



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



## Spring 2018 Newsletter

We would like to update you with news about **The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program**. It has been a busy and productive semester!

FEBRUARY 2018



**Dr. Rhonda Manning** was awarded a grant funded by the Texas Physical Therapy Foundation and the Texas Consortium for Physical Therapy Education. This grant will allow Dr. Manning to explore the "Perceptions of Texas Clinical Instructors on the Appropriate Length of Clinical Education Experiences."



The DPT Program was well-represented at the **American Physical Therapy Association's Combined Sections Meeting (CSM)**. Three students presented posters about their Capstone research projects: **Samantha Guerrero** (Class of 2018), **Daniel Millar** (Class of 2018), and **Evelyn Villareal** (Class of 2020).



Additionally, **Nnedi Ubani** (Class of 2018) presented her Capstone research as part of a panel of global health scholars, including her mentor **Dr. Celia Pechak**.



And for all of us, a highlight was the inaugural **UTEP DPT Program CSM Reception** for alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the Program. It was a great opportunity to connect with old and new friends and colleagues.

### MARCH 2018

Graduates **Dr. Kiersten Garrand** (Class of 2016) and **Dr. Lily Jimenez** (Class of 2017) published their first research article in the *Journal of Physical Therapy Education* (along with their mentor **Dr. Celia Pechak**). Their article is entitled "Survey of Disability Competence Teaching and Assessment Strategies in Physical Therapist Education".



In order to prepare students for effective interprofessional collaborative practice, the DPT Program faculty are working hard to integrate a wide range of **interprofessional education (IPE)** opportunities throughout the curriculum. In March, the **Class of 2020** participated in 2 activities. First, they joined a group of over 120 students in an IPE training. Working through a complex patient case together, each DPT student learned with and from a diverse team of students, including those from Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Rehabilitation Counseling, Social Work, and Speech-Language Pathology. The following week, the **Class of 2020** was responsible for teaching most of the mobility lab for first-year nursing students. They did a great job!

APRIL 2018

The **Class of 2018** left campus for their 2nd of 4 full-time clinical experiences. They all have their eyes on graduation in December 2018.

MAY 2018



The **Class of 2020** will finish their 1st year in the DPT Program in May, and they are already celebrating.

And finally, we will welcome the **Class of 2021**, who will begin their studies in the DPT Program on May 29, 2018. This is the second cohort to matriculate into our recently revised **9-semester curriculum**.

As we look forward to welcoming our new cohort, we know that we would not be successful without the countless individuals who continue to contribute their expertise, time, money, and other resources to us. We especially wish to thank our **clinical instructors** near and far who will educate our new students in the clinics, and the local **clinicians** who will come to campus to assist with practical exams, and give guest lectures. We also are very grateful for the **adjunct faculty** who will offer important expertise in areas like Spanish, pediatrics, and Women's Health, and the **Community Faculty** who educate our students about their experiences living with a physical disability. Additionally, we thank our financial contributors to [the DPT Program Gift Fund](#).

*UTEP DPT Program Faculty and Staff*

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