available pressure mat. Significant progress has been made with the prototype system, including utilization of a smartphone web application and ability to use WiFi for data transfer. The goals to increase functionality and alert users to complete weight-shifting are ongoing and tie directly to data streamed from the pressure map interface. Although significant progress has been made with the prototype system, there are other features that will make this system more useful and remain as long-term goals. The objective of this project is to advance the development of the system by determining field-based system performance (Aim 1) and the ability of the system to elicit an improvement in pressure relieving behaviors in wheelchair users (Aim 2). The rationale for this project is based on solid evidence that when patients are engaged and empowered with the right tools, they are able to manage their health with far greater success and partner with their clinical team for positive clinical outcomes.

THE REHABILITATION SCIENCE PROGRAM WELCOMES DAN CHANTIGIAN

Field of Study: Physiology  
Hometown: Byron, Minnesota  
Advisor: Dr. Manda Keller-Ross

A few words from our newest student: The Rehabilitation Science program here is an excellent program! Even though I primarily focus on Physiology, the interdisciplinary learning environment gives me experience with, as well as a deeper understanding of, several related fields of research. I spend most days reading articles, developing my research project, and working as a research assistant. I will be attending Medical School after earning my Master's Degree from this program, and my ultimate goal is to be conducting research and practicing medicine within a University clinic. Outside of my studies, I love to scuba dive, travel, rock climb, watch soccer, and play Ultimate Frisbee.

OUR NEWEST GRADUATE: DR. DIVYA BHASKARAN

Congratulations to our newest PhD, Divya Bhaskaran. This past fall, Divya successfully defended her thesis, titled: Association of Running and Single Limb Squat Mechanics with Development of Knee Pain. Under the guidance of her advisor, Dr. Paula Ludewig, Divya contributed greatly to the department’s Minnesota Rehabilitation Biomechanics Lab. Divya’s presence will be missed, but we will keep connected with her as she has accepted a position as a postdoctoral researcher at Mayo Health in Rochester.

CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO BRITTANY COLLINS

PhD Candidate Brittany Collins has been awarded a U of MN Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship (IDF) for the 2016-2017 academic year. The IDF provides a unique opportunity for doctoral students whose research is interdisciplinary and who would benefit from interaction with faculty at one of the University’s interdisciplinary research centers or institutes. Applicants designate the host center or institute they believe is the best match with their research topic, contingent upon endorsement by the host center or institute. Brittany’s host center will be the University’s Stem Cell Institute, which is directed by Dr. Jakub Tolar. A working title of Brittany’s thesis project is: Combining Rehabilitation Science and Regenerative Medicine to Elucidate How Hormone Deficiency Causes Muscle Weakness in Females. Brittany is advised by Dr. Dawn Lowe.

LAURENCE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR PODS II AWARD AT CSM

Becky Lawrence, PhD Candidate, was acknowledged as recipient of a Foundation for Physical Therapy PODS (Promotion of Doctoral Studies) II award at the APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting, held from February 17-20, 2016, in Anaheim, CA. The award is part of the Foundation’s Doctoral Opportunities for Clinicians and Scholars (DOCS) Program and is intended to fund post-professional doctoral students, who, having completed one full year of coursework, wish to continue their studies or have entered the dissertation phase of their post-professional doctoral program. Specifically, the PODS II award supports the post-candidacy phase of post-professional doctoral studies. Becky is advised by Dr. Paula Ludewig.
Clinical Instructors of the Year.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Clinical Instructor of the Year award. Clinicians who receive this award are nominated by their student interns, and are honored at the annual Jack Allison Lectureship. Jennifer Anderson, PT, who practices at Mid-Coast Hospital in Brunswick, Maine, has been a CI for 7 of our students over the years. Jennifer was nominated by Reanna Frigge, DPT ’15 who reflected that Jennifer "creates a supportive, educational environment for students to try new skills and treatment ideas without being overbearing... She has impeccable insight into when to step back and allow her students to treat the patients but also when to step in and guide them."

John Corbo, PT, DPT, SCS, CSCS, practices at University Orthopedics in Minneapolis. In his nomination letter from Nathan Proft, DPT ’15, John is described as "an active listener, who demonstrates patience and intent in conversation... He provides ample opportunity for development of student technique through hands-on training, even if it means staying late."

Without the exemplary dedication of Clinical Instructors to our students and our Clinical Education Program, the University of Minnesota DPT students would be incomplete. Congratulations to Jennifer and John!

Jack Allison Recap.

Nearly 90 physical therapists attended the 16th Annual Jack Allison Memorial Lecture on Saturday, November 7, 2015.

Dale Avers, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA, Professor in the Program of Physical Therapy Education at Upstate Medical University in New York, presented on Frailty and the Challenges of Mobility in the Older Adult. Her motivational and insightful presentation drew acclaimed reviews and provided participants with immediately relevant resources for use in the clinic.

Next year’s speaker is Irene Davis, PhD, PT, FAPTA, FACSM, FASB, Director of the Spaulding National Running Center at Harvard Medical School. She will be presenting on Saturday, November 12, 2016.

Registration materials will be available in early September.

Jack Allison, PT ’54, MA ’66, was a Professor of Physical Therapy and our Program Director from 1978-1993.
Congratulations to the Class of 2017 for their involvement in the Foundation for Physical Therapy Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge 2015-2016!

The Foundation for Physical Therapy supports research to advance physical therapy science and improve patient care. The Challenge combines the efforts of students across the nation to construct and implement fundraising activities to donate proceeds to the Foundation.

In October 2015 (Physical Therapy Month), DPT students constructed a “Game of Bones” and asked for donations at the University of Minnesota’s Recreation Center for willing game participants. The participant challenged the PT students by asking them to point out a muscle or bone and provide anatomic details. The game was a huge success! Participants loved the candy prizes and PT students raised funds to support the Foundation.
Twenty second-year students from the U of M DPT Program attended the National Student Conclave (NSC) this past October in Omaha, NE. The conference kicked off on a Thursday evening with a scavenger hunt and a community service project at the Francis House of Omaha. The keynote address that evening was by Stephania Bell, PT, CSC, OCS, ESPN Injury Analyst. On Friday, students attended the Ignite! opening session and then enjoyed time visiting with employers and entrepreneurs in the exhibit hall. The afternoon rounded out with a plenary session on teamwork and then a small group discussion on financial management. Saturday morning started with candidate interviews for the 2016 Student Assembly. Resume reviews followed and the day concluded with three snapshot learning sessions, 45 minutes each, on a topic of your choice. Some of the offered topics were: Academia: The Good Life, Cash Therapy Practice, 3-D Resumes, Job Interviews, and I’m a PT and a Lobbyist. The U of M students enjoyed traveling to Omaha and spending time together outside of Children’s Rehab Center. It was fun to meet PT students from around the nation and compare and contrast our experiences as SPTs. Next year NSC will be held in Miami, FL.

NSC CLOTHING DRIVE
Brad Keller, SPT, ’17
Contributing Author

This year, NSC teamed up with the Heartland Family Service of Omaha, NE to sponsor a clothing drive in an effort to encourage our up-and-coming Physical Therapists to begin giving back to the community. Heartland Family Service is an organization that has served the city of Omaha for over 100 years in the areas of addiction, domestic violence, and mental health. To add a little competitive flair to this clothing drive, states were grouped into pairs to form teams. The pair of states that donated the most articles of clothing was awarded bragging rights for the year. The state of Minnesota was teamed up with West Virginia and placed 4th, bolstered by strong donations from the University of Minnesota as well as the Mayo School of Health Sciences.
The Anatomy Bequest Program is the whole body donation program that supports health professionals at the University of Minnesota. The organization supports Physical Therapy, with the donations used in medical research and in the education of our students. To recognize and honor those who have gifted their remains for the advancement of medical science, the Anatomy Bequest Program hosts a Service of Gratitude each November at the University’s Northrop Auditorium, which is open to the general public.

The first-year DPT students (Class of 2018) help plan and participate in the ceremony. In 2015, Dan Bergevin-Smith, Sarah Lansing, and Diana Reader served on the Planning Committee, and Brett Lackie and Diana Reader participated. Brett illustrated a picture titled "Generational Gift" (see insert) that was displayed at the event in the Northrup Atrium. Diana wrote and read a poem titled *Forever Teaching, Forever Giving* (see below) at the ceremony. Dr. James Carey also participated by reading his own poem title *Donor Anatomy - Learning Humanity*.

Those interested in reading more about the Anatomy Bequest Program mission or the Service of Gratitude can find information at: https://www.med.umn.edu/research/anatomy-bequest-program/service-gratitude

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**Forever Teaching, Forever Giving**

By Diana Reader, SPT ’18
University of Minnesota

So selfless your hands,
Forever teaching, forever giving.

Your hands held me when I was a child.
Fed me, clothed me, bathed me.
As I grew, your hands guided me.
Forever teaching, forever giving.

I watched your hands grow busy with work.
Knitting, building, cooking, cleaning.
Serving, teaching, making, playing.
Never were they idle,
Always they were moving.
Forever teaching, forever giving.

Then it was time for your hands to set me free.
And I set off into this world, but little did I know,
Your hands were still supporting me.
Forever teaching, forever giving.

Loving hands that helped me grow.
Working hands that served in the community.
Compassionate hands that touched many lives.
Hands that brushed away tears, clenched in pain, rejoiced in happiness.
Hands that told a story.

Now, as your story has ended, your hands continue to give.
Teaching students through the selflessness of your heart.
Learning your story as they create theirs.
The work of your hands carry on your legacy.
Forever teaching, forever giving.

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"Generational Gift" by Brett Lackie, SPT’18
Congratulations to Elizabeth (Lizzy) Sander, PT, DPT and Samuel (Sam) Vukov, PT, DPT on their graduation from our Geriatric Clinical Residency on August 31, 2015! Pictured (L to R) are Debbie Hanka, PT, DPT, GCS, CEEAA (Sam’s Mentor), Sam Vukov, PT, DPT (with Centrex Rehab at Augustana Care Center in Apple Valley), Lizzy Sander, PT, DPT (at St. Therese in New Hope), Iva Carey, PT, GCS (Lizzy’s Mentor).

September 2015 also marked the 5th Anniversary of our Geriatric Clinical Residency! Thus far 7 residents have successfully graduated from the residency, and have all passed their Geriatric Clinical Specialist exam (GCS) on the first attempt. In celebration of this anniversary, below is an update on our graduates.

Which we successfully completed. The residency is now fully accredited for another ten years.

Our current residents are: Katie Fandrey, PT, DPT ’15, Josh Meuwissen, PT, DPT ’15, and Kristen Reed, PT, DPT (St. Kate’s 2015 grad).

Emma Phillips, PT, DPT, GCS, ’11
Physical Therapist at University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC

Unique experiences since the residency: Served as Clerkship Preceptor for our DPT students, participated in the national GeriEDGE task force (focusing on a systematic review for falls screening and assessment measures), presented those findings at CSM twice, helping to create a regional balance and falls certification course, item writer for the Geriatric Specialty Exam, Vice-Chair for Balance and Falls Special Interest Group.

“The residency program helped me to expand my understanding of the geriatric population and elevate the level of care that I provide to my patients. I have been able to be more connected to the profession and colleagues who are interested in moving our profession forward. I have been appreciative of the opportunity it afforded me to be able to teach students and colleagues and learn from them in return.”

Lizzy Sander, PT, DPT ’15 (Pictured above in group photo)
Physical Therapist at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System on the Spinal Cord Injury Center

“I can’t imagine having started my career any other way. This residency program opened my eyes to the variety within a geriatric physical therapy practice.”
David Gillette, PT, DPT, GCS, ’12
Physical Therapist at St. Therese in New Hope, MN

Unique experiences since the residency: Teaching the Balance and Fall Prevention Module for the Residency, Preceptor at the Diabetic Foot Clinic for our DPT students, Clinical faculty at St. Catherine University for the Integrated Clinical Education in their DPT program, Organizer of the Twin Cities PT Pub Night.

“The residency was an intense time of learning more not just about geriatric physical therapy practice but also about myself. I’ve grown personally and professionally through that time, making me a better PT, coworker, teacher, and even husband I think. I highly recommend the residency to anyone wanting to specialize in geriatrics.”

Emily Pierce, PT, DPT, ’13
Physical Therapist at Healthcare Resort of Shawnee Mission in Overland Park, KS

Emily spent the past 2 years as a travelling therapist in Washington and North Carolina and she just started her new permanent position in Kansas.

“I am so thankful I decided to do a residency! The mentoring, didactic, clinical, and networking opportunities really made me an asset; it certainly helped me get travel positions as well as land my current job. I’m looked to as a leader for my coworkers in my clinic and network about the geriatric population. I can’t recommend it enough to students and graduates alike!”

Miranda Beck, PT, DPT, GCS, ’14
Physical Therapist at St. Therese Oxbow Lake in Brooklyn Park, MN

Works primarily in outpatient geriatrics for both land and aquatic therapy and is teaching the Aquatic Module for the residency. Serves as the team lead for wound care/rounds at her facility. During her residency year, she began an IRB-approved study analyzing frailty among a senior campus setting that has continued to grow and expand with successive residents.

“The Geriatric Residency allowed me to find my dream job as an outpatient geriatric physical therapist and practice in an area I am passionate about with the confidence to deliver the best care to my patients as a Geriatric Certified Specialist. The residency introduced me to a network of talented colleagues and a wealth of resources that has kept me interested and inspired to continue being an expert in the field of geriatrics and never stop learning!”

Samuel Vukov PT, DPT ’15 (Pictured in group photo on previous page)
Physical Therapist at Colonial Acres in Golden Valley, MN

“The residency trained me to be a grass roots therapist for the older adults. The weekly mentoring taught me to maintain an open mind and treat patients from many different populations; vestibular, cardiac, orthopedic, and neurologic.”
Megan Connelly, PT, DPT, GCS, ’13
Senior Physical Therapist at Anne Arundel Medical Center Outpatient Rehabilitation in Annapolis, MD

Unique experiences since the residency: Became a STAR Certified ® Clinician through Oncology Rehab Partners and helped to launch the hospital’s Oncology Rehab Program, facilitated a Free From Falls Workshop for individuals in the community in partnership with the MS Society, serving as Safety Liaison in the hospital for the Outpatient Rehabilitation Department.

“I cannot think of a better way to have jump-started my career as a physical therapist than through the residency program. My clinical and decision-making skills and my confidence in my ability as a therapist grew exponentially. In one year, I learned more, experienced more, met more people (fellow clinicians and patients) all of which influence my PT practice on a daily basis, than I ever possibly could have otherwise, and I know that I am a better clinician because of all of them.”

Thank You, Dr. Thompson!!!

After four years of leading the University of Minnesota’s Program in Physical Therapy, LaDora Thompson, PhD, PT stepped down as the Director. Her accomplishments during her tenure as Director have been many, some of which include:

Growth
• Expanding the number of faculty from 14 to 18 members, including both tenure and non-tenure track positions.
• Completing the recruitment of 8 new faculty members and initiating the mentoring.
• Establishing a new position of Director of Alumni Relations and filling this position.
• Creating a Welcome Center within Children’s Rehabilitation Center.
• Advancing a faculty-driven Physical Therapy clinical practice.
• Advancing global health.
• Fostering new approaches for communication.

Promotion
• Heightening the Program’s visibility within the University and Medical School, including the University of Minnesota’s President.
• Touting the faculty’s excellence locally and nationally.

Maintenance
• Graduating 197 DPT students into clinical practice.
• Preserving the Program in Physical Therapy’s financial stability.
• Upholding the national ranking (US News & World Report) in the top 10%.

During these four years, Dr. Thompson’s continued to direct a NIH-funded research laboratory and to mentor Rehabilitation Science doctoral students who received prestigious NIH and U of MN funding.

The U of MN’s Program in PT, and the profession of PT at large, are strengthened because of Dr. Thompson’s leadership.
Teresa Kimberley, PT ’94, PhD ’02, was named a Visiting Distinguished Scholar at the University of Technology Sydney in Sydney, Australia. She is working with researchers there on refining non-invasive brain stimulation techniques to advance physical therapy outcomes. For more information about her research, please view this piece produced by Fox News: http://www.fox9.com/news/66740376-story

Paula Ludewig, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Professor in PT and Co-Director of Graduate Studies, was presented with the 2016 Career Excellence Award in Biomechanics Research at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Anaheim, CA in February.

This past February, the University of Minnesota hosted Minne College in Naples, Florida. Minne College is a day-long program bringing a variety of faculty experts from across the University to Naples to share their research and expertise with alumni and friends in the area. This annual program changes each year and attracts over 125 attendees. This year, our own faculty member, Dr. Becky Olson-Kellogg, PT ’92, was selected to present. The title of her presentation was Did You Know How Fast You Walk Can Predict How Long You Will Live? Through the session, she presented current research on the predictive values of walking speed, including how it predicts life expectancy.

Michael Borich, DPT ’05, PhD ’10
Assistant Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine

Michael is a graduate of our first DPT class and a graduate of our Rehabilitation Science PhD Program. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor at Emory University.

His favorite aspect of his position is the opportunity to independently run a research laboratory pursuing ideas that advance understanding of the brain both in health and disease.

One of the reasons Michael chose the University of Minnesota Physical Therapy Program was the Program’s emphasis on research. The Program offered a unique opportunity to participate in the research process from day one. Through that experience, his passion for research developed into a career.

“My experience could be best described as ‘formational’. Through my time in the program, my desire to pursue a career in rehabilitation research was ignited. It is also where a number of interpersonal and professional skills were developed and cemented that have served me well over the years.”

Michael is inspired by his former patients and current research participants. “The perseverance and positive outlook displayed by these individuals motivates me to work toward advancing knowledge that will contribute to improved patient outcomes after injury or within the context of disease.”

Michael offers this key advice to our current students: “Keep an open mind. You will be surprised by the opportunities that come your way when you remain available to the possibilities.”

We are proud that Michael is a University of Minnesota PT Alumnus!
RICH HISTORY

1940
1941
1946

1941 Admission of the first class of students enrolled in the Certificate Program
1946 First class to receive a Bachelor’s Degree
1996 Established PhD program in Rehabilitation Science
1997 Admission for the first class of the Master’s Degree program
2004 Graduation of the first U of M Doctors of Physical Therapy
2010 Geriatric Clinical Residency began
2016

ALUMNI

Over 2200 graduates of the program

Annually distribute over $30,000 in scholarships to our students

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary in 2016

ABOUT PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapists are experts in prevention, diagnosis, and management of conditions impacting human movement. Our vision is to transform society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience.

CNN ranks Physical Therapy in the Top 10 (number 8) of the best jobs in America
The projected job growth for PT’s: 39% from 2010 - 2020 in Minnesota

As of December 2015; data is subject to change.
2016 marks a year of celebrations for us! The Program in Physical Therapy is celebrating 75 years of excellence, teaching, learning and research, the PhD in Rehabilitation Science will be celebrating 20 years later this year, and our Geriatric Clinical Residency program is celebrating 5 years. As graduates, our alumni have much to be proud of as we have continued to be forward leaders in training the next generation of Physical Therapists and Rehabilitation Scientists.

QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM
Our Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is ranked 19th out of over 232 PT schools

The only public PT education program in Minnesota

Retention rate is 98%

100% job placement

Average 98% first time pass rate on national licensing exam (vs. 90% nationally)

We offer a Clinical Residency Program in Geriatric Physical Therapy

Award-winning Rehabilitation Science PhD program

92% placement rate into academic positions

ACCOMPILISHED FACULTY, RECOGNIZED IN THE FIELD
18 core faculty members
125 associate faculty

Includes board certified clinical specialists, clinical scientists, and expert educators

RESEARCH: A HISTORY OF MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS
NIH and other external funding: $4.65 million (FY ’15 total costs awarded, 8 researchers)
23 publications in 2015

Areas of research include:
- Neuroplasticity
- Clinical orthopedics
- Muscle plasticity with disease and aging
- Cancer recovery
- Cardiovascular disease

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE
50 students/class (150 program total)

Community outreach and education opportunities
Interdisciplinary student-lead Pro Bono clinic

50 students/class (150 program total)

Average age 21 - 33
40% male students
60% female students

320 Clinical training sites in the U.S.
4 international sites

Undergraduate degrees:
36% from U of M
64% from other institutions
The Impact of Scholarships.

The Program in Physical Therapy is fortunate to have support of many donors and friends that help us to enhance our student success on their paths forward. One of the key scholarships we give out each year is the Rudy Ptak Fellowship. This Fellowship was established by Rudy Ptak, a 1953 alumnus of the Program. Rudy was a loyal and talented physical therapist for decades at University of Minnesota Hospitals and held a strong commitment to advancing the profession through student education. This Fellowship is awarded to students based on merit and potential for significant professional contributions. Although Rudy Ptak passed away in 2006, we are grateful that his nephew, John Ptak, and John's partner Sherie Westling, ’69, continue to support the Program in his memory. Three of the Ptak recipients met with John and Sherie to thank them for their continued support and dedication to the Program. This meeting also allowed the students to individually discuss the impact receiving the fellowship has had on them. It was a wonderful evening and we are thankful for this continued partnership!

Photo: [First Row] Sherie Westling, ’69 and John Ptak; [Back Row] Dr. LaDora Thompson, Erin Babineau, SPT ’16, Shannon Groth, SPT ’16, Jess Swanson, SPT ’16, and Jim Carey, PT ’72, MS ’78, PhD ’88.

On November 12, 2015, the Program in Physical Therapy participated in Give to the Max Day. This statewide event celebrates philanthropy and encourages giving to nonprofit organizations within a 24-hour period. Thanks to outstanding generosity, Minnesota had a record giving day, raising over $18 million. Thanks to over 2,000 gifts, the U also set a new record, raising more than $515,000 for U of M causes on that day!

In the Program in Physical Therapy, we set up a program match where any gift received on that day was doubled. With the match, we inspired over $7,200 in gifts to the Program and are very grateful to all our alumni and donors for their support! From everyone in the Program in Physical Therapy, many, many thanks!
On November 30th, the Program in Physical Therapy had the privilege to host University of Minnesota President, Eric Kaler, PhD '82. Our faculty, staff and students worked diligently to showcase the best of our Program during our time with President Kaler. Drs. LaDora Thompson (Former Program Director), Becky Olson-Kellogg (Associate Director) and Dennis Dykstra (Department Head for Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation) greeted the President upon his arrival. President Kaler then met the Co-Presidents from the Class of 2017, Josh Greensweig and Nik Sell who talked with President Kaler about our excellence in education, research, engagement and globalization. The President also met Will Star and Jessica Swanson from the Class of 2016 who shared with him their experience with our Clinical Education Program across the US and around the world.

Hosted by DPT/PhD Student, Rebekah Schmidt, President Kaler was then escorted to the Brain Plasticity Lab where students highlighted the current Neurorehabilitation research. To finish up his tour, Divya Bhaskaran and Becky Lawrence, both PhD Candidates in the Rehab Science Program, highlighted the Biomechanics Lab (above photo) where he was able to see the clinical orthopedic research that is being conducted. The afternoon concluded with an open conversation with faculty talking about their hopes, dreams, and the outstanding potential they see for our students and Program. We are grateful to President Kaler for visiting, and appreciated that he tweeted about his experience!

Great visit today w/ our students & faculty @UMN_PT who use state-of-the-art technology to keep Minnesotans healthy.

@PrezKaler 30 Nov 2015
Meet the Alumni Board.

Spanning 4 decades of U of M Physical Therapy graduates, the PT Alumni Board has been meeting since the Spring of 2015 to plan the 75th Anniversary and All-Class Reunion Celebration which will take place September 16-18, 2016 (mark your calendar!). The Board meets on a monthly basis and has several Committees. The Committees are:

- *Marketing*
- *Weekend Events*
- *All-Class Reunion Coordination*
- *History*
- *Sponsorship*

Thank you to our wonderful Board Members for helping advance the Program in Physical Therapy. We are sincerely grateful for all your time and dedication!

For more information about the 75th Anniversary and All-Class Reunion, please go to: http://z.umn.edu/pt75.
**Book Your Discounted Hotel Room Today!**

For the **75th Celebration** weekend **September 16-18, 2016**, we have a block of hotel rooms reserved at The Commons Hotel, right on campus!

To get our special room rate, please call The Commons **before August 24th, 2016** at

- **612-379-8888** or **1-800-822-6757**

and be sure to mention **PT 75th Celebration** when booking!

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The University of Minnesota recently launched a campaign that shows how our faculty, staff, and students are driven by a mission to meet the challenges of a diverse and changing world.

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Watch in future issues of PT News for highlights about the amazing people in the Program in Physical Therapy!
Coming to Your Mailboxes this Summer...

The OFFICIAL Guide to the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Minnesota PT Program!

September 16 - 18, 2016

75th Anniversary & All-Class Reunion Weekend

http://z.umn.edu/ptalum
http://z.umn.edu/pt75