NMT STUDENT WINS 1ST PLACE AT ANNUAL MEETING

Ms. Katrina Sheets, rising senior in the Nuclear Medicine Technology program, won 1st place in the student poster category of the Society of Nuclear Medicine’s annual international meeting, with her poster research being on the characteristics of melanoma of the head and neck injection techniques.

“This was high-level research that was pretty ambitious for an undergraduate student,” said Mimi Owen, director of the program. “It is a great honor for our program.”

CONGRATULATIONS KATRINA!

MOBILE LAB TO FACILITATE DISTANCE LEARNING

The Department of Biomedical and Radiological Technologies is ready to utilize the new fully equipped mobile lab for training distance students in metro Atlanta this fall. The 11-by-53 foot lab has been moved to Gwinnett Health System Medical Center in Lawrenceville and will facilitate instruction for distance-learning students in the department’s clinical laboratory sciences program.

The curriculum includes microbiology, biochemistry, immunology, hematology, blood banking and molecular diagnostics. With space for 10 students and a faculty office, the lab handles its own chemical and biological waste, HVAC functions, power and filtration. The mobile lab is state-of-the-art with the newest technology essential for training students. For full details please see MCG News published July 9, 2010.
PA STUDENTS WIN GAPA CHAMPIONSHIP

On July 23, MCG’s Physician Assistant students, Elise Hulsebus, Stephanie Wanha and Hallie Stevenson won the Georgia Association of Physician Assistants (GAPA) Challenge Bowl. The team of three practiced several hours per week for the past semester to topple the other three PA student teams from Emory University, Mercer University, and South University. This is the 6th consecutive year that MCG’s program has dominated the Bowl. The Bowl is an ongoing tradition, which is held each year at the annual convention of GAPA. CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR – BEN TAYLOR, PA-C, PhD.

On July, 24, 2010, during the annual Georgia Association of Physician Assistants (GAPA) conference in Sandestin, Florida, Dr. Ben Taylor was named the Georgia Physician Assistant of the Year. Dr. Taylor graduated from the University of Oklahoma Physician Associate Program via the United States Army PA Program and is the current public education chair and past president of GAPA. In addition to his service to GAPA, Dr. Taylor works in multiple emergency departments and urgent care clinics in the Georgia/South Carolina area, serves as Clinical Assistant Professor in the PA Department at the Medical College of Georgia and at present is a director-at-large for the Association of Family Practice Physician Assistants.

Dr. Taylor has displayed proven leadership throughout the year, as well as being a mentor to others throughout the state. "My greatest accomplishment as a PA is seeing the students that I have taught grow into this field to become competent healthcare professionals," Taylor said.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT

- The School of Allied Health Sciences Alumni Association is currently recruiting for board members for FY2011-2012. Department representatives from Health Informatics and Respiratory Therapy are needed. Homecoming will be held one week earlier from April 11-14, 2011.

- SAHS students (lead by OT students) are planning a school wide semi-formal ball for September 30 in the Mulberry Center. Proceeds from the event will benefit RT student, Courtney Claxton who sustained a spinal cord injury in an automobile accident last year. Further details will be sent to departments and students.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, RESPIRATORY THERAPY AND NURSING STUDENTS PARTNER WITH LOCAL NURSERY TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE TO LOCAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Faculty and students from several allied health departments participated in the recent Annual Layman Health Fair at the Layman Wholesale Nurseries in Trenton, SC. The health fair involved screening 350 employees who were assessed for height, weight, body mass index, skin, vision, respiratory, cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose and dental needs. HIV testing and education on women’s health and nutrition were also available. Workers in need of follow-up treatment were referred to community resources.

This event provided our students a chance to practice their skills in a real life environment.

The Respiratory Therapy students participated by giving the employees respiratory evaluations and the Occupational Therapy students demonstrated the correct procedures for lifting heavy objects.

For full details please see MCG News published July 19, 2010.

Ms. Kendra Rindt, Educational Program Specialist from the Department of Health Informatics, has replaced Ms. Gina Boyd as our School’s representative on the Employee Advisory Council. If you have any questions or concerns which you would like brought to the Council, please contact Ms. Rindt at krindt@mcg.edu. The next meeting will be held October 13th. CONGRATULATIONS KENDA!
THE DRUNKEN PIRATE AND THE MIRACLE OF LIFE: SOCIAL NETWORKING AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE CLASSROOM

Please join us for the next Interdisciplinary Development Series on Thursday, August 12, 2010 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Room 1218 of the Health Sciences Building

Presenters:
Doug Keskula, PT, PhD, ATC, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Lee H. Little, JD, MCG Senior Legal Advisor

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Wittr at pwitter@mcg.edu or 1-2621.

MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION AWARDS

Department of Medical Illustration faculty members Steve Harrison, Bill Andrews and Michael Jensen attended the 65th Annual meeting of the Association of Medical Illustrators on the campus of Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, July 27-August 1.

MCG alumni and students won awards in the Professional and Student Illustration Salons, where nearly 300 pieces of artwork were displayed and judged by panels of professional medical illustrators.

Seven (7) MCG alumni won ten awards in print and animation categories. There were three corporate awards in animation where MCG alumni were members of the production team. There were three awards in the Student salon, including the Orville Parkes Award for Student Achievement Award, was bestowed upon William B. Westwood (Class of 1972).

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENT AWARDS

Receiving awards at the School of Dentistry Welcome Back Luncheon on August 18:

- Emile T. Fischer Foundation Award: Brittany Humphreys and Stephanie Silva
- Eastern District Dental Society – Brooke Johnson
- Dr. Emmanuel Ngoh Award – Bhumika Patel

Additional awards, which have already been received by students:
- Augusta Dental Society Award – Morgan Stuckey
- ADA Fones Scholarship for $1,500 – Sarah Jo Labrador

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS!

CUDOS TO FACULTY

The following faculty have published articles over the past few months:

- Dr. Ben Herz recently contributed to the article, “Virtual Reality-Based Rehabilitation” in the June 2010 edition of OT Practice.
- Drs. Greg Passmore and William Hoffman recently published the article, “Insulin and IGF-1 Receptors, Nitrotyrosin, and Cerebral Neuronal Deficits in Two Young Patients with Diabetic Ketoacidosis and Fatal Brain Edema” in the July 2010 issue of Brain Research.

CONGRATULATIONS to the faculty for their great accomplishments!

Send information for the September/October newsletter to Kathy Stone at kstone@mcg.edu no later than September 24th.
Welcome New Faculty and Staff

- Ms. Crystal Doyle – Research Assistant, Department of Physical Therapy (6/1/10)
- Ms. Mary Garrard – Part-time Instructor, Department of Biomedical & Radiological Technologies, (8/1/10)
- Ms. Shawn Hensley – Part-time Instructor, Department of Dental Hygiene (8/1/10)
- Dr. Elizabeth Leibach – Professor Emeritus, Department of Biomedical and Radiological Technologies (7/1/10)
- Ms. Kandyce Mack, Part-time Instructor, Department of Dental Hygiene, (8/1/10)
- Ms. Amanda Mason – Temporary Assistant Professor, Department of Health Informatics, (8/1/10)
- Ms. Natisha Roberson-Dunn, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Department, (7/1/10)
- Dr. William Schiff, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Department, (7/1/10)
- Ms. Sherry Smith – Part-time Assistant Professor-Rehire Retiree, Department of Health Informatics, (8/1/10)

RESEARCH NEWS

The following represents currently funded sponsored activities in SAHS:

- Dr. Abiodun Akinwuntan (PT), Training of Driving Performance in Individuals with Parkinson’s Disease, CSRA Parkinson Support Group.
- Dr. Lori Bolgla (PT), Optimal Rehabilitation Protocols for the Treatment of Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome: An Outcome-Based RCT Study, University of Calgary.
- Dr. Joseph Cannon (DO), Influence of Physical Activity on Leptin Receptor Expression in Adult Women, National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute/ NIH/DHHS.
- Dr. Raymond Chong (PT), Virtual-Reality Cueing to Improve Walking in Parkinson’s Disease, CSRA Parkinson Support Group.
- Dr. Miriam Cortez-Cooper (PT), Beat-By-Beat Blood Pressure and EMG Responses to Commonly Performed Self-Stretches, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia.
- Dr. Bonnie Dadig (PA), Physician Assistant Training in Primary Care, Health Resources & Services Administration/DHHS.
- Dr. Robert Gibson (OT), NCMHD Southeastern Exploratory Sickle Cell Center of Excellence, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities/NIH/DHHS.
- Dr. Ben Herz (OT), The Nintendo Wii and the Facilitation of Functional Movement in Parkinson’s Disease Patients, National Parkinson Foundation, Inc. Dr. Lynn Jaffe (OT), Project Skilled Credentialed Early Interventionists (SCEIs), Georgia State University.

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

Welcome!

Once again, we embark on the beginning of a new academic cycle with lofty goals and high expectations. Our plates seem full but the enthusiasm of a new beginning, new faces, and cooler weather (not a typo) help guide our way. At the heart of all the effort is one simple quest that can be described with the following question: “What is the nature of our responsibility to the world?”

The forces for us to achieve are tightly linked to what we believe we can contribute to our world and how we choose to go about getting those responsibilities accomplished. It is quite simple yet requires a tremendous effort to bring to life. I have heard Jim Yong Kim, President of Dartmouth University; describe this as the fundamental requirement for moving us to a better place. Once we are in touch with what drives us to excel, it all seems easy and sensible. I know each of you bring a wealth of talent and experiences to the table and choose to share your gifts on the behalf others. It is that focus on the greater good that propels us to succeed.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere wishes for a rewarding and productive academic year to each of you. I hope we will all embrace this time of transition in a positive and upbeat manner. To paraphrase the words of journalist Frank McGee, I hope each of you “welcomes the task that makes you go beyond yourself.”

Healthiest Regards,

Kent Guion, MD
Interim Dean School of Allied Health Sciences