



Changes to the Curriculum In The Works

New Schedule For Internships To Begin In 2008

Starting in Summer 2008, the timing of our full-time internships is changing. Since the inception of the Masters Degree curriculum, the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science has offered a long experience (12 weeks in length); however, as part of ongoing assessment of our curriculum, we have decided to offer four 9-week experiences instead. We believe that it is important to continue to offer the students 36 weeks of clinical experience.

The decision to make this change came after lengthy discussions with our clinical faculty (you!) and the in-house faculty. Some of the benefits of this change are listed below:

- ✦ There will be more flexibility in planning for the required experiences (outpatient, acute, and rehab)
- ✦ Each student will have more time within the internship to accomplish the finishing touches required for practice in the current health care climate (in order to 'hit the ground running')
- ✦ More flexibility is available for planning and implementing the special experiences during the internships. For example, surgery observation, shadowing with other disciplines, attendance at programming / clinics / in-services may become more accessible.
- ✦ The new schedule will allow time across all rotations for practice of higher level skills such as billing, reimbursement, supervision of PTAs, aides, and so forth .

✦ The burden of placing students during early Summer (and competing with summer vacation schedules) will be removed.

✦ The change will ease the financial burden of students when paying double rent during their out-of-area experiences (12 weeks vs. 9 weeks)

As part of this change, PTRS will offer two 9-week experiences starting in late Summer and extending through the Fall, and two 9-week experiences starting in January which will extend to graduation in May. You will see the specific dates and changes reflected in this year's placement request forms.

How to reach us:

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This year's Wheelchair Basketball Challenge will be held April 5th. See Page 2 for details

Wheelchair Basketball Challenge

The Maryland Ravens wheelchair basketball team will be taking on the students of the University of Maryland Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (PTRS) for the **Wheelchair Basketball Challenge**. The game will be held at the Leadership Through Athletics Gym in Lansdowne, Maryland on Thursday April 5, 2007 at 6:30pm. The purpose of this event is to promote disability awareness within the community and to raise funds for physical therapy research.

The proceeds from this event will support the Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge, a grassroots fundraising effort, coordinated and carried out exclusively by physical therapy students to help the Foundation for Physical Therapy accomplish its mission of funding critically important physical therapy research. Donations are designated for research projects that evaluate the effectiveness of physical therapy intervention.

We invite you to take advantage of a sponsorship opportunity for this event. As a sponsor, you will receive increased visibility within the community while claiming a tax deduction for your company. In addition, through your association, you will gain corporate recognition as a company interested in the advancement of physical therapy research. Please accept our invitation to become a sponsor for this event and receive promotional benefits at one of the following levels:

Full Court Club (\$1,000)

- Large Logo Displayed on Event Banner
- Logo featured on Event Program
- Large Logo on Team Jerseys
- Company Name Included in Press Releases to Local Media
- Available Booth Space for Promotional Materials

Half Court Club (\$500)

- Small Logo Displayed on Event Banner
- Company Name Listed on Event Banner
- Small Logo on Team Jerseys
- Company Name Included in Press Releases to Local Media

Fan Club (\$100)

- Company Name on Event Banner
- Company Name Listed on Event Program

If you are unable to contribute at any of those levels, please consider donating items for the raffle, such as gift certificates or products from your business.

We would like you to consider joining one of our clubs to help us in our efforts to become the #1 physical therapy school in the country for funds raised in the 2007 Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge. This is a great opportunity for your organization to help raise awareness about disability in our community. If you would like to become a sponsor, call us at (410) 706-7720 or fax to (410) 706-6387. Thank you for your consideration and continuing support.



Sponsorship As A Marketing Opportunity

Are you looking for a creative and inexpensive way to promote a job opening within your practice? Would you like to deliver your corporate message directly to a captive audience of physical therapists and students? If so, sponsorship might be the ideal marketing vehicle for you!

By partnering with The University of Maryland Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science as a sponsor you can enhance your visibility to our graduating students and additionally reach over 1,800 professionals working in the field. As a clinical affiliation site you automatically receive complimentary job postings on our web site. However, there are other benefits you can take advantage of as a sponsor such as blast e-mail messages and promotional ad space in our alumni newsletter. Best of all, your tax-deductible donation will help subsidize materials, equipment and other costs incurred by our Department, leaving more of our budget for scholarships and student programs.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Karen McGuire, Associate Director of Development at 410-706-8688 or kmcguire@som.umaryland.edu.

Class Prepares For Final Test Before Internships

In late May, the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science will conduct the annual Clinical Qualifying Measure or CQM for the Class of 2008. This test of basic clinical skills is the final check before students proceed to their full-time clinical internship. The CQM is designed around a patient encounter in which the student must first read, absorb, and interpret information from the patient's chart. Then, using this information as a basis, the student must evaluate the patient and provide specific treatment as outlined in the orders. Students then write a note detailing their findings, treatment, and plan.

The CQM is conducted at the University of Maryland School of Nursing using their testing facility. There are six individual treatment rooms, each with audio/ video recording capability. The patients are trained actors following a detailed script and the entire encounter is observed and graded by a faculty member via a television monitor. Each encounter is taped for later review by the student and the faculty. The actor/patient also rates the student encounter and the student's note about the encounter is graded.

Students must show competence in each area of the encounter including patient interaction, evaluation, treatment, and note writing in order to progress to the clinic. Students who fall short in one or more areas do have the opportunity to retake the entire or portions of the CQM.

Volunteer and Adjunct faculty are welcome to assist in conducting the CQM. If you are interested, please contact the Clinical Education office to offer your services and to receive more information.

Continuing Education

March 24, 2007 - *"Activity-Based Restorative Therapy: Focus on Spinal Cord Injury"*

Location: International Center for Spinal Cord Injury at Kennedy Krieger Institute

CEUs: .4 Instructor: Karen E. Good, PT, OCS Cost: \$125

Time: 8am Registration, seminar 9:30am - 1pm

This is a fundraiser held by the students of the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science to benefit the Foundation of Physical Therapy. To register please send all appropriate documentation and your check made payable to University of Maryland Baltimore to:

Attn: Continuing Education/Alyssa Menkes
100 Penn Street, Suite 115
Baltimore, MD 21201

For more information, please contact Alyssa Menkes at 410.706.2299 or amenkes@som.umaryland.edu

Students Host "Best Ball" Tournament

Each year, physical therapy students across the country participate in the Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge, a grassroots fundraising effort to raise money for the research conducted at the Foundation for Physical Therapy. In the past, the physical therapy students at the University of Maryland have raised an impressive amount of money and last year they won honorable mention for raising \$9,300. This year's class hopes to surpass that amount, but they need your help.

In an effort to raise money and have some fun, students from the Class of 2008 are planning a golf tournament in Middletown, MD where participants from throughout the Baltimore and DC area can play for special prizes. Hollow Creek Golf Club, nestled in historic Middletown Valley, boasts a challenging 18-hole golf course. It offers an enjoyable round of golf for players of all abilities, with the par 72 course featuring bent grass tees, fairways and greens. The scenic course, amid rolling hills, also has water obstacles, target golf shots, out-of-bounds, and hazards on almost every hole.

The tournament, which the students have dubbed "The Best Ball PT Classic", will be held Saturday, April 7th, beginning with a continental breakfast at 8am and tee-off set for 9 o'clock. Participants not only receive breakfast, but a BBQ lunch, unlimited water, beer, and soda, and a happy hour after play. Green fees, cart fees, and driving/putting range use are also included in the registration fee of \$120 per person or \$440 for a team of four. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

To register, or for information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Alaina Nutwell via email at anutw001@umaryland.edu or Shannon Schuman at sschu002@umaryland.edu



Mark Your Calendar ! Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Saturday, March 10 8:30am – 12:30pm

PTRS Spring Open House for prospective Students

Saturday, April 7 8am—6pm

PT Classic Golf Tournament

(All proceeds benefit the Foundation For Physical Therapy)

Friday, April 13 3pm—4pm

Class of 2009 Pinning Ceremony

Friday, May 18

Class of 2007 Graduation

Visit us on the web at:
<http://pt.umaryland.edu>

For more information on these offerings, please refer to the
Department's Website: <http://pt.umaryland.edu/>

Join The Clinical Education Advisory Group

Given the pace of change within both the health care environment & the physical therapy profession, implementation of clinical education must remain flexible while remaining responsive to clinical changes. Toward that end, PTRS has resurrected its Clinical Education Advisory Group consisting of CCCEs & CIs interested in providing direction to the education for the program's students. This group will be meeting quarterly, with the agenda reflecting topics generated from national, regional, and local concerns. If you have an interest or questions about this Group, please contact ClinEd at PTRS.