

# Keep IN Touch

VOL. 1, No. 2

JULY 2007

A publication of the Arkansas Physical Therapy Association



## MISSION

To represent and promote the profession of physical therapy in its endeavors to meet the physical therapy needs of society; to develop and improve the art and science of physical therapy including practice, education, and research; and to meet the needs and interests of its members.

## **ARPTA**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Looking back on a successful session

## Bill passed closing loopholes in law that could have sent PTs before chiropractors

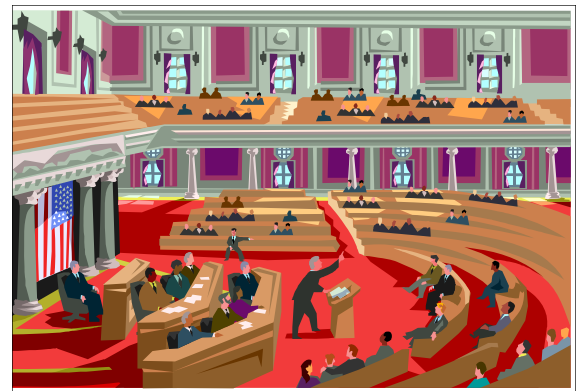
I hope all of you are enjoying your summer. Typically, schedules are busy and time is short during this time of the year.

Since the conclusion of the legislative session in May, we have finally been able to catch our

breath. As most of you probably heard, we had a very good legislative session. First, we were able to unanimously pass the bill that we introduced which closed the loopholes in the law that allowed a physical therapist to be brought before the chiropractic board.

We attempted to fix this problem in 2003, but later found that we had not completely secured protection for PTs from poaching by another state agency with an agenda to persecute PTs.

Thanks to Rep. Sandra Prater, we will no longer need to be concerned about the licensee of one state board being prosecuted by another state board. Later in the session, we were able to defeat two bills introduced by the chiropractors that would have markedly expanded the scope of chiropractic practice in Arkansas.



PLEASE SEE **SESSION**, PAGE 3



Dr. Powers demonstrates a strapping technique on participant Ryan Girschbach. Fourteen therapists participated in the course.

## Spring meeting entails first-ever APC, chapter awards for 2007

ArPTA hosted its first-ever advanced-practice course (APC) through APTA and handed out chapter awards for 2007 at the annual spring meeting, held in April at the UAMS Institute on Aging in Little Rock.

The following members were honored:  
Distinguished Service Award: Vicki McNeill.  
Outstanding Clinical Instructor of the Year: Chrissy Barrett;  
Outstanding Student Member Clinician of the Year: Patrick Carnathan;  
Friend of ArPTA: Rep. Sandra Prader.

The APC was presented by Christopher Powers, PT, PhD, from the University of Southern California, and was entitled: Functional Biomechanics of the Lower Quarter: Implications for Movement Dysfunction & Musculoskeletal Injury.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **AUG. 14 AND 28**

#### Audio Conference Series

- "Can Your PT Claims Withstand an Audit?," a two-session Audio-Conference series presented by APTA, Colorado Chapter in partnership with State Chapters of the American Physical Therapy Association
- Guest speakers: Helene Fearon, PT, Phoenix, Ariz.; Steve Levine, PT, DPT, MSHA, Plantation, Fla.; and Katherine Karker-Jennings, JD, MS, Baltimore, Md.
- 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. CST, approximately 60 minutes of presentation with 30 minutes of Q-and-A
- Register at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org).

### **SEPT. 11**

#### Central District Continuing Education, St. Vincent Center for Health Education, North Auditorium, LR

- Guest speaker: Steven Forbush, PT, MS
- Topic: Evidence-Based and Cutting-Edge Interventions for Low-Back Pain
- 6:30pm

### **SEPT. 29**

#### ArPTA Continuing Education, UCA in Conway

- Guest speaker: Staffan Elgelid, PT, Ph.D., CFT, LMT
- Topic: Gait From a Feldenkrais perspective: From world class athletes to patients with neurological impairment, it is about improving performance!

### **NOV. 6**

#### Central District Continuing Education, Baptist Health Rehab Institute, In-service Education Room, LR

- Guest speaker: Tracey Jarvis, PT
- Topic: Monochromatic Infrared Energy (MIRE): Basic Principles and Use in Physical Therapy
- 6:30pm

# Session proves good for PT issues

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

One of the bills would have legislatively turned chiropractors into physical therapists without the burden of going to PT school. Defeating those bills, in my opinion, is one of the most rewarding events in my career as a physical therapist.

I am thankful to all of you who rose to the cause by appearing at the Capitol on short notice to testify, and thank you to all of you who made phone calls to your senators and representatives when asked to do so.

Our lobbyist, Bill Phillips, did an excellent and professional job of laying the foundation for us to communicate our concerns, but the grassroots lobbying by all of you turned the tables. The chiropractic profession fractured into opposing factions due to poor communication, unwillingness to compromise, and a few over-zealous chiropractors.

In contrast, our profession was united and professional. In the end, we took the high road and exposed the weaknesses of the chiropractic lobby. In doing so, we won credibility in the legislature, and oddly enough, I think we even won some respect from some of the more moderate members of the chiropractic profession. I am proud of you all, and I am proud to be a physical therapist.

On another front, I have been contacted to sit on a "work group" with DHHS to discuss reforming the payment structure for physical therapists working within the Medicaid system.

Unfortunately, we were scheduled to meet with the director of Medicaid and the Chief Financial Officer on the very day that the CFO was arrested and charged with embezzling funds from his previous employer.

Plans are still underway for the work group to meet soon, but a date has not yet been set. I will keep you posted.

Finally, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to remain involved in your Association. If you know therapists who

are not members, please speak to them about the importance of becoming a member.

If any of you would like to be included on my legislative e-mail list, please send me an e-mail at [rjordanpt@cablelynx.com](mailto:rjordanpt@cablelynx.com). I send everything that comes my way related to legislative, regulatory, reimbursement, or practice issues to everyone on my list. It is a very efficient and effective way to stay informed.

Thank you for your membership,



Robert Jordan, PT, MPT, GCS, OCS  
President, ArPTA



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# SCHOOL REPORTS

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS, CONWAY

## UCA grad earns prestigious McMillan award



**S**ummer is upon us, and everyone at UCA is excited about the upcoming graduation of another class.

Thirty-three students will graduate on August 8.

Among those graduating is **Micah Dailey**, who was one of 10 students in the country to be awarded the Mary McMillan Scholarship award. This award, given by APTA, is awarded “to acknowledge and honor outstanding PT students who are nearing the completion of their respective program of study.

The scholarship program contributes to the growth of physical therapy as a profession by recognizing individuals with superior capabilities.”

Micah traveled to Denver in July for the Annual Conference 2007 to receive the award – which includes a \$5,000 cash prize. Micah is the second recipient from UCA to receive this national scholarship. **Leah Lowe**, class of 2006, was awarded the McMillan Scholarship last year. Congratulations to Micah and Leah on this prestigious award!

**Patrick Carnathan**, also graduating this August, was recently honored with the Outstanding Student Member Clinician Award for 2007 from ArPTA. This award is presented annually to an ArPTA student member “that exemplifies professionalism, promotes both membership and association with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and demonstrates outstanding abilities in a clinical environment.” The award was presented at the spring ArPTA meeting.

## Incoming class will be full; new lab to be ready in fall ‘08

In the fall, 56 students will make up the new class. This will be the first full class in many years, and we are excited for them to begin. Classes will begin Thursday, Aug. 21. Other exciting news is that approval has been granted for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art gross anatomy lab. The lab will be over 4,000 square feet and is due to be completed and ready in fall ‘08.

## Bandy honored for service to profession

In addition, **Dr. Bill Bandy** of our faculty recently received a UCA Faculty Excellence Award. Bill received the UCA Public Service Award for his service to the community, his clinical work at Arkansas Children’s Hospital (including the performance of free pre-participation screenings to junior-high and high-school athletes), and his service through ArPTA and APTA.

## Alumni festivities set for October 27

Last, but not least – for any alumnus out there – make plans to attend the **2007 Alumni Weekend!** During the weekend of October 27, plan to return to our beautiful campus, attend a great continuing-education workshop, and tailgate with us as the D-I UCA Bears take on Nicholls State. Spend time with cherished friends from your days at UCA and experience tailgating at a UCA football game – it is quite a spectacle. Details of the weekend will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars. As usual, many exciting things are happening at UCA.

--Nancy Reese

# SCHOOL REPORTS

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, JONESBORO

## 2006 graduates all employed; 15 in new class



**T**he Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Arkansas State University graduated 25 students on May 5 and accepted a full class of 24 students who began the program on May 29.

The Graduate Program in Physical Therapy graduated 15 students in December 2006 and all are currently employed. The grad program admitted 15 new students on May 30, and the class of 2007 will complete its final coursework during the last summer session of '07 and spend the fall semester on its final clinical rotations before graduation in December.

### Grad program seeking to offer DPT degree

The graduate program has put forth a proposal to offer the DPT degree program that is currently progressing through the approval process at the University.

The program continues to support and encourage the participation of our students in ArPTA and was able to send 26 PT & PTA students to the Combined Sections Meeting in Boston this year.

The students host an annual 5K race and other events to raise money to attend CSM each year, and they continue to report that the professional experience and exposure to the profession is “wonderful, great and awesome” (despite the ice, snow and travel delays this year).

### Notes from Boston

Drs. Jim Farris and Staffan Elgelid participated in a two-hour session at CSM Boston related to childhood obesity and interventions and prevention.

Another key speaker joining the team from Arkansas was Dr. Joseph Thompson, Surgeon General, State of Arkansas, and Director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.

The session was well attended with standing room only, and a number of contacts were made with other therapists involved in programs related to childhood obesity prevention.

### Grant renewal, accreditation, new faculty

Roy Aldridge, PT, EdS, received a second grant from the Komen Foundation to create a Spanish version of his lymphedema educational DVD, which will be released this month.

Both the PTA and the MPT programs received notices of continued and full accreditation from CAPTE in this past spring semester.

We would also like to announce that Lisa Kenyon, MHS, PT, PCS, will be joining our faculty beginning in the fall semester.

For more information about our programs please visit our website at [www.pt.astate.edu](http://www.pt.astate.edu).

# PTAs push leadership rep position at Caucus

## New officers elected at annual DC meeting

By Cheryl Jordan, PTA

**T**he PTA Caucus is encouraging all chapters to develop a PTA Caucus alternate representative position to assure representation and to provide another avenue of leadership development for PTA members.



The PTA Caucus voted to adopt an amendment to the PTA Caucus Procedure Manual that outlines the duties and responsibilities of PTA Caucus alternate representatives at the 2007 PTA Caucus, held in Washington, D.C. in May 19-20. Forty PTA Caucus Representatives represented their chapters at the Caucus.

Chief Delegate John Linberger conducted the meetings, which included a presentation by Steve Levine, Speaker of the House, who discussed motions related to APTA governance that would go before the 2007 House of Delegates.

In addition, the Caucus:

- Added additional responsibilities for the PTA Caucus Representative in the PTA Caucus Procedure Manual regarding communication with their chapter's chief delegate about issues raised in regional caucuses and mentoring their chapter's alternate delegate;
- Co-sponsored RC 01-07 to elect Francis J. (Frank) Mallon, Esq., as an honorary member of APTA;
- Charged the delegates to work with the Advisory Panel of PTAs to pursue increased representation in legislative efforts of the PTA's role and qualifications in patient care.

The following individuals were elected to positions in the PTA Caucus:

Chief Delegate:	John Linberger (CA)	2-year term
Delegate:	Nancy Brox (KS)	2-year term
Alternate Delegate:	John Kelly (IN)	1-year term
Nominating Com.:	Bob Hayden (UT)	3-year term

The outgoing officers — Tony Hall (NE), Delegate; Lisa Stoehr (ID), Alternate Delegate; and Amy Smith (GA), Nominating Committee Chair — were recognized by the Caucus.

The meeting included an announcement from Jessica Solberg (MN) that Minnesota had just voted to require licensure for PTAs. There are now four states and one jurisdiction remaining that do not have regulation for PTAs. Other jurisdictions obtaining licensure this year are Washington State and Washington, D.C. The PTA Caucus Delegates — John Linberger, David Emerick, Andrea Johnson, Lisa Stoehr, and Russell Stowers — represented PTA members in the House of Delegates.

Adopted RCs of particular interest to PTA members included:

- RC-11 Amend: Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant Licensure/Regulation. This RC clarified that state regulation as a PT or PTA should at a minimum require graduation from a CAPTE accredited program. If the individual is internationally educated, they must have a substantially equivalent education. Additionally, the amended position states that an individual working as a PTA where licensure or regulation is presently unavailable is required to be a graduate of a CAPTE accredited PTA program.
- RC-22 Adopted: Continued Competence, Lifelong Learning, and Professional Development in Physical Therapy. This creates a new position that embraces the concepts of continued competence, lifelong learning, and ongoing professional development for physical therapist and physical therapist assistants.
- RC-27 Adopted Core Values: Endorsement. The HOD endorsed the Core Values of accountability, altruism, compassion/caring, excellence, integrity, professional duty, and social responsibility.

The representatives in attendance were genuinely interested in furthering the professionalism of the PTA by promoting the achievement of the Advanced Proficiency Award and to increasing membership of PTAs in APTA.

*PT/PTA's in Arkansas, you know what quality looks like.*

*We want your Quality People* *In our Quality Programs*



College of Nursing  
and Health Professions

For more information about the PT and PTA programs at ASU please contact:  
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Roy Aldridge, PT, EdS  
PO Box 910  
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(870) 972-3591  
Raldridge@astate.edu



# MEMBER PROFILE

## ALICE RYAN – IN MEMORIAM

(AUG. 14, 1944 – APRIL 9, 2007)

### Start in Army lead to influential career

**A**lice Lee Ryan came to Arkansas in the late '60s after having completed her physical-therapy certificate in the Army.

She began her civilian career as a staff physical therapist at St. Vincent Infirmary. After a couple of years, she became the Director of Physical Therapy (which became Rehabilitation Services — PT/OT and SLP in the late '70s) and remained in that position until 1990 when she became the Program Director for the Ortho Neuro Care Center for St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center. In 1995, she moved to the St. Vincent Health System Network Services Department where she served as the Director of Clinics and Related Services.

Ryan has served the profession of physical therapy through her community and professional association involvement. She served on the board of directors for UCP for many years and was active in Pilot International, an head injury advocacy organization. She served in many leadership positions in the Arkansas Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association including Program Chair, Membership Chair, Legislative Chair and President.

Ryan was very involved in the legislation that resulted in the recognition and licensure of the PTA, the limiting of aid functions, the initial attempts to get practice without referral, and legislation opposing referral for profit. She is highly regarded in the professional circles in hospital administration including the Arkansas Hospital Association.

Ryan encouraged — expected — the staff that reported to her to belong and to be active in the ArPTA and APTA, and many of "us" are still active today.

— Jennie Gregory



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