

# SSIG NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

## *Meet the Executive Board for 2016!!*



### **Regina Siciliano, President**

Regina is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year DPT student at Sacred Heart University. She did her undergraduate work at the University of South Carolina where she majored in Biology with a minor in Italian. She also serves as the Core Ambassador of Connecticut. Regina has a strong interest to work in the field of orthopedics particularly with the athletic population.

### **Allison Breakey, Vice President**

Allison is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year DPT student at Sacred Heart University. She graduated from Queens College in 2013 where she obtained her Bachelors of Science with a degree in Nutrition and Exercise Sciences. After graduation, Allison is looking forward to working with patients in a neurological and/or sports population. She also works as the Research & Administrative Graduate Assistant at Sacred Heart.



### **Sarah Barnes, Secretary**

Sarah is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year DPT student at the University of Hartford. She also completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Hartford in Health Science. Sarah is motivated to keep an open mind in regards to specialties for her future practice but really enjoys working with the pediatric population!

### **Tina Menezes, Treasurer**

Tina is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year DPT student at Sacred Heart University. She also graduated from Sacred Heart University with a degree in Biology. Tina is interested in working with patients with neurological deficits in a sub-acute setting in the future.



### **Jennifer Helft, Director**

Jenn is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year DPT student at Sacred Heart University. She graduated from SUNY Brockport in 2013 receiving a dual-degree in Dance and Exercise Physiology. She aspired to pursue a path in performing arts physical therapy focusing on rehabilitation and injury prevention. She also works as the Administrative Graduate Assistant at Sacred Heart.



**Connecticut  
Physical Therapy  
Association**

# Representing Connecticut on the West Coast!!

Students and faculty from Sacred Heart, Hartford and UCONN were able to attend the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in Anaheim California earlier this month!!



Students from UCONN outside the Anaheim Convention Center



Students from Sacred Heart after a successful day of education sessions and networking!!

## Upcoming Events!!!

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### NEXT SSIG MEETING:

Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Topic:** Lymphedema Management, Certification and Technique

**The meeting will be held at Sacred Heart University led by their very own, Michelle Wormley, PT, PhD, CLT**

See the meeting flyer for more information!

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### APRIL SSIG MEETINGS:

Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Topic:** LSVT BIG Program and Certification

**The meeting will be held at UCONN Health Center led by 3 UCONN DPT students!**

Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Topic:** Performing Arts Physical Therapy

**The meeting will be held at NVCC led by Leanne Kacsur, PT, DPT, ATC who is a PT at Theatre Arts PT in New Jersey!**

Be on the lookout for a flyer with more information about both meetings!

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**STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
EVENTS SOON!**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM CSM:

We are so proud of all of our professors and students that participated in presentations at the conference!!

## Sacred Heart University:

**Professor Emmanuel Yung, PT, DPT, OCS, MA, FAAOMPT** was a co-presenter for multiple education sessions throughout the 3 days of the conference which included *Cervicothoracic and Shoulder Interventions for Upper Limb Symptoms & Disruptive Change in the Classroom, the Clinic, and Our Profession*. He also had the privilege of being the lead author of 2 Orthopedic Section Spine poster presentations which were entitled *Systolic Blood Pressure Response to Laterally Directed Non-Thrust Joint Manipulation of the Cervical Spine: A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial* & *How to Simultaneously Integrate Movement System Impairment and Manual Therapy Approaches in Back Pain with Radiating Leg Pain: A Case Example*, both of which have been published in the January edition of the Journal of Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy! While in Anaheim, Dr. Yung was also appointed as the APTA Orthopedic Section Education Committee Vice-Chair!!

**Congratulations to Dr. Yung!!!**

**Professor Yvette Blanchard, PT, ScD, PCS** served as the organizer for the Section on Pediatrics breakfast in which over 250 pediatric therapists attended! Dr. Blanchard is the Regional Director for Region IV of the Section on Pediatrics and sits on the Board of Directors.

Congratulations to **Professor Wendy Romney, PT, DPT, NCS** on her successful poster presentation which was entitled "*Physical therapists evaluation of gait speed among patients in a sub-acute rehabilitation hospital increased following a knowledge translation intervention*".

Department Chair, **Dr. Kevin Chui, PT, DPT, PhD, GCS, OCS, CEEAA, FAAOMPT** and 3 other members of the Geriatric Specialty Council facilitated a full day writing workshop for new and experienced members of the Specialization Academy of Content Experts (SACE) where together they created new items for future GCS exams.

**Professor Sheila Watts, PT, DPT, MBA, MS, GCS** represented the Geriatric Residency Program at Sacred Heart at the Residency/Fellowship Career Development Reception!

**Professor Victor Vaughn, PT, DPT, MS, OCS** represented the Orthopedic Residency Program at Sacred Heart at the Residency/Fellowship Career Development Reception!

## University of Hartford:

Congratulations to **Professor Mary Gannotii, PhD, PT** for her platform presentation for the Pediatric and Research Sections AND to **Professors Sandra Saavedra, MS, PT, PhD & Danielle Bellows, PT, MHS, PCS** for their platform presentations for the Pediatric section!

Hartford was proud to have 1<sup>st</sup> year student **Kerian Duncan, SPT** attend for a poster presentation for the Pediatric section!

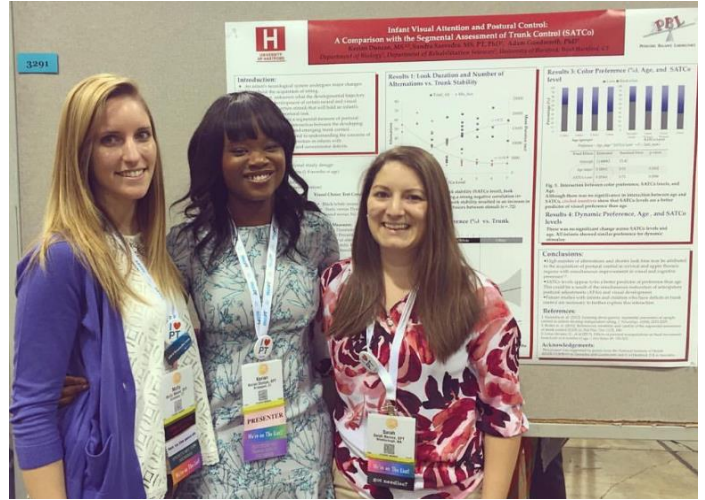
## University of Connecticut:

**Professor Laurie Devaney, PT, MSc, ATC, OCS, FAAOMPT** presented with a panel of other members for the education session entitled *Neck Pain: ICF-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines*. All of her students were so proud and excited to see her present on a stage like CSM and sat in the front row to support her work!

**Maryclaire Capetta, PT, DPT, MS, OCS, MTC, CLT-LANA, FAAOMPT and chief delegate for the state** represented the Connecticut State Board of Directors at the Component Leadership Meeting on Wednesday of the conference. In addition, she also represented Connecticut as a delegate at the Northeast Caucus meeting and the Chief Section Assembly Delegate meeting listening and discussing updates to motions being proposed for the house in June. Thank you for your contribution to the profession!



Students from Sacred Heart supporting Dr. Yung and one of his co-presenters, ESPN's Stephanie Bell after their education session!



Students from University of Hartford congratulating their classmate Kerian Duncan after her poster presentation!

### PT Day at Capitol Hill – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in Hartford, CT

- About over 20 students gathered to help out in the Legislative office building in the Capitol in Hartford earlier this month and set up booths aiming to draw in legislators on their way to and from building to educate them on important aspects of our profession
- Michael Gans set up an important booth for concussion management highlighting joint position error testing for proprioception advocating for bill HB 5130 for PT's to be included in the health care team that clears a public school athlete back to sport! Currently, we are not a part of that team and our knowledge in neurological screening provides us with the means to educate our legislators on why we should be a part of this team!
- Students also got the opportunity to venture out to their respective representatives and senators according to their district and advocate for our profession! They left messages with their assistants if they were unavailable and then followed up with e-mails encouraging legislators to use them as a resource regarding further issues that pertain to PT.

**We are so proud of our students and their dedication to the physical therapy profession!!**

*Please feel free to contact the Student Special Interest Group Executive Board with any questions, comments or suggestions!!*

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