



CPTA SSIG WINTER NEWSLETTER

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2010 Wrap-Up: Words From The President



Jennifer Hirsch
President, SSIG
APTA CT Core Ambassador,
The Loop
Quinnipiac University

What an exhilarating year it has been for the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association (CPTA) Student Special Interest Group (SSIG)! I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the SSIG Board in thanking you, the students of Connecticut, for all your hard work this year.

For those of you who are new to SSIG, I want to introduce you to this group. The Student Special Interest Group provides a means by which Physical Therapy and Physical Therapy Assistant students can meet, confer, and promote our common interests. Your involvement will aid in expanding our role as a student body within the CPTA.

2010 was a very productive year because of the many milestones we accomplished. At our first Board meeting, we

agreed on one main goal; to encourage the participation of at least 20 students attending our monthly meetings. I am happy to report, that we exceeded this goal with an average of 25 students at each meeting! Thank you Student Representatives for all your hard work in sending out meeting information, you are a critical component in the success of the SSIG and your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Last spring, all the PT and PTA programs participated in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe event. This was a competition between all the PT/PTA programs in Connecticut to see who could collect the most pairs of old sneakers to donate for making sports surfaces/courts. Sacred Heart University collected the most pairs of shoes and was rewarded with a pizza party for their entire program.

The Annual Softball Tournament was another huge success with Quinnipiac winning for the fourth straight year - I am sure some of you will be happy to know that my team has graduated so the trophy can be passed on to another program now!

For the first time, the CT SSIG hosted a "Student Social" at this year's National Student Conclave (NSC) in Cherry Hill, NJ. The event was a huge success. The SSIG Board and I would like to thank all the students from UHa, SHU, QU, and UConn that attended this event!

It has been an honor to serve the Student Special Interest Group as your President. I would like to thank my fellow board members Pat, Cortney, Cozette, and Ellen for their hard work throughout the year as well as Melissa and Alan for their guidance and support in governing the SSIG. Lastly, I would like to thank you, the students of Connecticut, for your dedication.

The success of the CPTA SSIG relies on student participation and community involvement from all the PT and PTA schools in Connecticut. I hope that you will continue to stay involved with the Student Special Interest Group. Your input and actions makes a difference in the advancement of this profession. I wish you all the best of luck as you continue your endeavors as students!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Year Wrap-Up	1
NSC-Cherry Hill, NJ	2
Student Assembly Election	2
Upcoming Events!	3





National Student Conclave: Cherry Hill, NJ

The National Student Conclave (NSC) is a conference completely geared toward the student body. This conference united more than 1,000 students from across the country to explore practice areas, preview job opportunities, and network with leaders and members in the profession. The exhibit hall provides students with the opportunity to speak one-on-one with recruiters from across the country in all practice settings who are looking to hire enthusiastic new grads. Students are also provided with the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom. Programming sessions are made available throughout the days which include interactive seminars led by the profession's best and brightest, which highlight different clinical areas.



*Mark your calendar for next year!!
NSC 2011
October 21-23, 2011
Minneapolis, MN*

Student Assembly Election

Patrick Buckley
Vice President, SSIG
Sacred Heart University



The words, "unforgettable experience" keep echoing in my mind in the wake of the weekend of NSC 2010. I met so many great students from around the nation that are as excited about the profession of Physical Therapy as I am. I was slated a candidate for Vice President of the National Student Assembly Board of Directors, and it was my time to campaign my way through the weekend. Initially, I figured there would be a sense of competition toward all other candidates that were running

but this was not the case in Cherry Hill, NJ. We were all in the journey together, without really knowing where it would take us. Immediately relationships were formed and the sense of competition was gone. We were all working toward the same goal; we wanted to get students involved in the APTA and excited about the Physical Therapy profession, regardless of the voting outcome.

Roaming the floor and trying to meet as many students as I could from around the nation was exhausting, but it was worth every ounce of coffee I drank that weekend! Cedric Haddad, a fellow CT student, and I hit the floors as a team effort and met hundreds of students in hopes of boosting our voting numbers, but more so to just meet new people. Unfortunately I was not elected Vice President, but I was not disappointed in the least. The girl who was elected is a great, hard-working, and a powerful student leader that deserves the position.

There were so many fun things

going on during the weekend at NSC including: an entire ballroom filled with vendors giving away free products, meeting and speaking with some of the bigger names in the PT world, dancing up a storm on the dance floor at the late night party, and hanging with your close friends and branching out to meeting new friends.

When I returned home from the exhausting weekend, I pulled out the pile of business cards I had collected from the weekend. I counted over 70 contacts from across the nation, students and professionals included. Relationships were formed, bonds with pre-existing friends were strengthened, and the excitement for our profession was reinforced. So all-in-all... what an unforgettable experience!

***Congratulations to our UConn SSIG Rep, Cedric Haddad, who was elected to the APTA Student Assembly for Nominating Committee at the National Student Conclave last month in Cherry Hill, NJ!
Thanks to all those who voted!***





Contact Information

American Physical Therapy Association
www.apta.org



SSIG Advisors

Melissa Corriveau
missarose@aol.com

Alan Balavender
alan.balavender@PTSMC.com

Connecticut Physical Therapy Association
www.ctpt.org



Connecticut
Physical Therapy
Association

Calendar of Events: Please Join Us!

January 25, 2011—SSIG Meeting; Norwalk Community College
February 9-13, 2011—APTA Combined Sections Meeting; New Orleans, LA
February 23, 2011—SSIG Meeting; Naugatauck Valley Community College
April 2, 2011—CPTA Student Conclave; Quinnipiac University
April 2011—Annual Softball Tournament; Time and Location TBD
June 8-11, 2011—APTA Annual Conference; National Harbor, MD
October 21-23, 2011—APTA National Student Conclave; Minneapolis, MN

The SSIG Board of Directors would like to thank you all for another great year. We appreciate your time and dedication and look forward to another great year! Good luck to all the upcoming officers and lots of luck in the upcoming semester! Have a happy and safe holiday season! See you all next year!

Coming Soon! APTA's Combined Sections Meeting, February 2011 In New Orleans!

