PT students and faculty build bicycles for kids with disabilities

By Jamitress Bowden
ECU News Service

A group of East Carolina University physical therapy students and faculty members volunteered their time to build bikes for 20 children with disabilities for a giveaway on May 18.

“I enjoy riding bikes and putting them together so this seemed like a great way to give back,” said Andy Hayek, a second-year physical therapy student who participated in the May 17-18 community service project with the local chapter of AMBUCS, American Business Clubs.

To receive an adapted bike, families had to respond to advertisements distributed by local therapists, physical therapy schools, the Greenville Parks and Recreation Specialized Recreation Department or email. All the participants were chosen within 14 days of advertising.

Caitlin Daniels, a second-year physical therapy student, said it is important to see how technology can be used to help patients be active in recreational activities.

ECU physical therapy faculty members as well as local physical therapists and occupational therapists conducted an initial evaluation of the children on March 9. The evaluations better informed the students and faculty members what therapy was best for the children. Once the evaluations were completed, the orders were placed for the Amtryke bikes. The bikes were specially designed for each child based on their needs and the suggestions of the evaluator.

If a child needs therapy for his legs, for example, a bike will be designed to let the user propel by hand. That bike will move his legs so he is able to receive custom mobility treatment.

“I feel great because I get to see several students working for the community,” said Dr. Amy Gross McMillan, ECU associate professor and associate chair of physical therapy. She added that she looked forward to giving the bikes away to the children they evaluated and their parents.

Each Amtryke bike costs between $500 and $800 depending on the design needed for the child. The participating families received the bikes at no cost.

Once all of the evaluations were completed, the fundraising began. With a $6,000 donation from Darragh Foundation and another donation from First Christian Church in Robersonville, the organization raised more than the $8,000 goal, according to Christine Lysaght, clinical instructor of physical therapy in ECU’s College of Allied Health Sciences.

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**Frede earns certification while serving country abroad**

U.S. Navy veteran and reservist Pat Frede recently earned a new certification while deployed to Africa.

Frede, who leads fundraising for CAHS, hopes to return to ECU in time for Homecoming, she said. She was deployed in December and has been in Africa since March while attached to the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Frede recently was one of six sailors with the Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command who earned the designation of Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist. Each sailor had to complete a rigorous series of personnel qualification standards and demonstrate proficiency in expeditionary and combat skills by passing a written examination and a final qualification oral board.

Frede’s unit has been working to establish and enhance relations between military forces, governmental and non-governmental organizations and civilians. The group advises and assists local populations with their needs, ranging from establishing community watch programs to teaching villagers about protection of natural resources.

This is Frede’s second deployment in three years. She was in Afghanistan in 2009-2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

There, as part of her mission, Frede was embedded with the U.S. Marine Corps Female Engagement Teams who worked to develop relationships of trust and mutual respect with Afghan women, who generally aren’t allowed to have contact with men outside their families.

She also taught a course on the teams’ relevance in counterinsurgency and stability operations. She earned a presidential unit citation for the work in Helmand province.

Read more about Frede’s mission on page 6.

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“Most of these families would not be able to afford these bikes for their children. There are so many other things that take priority,” said Lysaght.

Lysaght founded the local chapter of AMBUCS in February and was excited the organization was so successful with their first giveaway. AMBUCS is a national non-profit service-driven organization, dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities. The chapter’s mission is to provide bikes to people with disabilities and scholarships for needed physical therapy.

Debbie Chapman, mother of Caitlin, 21, said her daughter was excited and happy with all the attention. “She wanted to ride it immediately. It was great and there were a lot of supportive people there,” she said. “I really want to thank Christine for getting this started for our community.”

Jennifer Haddock’s son, Reid, 2, received a bike on May 18. “I thought the event was awesome. It was nice to see what can be offered for children so they can enjoy a bike,” said Haddock.

Lysaght said working with AMBUCS and facilitating programs like the bike giveaway combines her love for children, desires for exercise for all and knowledge as a physical therapist.

The students and faculty will conduct another evaluation period this fall. Because additional funds were raised for the first event, AMBUCS has about $2,000 in preparation for their next giveaway.
CAHS Early Assurance programs

Students in the new Honors College who are interested in pursuing a health career may now choose guaranteed entry through Early Assurance programs.

Of the five Early Assurance Programs offered through the Honors College, CAHS accounts for three of them: OT, DPT, and AuD/PhD.

Under these programs, selected students are guaranteed entry into these graduate programs upon completion of their undergraduate degree provided they satisfy program requirements. These programs are restricted to NC residents and serve as the gateway for students to pursue their dreams and reserve their space in a graduate program’s entering class.

CAHS holds annual convocation

The CAHS Faculty/Staff Convocation was held Monday, August 19, 2013. Annual awards were given by Dr. Stephen Thomas,

- Outstanding Teaching: Dr. Michael Kennedy, Health Services and Information Management
- Outstanding Service: Mrs. Myra Brown, Health Services and Information Management
- Outstanding Research: Dr. Jamie Perry, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Outstanding Staff Personnel: Pattie Wilson-Brown, Dean’s Office

The awards were largely based on work done over the last year (July 1 - June 30) with consideration given to work completed in the preceding three years. Congratulations to our award winners!

CAHS will welcome the inaugural class of MS, Health Informatics and Information Management students this fall. The class of seven students’ first day was on August 17, when they arrived for orientation.

Five of the incoming students will be taking the courses via distance education. Two of these students presently work as IT data/systems programmers. Another student is a graduate of the undergraduate program (BS in HIM) with a RHIA credential. The one on-campus student was formerly a practicing dentist in India. Three of the students will be pursuing the RHIA option in the MS in HIIM program. All are NC residents.

The goal to transform the health information management profession to graduate level education was established by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) in 2007.

With the health care system moving towards digitization and interconnectivity, new specialists trained in the field of health informatics and health information management are needed to lead such systematic changes.

“We expect the ECU MS, Health Informatics and Information Management students will become leaders and experts in the field,” said Dr. Xiaoming Zeng.

There are only two other NC universities offering health informatics programs. UNC-Charlotte started their first class last fall. Theirs is a professional science master with a strong emphasis on the technologies aspects of health informatics. UNC-Chapel Hill offers a health informatics certificate program.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Susie Harris, program director, harrissus@ecu.edu.
Finally, the program is geared toward working allied health practitioners with an associates degree in applied science. Courses are offered via distance delivery and licensed or credentialed allied health practitioners may receive up to 30 semester hours of credit for their discipline-specific training.

The HSM program is a fully certified undergraduate program of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. Initial three-year certification was awarded in 2009, and the program was recertified for six years in 2012. The program is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives Higher Education Network.

The BS in health services management is the largest undergraduate program in the College of Allied Health Sciences. It currently admits 65-70 students per year through a competitive admission process that screens applications from ECU sophomores who have declared health services management as their prospective major and applications from transfer students from community colleges.

Students enroll in courses on a full or part-time basis, and may complete coursework face-to-face or as distance education students.

The ECU HSM program graduates 50–60 students per year. Graduates work in health systems, acute care hospitals, long term care, medical practice management, and the health insurance industry.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary, several activities are in progress. Guest lecturers will be invited throughout the year to speak to the students.

Michael R. Meacham, JD, MPH, and Associate Professor in the Department of Healthcare Leadership and Management at the Medical University of South Carolina will be the first to speak on the topic of professionalism on October 28 and 29, 2013.

During February 2014, students will be selected based on exemplary academic performance and inaugurated as first inductees into the East Carolina University Chapter of Upsilon Phi Delta, an honors society of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. Alumni will be invited to form an alumni committee to plan a reception honoring these students.
CAHS is pleased to introduce our new faculty!

Ning Zhou, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Zhou received a master’s degree in linguistics and a PhD degree in hearing sciences from Ohio University. She worked as a postdoc research fellow at the Kresge Hearing Research Institute, Department of Otolaryngology, University of Michigan from 2010 to 2013. Her research area is psychophysics and perception in humans with cochlear implants. Her recent research focuses on improving speech recognition in electrical hearing by customizing the speech processing strategies of the devices on an individual basis.

William “Leigh” Atherton, PhD, LCAS, LPC, CCS, is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies. His duties include: director of the Navigate counseling clinic, coordinator for clinical placements, and teaching various rehabilitation and addictions related courses.

Atherton received a BA in psychology from Clark University, a MA in mental health counseling and behavioral medicine from Boston University School of Medicine, and a PhD in rehabilitation counseling and administration from ECU. Prior to joining ECU, he served as clinical director of a critical access behavioral health agency in Greenville, NC. He has over 10 years of clinical experience in mental health and addictions counseling and supervision.

Atherton’s research interests include the integration of vocational counseling into addictions treatment, training and integration of evidenced-based practices, and clinical supervision. In his down time, he seeks relaxation through nature walks with his wife, Tracie, and two dogs, SCUBA diving, and amateur underwater photography.

Ray Hylock, PhD, is an assistant professor, in the Department of Health Services and Information Management.

Hylock received his BS in business adm. (high technology management) from California State University, San Marcos and MS and PhD in informatics (health informatics) from the University of Iowa.

Broadly, his research foci are clinical data warehousing, federation, optimization, and algorithms. Current research involves the re-engineering of database management systems to conform to EAV data standards, proposing heuristics and models to enhance query performance in federated systems, and designing indexing and search techniques for aligning genetic sequences.

Holt received a BS in political science from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina; a MEd, in communication sciences and disorders from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina; and a PhD, in speech and hearing science from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Prior to joining the faculty at ECU, she served as a practicing speech language pathologist in Ohio, Virginia, and North Carolina, serving both children and adults in home, school, and hospital settings. In addition, Holt served on the faculty of NCCU.

Research interests focus on the dialect variation in African American English and Southern American English.

Holt is currently preparing series of experiments on speech production and perception for eastern North Carolina speakers.

Jennifer Radloff, OTD, OTR/L, CDRS, assistant professor, has joined the faculty in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Radloff received her BS in occupational therapy from Shawnee State University, an MHS in occupational therapy from the University of Indianapolis, and an OTD in occupational therapy from Chatham University.

Continued on next page
New Faculty continued

Her area of professional interest is resumption of occupations for adults and older adults with neurological disabilities.

Radloff’s research interests include driving rehabilitation and instructional design, methods, and technology. She is a certified driving rehabilitation specialist and a CarFit Instructor. She has been married to her husband Phil for 13 years.

Mayer graduated with highest distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. He subsequently completed his graduate training at East Carolina University, where he also graduated at the top of his class with a master of science degree in physician assistant studies.

He is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, as well as Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies.

Prior to returning to East Carolina University, Mayer practiced in both neurology and general internal medicine. He is thrilled to be returning to his alma mater in a professorial role, and he will also continue to practice clinically.

His areas of interest include evidence-based medicine, all aspects of general internal medicine and its subspecialties, preventative medicine, healthy lifestyles, and patient education.

Richard Willy, PhD, OCS is an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.

He received a bachelor of sport science and master of physical therapy degree from Ohio University and his PhD in biomechanics and movement Science from the University of Delaware. Willy has been a clinician for 13 years and is a Board Certified Orthopedic Specialist.

His research focuses on the pathomechanics and treatment of patellofemoral pain syndrome and the prevention of knee osteoarthritis in young, high-risk individuals.

Willy and his wife Elizabeth are proud to be new members of the ECU community.

Andrew Vermiglio, AuD, CCC-A, FAAA is an assistant professor and audiologist in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

His research is in the area of speech recognition in noise. He taught audiology courses at California State University, Northridge for four years.

Prior to entering academia Vermiglio worked as a senior research associate at the House Ear Institute (HEI) in Los Angeles. At HEI he worked in the Department of Human Communication Sciences and Devices under the direction of Dr. Sigfrid Soli and in the Department of Auditory Electrophysiology under the direction of Dr. Manny Don.

Vermiglio is one of the developers of the Hearing in Noise Test (HINT) and the Source Azimuth Identification in Noise Test (SAINT). He has also worked as a clinical audiologist for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Long Beach, California and at the House Ear Clinic, in Los Angeles, California.

He has played drums professionally for many years and has served as a musician and music instructor for the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Reserves.

Stacey Meardon, PT, PhD, ATC, CSCS, assistant professor, has joined the faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy.

Meadron received a BS in biology from Wartburg College, a master’s degree in physical therapy from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and a PhD in kinesiology with an emphasis in biomechanics and motor control from Iowa State University.

Her research examines neuromuscular and biomechanical factors influencing running injury with interests in bone health, factors influencing coordination of gait and factors influencing responses to footwear and orthotics. She and her husband, Chris, are the proud parents of three children, Cate age 9, Luke age 5, and Finn age 1.
The continuing expeditionary adventures of Skully!

Skully is getting ready to leave on a trip to Kenya, with the MCA Team 214, located at Camp Simba near the coast of Kenya. Photos will be posted on Skully’s Facebook page in the near future.

Pictured from left, Senior Chiefs Ramnytz, Fortier and Frede, Skully, Master Chief Davis and Chiefs Rankin and Avila

When Pat Frede was mobilized and sent on active duty for the second time in three years, there was no question about who would be joining her on her mission.

“Skully the Pirate” got his first taste of active duty with Frede in Afghanistan in 2009-2010 where she served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He’s now on a new adventure in Africa.

Before leaving in December, Skully passed his medical and physical evaluations, and completed training in Swahili, cultural competence and expeditionary combat skills. He qualified on the M-9 pistol, the M-4 rifle, and had some additional training in operational planning, maritime planning and resource management, and a few other related topics.

Although the OPTEMPO is high, Skully and Frede are doing their best to keep everyone abreast of the exciting events of this deployment.

You can follow Skully’s adventures on his Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/skully.thepirate.5

More information about Pat’s mission:
The Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command (MCAST) provides personnel, trains, equips and deploys U.S. Navy Sailors for a Task Force Commander to establish and enhance relations between military forces, governmental and nongovernmental organizations and the civilian populace.

Accomplished in a collaborative manner across the spectrum of operations in the maritime environment, MCAST Command executes civilian to military operations and military to military training, as directed, in support of security cooperation and security assistance requirements.

The MCAST Command prepares regionally aligned planners, teams, specialists and trainers to be effective, flexible and responsive in support of the Navy Component and Joint Task Force Commanders’ security cooperation plans. Enhancing partner-nation capability and capacity is accomplished by deploying fully qualified individuals and teams, trained to support civilian to military operations (Maritime Civil Affairs) and military to military training (Security Force Assistance).

To support the Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower and the Navy’s core competencies of Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief and Maritime Security, MCAST Command fosters and sustains cooperative relationships across the Joint, Coalition, and Multinational spectrum to provide regional stability, prevent conflict and protect U.S. interests.

Toriello receives grant

Paul Toriello, RhD, professor and chair, has been awarded a three-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant in support of his project, Operation Reentry NC: Veteran Resiliency and Reintegration.

The grant will provide up to $828,956 in funding over three years. The first year began on August 1, 2013. The SAMHSA grant will provide innovative means to enable outreach to homeless veterans and their families in eastern North Carolina.

Operation Re-entry North Carolina (ORNC) is a university-wide, multi-institutional research partnership in support of military service personnel: wounded warriors, veterans and their families, as well as those military/VA providers who care for them. This work will advance the quality of health care and family support for those who put their lives and well-being on the line for our nation.
Faculty in the spotlight

Dr. Jacob Thorp, clinical assistant professor, recently passed his Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) examination from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

The OCS is the preferred clinical specialization for musculoskeletal physical therapy. The specialist certification program was established to provide formal recognition for physical therapists with advanced clinical knowledge, experience, and skills in a special area of practice and to assist consumers and the health care community in identifying these physical therapists.

"Especially if you have some overzealous graduates," she said. "All it takes is somebody who is really excited to squeeze and shake too hard." Read the entire story here.

The second story was in the August/September issue of Living with Arthritis.

From the article: Setting up, grilling, time on your feet—it’s enough to make you shy away from hosting a cookout altogether. But it doesn’t have to be so exhausting! We asked certified hand therapist Debbie Amini, EdD, OTR/L, CHT, from the department of occupational therapy at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, for tips to help your party go smoothly. Here’s how to sidestep joint pain and fatigue while enjoying everything a barbecue has to offer—food, friends and fun! Read it here.

Dr. Debbie Amini, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy was quoted in two stories this summer.

The first was “Graduations can be a real handful” in June 19, 2013 edition of the LA Times.

From the story: At graduations, the sheer number of handshakes completed by one person in a relatively short amount of time could result in ligament damage and soft tissue trauma, said Debbie Amini, an occupational therapist and assistant professor at East Carolina University.

Leigh W. Cellucci, PhD, MBA, associate professor, in the Department of Health Services and Information Management was elected to a three-year term on the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) Board of Directors at the annual meeting, June 2013.

AUPHA is the accrediting association for ECU’s undergraduate degree in Health Services Management. The program has full certified undergraduate membership status.

Susie T. Harris, PhD, RHIA, CCS, associate professor, is now serving as the MS, Health Informatics and Information Management program director. Dr. Paul Bell and Dr. Robert Campbell will assume assistant directorship roles.

The first class of MS in HIIM students will enter this coming fall 2013.

Martha Chapin, PhD, LPC, CRC, professor, and Dr. Andrew Byrne, a 2013 graduate with a PhD in rehabilitation counseling and administration in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies, recently published an article titled “Ethical Decision making Applied to Social Networking” in The Journal of Rehabilitation.

Bonita Sasnett, EdD and Robert J. Campbell, EdD have an article published in the Spring 2013 edition of the Journal of Health Administration Education titled “The Utility of the Team Notebook as a Teaching Tool for Team Learning” Vol. 30(2) 89-112.
Faculty in the spotlight—continued

Dr. Robert Campbell, associate professor, gave the following presentations at the American Health Information Association’s Assembly of Education Faculty Development Institute, which was held on July 22-24, 2013 in Baltimore, Maryland:

• Database Technology and the Meaningful Use Standards presented on July 22, 2013.

• Using the Open EMR to Teach Electronic Health Record Management Skills presented on July 23, 2013.

On July 25, 2013 he attended a workshop on accreditation sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

Dr. Denise Donica in the Department of Occupational Therapy had an article published, “Enhancing globally aware rehabilitation practice through technology,” in the August edition of the International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation.

The article is an opinion piece about using technology in the classroom to enhance global awareness of clinicians and practice in other countries.


The Harriet and John Wooten Laboratory for Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research at ECU has received a grant in the amount of $50,000 to advance the studies of Alzheimer’s disease. Sonja Bareiss, PhD, PT, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy is one of the lab researchers who will be participating in the study.

The money will be used to study the effects of physical and cognitive exercise on laboratory animals with symptoms of dementia and how certain drugs can mimic the effects.

The grant is the first to be awarded to the lab itself rather than to individual researchers.

Working with Bareiss are Dr. Qun Lu, director of the lab, and a scientist and professor of anatomy and cell biology at the Brody School of Medicine; and Dr. Tuan Tran, an associate professor of psychology at ECU.

The Wooten Laboratory was established in 2008 by Dr. Harriet Wooten in memory of her husband, Dr. John Wooten, an orthopedic surgeon who died of Alzheimer’s disease in 2004. More information about the Wooten Lab is online at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/wootenlab.

Pictured above: From left, Dr. Sonja Bareiss and Dr. Tuan Tran of ECU, Alice Watkins of AlzNC, Dr. Qun Lu of ECU, donor and AlzNC board member Laura Gaddis, AlzNC board chair J. Gregory Wallace and Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, were among those at the check presentation.

Dr. Anne Dickerson, professor and director of the Research for Older Adult Driver Initiative (ROADI), has contributed to expanding the knowledge of driving and OT this summer.

May 13, 2013—Plenary speaker at Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology Conference with a presentation: Driving with Dementia: When to Give Up the Keys.
Faculty in the spotlight - continued

July 11 & 12, 2013 – Trinity University, Dublin Ireland - two day workshop with Dr. Tadhg Stapleton: Workshop for Occupational Therapists on Addressing Driving Issues in the Irish Context of Practice. Since there was a wait list of 40+ therapists, Dickerson will be returning to Dublin to repeat the workshop in August.

July 29-30, 2013 – A key facilitator of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies’ mid year meeting of the Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons (ANB60). The meeting’s objective was to begin a process to build a taxonomy of terms focused on: How We Approach Evidence of Driving Impairments/Driving Competence: Developing a Resource to Promote Shared Understanding Among Researchers, Clinicians, Policymakers, and Licensing Officials. Dickerson will be one of the content experts for this ongoing project.


Upcoming Events

Dr. Ray Hylock, assistant professor in HSIM, will be a presenter at the upcoming Informatics Research Seminar Series sponsored by Duke University and a collaboration with UNC-Chapel Hill, NCCU, UNC-Charlotte, and ECU HSIM.

The series begins on August 28 with seminars scheduled through November 13. Dr. Hylock will present “Beyond Relational: A Database Architecture for Clinical Data Management” on Nov. 13.

For more information about the series: https://www.dchi.duke.edu/education/informatics-seminars.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders will hold their aphasia group meetings again this fall. The group is for people who have difficulty communicating because of stroke or brain injury.

The group will meet from 10 a.m. until noon in Room 1305 in the Health Sciences Building on the following Fridays: Aug. 30, Sept. 6, Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15, and Nov. 22.

The ECU Speech-Language Clinic in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences facilitates the group. Graduate students, under the direction of a licensed speech-language pathologist, guide participants as they practice communication skills using a variety of activities.

We’re social!

Did you know the Division of Health Sciences tweets? Check out all of our social media sites! And, if you like us, well, you know what to do.

We welcome your emails and comments. Please contact us at robersonk@ecu.edu or 252-744-6014.