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HAITI

This past summer, 2 Marquette University PT professors, Dr. Donald Neumann and Dr. Tina Stoeckmann, had the opportunity to spend a week volunteering with Project Medishare as part of the ongoing efforts to provide medical support to the survivors of the Jan 2010 earthquake in Port Au Prince, Haiti. Dr. Neumann worked in Haiti from June 5th - 12th which coincided with the transition from the tent hospital on the air force base to a fixed structure building within the city. It was a chaotic time and security was high. Don was assigned to work on the medical wards with many individuals with spinal cord and orthopedic injuries, including children and adults. Don stated that “this was a very intense but extremely rewarding experience…”

Dr. Stoeckmann worked from Aug 7-14th and by this time a teaching mission had added to train the locals to be able to care for their own people. Interestingly, because of the experience and preferences of the other PT volunteers at the hospital that week, Tina ended up being assigned to do outpatient wound care. “I was definitely out of my comfort zone when I realized how much wound care has evolved – there are so many different kinds of dressings, gels, solutions, etc. now! I was VERY lucky to have been paired up with a Haitian interpreter who had been a nurse prior to the earthquake and had been training up to take over the wound care practice, and who had the patience, grace, and wisdom to mentor me into my role. I felt bad about the role reversal but learned many things that week, and not just about wound care. I also helped out in the pediatric and spinal cord units after the outpatients were done, and picked up a few phrases in Creole – ‘I’m sorry’ was the first one I needed and used most often.”

Both professors are now back to their usual routines while others continue the efforts in Haiti. But the experiences they had and people they worked with have made a lasting impression on their hearts. Will they go back? Neither know for sure, but both continue to monitor the situation especially related to the recent outbreak of cholera. Both faculty members are open to other opportunities that may arise to help these struggling people.

Written by Tina Stoeckmann

Senior Farewell

The DPT 6’s delivered a stellar performance at this year’s Senior Farewell. Skits included a faculty retreat and a new and improved version of the movie “The Hangover” MUPT faculty style. The room was full of laughter. Thank you to the 6’s for such a great show and best of luck to you in your final clinicals.
Iron Horse Rugby

The Iron Horse Rugby Tournament was such a great experience. I have always been excited to see and be a part of the many adaptive athletic opportunities available to the physically challenged. The sport requires a lot of athletic ability, is very competitive, and is also very fun and interesting to watch. However, the interest and opportunity of the sport itself are not the only great things about it. The stories of the players and their families are by far the best part. I talked to some of the team members and their parents and siblings, and many have made it a family affair. As the players compete, many of their family members travel along with them and work as coaches, referees, or simply supporting fans. The desire of the athletes to overcome a disability and return as best they can to their former lives is truly inspiring.

Written by Kristen Seroka

Global Medical Brigades Dental Supply Drive for Honduras

The Marquette Physical Therapy Student Council is holding a dental supply drive on behalf of Global Medical Brigades. The drive will run through Friday, December 10th, and supplies can be dropped off in the box outside of the Physical Therapy Office.

This January, two Marquette Physical Therapy students will be traveling to Honduras with a group of other students, faculty, administrators and community health professionals for a week long Medical Brigade. While in Honduras, the group will provide basic health care including medical exams, basic dental services, physical therapy, and pharmaceutical needs to rural Honduran communities.

This March, another group of students will be traveling to Honduras for a Public Health Brigade as well, during which they will install cement floors, latrines, eco-stoves, and complete other small projects to help improve the living conditions of the impoverished communities of Honduras. These simple changes lead to healthier environments and help to reduce the incidence of diseases like parasites that infect many people through the skin as they walk barefoot and sleep on dirt floors. These public health initiatives will help to reduce the need for many of the ongoing medications, such as antibiotics for parasite infections, that are provided during medical brigades. This will lead to a healthier population and allow for broader medical attention to be provided during brigades, including a focus on prevention and general wellness care.

The group raises funds and supplies each year to take to Honduras to distribute. After seeing the physicians for a check-up and educational instruction regarding medical concerns, patients receive medications prescribed to them, and every patient that comes receives a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste. The success of the brigade relies heavily on donations of supplies, medications, and time. They work with an in country partner, Sociedad Amigos de los Niños, to collaborate with the communities they serve in order to attend to the needs that the Honduran people identify.

If you would like to contribute to this year’s medical brigade, please consider dropping a toothbrush or tube of toothpaste in the box outside of SC 346 anytime between now and Friday, December 10th.

Written by Elizabeth Crane

PT Dance

The DPT-5s organized a great dance this fall that took place at the Hyatt Hotel. It was a semi-formal event with appetizers and an energetic DJ. Marquette physical therapy students took a break from studying for a night to dress up, socialize, and of course dance!

-Written by Abby Misko
**Tanzania**

Karene Boos PT (MU ’95), JD (Wisconsin ’03), DPT (College of St. Scholastica ’09) addressed the MU PT faculty and staff at the November 9, 2010 Brown Bag Lunch. For the past 15 years Karene and her husband have been involved in several mission projects in Tanzania, East Africa. Tanzania is a beautiful country on the coast of the Indian Ocean with a variety of wildlife and cultural diversity. It is a peaceful country but poor. With healthcare and education suffering the most, these have been a focus for their work. Karene taught English and Law courses at the Salvatorian Institute of Philosophy and Theology in Morogoro, Tanzania where she also served as the schools “athletic trainer” finding interesting ways to treat injuries without typical therapeutic supplies. She and her husband help sponsor educational needs for children at the Daida Maisha Primary School and technical training programs for young women with special needs at the Fr. Luis Amigo Rehabilitation Center. Karene and her husband procured a grant to establish a metal fabrication shop that builds equipment for handicapped children—equipment which Karene helped to design with her knowledge of physical therapy. Though agriculture, in the form of subsistence farming, is the backbone of the economy, Karene and her husband also work to establish women’s co-ops because they have found that empowering women is the fastest route to promote social change. The Mgolole Orphanage has also been a special mission opportunity for Karene and her family. They helped raise the funds for a new water system for the orphanage and enjoy spending time with the children whenever they visit Tanzania. Karene is returning to Tanzania in January 2011 with two other Marquette alums to provide training at the Fr. Luis Amigo Rehabilitation Center. She will also be visiting the Village of Hope for AIDS orphans and St. Gaspar’s Hospital which is under-staffed and in need of support. She plans to visit the MU PT department again after her return to provide an update on the current situation in Tanzania.

-Written by Karene Boos

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**Good Luck!!!**

**To the 4’s and 6’s in**

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**Chili Cook-Off**

Students and staff had an opportunity to sample homemade chili in this year’s Chili Cook-off which benefited the Marquette Challenge. Last month volunteer cooks brought six distinctive recipes to test the palettes of eager (and hungry!) students. The event was held during the noon hour in the Cramer Hall Lounge where participants lined up their culinary masterpieces for students to sample. Tickets could be bought in advance for $3 or at the door for $4. By donating to the Marquette Challenge, attendees could try one cup of each of the samples. Recipes ranged from thick and meaty to spicy vegetarian. One particularly notable flavor came from DPT 4 student Alison Kescenovitz’s kitchen. She featured her legendary “Not Yo Mamma’s Chili!” recipe which included Kielbasa, Barbeque Sauce, and Instant Coffee for a truly original taste. Each of the attendees voted for which chili recipes they thought were the best overall, most spicy and most unique, with bragging rights going to each winner. Chili is typically a crowd pleaser at family gatherings, and judging by the success of the event, the Marquette PT family is no different. With 40+ in attendance the 2010 Chili Cook-off raised $171 to support the Marquette Challenge.

-Kristen Mielke
**Elf Movie Night**

The PT Council social committee held a movie night showing the fantastic movie Elf. There was hot cocoa, snacks, and some delicious potato soup made by Tina Stoeckmann. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time and were put in the holiday spirit by Buddy the Elf.

Watch for information regarding next semester’s social event.

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**What’s coming up in Philanthropy?**

- May Day Baskets
- Pop Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House
- Special Olympic Events including the polar plunge and basketball
- Best Buddies Ball
- Senior Citizens Prom
- Hunger Clean-Up
- Relay for Life

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**Massage – A – Thon**

The MUPT Massage-A-Thon was a great success again this semester. Massages were offered from November 1st through November 19th at a rate of $7 for every 15 minutes. Scheduling a massage was convenient via e-mail or the on-line scheduling website. Walk-ins were also welcome. Proceeds from the Massage-A-Thon contribute to Physical Therapy graduation, which is funded independently from the university. The Massage-A-Thon made $10,343 this fall. Congratulations to the DPT6 for organizing and hosting such a successful Massage-A-Thon!

-Written by Brittney Lutsch

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**National Student Conclave 2010**

The APTA National Student Conclave this year took place at Cherry Hill, New Jersey from October 29th-31st. It was a great event where physical therapy students from every class year come from all over the country to meet, discuss ideas, and learn about physical therapy. There were physical therapy booths for companies, so that students could network with future employers. The Marquette Challenge was emphasized at NSC, and several schools pledged to participate in this year’s Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge. An important event was elections for new executive positions on the APTA student board, and every APTA member was able to meet the candidates and vote. In addition, several fifty minutes seminars were given each day to allow students to learn about different fields of physical therapy, future research, and even financial advice. Next year’s NSC will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

-Written by Abby Misko

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**Variety Children’s Charity**

A group of Physical Therapy students went to the Betty Brinn Museum earlier this semester to help with a social event run by the Variety Children’s Charity. Variety provides adaptive and therapeutic equipment to children with physical disabilities so they can more fully participate in life activities.

-Written by Brittney Lutsch