

Calendar

September:

- DNP 3 On-site Session 3
- DPT 14 On-site Session 1
- OTD 10 On-site Session 1

October:

- Basic ENMG Certification Exam
- Nursing 3 On-site Session 4
- Ortho Sports 3 On-site Session 6
- DPT 13 On-site Session 2
- OTD 9 On-site Session 2

November:

- DNP 4 On-site Session 2
- Peds 5 On-site Session 3
- DPT 13-OTD 9 Peds On-site Session 2
- Thanksgiving Holiday – University Closed 22nd and 23rd
- DNP 5 On-site Session 1

Notices

- **Completed DNP Capstone Project titles and authors** are now available on the DNP program link on the RMUoHP website.
- **Students** – Effective immediately, there is a new email address to which all assignments must be submitted - assignments@rmuohp.edu.
- **Students** - Beginning in 2008, **Incomplete Fees will be \$50 and In Progress Fees will be \$250**. Tuition will also increase for 2008, but will not impact those students who started their education prior to 2008 (and remain with that cohort).

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle."

– Father James Keller

Accreditation Update

RMUoHP recently completed significant steps in the accreditation process by submitting the first post-candidacy self-study to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) in Seattle (February 28, 2007) and completing the subsequent on-site interim candidacy site visit (April 30-May 2, 2007).

RMUoHP is pleased to report the on-site visit went extremely well. The five on-site evaluators contacted many students, faculty, and Graduate Program Directors during the three days they were on campus. Additionally, many Graduate Program Directors, faculty, and students were on campus during the site visit and were interviewed by members of the site evaluation team. The summary report received by Dr. Richard Nielsen, RMUoHP President, from the Chair of the site evaluation team was thorough, extensive, detailed and very positive relative to RMUoHP's demonstration of compliance to the nine standards from which RMUoHP was evaluated. This summary report was forwarded to NWCCU and subsequently all 25 Commissioners representing the Northwest region. On July 13, 2007, Dr. Stan Hartgraves (VPAA), Dr. Sandy Pennington (Academic Dean), Dr. Kathleen Rourke (Chair, Board of Trustees), and Dr. Nielsen traveled to Seattle where they met in person with the NWCCU Commissioners and Executive officers. This meeting was the final meeting held in conjunction with the first post-candidacy self-study submission and subsequent site visit. The outcome of that meeting was also very positive.

Recently, Dr. Nielsen received a letter from Dr. Sandra Elman, President of NWCCU, informing RMUoHP of the Commission's decision relative to these events and RMUoHP's continuation in the

regional accreditation process. Dr. Nielsen quoted from Dr. Elman's letter, "On behalf of the NWCCU, I write to inform you that the Candidacy status of Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions has been continued on the basis of the spring 2007 Interim Candidacy Evaluation Report and visit. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition." Dr. Elman went on to inform Dr. Nielsen that RMUoHP received eight recommendations to be dealt with prior to the next on-site evaluation. RMUoHP additionally received five commendations that acknowledged the University:

1. Its administration and Board of Trustees and their talents and vision,
2. Its commitment to the regional accreditation process that has led to significant improvements during the last two years with regard to the institution's financial systems and student services,
3. Its distinguished faculty that is committed to student learning and achievement,
4. Its energy, enthusiasm, entrepreneurial spirit, and collegiality developed among its faculty, staff, and administration,
5. Its emphasis on the publication of research by its DSc graduates.

Regarding the favorable outcome of these recent events, Dr. Nielsen commented, "I am very pleased with the outcome of the entire process of the recent self-study, site visit and Commission meeting. We feel it is essential to keep all University constituents informed regarding this process and are thankful for the University-wide participation and overwhelming support." The next NWCCU site evaluation will be held October 1-3, 2008 and the accompanying self-study process has already begun.

2007 Commencement Exercises

RMUoHP held the 2007 Commencement Exercises on August 4, 2007 at the historic Provo Tabernacle in Provo, Utah. Seventy-six doctoral degrees were awarded in various fields, including the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Doctor of Science (DSc) in Clinical Electrophysiology, Geriatrics, Hand Rehabilitation, Neurology, Nursing, Orthopaedics, and Pediatrics.

Dr. Kathleen R. Stevens delivered the commencement address, entitled "21st Century Healthcare Quality: Only Pioneers Need Apply".

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2007 RMUoHP Graduates and Officers

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**Michael Skurja, Jr.,
PT, DPT, ECS**

Dr. Skurja earned a Bachelor's degree in Biological Science from Fort Lewis College and a Certificate in Physical Therapy from the Mayo Foundation, School of Physical Therapy. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Naval Medical Department. Over the next 23, years he was stationed at numerous Naval Hospitals throughout the United States. Skurja went to graduate school at the University of Southern California from which he earned a Masters Degree in Physical Therapy with a specialization in musculoskeletal disorders. He retired from the Navy in 1992 with the rank of Captain. Skurja received his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from RMUoHP in 2007.

Skurja is board certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties as an Electrophysiologic Clinical Specialist. He served as the chairman of the Specialty Council for the Section on Clinical Electrophysiology of the American Physical Therapy Association, and in 1993 was awarded the Professional Merit award by the section. Skurja has also authored several chapters in textbooks and his publications have appeared in the US Navy Medicine, Physical Therapy, Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy, and Journal of Clinical Electrophysiology.

Dr. Skurja is one of the founders and Executive Vice President at RMUoHP. Like his classmates, he experienced a busy RMUoHP student's schedule. "Skurja was an admirably humble and unassuming student who readily grasped the advanced concepts of evidence-based medicine. He excelled in the program despite the challenges of being a full time student while also working full time, and relocating to Provo Utah," said Dr. Gail Deyle, DPT Graduate Program Director. Regarding this achievement, Dr. Richard Nielsen, RMUoHP President, stated, "Dr. Skurja has a national reputation as the "guru" of clinical electrophysiology practice and training. By completing the DPT at RMUoHP, not only has he set an example for other clinicians but also demonstrated his confidence in the degree programs offered at this University. Congratulations!"

2007 Commencement Exercises (Cont. from Page 1.)

Dr. Stevens is a professor of nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the founding director of the Academic Center for Evidence-based Practice (ACE). The alumni speaker was Dr. Sonia Paquette, who is a graduate of the OTD program at RMUoHP. The Hartgraves' Award for Excellence in Teaching was awarded to Dr. Marthe Moseley. Dr. Stephen Allison was awarded the Distinguished

Professorship in Evidence-based Practice. The DSc in Nursing and DNP degrees are the first doctorates awarded in the field of nursing by RMUoHP. Regarding this achievement, Dr. Richard P. Nielsen, RMUoHP President, commented, "RMUoHP's graduates in Nursing and Nursing Practice represent our commitment to leadership in evidence-based healthcare and healthcare education. Our graduates are truly healthcare pioneers."

Spotlights!

- Congratulations to the following students who recently defended their dissertations - **Gamal Elsayed** (Clinical Electrophysiology), **Tina Stoeckmann** (Neurology), **Daniel Panchik** (Hand Rehabilitation), **William Dodson** (Orthopaedics).
- Good luck to **Sharon Walsh** (Neurology), who defends her dissertation in October!
- **Dr. Ben Burton's** (DPT) private practice was featured in *Professional Case Management* May-June 2007 in the Legal & Ethical Forum in an article entitled "Direct Access - The Best Kept Secret: A "Seasoned" Case Manager Learns From Personal Experience" by Lynn S. Muller, BS, RN, JD, CCSM.
- **Dr. Kara Baxter** (DNP) is the new Manager of Operations for the Dallas/Ft. Worth MinuteClinic.
- **Dr. Greshundria (Nikki) Raines** (OTD) is the new East Central District Chair of the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association. Dr. Raines was also selected to participate in the Career Pathways for Minority Scientists (funded through a NIH grant) program held in July at the University of South Alabama.
- **Dr. Patrick Van Beveren** (DPT) became a Geriatric Certified Specialist.
- **Greg Myer** (Athletic Training) presented at the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine national meeting.
- **Dr. Guillermo Cutrone** (Orthopaedics) presented on non-operative therapies in back pain treatment at the symposium Back Talk: Current Concepts and Controversies in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Spinal Disorders. A spine symposium for primary care physicians and other health care providers. **Dr. Cutrone** also accepted a new position as Research Coordinator for the Rehab Department of St. Vincent Hospitals in Indianapolis, where he launched an Evidence Based Program and a Journal Club using technology allowing 14 facilities to participate via teleconference.
- **Nancy DalPezzo's** (Nursing) poster on synthesizing evidence won 3rd place at the University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio Academic Center for Evidence-based Nursing Conference.
- Neurology students **Sharon Walsh** and **Eilish Byrne** and **Dr. Cheryl Griffith** (DPT) presented at World Physical Therapy Federation Conference.
- OTD – CHT students **Gretchen Kaiser**, **Tambra Marik**, and **Kristen Valdes** had a poster entitled, "Am I Too Busy to Study Evidence Based Practice Principles? The Transitional OTD and DPT Degree" accepted to the American Society of Hand Therapists Meeting.
- **Michele Monaco** (Athletic Training) and **Dr. Malissa Martin** (GPD) collaborated on an article about the Millennial Student, which was published online in the *Athletic Training Education Journal* and in *NATA News* - **Monaco M, Martin MA**. The millennial student: A new generation of learners. *NATA News* 2007;2:42-46.
- **Paul Ulluci** (Orthopaedic and Sports) presented at the National Athletic Training Association's annual conference.
- Pediatrics students **Jan McElroy** and **Heidi Eigsti**, pediatrics graduate **Dr. Robbin Hickman**, and Pediatrics GPD **Jane K. Sweeney** each are presenting at the Second National Pediatric Research Summit on Early Intervention for Children with or at Risk for Physical Disabilities.
- **Stacey Pfenning** (DNP) was appointed to the North Dakota State Board of Nursing: Nursing Practice Committee.
- **Greg Myer** (Athletic Training) was published in two peer-reviewed journals - **Myer GD**, Ford KR, Brent JL, Hewett TE. Differential neuromuscular training effects on ACL injury risk factors in "high-risk" versus "low-risk" athletes. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disord* 2007;8:39. **Myer GD**, Ford KR, Brent JL, Devine JG, Hewett TE. Predictors of sprint start speed: The effects of resistive ground-based vs. inclined treadmill training. *J Strength Cond Res* 2007;21:831-836.
- **Dr. Steve Allison** (Faculty) was published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy* - Newman D. **Allison SC**. Risk and physical therapy. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther* 2007;37:287-289.
- **Dr. Mitch Rauh** (Director of Research) was published in two journals - Nichols JF, **Rauh MJ**, Barrack MT, Barkai HS. Bone mineral density in female high school athletes: Interactions and type of mechanical loading. *Bone* 2007;41:371-377 - Nichols JF, **Rauh MJ**, Barrack MT, Barkai HS, Pernick Y. Disordered eating and menstrual irregularity in high school athletes: Comparisons among individual and team sports. *Intl J Sport Nutr Exerc Metab* 2007;17:364-377.
- **Dr. Dorothea White** (DNP) was promoted at Adventist Health in Fresno, CA and serve as the liaison for advanced practice clinicians, where she will work with NPs and PAs to improve client outcomes and standards of practice for advanced practice clinicians.
- **Cindy Schmeltz** (DNP) accepted a new position as a primary care provider, clinical site coordinator and affiliate faculty at Drexel University. Cindy will be at the 11th Street Family Health Services providing primary care to vulnerable populations.