John Buford, PT, PhD Welcomed as PT Division Director

John A. Buford, PT, PhD, Associate Professor, was named director of the OSU Physical Therapy Division effective August 1, 2012. He is just the sixth director in 57 years for the OSU PT Division. Professor Buford earned his PT degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and began his career at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. He then earned a PhD in kinesiology from UCLA. After a post-doctoral fellowship in neurophysiology at the University of Washington in Seattle, he joined the OSU faculty in 1999. Dr. Buford teaches neuroscience. His research focus is neural control of movement.

His appointment brings exciting changes to the PT Division; the renovation of the third floor teaching labs is complete, plans are beginning for searches for additional faculty members, and faculty offices will be refurbished later this year.

Congratulations, Dr. Alex Borstad

That’s right: now, there are two of them! Alex Borstad, PT, PhD, NCS, completed her PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences this summer under the guidance of our school’s director and former PT division director, Dr. Deborah S. Larsen, PT, PhD. Dr. Borstad’s project focused on brain pathways and mechanisms associated with recovery of sensory and motor function after stroke. We look forward to great things.

DPT Class of 2015

Fifty-six new students joined the program as members of the DPT Class of 2015. Our future colleagues were welcomed to the program at convocation. Students from the class of 2014 presented their “1st year buddies” with gait belts, as faculty helped them don their white coats.

New Teaching Labs!

DPT Class of 2015 members, Colby Brosky, Hannah Gibbs, Katie Winters, Kelly DiTomas, and Brenna Congeni, are ready to learn.
Alumnae Establish Endowments

Newly approved endowed funds will benefit the Physical Therapy Division. The Neva Farbizo Greenwald and Nancy Greenwald Pfeifer Physical Therapy Faculty Fund will support faculty development, emphasizing initiatives and programs related to health and wellness and health behaviors. Neva Greenwald, OSU PT 1960, retired in June as an associate professor and department chair of the Department of Physical Therapy in the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Nancy Pfeifer, OSU PT 1960, and Neva have been friends since they were in the PT program. They share a deep commitment to OSU that continues to grow. They hope that the endowment will serve to inspire faculty and students in the pursuit of excellence.

The Division is extremely grateful for generosity and foresight that these alumnae have shown.

Donna Redman Bentley, PT, PhD, has created an endowment that will support research, program development, and student scholarships. She received a Certificate in Physical Therapy in 1970. Currently, she is the associate dean for research for the College of Allied Health Professions at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California. Dr. Bentley became interested in supporting the PT Division when she was a PT student. In creating the endowment, Dr. Redman-Bentley remarked that she hopes her gift will help the Division continue to be one of the outstanding PT programs in the US.

For complete stories on these alumnae, see the Summer 2012 Alumnae Magazine at HRSalumni.clubexpress.com

Helen Duffy’s Gift Supports Student Coursework in Merida, Yucatan

DPT students interested in global education will benefit from a gift from Helen Duffy. Her gift will partially cover travel and expenses associated with the Global Health Service Learning Course in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, for the next three years. Previously, Ms. Duffy created The Barbara Rose Bostic Endowment, which provides scholarship support to students interested in a career in acute care or adult rehabilitation. The PT Division continues to be thankful for Ms. Duffy’s ongoing generosity.

Karah Bush Receives Summer Research Opportunities Program Graduate Fellowship

Karah Bush, a member of the 2015 DPT Class, is enrolled in the DPT-PhD program. Prior to her admission to the DPT Program, Karah received the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) fellowship while an undergraduate at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Through that program, she participated in Dr. Jill Heathcock’s Infant Research Lab. Because of her outstanding academic record and notable accomplishments with Dr. Heathcock, Karah was subsequently nominated for the prestigious SROP graduate fellowship to fund her DPT-PhD studies. This prestigious fellowship is awarded to not more than ten graduate students across the entire OSU campus annually, and Karah is now a fellow in this exceptional group. The Division congratulates Karah on this wonderful accomplishment and tribute to excellence.

Karah represents a new kind of PT student, the dual degree student who discovers research as an undergraduate and decides to pursue a PhD along with a DPT in graduate school. Karah joins Nora Fritz, DPT, Louise Thoma, DPT, Cara Whalen, DPT, and Maggie Abrams, SPT, in this highly selective program. These students will earn their PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and are preparing to become PT professors.
Laura Schmitt and James Onate Receive Award From Women and Philanthropy

James Onate, ATC, PhD, and Laura Schmitt, PT, PhD, were awarded a $28,000 grant from the Ohio State Women & Philanthropy program for their project, “FAIR Play: Female Athletes Injury Risk and Return-to-Play Program.” The award was made following their presentation to the members of Women and Philanthropy. “FAIR Play” will address musculoskeletal injury prevention among high school female athletes. Women & Philanthropy has awarded 22 grants totaling more than $500,000 since 2006 to a variety of OSU programs and initiatives.

Cara Whalen, PT, DPT, Leads Interdisciplinary Group to Rwanda

Cara Whalen, PT, DPT, is a graduate of the 2012 DPT program, and was a major in the Health Sciences program prior to that. Cara has been involved in global health since her undergraduate days. This summer, she led an interdisciplinary student group to Gisenyi, Rwanda, to provide a week of health-related service. The trip culminated two years of work with Partners in Conservation, an organization directed by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Through this partnership, Cara led an interdisciplinary student team, Buckeyes Without Borders, to work at the Ubumwe Community Center. This center provides education and marketable skills training for people with disabilities. Through the partnership, the group from medicine, occupational therapy, and pharmacy delivered health education programs to the teachers and conducted a comprehensive needs assessment for future trips. The team also provided direct service. They made a significant change to the life of a young girl (Clementine, shown at right) by enabling her to manipulate a spoon with her hands for the first time. Previously, she held the spoon in her toes and ate with her foot. Cara’s team also made wheelchair cushions and gave instructions in doing this so that future needs can be met. Key relationships were built that will enable development of future opportunities for students. Dr. Whalen is grateful for the partial funding she received for this trip from the Office of International Affairs Global Gateway Grant and the R25 International Practicum Funding. Dr. Whalen is also a student in the combined DPT/PhD program at Ohio State, will continue her education by working with Dr. Jane Case-Smith, OTR/L, EdD, FAOTA, to study upper limb rehabilitation approaches in children with neurological disorders. This will help Cara reach her ultimate career goal of becoming a professor of physical therapy.

Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award goes to Phil Cadman, PT

Our first recipient of the OSU Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award was Phil Cadman. Phil runs a private practice in Cincinnati called Premier Physical Therapy and has been a strong supporter of our program for several years. He was nominated by Becca Brinker (DPT Class of 2012) based on his outstanding teaching and mentoring skills as well as clinical expertise. Phil challenges students to utilize strong clinical reasoning skills while assessing each patient’s individual needs. He is a great role model and we are pleased to present him with this award. Congratulations Phil!

Class of 2012 finishes 44 strong! New PT’s Coming to a Clinic Near You!

It’s been a while since this happened, and this group deserves our applause. Every member of the class of 2012 began PT school together in June of 2009, and all have stuck it out to graduate on time as an intact cohort. Among this exceptional group, three were selected for formal recognition and awards. Barry C. Burton, DPT received the Lynn Allen Colby award for leadership and service. Lynn Krimmer, DPT, received the Pat Mahoney award for clinical excellence. And Cara Whalen, DPT, received the school’s graduate student award of merit. Family and friends gathered to celebrate graduation at a brunch on August 12th, 2012.