



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



SPRING 2019 | NEWSLETTER

We hope that everyone is having a great year so far! We are ending our Spring semester with a lot of news to share from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program alumni, students, and faculty.

Congratulations to **Evelyn Villarreal** (DPT Class of 2020), **Dr. Celia Pechak**, **Dr. Loretta Dillon**, and colleagues for presenting “¿Habla Español? Preparing Students to Communicate with Spanish-Speaking Patients” at APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting in February.



Congratulations to **Dr. Samantha Guerrero** (DPT Class of 2018), **Dr. Daniel Millar** (DPT Class of 2018), and **Evelyn Villarreal** (DPT Class of 2020) for presenting their research posters at the Global Health Reception at APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting.

Congratulations to **Dr. Daniel Millar** (DPT Class of 2018) for presenting a Catalyst Talk at APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting.



Congratulations to **Dr. Alvaro Gurovich** for presenting the results of his Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Section grant “Exercise-Induced Blood Flow Patterns in Patients with CAD: Preliminary Results” at APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting.

Congratulations to **Dr. Celia Pechak** for being awarded the Ronnie Leavitt Award for the Promotion of Social Responsibility from the Global Health Special Interest Group and HPA The Catalyst Section at APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting.



Congratulations to **Dr. Arlianne Bejarano** (DPT Class of 2015)! Dr. Bejarano is officially a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists.

Congratulations to **Jon Tye** (DPT Class of 2020) and **Clancy Nelson** (DPT Class of 2021) for being chosen to represent the DPT Program and the Texas PT Association's Greater El Paso District during the Federal Advocacy Forum in Washington, DC in April. After two days of networking, learning about the current political climate, and learning how to build a relationship with our Congressperson, they spent a day on Capitol Hill lobbying for increased public access to physical therapy. We are proud of them, and thank them for their advocacy efforts!



Congratulations to **Dr. Lily Jimenez** (DPT Class of 2017)! Dr. Jimenez will begin a year-long neurologic residency at Kaiser Permanente in Redwood City, California in August.

Congratulations to **Dr. Alvaro Gurovich**, **Dr. Michelle Gutierrez**, and colleagues for being awarded a grant entitled "Development of an Efficient and Reliable Diagnosis and Prognosis System of (Mild) Traumatic Brain Injury".



Congratulations to **Dr. Kevin Browne** and colleagues for being awarded a grant entitled "Exploring Molecular Changes and Inflammatory Cytokines During Induced Upper Extremity Tendon Overload".

Congratulations to **Dr. Jason Boyle** and **Dr. Rhonda Manning** for being awarded a grant entitled "An Observational Study of Reach Planning and Action in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Compared to Typical Developing Children".



Congratulations to **Dr. Celia Pechak**, **Dr. Loretta Dillon**, and colleagues for being awarded a grant entitled "Investigating the Interrater and Intrarater Reliability of the Physical Therapy Spanish Proficiency Measure".

Welcome back **Cynthia Montenegro** (DPT Class of 2020), pictured center, after traveling to Guatemala with a team providing surgical care and post-op rehabilitation. And thank you to **Dr. Grace Joo** (DPT Class of 2018), pictured right, for supervising Cynthia during the clinical care.



Not all of our news is happy. **Dr. Mark Caulkins** and **Mrs. Kathleen Caulkins** will be leaving UTEP at the end of the semester to be closer to children and grandchildren. We thank them for all that they have done for our Program, and we wish them the very best!

Finally, in case you missed this news in the last newsletter...**Dr. Loretta Dillon** has announced her retirement, effective December 2019. Dr. Dillon has been with our Program since its beginnings in 1993. Simply put, she has been the glue that has held this Program together over her 26 years.



In addition to her extraordinary service to the UTEP DPT Program, she has dedicated thousands of hours of service to the physical therapy profession at the local, state, and national levels over her career. In honor of her service, and broad-reaching and long-term impact, we have created the **Loretta Schoen Dillon Endowed Scholarship**.

We are almost 30% of the way to reaching our goal of \$100,000. This will create a sustainable scholarship that will provide financial support to UTEP DPT students for decades. If you have been impacted by **Dr. Dillon** directly or indirectly, we hope that you will make a donation in her honor.

**Give now at  
[givingto.utep.edu/Dillon](https://givingto.utep.edu/Dillon)**

Thank you!

The UTEP DPT Program Faculty & Staff

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Stay up-to-date with the UTEP DPT Program at our website <https://www.utep.edu/chs/pt/>

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