



# UCF Physical Therapy



News from the Program in Physical Therapy • Department of Health Professions • College of Health and Public Affairs  
Spring 2004

## Welcome to *UCF Physical Therapy*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *UCF Physical Therapy*, published twice a year for alumni and friends of the Program in Physical Therapy at the University of Central Florida.

Development of this publication coincides with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Program in Physical Therapy and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university. The program has made many changes to ensure its movement “From Promise to Prominence” alongside the university. Among these is the addition of a new director.

### Greetings from the New Director: Dr. Gerald Smith

As the new director of UCF’s physical therapy program, I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, share my plans for the program and, perhaps most importantly, solicit your participation in our future endeavors.



**Gerald Smith**

After receiving a B.S. in physical therapy from Temple University in Philadelphia in 1978, I moved to the South and worked as a clinician in a variety of health-care settings. I went on to earn a Ph.D. from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond for my work on elucidating the role of Schwann cells in promoting graft-assisted CNS axonal regeneration.

During my subsequent post-doctoral fellowship in neurobiology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., I investigated the role of neurotrophic factors, particularly nerve growth factor, in promoting CNS axonal regeneration, using an animal model of Alzheimer’s disease.

After completing my fellowship, I accepted a faculty position in the University of Maryland’s School of Medicine in Baltimore, where I remained for 14 years. While at Maryland, I taught courses in neuroscience, neurology and neuroplasticity for physical therapy students.

*(See New Director, p. 2)*

## Browman Named Florida’s Outstanding Physical Therapy Student of the Year

On March 27, 2004, physical therapy student Dayna Browman received the award for Outstanding Student of the Year from the Florida Physical Therapy Association. The award is given to only one student in the state who exhibits exemplary service, research and dedication to the association and profession.



**Dayna Browman**

Browman initiated a program at the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center that gives disabled students, who would be unable to exercise otherwise, access to the center and an opportunity to receive assistance in flexibility, cardiovascular and strength training. The program prompted the center to hire two physical therapy students to manage the program each year.

Browman, along with fellow student James Namvar, will present their “Structural Model of a University Exercise Program for Students with Disabilities” at the American Physical Therapy Association’s national conference in Chicago, which will take place June 30–July 3.

*(See Browman, p. 3)*

## Haffey Receives College’s Rising Star Award

Physical therapy alumnus Nick Haffey ('02) is the 2004 recipient of the College of Health and Public Affairs’ Rising Star Award. The UCF Alumni Association presented the award to him at its annual award ceremony on Feb. 26.



**Nick Haffey**

The Rising Star Award recognizes one outstanding UCF alumnus or alumna from each college who makes a continual effort to give back to the

*(See Haffey, p. 3)*

### New Director (continued)

My research continues to focus on the mechanisms of neural recovery after injury. In recent years, I've confined my studies to patients with chronic hemiparesis secondary to ischemic stroke. I have published more than 20 full-length articles in high impact, peer-reviewed journals such as *Experimental Brain Research*, *Stroke*, *Vascular Disease*, *Human Brain Mapping*, *Neuroimage*, *Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*, *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* and the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*. Over the years, I have also had the privilege of presenting my work at numerous regional, national and international scientific conferences. I have received over \$2.3 million in direct support for my research, the most recent of which was an \$870,000 grant from the National Institutes on Aging.

At UCF, I'm focusing on moving the physical therapy program to national prominence. I first want to expand and diversify the program's educational offerings. This spring, the faculty is beginning the process of designing and implementing an entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program. At the same time, we're working on curricular issues related to a post-professional clinical doctorate in physical therapy. We're also considering a Web-based program that would allow working physical therapists to continue to practice full-time while progressing toward their degree at their own pace and in their own environment.

Once these programs are up and running, I plan to concentrate on developing an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in rehabilitation sciences using the full range of resources available at UCF. The mission of this program is two-fold. First, it should help train researchers who are capable of expanding the body of knowledge pertinent to physical therapy as a profession. Second, it should help prepare the next generation of academicians to assume leadership roles in physical therapy education, both regionally and nationally.

These are big goals, but they are feasible with your support at every stage. The process of growth will be a long one and will require our patience as well as our resolve. One of the first things we can do together is organize the program's alumni as a club under the UCF Alumni Association's umbrella. Such a club would provide multiple levels of support for the program and serve the needs of individual alumni members. I hope you will ask yourself how you can help the program achieve its dreams. I look forward to hearing your answers.

Dr. Gerald V. Smith  
Associate Professor and Director

### Program Welcomes New Faculty Member

UCF welcomes Robert Wagner, MPT, as the newest member of the physical therapy faculty. Wagner is former director and chair of the physical therapist assistant program at Seminole Community College in Sanford, Fla. He will be teaching the orthopedic and kinesiology courses. Other members of the program's faculty are listed below.

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gerald V. Smith, PT, Ph.D.     | Director,<br>Associate Professor |
| Scott S. Harp, PT, Ph.D., ACCE | Assistant Professor              |
| Gerald Bertetta, M.A.          | Instructor                       |
| Janice Holder, PT, M.S.        | Instructor                       |

### Clinical Program Update

The program recently increased the number of 6-week internships or "affiliations" from three to four, thus increasing the amount of time students practice under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The first and second affiliations occur after the first year and second year, respectively. The final affiliation occurs in the summer after the second year and may be taken in one 12-week or two 6-week time slots.

Also, the clinical program has now moved to the Web. The majority of the clinical education forms can be completed online, reducing paperwork for everyone. To see a demonstration of the site, visit <http://reach.ucf.edu/~ptsite> and enter username: demoucf and password: 46823 to log in.

If you are interested in becoming a clinical instructor or hosting UCF students at your site, please contact Dr. Scott Harp at [sharp@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:sharp@mail.ucf.edu).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- UCF Physical Therapy Symposium: New Looks at the Lower Extremity, July 10-11, 2004. For further information, please contact the program office at 407-823-3470.
- Class of 2004 Graduation: July 31, 2004
- Class of 1994 Reunion Celebration: TBA

## Recent Events

**National Student Conclave.** In fall 2003, 16 students attended the American Physical Therapy Association's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Student Conclave in Milwaukee, Wis., where they attended courses in finance management, Doctor of Physical Therapy curricula, professionalism and clinical practice. They were accompanied by Assistant Professor Scott Harp.

**UCF in Nashville.** Harp and Instructor Janice Holder presented their findings on "Discrimination and Racism in Physical Therapy Education" at the American Physical Therapy Association's combined sections meeting, held Feb. 4-8, 2004, in Nashville, Tenn. Their findings were the culmination of a statewide survey of physical therapy and physical therapist assistant students.

**Physical Therapy Symposium.** On February 21, 2004, the program hosted the Second Annual Physical Therapy Symposium at UCF. The symposium, titled "Conservative Management of Low Back Pain," was planned, organized and conducted by the class of 2004 to raise money for a board review course and senior banquet. More than 40 people participated and over \$5000 was raised. The students donated 10 percent of the proceeds to the Physical Therapy Program Foundation.

**NDT Course.** On March 13-14, 2004, the program hosted at UCF the Jan Davis "Function: An NDT Approach" course for rehabilitation professionals. The course attracted over 60 attendees from around the country.

**UCF Graduate Research Fair.** In March 2004, students Dayna Browman, Ammie Bryant, Jason Bryant, Pablo Lamacchia and James Namvar presented research at the inaugural university-wide Graduate Research Forum.

**Community Service.** Physical therapy students once again participated in the annual Senior Health Fair, sponsored by the city of Altamonte Springs' Special Community Services. They conducted a presentation on falls in the elderly, posture screening, proper body mechanics, osteoporosis and general wellness and exercise.

## VISIT US ONLINE

For further information about the program, visit our newly designed Web site:

[www.cohpa.ucf.edu/health.pro/ptms.cfm](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/health.pro/ptms.cfm)

## UCF PHYSICAL THERAPY ALUMNI

- 212 graduates since first class in 1993-1994
- 80 percent live in Florida
- 53 percent live in Central Florida
- 38 percent live in Orlando metropolitan area

### Browman *(continued)*

In addition to the continued commitment and cooperation of the physical therapy program, Browman said she hopes their exercise program will grow to include American with Disabilities Act–approved equipment.

Note: The program is now seeking private funding for the purchase of equipment and maintenance. For further information, contact the program office at 407-823-3470.

### Haffey *(continued)*

university and his or her community.

Haffey is currently a physical therapist and clinical manager for SunSpectrum Rehabilitation, a chain of outpatient clinics that provides physical, occupational and speech therapy to its patients. He also serves as the clinical manager of one of the organization's satellite clinics, located in the fitness center of a private country club in Lake Worth, Fla.

In addition to his M.S. in physical therapy, Haffey earned a B.S. in health services administration in 1999 and B.S. in health sciences in 2001 from UCF. He is also a former winner of the Outstanding Student of the Year award from the Florida Physical Therapy Association.

## Subscribe to UCF Physical Therapy

**Future issues of UCF Physical Therapy will be distributed by e-mail.** To subscribe, please send your e-mail address to [ptalumni@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:ptalumni@mail.ucf.edu).

The next issue will feature current information about the program's alumni. To be included, please complete the survey on page 4 and return it in the postage-paid envelope.

### To contact us:

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**UCF College of Health and Public Affairs**  
**Department of Health Professions**  
**Program in Physical Therapy**  
**We want you to ... STAY CONNECTED!**



The UCF Program in Physical Therapy and its alumni have a reputation of excellence, so we know you've done well in the field since graduation. In fact, we'd love to hear what you've been doing. We'd also like your input as we develop our alumni outreach efforts. You can help by completing and returning the following form. In addition, we encourage you to join the UCF Alumni Association, as your membership will give you access to future Physical Therapy Alumni Club events, activities and correspondence. Thank You! – *Dr. Gerald V. Smith, Program Director*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

UCF Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe any professional achievements, advanced degrees and/or personal events since graduation that you would like to share with the faculty and your classmates in publications or newsletters:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following alumni activities interest you?

- Guest lecturing for the program. Topic: \_\_\_\_\_
- Seminars/guest speakers related to the field of physical therapy
- Continuing education, transitional DPT information
- Volunteer activities related to the field of physical therapy
- Fund-raising events for the Program in Physical Therapy and scholarships
- Networking events/job fairs
- Social activities (happy hours, reunions, events)
- Homecoming, tailgating or other UCF football/basketball related activities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What can the Program in Physical Therapy do for you?

- Continuing education and seminars
- Guest speakers
- Professional networking
- Job fairs and job searches
- Provide interns for your organization
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join the Physical Therapy Alumni Club? \_\_\_\_\_

\*If so, visit [www.ucfalumni.com](http://www.ucfalumni.com) to join electronically or complete the enclosed application and return with your completed survey and dues (\$35 individual annual membership, \$55 joint annual membership).

Would you be interested in alumni leadership opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following are you interested in receiving from the Program in Physical Therapy?

- Annual printed publications
- Periodic electronic newsletters and information (e-mail address required)

What would you like to read about in our publications?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.**