President’s Message

My Favorite Time of Year

I write this message as we approach my favorite time of year. The fall is a great time of year for me for several reasons personally and professionally. It is sitting around a fire in the chiminea, the cool crisp air for outdoor recreational activities, watching football, and the upcoming holidays. This year adds some physical therapy specific significance in addition to my personal likings of the fall.

The most significant of the physical therapy implications is that October is National Physical Therapy Month. This is a time to celebrate your accomplishments and promote the services we provide. I congratulate each of you on your chosen profession and the accomplishments you have achieved throughout your career. I would also like to thank you for what you do clinically to rehabilitate patients, educationally to mold future physical therapy professionals, and for those who have volunteered their time to serve the association in various roles. Happy PT Month!!!

Recently, at the fall meeting I presented to the membership a brief status of governmental affairs activities that took place during the summer and into the fall. These activities are additional reasons for excitement.

After many years of work with the Louisiana State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (LSBPTE), HB 773 was passed in the 2009 Louisiana State Legislature. This was the bill that reorganized the practice act. A task force has been compiled by the LSBPTE to assist with the writing of the rules and regulations which is currently taking place. We anticipate that a draft will be available for review in October. Please stay tuned to the LSBPTE website www.laptboard.org.

SB 303 was the bill that created the Louisiana Workers Compensation Medical Council. I reported at the fall meeting that Steve Allison was the LPTA nominee to the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Shortly after the state meeting we were asked to submit two additional names for the council because the legislation called for three nominees. We have submitted Seth Kaplan and Joe Shine as two additional candidates to potentially be selected to this council. I am sure we will be well represented with whoever is selected. At the time that this message is being composed, we still don’t have word as to who our representative will be. However, by the time you receive this, I expect that we will know.

I would also like to report that the LPTA Board of Directors appointed Joe Shine to the position of LPTA Vice President. Joe will be fulfilling the remaining term of Dr. Kevin Brueilly, who stepped down from the vice presidency this summer to take on the challenge of developing the new PT program at Lynchburg College in Virginia. We wish both Joe, and Kevin, best wishes in their upcoming endeavors, and thank them for their willingness to serve the LPTA.

(Continued on page 8)
2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers
President
Greg LeBlanc
(w) 225/769-3898
(f) 225/231-3813
greg@brptlake.com
Vice President
Joe Shine
(w) 985/653-9242
(f) 985/653-9324
jsshine@lsuhsc.edu
Secretary
Rebekah Winters
(w) 337/527-4347
(f) 337/527-4259
rebekah@yahoocom
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(w) 504/985-0007
(f) 504/455-0605
rkcoog8@aol.com
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David Qualls
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dquallsco@aol.com
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(h) 318/746-0627
rpm5050@aol.com
Nominations Chair
Anna Means
(w) 318/813-2971
(f) 318/813-2981
ameans@lsuhsc.edu
PTA Caucus Representative
Jerry Allgood
(w) 337/654-2575
jerryallgood@hotmail.com

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District Chairs
Alexandria
Brad Foster
(w) 318/201-9554
(f) 318/466-1891
mptatt@bellsouth.net
Baton Rouge
Kitty Krieg
(w) 225/768-1702
(f) 225/768-0819
kkrieg@ololcollege.edu
Houma
Craig Pate
(w) 985/446-3736
(f) 985/446-3701
craigpt92@hotmail.com
Lafayette
Ellen DeValcourt
(w) 337/981-9182
(f) 337/998-3441
ecubed12@hotmail.com
Lake Charles
Jeremy Stillwell
(w) 337/217-0997
(f) 337/217-0998
jstill@bellsouth.net
Monroe
Aimee Kramer
(w) 318/376-3108
akramerptinc@bellsouth.net
New Orleans
Amelia Leonardi
(w) 504/671-6239
(f) 504/483-4609
aleona@dcc.edu
North Shore
David Hendricks
(w) 985/875-7525
dynk@charter.net
Shreveport
Anna Means
(w) 318/813-2971
(f) 318/813-2981
ameans@lsuhsc.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark Your Calendar NOW!

2009
October 31—November 1
National Student Conclave
Miami, FL
November 20-21
APTA Reimbursement Forum
Alexandria, VA

2010
February 17-20
CSM
San Diego, CA
March 19-21
LPTA Spring Meeting
Bossier City, LA

Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information
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Newsletter Chairman, Kinta LeBlanc
Newsletter Editor, Bland O’Connor
Louisiana Physical Therapy Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(225) 922-4614
(225) 408-4422 (fax)
Email: office@lpta.org
www.lpta.org

LPTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Please continue to encourage your fellow PTs, PTAs and students to join or renew their APTA/LPTA membership!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active members</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT Students</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTAs</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA Students</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>944</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Bayou Bulletin September/October 2009
New Grads
Join our team and make a difference in the lives of everyone you come in contact with.

OUR EMPLOYEES ENJOY:
• Premium Salaries
• Superior Benefits Package
• Professional Growth
• Career Ladders
• 401(K) with Company Matching
• $1,000 annual CEU Allowance
• New Grad Scholarships
• Medical, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance
• Long and Short term Disability Insurance
• Commitment to Inservice & Clinical Education
• Over 50% of Management Promoted from within
• Sign-on Bonus & Relocation Assistance Available

Call Charity Halbert for details
888-343-1811
chalbert@therapymgmt.com
Apply online at
www.therapymgmt.com
Congratulations to Rebekah Winters on being acknowledged as an APTA Emerging Leader! Her service to our chapter is much appreciated! We’re glad the APTA recognizes her leadership qualities as well!
Way to go, Rebekah!

Member News

Melissa Pettavino, PT, MPT wrote to the LPTA office to let us know she recently opened a clinic in Mandeville primarily for children, but also for adults with neurological disorders. She is one of only a few certified therapists in the state in the TheraSuit, Universal Exercise Unit and Intense therapy sessions, all of which are specialized and unique types of therapy. Melissa states she received most of her training in pediatric therapy at Childrens Hospital in New Orleans where she worked for 8 years, and she goes onto say that she is also a practicing with the Early Steps program.

She reports she’s had an overwhelming response since she opened her clinic doors 6 months ago, perhaps because of the distinctiveness of the therapy she provides and the gains the patients acquire. If you would like more information on the services Melissa provides she invites you to contact her at:

Innovative Suit Therapy and Fitness, LLC
4600 Hwy 22, Ste 7
Mandeville, LA 70471
office (985)792-7700
fax (985) 792-7701
cell (504) 813-9405
Overcoming Obesity

We have all heard much about the "obesity epidemic." Discussion, debate and hypotheses run rampant on what caused this problem and what will work best to resolve it. How do we tackle a problem of this size? (No pun intended....honestly!) Ideas include school-based reforms, improvements in local access to nutritious food and active green space, and healthcare changes.

Regardless of the measures taken by states, cities and individuals, it is clear that the problem must be addressed at multiple levels, in various settings and throughout the lifespan. As physical therapists, there are many ways we can help address this issue. This month, we review the importance of biometric measurements.

In pediatric PT evals, my standard practice includes taking height and weight measures and using growth charts for all patients. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both recommend parents know their child's body mass index; research shows the majority of parents do not. Most adults, too, underestimate their actual weight and don't know their BMI. Height, weight and body composition measures should be standard during initial PT examinations of patients of all ages.

Discussing weight is a very sensitive subject, so measuring height/weight as "standard practice" often encourages patients/families to broach the subject themselves. For a clinician to bring this up without offending the patient, it requires a level of trust in the patient-practitioner relationship. It can be best addressed in objective terms, using the standard classification system to educate patients/families. Below is information on simple measurements to incorporate into your examinations, as well as a handy reference section to tear out and keep.

Body mass index is a common way to assess body composition; it does not account for muscular builds, and the correlation between body fatness and BMI has some variability due to race, sex and age. BMI growth charts for children and teens, as well as adult BMI information, can all be found on the CDC's website at http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/. BMI is calculated using height and weight using one of the two formulae below. For all adults, the desired BMI range is 18.5 to 24.9. Lower is considered underweight, and 25 and above ranges from overweight to morbidly obese. For chil-
Why should a Physical Therapist work at Tulane Medical Center?

401(K) WITH 100% EMPLOYER MATCH
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
$2,000 Sign-on Bonus*

Tulane Medical Center has a rich history in New Orleans as one of America’s most acclaimed research, teaching and patient care hospitals. Our commitment to quality and excellence in patient care is a direct reflection of our exceptional team of healthcare professionals. To advance your career in a challenging and rewarding environment, you belong here!

Physical Therapists (FT & PRN)

You will work as part of a dynamic interdisciplinary team and will be expected to utilize your progressive and superior skills to help patients with diverse diagnoses. Ideal candidate will have a physical therapy degree from an accredited program; Louisiana physical therapy license; CPR certification; and at least 1 year of experience. New graduates will be considered.

Tulane offers competitive pay, and comprehensive benefits. For more information and to apply online, visit: www.tmccareers.com, or e-mail your resume to: angela.minga@hcahealthcare.com. EOE. Tulane Medical Center is a drug-free workplace.

www.tmccareers.com

*The $2,000 Sign-on Bonus is for full-time employees.
dren, BMI is considered "normal" when children fall in the 5th to 85th percentile range based on CDC growth charts. See below for more BMI information.

Waist to hip ratio is another measurement that has been shown to be a predictor of mortality and health risks. Unlike BMI, it assesses fat distribution, since abdominal visceral fat is the "bad fat" associated with metabolic syndrome and other health comorbidities. Waist circumference measured at the natural waist divided by hip circumference measured at the widest part of the buttocks gives you the W:H ratio. For men, >1 is considered high risk, and for women >.8 is high risk. See the table below for a risk breakdown.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute advocates use of waist circumference alone to assess body composition and to more accurately screen for health risks. In normal to overweight patients, it can identify "high risk" patients due to the increased proportion of abdominal visceral fat. Waist circumference is measured at the level just above the iliac crests. These patients have a greater risk of hypertension, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. High risk is considered greater than 40 inches in men and over 35 inches in women.

Use these tools to make it easier to discuss a difficult and often uncomfortable subject with your patients. It is within our scope of practice as PTs to initiate dialogue on the subject, promote active lifestyles and encourage involvement of doctors and other appropriate professionals. Good luck!

**BODY MASS INDEX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Status</th>
<th>Adult BMI</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>Below 18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>18.5 – 24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>25.0 – 29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>30.0 and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morbidly Obese</td>
<td>40.0 and above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard calculation: \( \text{WEIGHT(lbs)} \div \text{HEIGHT(in)} \div \text{HEIGHT(in)} \times 703 = \text{BMI} \)

Metric calculation: \( \text{WEIGHT(kg)} \div \text{HEIGHT(cm)} \div \text{HEIGHT(cm)} \times 10,000 = \text{BMI} \)
WAIST TO HIP RATIO

\[ \text{WAIST circumference ÷ HIP circumference} = \text{W:H ratio} \]

*based solely on W:H ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Health Risk*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.95 or below</td>
<td>0.80 or below</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.96 to 1.0</td>
<td>0.81 to 0.85</td>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 and above</td>
<td>0.85+</td>
<td>High Risk</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Pediatric BMI*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pediatric BMI*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5th percentile</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th percentile to &lt;85th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85th to &lt;95th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95th percentile and above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pediatric growth charts for plotting BMI are downloadable at [http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/](http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/).

(Continued from page 1)

Hall of Fame for his dedication to the LPTA through his many years of foresight and contributions to the practice of physical therapy, with specific accomplishments in many private practice initiatives. The 2009 Friend of Physical Therapy Award was presented to Glenn Ducote who was for his endurance and perseverance, especially demonstrated in his work on the legislation for the revision of the practice act. Richard Burford was presented the Legislator of the Year Award.

(Continued on page 10)
This month’s LPTA Spotlight shines on Shreveport’s own, Gail Pearce. Gail’s history with the APTA began back in 1967 when she was enrolled in physical therapy school at Marquette University, way up north in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. So how did she end up here in the Bayou State?

Well, you could say it all began at the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee where Gail took her first job as a physical therapist. Since this was during the Vietnam War years Gail was exposed to some pretty emotionally events. She recalls that she treated soldiers who were injured “while under the influence” since drug use was rampant during this time in history. The care soldiers received during this era was very different from the care the soldiers of today receive, which caused much distress for these patients. On one occasion Gail remembers a patient who, after receiving a weekend pass, committed suicide; a traumatic event for a young, new grad to have to experience, indeed.

Three years went by at the VA when Gail met the love of her life, a young Marine named Dan. She contends that it wasn’t love at first sight, but their second encounter clearly sealed the love deal; they married six months later. And although these love-birds don’t have any children, they plan on celebrating their 38 years of marriage this December with their current “baby”, a 16 pound Maine Coon cat named Yoda.

Gail and Dan moved from Milwaukee to a small Kansas town, where she was known to the locals by the car she drove, a blue MGB. (One of her former students that I happened to meet this year at the House of Delegates told me she also acquired the nickname “Foxy Mama” during those years with her sassy, little car!) Life in this town was certainly a huge departure from her days in Milwaukee. Gail says it was quite an adjustment coming from a setting where she was part of a staff of 25 therapists to being the only physical therapist in 6 counties. She missed the professional collegial relationships with her fellow therapists and the easy access to continuing education, so a year after they moved to Shreveport to be closer to her parents she headed out to her first national APTA conference in St. Louis in 1978 where she said she became hooked on APTA.

She worked for the VA in Shreveport for 3 years, and then worked in a private practice setting. But the call of the VA came once again in 1985 when she returned to become the Director of the Physical Therapy Department. Gail states her tenure as director was not without its bumpy roads, as she had to master the task of being not just a good physical therapist (in my opinion) but how to be a good supervisor. Apparently she did a great job in that capacity since she remained in that position until her retirement in December 2007. But Gail’s retirement certainly was not a cut and dry affair; she still practices part-time in the home health setting, still learning how to manage all of the bumpy roads (both literally and figuratively, I’m sure).

Gail’s dedication to the profession of physical therapy stretches across a broad spectrum. She has been a member of the Louisiana State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, a member of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, an onsite program reviewer for CAPTE, a part-time teacher at LSUHSC in Shreveport, a delegate and chief delegate to the APTA House of Delegates for Louisiana, Kansas, and the VA and the Federal Sections of the APTA. And of course, we are eternally grateful for her service to the LPTA as Bylaws Committee Chairperson, and for her constant involvement in our association over the years. And we’re so happy that she hasn’t “retired” from the LPTA!

I think Gail’s perspective about the profession of physical therapy is one to be shared:

“I am always proud to tell people that I am a physical therapist. We are “GOOD PEOPLE”. We have the ability and opportunity to shape so many lives. We are able to give back people’s lives after devastating injuries or illnesses. We all come from different backgrounds and parts of the world, but the training and the skills we learn bind us together into a wonderful profession.”

Well said, Gail!
Don’t forget to send in your PT Month activities articles! Let us know how YOU celebrated PT Month!

2009 APTA State Government Affairs Forum

Nearly 150 PT, PTA, and PT student advocates from across the country attended the APTA State Government Affairs Forum September 13-15, 2009, in Phoenix, AZ. This event, co-hosted with the Arizona Chapter, was designed to increase participants' involvement in and knowledge of state policy issues that have an impact on the practice of physical therapy, and improve their advocacy efforts at the state level. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from influential public policy makers and other PT advocates; to collaborate with colleagues in developing and improving their components' advocacy efforts; and to network with other professionals from across the country.

This year's forum featured a variety of informational and strategy sessions on topics including health care reform, referral for profit (POPTS), infringement issues, term protection, and the PT workforce among others.

In addition, the 2009 APTA State Legislative Awards were presented in conjunction with this year's Forum. For their individual leadership on legislation advancing Vision 2020 in the state arena, the 2009 State Legislative Leadership Award was presented to Maggie Donohue, PT, of New Hampshire and Kim Reid, PT, of Utah. In recognition of their long-term commitment to their chapters' state legislative activities over several years and for consistently providing assistance in the statehouse, the 2009 State Legislative Commitment Award was presented to Kathy Brady, PT, of Maryland and Peter McMenamin, PT, MS, OCS, of Illinois. APTA Board member Lisa Saladin, PT, PhD, presented the awards at a reception in honor of this year's winners.

The 2010 State Government Affairs Forum is scheduled for September 26-28, 2010, in Portland, OR.

(Continued from page 8)

Joe Shine was appointed as Vice President to fulfill the term of Kevin Brueilly who moved out of state. Delegates elected were Kinta LeBlanc and Gail Pearce for two-year terms and Allison Daly as alternate delegate. David Qualls was elected Chief Delegate. Jerry Allgood was elected as PTA Caucus delegate.

BUSINESS MEETING

Actions approved in the September 18, 2009 Board of Directors meeting and the September 19, 2009 General Membership meeting were:

- Appointed Joe Shine as Vice President to fulfill the term of Kevin Brueilly
- PT/PTA non-member registration fee for the LPTA fall and spring meetings be increased to $440 or $125 above the member fee for the early bird, on site, and regular category. Also increase the Saturday only non-member fee to $225.
PHYSICAL THERAPY PROVIDER NETWORK (PTPN)  
INVITES NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Physical Therapy Provider Network, Inc. (PTPN), the oldest and largest rehabilitation network in the United States for private practice therapists, has been in operation for nearly two decades in Louisiana. PTPN is presently made up of physical, occupational, and speech therapists in independent practice and its members include nearly 100 clinics geographically distributed throughout the states of Louisiana and Mississippi. It is PTPN’s mission to maximize the independent therapist’s profitable and clinically effective participation in healthcare.

PTPN member clinics gain quantifiable value from their PTPN Membership. The greatest value they report is access to more patients and more revenue through PTPN’s many contracts with payers. In addition, PTPN members save money through PTPN’s handling of contracting and credentialing functions and through negotiated discounts on brand name supplies and services – from liability insurance to gym equipment. The PTPN network of providers is marketed to payers on the local, statewide, and national levels in order to give our members the broadest base of business possible. In addition to insurance contracts, PTPN is on the forefront in programs that position private practitioners as successful leaders through the shifts happening within the healthcare industry.

- We engage in active legislation and regulatory advocacy on behalf of PTPN members, including our own lobbyist in Washington and an online Political Action Center that lets PTPN members easily contact our federal representatives on important issues that face our profession. Locally, PTPN is an active member of LABI (Louisiana Association of Business and Industry), LAHP (Louisiana Association of Health Plans), LBGH/LHCA (Louisiana Business Group on Health/Louisiana Healthcare Alliance), and LASIE (Louisiana Association of Self Insured Employers). Our role in these organizations allows private practitioners to collectively have their voice heard as one.

- We believe that cash based programs will provide additional revenue for our member clinics. PTPN’s national consumer brand, “Physiquality”, exclusive to PTPN clinics for cash pay and wellness services and products, is available to counteract the downward pressures on insurance reimbursement by capturing a share of the cash-paying consumer market. Our goal is to boost business, expand practices, and generate new streams of revenue for our member clinics.

- We have spearheaded a statewide outcomes measurement program specific to physical and occupational therapy powered by FOTO (Focus on Therapeutic Outcomes) for PTPN members to get payer and consumer attention and to ensure provider efficiency and patient satisfaction within our member clinics.

PTPN is a different type of rehab network, one that stands above the others in today’s turbulent marketplace – a network of independent therapists that payers and patients rely on for integrity, stability, and quality. We welcome and encourage your membership and your belief in private practice.

PTPN is located at 4521 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 1, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Any interested therapist should contact Executive Director, Kim Bueche Hardman, at 225-927-6888 or kbueche@ptpnla.brcoxmail.com for details. Visit our website at ptpn.com.

Mo Crane Voted Best Physical Therapist in New Orleans by Gambit Readers

Who is considered, “The Best Physical Therapist in New Orleans”? According to the readers of the Gambit Weekly, a top local paper in the Metro New Orleans area, Mo Crane, PT, was voted the best Physical Therapist for 2009. Along with Mo, Elizabeth Winkler-Schmit (Magnolia Physical Therapy), and Rich Baudry (Baudry Therapy Center) were also mentioned as top vote getters in this category. All of these therapists are also members of the APTA/LPTA.

Mo has been practicing in the New Orleans area for the past 17 years, and just celebrated the 10th anniversary of his private practice clinic, Crane Rehab, along with his partner, and wife Sharon, who is an OT who specializes in pediatrics. Mo says, “Being chosen by Gambit readers is a big honor and he hopes that this type of recognition will continue not only for individual physical therapists but, also the profession of physical therapy”.

The LPTA would like to congratulate Mo, Beth and Rich on their accomplishments! Well done!
CHIEF DELEGATE 2009 REPORT

THANK YOU TO THE PTs and PTAs OF LOUISIANA

I would like to thank the physical therapy community of Louisiana for giving me the opportunity and pleasure to represent you at the last two sessions of APTA House of Delegates. I have really enjoyed representing “ya’all”! I want to let you know that you have a great group of professionals from Louisiana who represent the state very well at the national level. One of the greatest compliments I received in Baltimore was when a delegate from another state came up to me and said, “You really have a nice group of delegates”. I was proud, proud, proud! As I was when the Louisiana delegation was the second delegation to have 100% donate to the PAC.

Your physical therapist delegates in addition to me were President Greg Leblanc, Kinta Leblanc, David Qualls, and Kitty Krieg. Your PTA Caucus representative was Jerry Allgood. In addition to these elected delegates Jordan Buras, a senior PT student from New Orleans was Louisiana’s first student companion delegate. Jordan was learning the ropes of the House. If you see him, let him tell you about the adventure.

Then there was Danny Landry PTA from Lake Charles who took it upon himself to “come and see” what goes on at these meetings. Danny had a great time and an unbelievable learning experience. He would be very happy to tell you that being a delegate is NOT a cushy job, right Danny! He wrote a wonderful article about his experience for the last Bayou Bulletin, but you have to see his face light up when he tells you about the trip.

It seemed like old home week to see Sharon Dunn, APTA Board of Directors; Paul Hildreth, APTA nominating committee; David Parieser Kentucky delegate and Bob Rowe, Orthopedic Section Delegate. Sharon was the Board sponsor for RC4 and RC5 which amended the APTA’s Code of Ethics and Guide for Professional Conduct. She was in the limelight and at the microphone a lot. A job well done, Sharon. Elsewhere in the newsletter is a composite report from APTA concerning all the motions that the House dealt with in Baltimore.

I have decided not to run again this year as Chief Delegate. I have retired effective January 1, 2008 and am out of the loop of physical therapy politics so to speak. It is now time for some other leaders to come up to the front. I encourage any of you who have not been to a national House of Delegates to run for a delegate position or like Danny just go and see what goes on. Your impression of the APTA and “what do they do for me” will be changed, I promise you.

Gail M. Pearce
Chief Delegate Louisiana Chapter
2009 APTA House of Delegates

House Adopts Amended Code of Ethics, Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant

APTA’s Code of Ethics and Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant have been expanded to better delineate the ethical obligation of all physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs). The 2009 House of Delegates adopted revisions of these two core documents of the profession last week prior to PT 2009, held in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Code of Ethics will now address the five roles of the PT (clinician, administrator, educator, researcher, and consultant), the core values of the profession, and the multiple realms of ethical action.

The new Code and Standards go into effect July 1, 2010. A communication plan will be developed for disseminating information to APTA members regarding the availability of the final documents. [RC 4-09, RC 5-09]

APTA “Well Prepared” to Contribute to Health Care Reform Debate

The House of Delegates last week expressed APTA’s readiness to contribute to the health care reform debate in a resolution that outlines the association’s position on reform. Referring to the recently published documents The Role of the Physical Therapist in National Health Care Reform and Health Care Reform 2009 A Physical Therapy Perspective, the resolution states APTA’s support for reform to improve coverage, access, and patient care, and reduce unnecessary costs; reaffirms APTA’s belief that rehabilitative services are an essential element of standard benefit package; calls for the elimination of existing payment policies that impede patient access to cost-effective rehabilitation services provided by physical therapist; and supports policy provisions that ensure rehabilitation services are enhanced under payment reform strategies, ant that a physical therapy benefit is available in all benefits packages. The resolution also states APTA’s support for initiatives to ensure that an adequate health care workforce exits to meet the needs of patients. [MM 27-09]

APTA to Develop Models of Care Delivery

The House of Delegates last week charged APTA to identify and develop innovative, collaborative, interprofessional models of physical therapist care delivery across the lifespan. The models may have ramifications of the scope of physical therapist practice, and should include access to care, cost effectiveness, patient/client safety, efficacy, and innovative use of physical therapist practice in the health care delivery system, according to the House’s charge.

Noting the country’s imperative for health care reform, the recent Physical Therapy and Society Summit that addressed the confluence of the political and economic changes that facilitate possibilities for meaningful reform, the House said, “The time for action is now. The window of opportunity for the profession to adapt to the needs of society will not be open for long.”

An Interim report is due to the House on December 31. A final report is due to the 2010 House. [RC 16-09]

Advocacy Efforts Aim to Include PTs in Loan Repayment at State Level

As APTA and its chapters support the development of strategies to seek inclusion of physical therapy among health care professionals identified in state legislation as eligible to receive student loan repayment, the association will develop and disseminate education material that can be used by components in their advocacy activities.

(Continued on page 14)
APTA has placed national priority on seeking federally funded student loan forgiveness for physical therapist. These efforts have resulted in the inclusion of PTs within the Higher Education Act as well as the introduction of proposals to make PTs eligible to apply for assistance through the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (HR 988/S 1057). However, these efforts have not necessarily extended to the states. While many states have passed legislation regarding health care provider student loan repayment, only two states currently include the PT in language that allows eligibility for state-funded sources of loan repayment. Because of these existing programs, it may not be necessary to pursue new legislation, the House noted, but rather ensure that PTs are added to existing law. /RC 20-09/

**Practice Management Added to Licensing Renewal Position**

The previously adopted House position Licensing Renewal: Continuing Education (HOD P06-04-27-23) had been amended to include practice management as appropriate course work for continuing education as related to license renewal. /RC 9-09/

**Position Aims to Support Green Practice**

A position that encourages the use of environmentally responsible practices was adopted last week to guide APTA and its components to consider the future health of the planet while attending to their daily business tasks. Examples of responsible practices, said the House, could include careful regulation of air temperature, recycling work place paper and supplies, using mercury-free and compact fluorescent light bulbs, suing paper from mills certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council, and offering paperless publications and communications. /RC –14-09/

**Martin, Studenski Elected Honorary Members**

Chuck Martin, CAE, CIA, col USAF (Ret), and Stephanie Studenski, MD, have been elected honorary members of APTA.

Martin, APTA’s former chief financial officer and chief operations officer, was elected for his service to APTA that includes mentorship of members and staff, financial stability for the organization, and his representation of APTA to external organizations that resulted in the elevated status to the profession. His services, said the House, were provided “beyond the usual level of service to that of exemplary, and are characterized by a generosity of time and expertise that has resulted in noteworthy benefits to APTA.”

Studenski has been a friend to physical therapy and a mentor to PT clinicians throughout her career. She participated in the research team that developed the Functional Reach Test as a means of assessing balance and predicting falls. Studenski has coauthored more than 125 peer-reviewed articles contributing to a better understanding of movement in the aging population, with almost 40% of those papers coauthored with PTs. /RC 23-09, RC 24-09/

**Mega Issues Session: Variation in Practice**

At a mega issue discussion held last week, the House of Delegates identified five potential choices and the advantages and disadvantages of those choices to address the question: What is the profession’s responsibility in reducing unwarranted variation in practice?

Mega issue are strategic questions that transcend APTA’s strategic plan and explore root causes, values, alternatives, and new ideas around a specific topic related to the association’s operations and/or the profession the association serves.

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Mega issue dialogue is a process that allows association leaders to discuss, debate, and ultimately, make a decision on large issues of strategic importance in a way that uses critical information effectively and is based on purpose, policy, strategy, and evidence-based perspective verses politics, power, personality, and momentary perceptions.

The five choices identified by the House are:
2. Education—Increase post professional training, eg residency; create educational standards; promote professionalism.
3. Access— Improve dissemination of evidence to all practitioners.
4. Research— Collect outcomes data.
5. Reimbursement (payment) - Develop systems that drive the use of evidence-based care.

The information generated by the delegates during the mega-issue discussion will be added to the knowledge base/background paper that was the staring point of the conversation and the updated document will be posted on the HOD Web page, where it will be available to members. This information can then be used by the Board, the House of Delegate, other APTA leaders, members, and staff to consider possible next steps in formulating action on these choices.

**House of Delegates Provide Overwhelming Support to PT-PAC**

During the House of Delegates meeting, Physical Therapist Assistant Caucus Delegate David Emerick, Sr., PTA, BBA, presented a check for more than $27,000 to PT-PAC. The PTA fundraising campaign, which celebrated the 40th anniversary of PTAs, took place over 12 months and was open to all PTA members. Caucus representatives encouraged each member in their state to participate.

In addition to the donation that was presented, approximately 47 PTA Caucus Representatives (100% of those in attendance) and all PTA Delegates made donations to PT-PAC during the House. In total 99% of all House of Delegates made donations to support PT-PAC’s efforts during this crucial time, as health care reform moves to the top of lawmakers’ priorities.

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**STUDENT SPEAK**

Mari Kantrow, SPT
Payton McCalmont, SPT
Officers, LPTA Student Special Interest Group

**FALL MEETING SSIG EVENT**

Dr. Kevin Brueilly, PT, PhD, spoke at the Fall 2009 LPTA SSIG meeting. Having served on the Examination Development Committee of the Federation of Physical Therapy Examiners, Dr. Brueilly presented a powerpoint presentation offering helpful hints to students regarding preparation for the National Physical Therapy Exam. Approximately 50 students were in attendance, which was the most well attended SSIG meeting as of yet.

**THE WORD IS OUT**

The SSIG job posting publication, a PT PAC fundraiser, was available for students following the meeting. We hope the SSIG is able to provide students with helpful information during their academic experience. Please
If you check out websites and other sources about employment opportunities and careers, the general consensus is that physical therapy is one hot career! So not why visit your local high schools for career day and tell all about it?

It’s been my experience that many high school students are interested in physical therapy, but really don’t know where to begin to get information about the career. That’s where you can help out. By providing information about your journey into physical therapy and sharing contact information for the APTA and LPTA websites, you can help to enlighten young minds so that they might make more informed decisions about their futures.

To help along this route, the APTA has made two videos available to help with your presentation. One is a short film entitled You Can Be Me which highlights several physical therapists in diverse settings. The other is 60 second video entitled Moments Like These which illustrates just how physical therapists can impact their patients and improve their quality of life.

Contact your local high school guidance counselor’s office and ask if any career days are planned, and if none are planned perhaps suggest a day where you could come to speak to perspective physical therapy students.

Help our profession Move Forward and help a young person out! Tell all about it!

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contact Payton McCalmont, pmccal@lsuhsc.edu, with any topics you would like to be discussed at future meetings.

PT STUDENT ON THE MOVE

As LSUHSC-Shreveport recent graduate, Claire Melebeck, completes her term as APTA Student Assembly Board of Directors Nominating Committee Member, fellow LSUHSC-Shreveport student, Luke Storrs, hopes to fill her shoes. Luke will be running for national office at APTA’s National Student Conclave, which will be held October 30-November 1, 2009, in Miami, Florida. Should he win the position, Luke will be the 4th LSU student in the past 4 years to hold a national office. Geaux Tigers!

AND THE WINNER IS…

After much heated battle, the Delgado Dolphins clinched the win at the first annual State Meeting Quiz Bowl! Congrats to the Dolphins and thanks to all who participated!
2009 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Greg LeBlanc and Amelia Leonardi
Glenn Ducote and Greg LeBlanc

Greg LeBlanc and Francis Guglielmo

Congratulations to all of our Award Recipients!
Thank you to our 2009 Fall Meeting Exhibitors!!!

Allard USA
Amedisys Home Health
Axis Medical Equipment
BRPT Lake Rehabilitation Centers
Bio-Med of Louisiana
Campus Federal
E-Healthcare Solutions
Hallmark Rehabilitation
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
Lafayette General Medical Center
Medistar Home Health
Medtronic
Motion Lab Systems
Ochsner Health System
Physical Therapy Provider Network

Physiomed North America
Preferred Therapy Providers
Relax the Back-Baton Rouge/Shreveport
Reliant Rehabilitation
Sammons Preston
Slidell Memorial Hospital
Stat Home Health
Synergy Care
Synergy Home Care
Texas Health Resources
TherEx
Thera Team
Therapy Management Corporation
Touro Infirmary
Tulane University Hospital & Clinic

LPTA is on Facebook!!!
Join today!!!

Save the Date
LPTA Spring Meeting
March 19-21, 2009
DiamondJacks Casino and Resort
Bossier City, LA
Speaker:
Mark Cornwall
Foot and Ankle Course