



# IMPACTS

MAGAZINE OF THE IU SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES

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—  
Dean Austin Agho  
and Alexis Hunt,  
SHRS 2016 IUPUI Top 100 recipient  
—



# IMPACTS

MAGAZINE OF THE **IU SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES**

Health Sciences • Nutrition and Dietetics • Occupational Therapy • Physical Therapy • Physician Assistant Studies

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# GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

Since announcing in December 2015 that I will be stepping down as dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the end of this academic year to accept the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Old Dominion University, many of you have reached out to congratulate and wish me well as I embark on this new and exciting endeavor.

Over the past several years, we have worked together on many strategic initiatives to transform and enhance our school's reputation and contributions to the field of health and rehabilitation sciences. As I ponder on what to say in my farewell message, I thought I would reflect on not just this year's accomplishments presented in this edition, but on the things we accomplished together over the years.

With your support and encouragement we:

- Successfully developed and implemented two major five-year strategic plans
- Established three new degree programs – Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (online and on-campus), Master of Physician Assistant Studies, and a Post Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy program
- Established three undergraduate certificate programs - Gerontology, Global Health and Rehabilitation Studies, and Rehabilitation and Disability - and two graduate certificates - Global Health and Rehabilitation Studies and Rehabilitation and Disability
- Secured 10-year reaccreditation for the occupational therapy program and 10-year reaccreditation for the dietetic internship program
- Ranked 25<sup>th</sup> out of 154 occupational therapy programs, and 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 213 physical therapy programs in the 2016 U.S. News & World Report
- Increased annual research funding from an average of \$500,000 to over \$1.6 million
- Increased minority student enrollment from 6.5 percent in 2007 to 18 percent in 2015
- Increased total student enrollment from 211 in 2008 to 650 in fall 2015
- Increased the gifts to the school by 31 percent and scholarship awards to students by 140 percent
- Established the annual SHRS Interdisciplinary Research and Continuing Education Conference and the SHRS Distinguished Alumni Award

All of these achievements are the result of the ambition, enthusiasm, passion, and hard work of students, the unwavering commitment of faculty and staff to academic excellence and scholarship, and the generous financial support of alumni and friends.

I am pleased that Dr. Rebecca Porter accepted the offer to serve as interim dean until a national search is conducted to appoint a permanent dean. She is uniquely qualified to assume this position because of her national reputation as a seasoned administrator and educator. As the school moves forward during this time of transition, I encourage you to work with campus administration and faculty in identifying and recruiting qualified candidates for this very important leadership position and to continue supporting the school, or a particular program or department, as you are able.

In closing, I thank you for your friendship and support through the years. It has been a privilege to serve as your dean and have the opportunity to work with such outstanding colleagues and alumni.

Best Regards,



Augustine O. Agho, PhD  
Dean and Professor





# Reflections on SHRS Successes 2008-2016

By Brenda Lawless

It isn't often an academic unit can reflect on past accomplishments and milestones it has reached over a period of time. With the departure of Dean Agho, we have a unique opportunity to contemplate our progress over the last decade and see what a truly dynamic school we are.

## Academic Milestones

In 2008, SHRS was predominantly a small graduate school featuring well-established programs in nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Under Dean Agho's leadership, the school's growth has exploded with the launching of the health sciences undergraduate degree program that is bursting at the seams, the master's and PhD programs in health sciences, and a highly successful and competitive physician assistant program. The school has certainly not been sitting on its laurels in regards to academic growth.

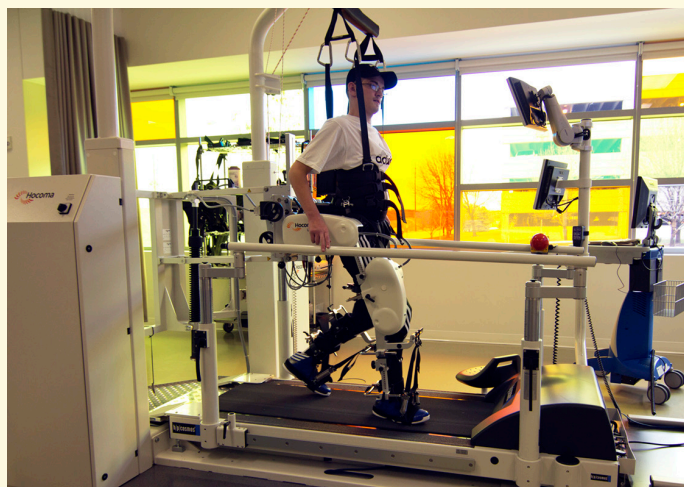
In the past year alone, the school has developed a transitional doctorate in occupational therapy (OTD) and has established a degree partnership with the IUPUI School of Informatics and Computing to create an integrated MS of Health Informatics program. Plans are in the works for an entry-level OTD that will likely accept its first cohort in fall 2018.

In October 2015, SHRS was selected to receive a coveted Health Careers Opportunity Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This program addresses the lack of diversity within the healthcare professions by supporting academic programs that prepare disadvantaged high school and college students for challenging college curricula.

## Research Milestones

Over the last decade, the school's research agenda has increased at a monumental rate with the development of several new initiatives and the creation of the associate dean of research role, filled by Dr. Stuart Warden. His long term study on bone density using major league baseball players has been featured in several national and international publications. Dr. Warden also established the Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research.

Other groundbreaking research agendas include Dr. Judy Ernst's study on the diets of HIV-positive Kenyan women and children; Dr. Kristine Miller's investigation on the effectiveness of yoga on veterans with stroke or other neurological disabilities; Dr. Patricia Scott's long-term research on liver transplant patients; Dr. CJ Liu's efforts to improve fitness levels of geriatric OT patients; and Dr. Mary Beth Brown's innovative investigation into exercise therapy to treat pulmonary hypertension.



One of the school's more innovative research programs focuses on the use of robotic therapy for patients with neurological disorders. This initiative led to a partnership with IU Health and the Cerebral Palsy Association, and the creation of the Indiana Center for Advanced Neurorehabilitation. This lab incorporates research on patients with CP or other neurological disorders with physical therapy treatment. It is the only lab of its kind in the Midwest.

## Student Milestones

The SHRS students have also been very productive over the last eight years. PT and OT students have helped develop clinics within the Indiana University Student Outreach Clinic (IU SOC), a pro bono facility that treats the underserved populations of Indianapolis' near east side. For over four years, these students have dedicated their weekends to treating these patients and making a difference in their lives.

Our PA students have taken the program's mission statement to heart, which is to treat patients in medically underserved communities throughout the world, and to become culturally competent healthcare practitioners. Although the program is still young, several students have made impacts across the globe – the Congo, locations in Central America, and within Indiana.

Our students also continue to achieve academically. In the last six years, four PT students have been awarded the prestigious APTA Mary McMillan Award, and several OT and PT students have been honored with the IUPUI William Plater Medallion, awarded for community service and academic achievement.

SHRS is proud to celebrate our own IUPUI Top 100 and Elite 50 students who are chosen not only for their scholastic achievements, but also for extracurricular activities and community service.



# IU Program Builds Stronger Healthcare Workforce

By Jill Jansen



ation from high school; graduation from college; and completion of a health professions degree program.

The IU HCOP project, which kicked off this year, has five annual objectives:

- Increase academic preparation and health careers awareness of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students through a six-week Junior Summer Camp.
- Recruit economically disadvantaged 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for training in health professions through a Senior Saturday Academy and provide them with support to successfully enroll in health professions schools.
- Improve the academic preparation of economically disadvantaged adults/non-traditional learners - including veterans - who are interested in health careers, through an intensive six-week pre-health professionals enrichment program.
- Increase the enrollment of economically disadvantaged undergraduate and associate degree students in SHRS by 10 percent.
- Improve the retention and graduation rate of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician assistant programs at SHRS by 15 percent through comprehensive academic and social support services.

Nineteen students from 17 area schools completed the first Senior Saturday Academy last spring. More than 115 sophomores and juniors were recruited for 30 spots in the Junior Summer Camp, which takes place in June and July.

More than half of Indiana's counties lack the healthcare resources they need to serve their populations. Indianapolis, federally designated as a health professional shortage area and medically underserved community, is especially affected. With assistance from a three-year federal grant totaling nearly \$2 million, the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) is working to improve access to care and address both Indiana's growing shortage of qualified health professionals and the lack of diversity among healthcare professionals in the state.

As a health professions school, SHRS is uniquely qualified to contribute to the goals of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Awarded an HCOP grant in 2015, SHRS has developed a series of initiatives that focus on the HCOP program's three key milestones: graduation from high school; graduation from college; and completion of a health professions degree program.

**The IU Health Careers Opportunity Program (IU HCOP) aims to increase the diversity of the healthcare workforce through the recruitment and training of individuals, including non-traditional students and veterans, from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.**



"Through the HCOP grant, SHRS is able to make a tremendous impact not only in our communities, but in the lives of these young students," says Ni-Cole Keith, PhD, FACS, professor, Department of Kinesiology, IU School of Physical Education and Tourism Management, and co-principal investigator for the IU HCOP program. "It's such a gift to talk to these kids and their parents and to see how thankful they are for these opportunities and what a wonderful hope it is for the future."

Dr. Keith said that 15 adult learners have been enrolled in the six-week pre-health professionals enrichment program. This part of the HCOP project is being administered in partnership with the John H. Boner Center for Working Families, which currently serves more than 3,100 at-risk families in the Indianapolis area.

Students assist in a bone health investigation with Dr. Robyn Fuchs.

# SHRS Alumna Named Interim Dean

By Richard Schneider and Brenda Lawless

Dr. Rebecca Porter has been named the SHRS interim dean by IUPUI Chancellor Nasser Paydar. Her tenure began on June 1 and she is replacing Dean Austin Agho who accepted a position as provost with Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Porter has previously served as the IUPUI associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, and she has served as a faculty member on the campus since 1977.

Dr. Porter understands the school and its mission very well as she is both an alumnae (graduating with the PT Class of 1972) and the former director of the PT program. She has served as an adjunct faculty member for the last decade and established the school's William Porter Scholarship Award. Dr. Porter was also recently recognized with the SHRS Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

With her vast experience at several different levels within academia, Dr. Porter brings a fresh perspective to the school as the search for a new dean begins. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students to fulfill the school's mission of providing and preparing excellent healthcare professionals for Indiana and beyond as the school continues to be recognized nationally and globally," she remarked.



Dr. Rebecca Porter, SHRS Interim Dean

## Entry-Level OTD Program Available in 2018

By Brenda Lawless

Occupational therapy education continues to evolve as requirements for healthcare providers become more stringent, requiring evidence-based practice and professional autonomy. In a 2014 position statement, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) recommended that educational providers transition masters-level programs to doctorate degrees by 2025. In response, the

school has begun developing an entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree program. This new program follows closely on the heels of the Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree program which the school launched in 2015 and graduated its first cohort in 2016. The post-professional degree was specifically designed for working OT practitioners who wish to increase their knowledge base and skill set to advance their careers within the field.

The entry level OTD, is anticipated to launch in summer 2018, and will offer a three-year curriculum that carefully integrates clinical fieldwork with academic coursework. The program will be grounded in evidence-based practice and be organized around the AOTA's six areas of practice: mental health, productive aging, children and youth, rehabilitation disability and participation, work and industry, and health and wellness.

The admissions cycle for the inaugural cohort is planned for the summer of 2017. Successful applicants will have completed a bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.2 GPA. Other admissions requirements are available at our website: [shrs.iupui.edu/admissions/apply/otd](https://shrs.iupui.edu/admissions/apply/otd). Questions about the new degree program can be forwarded to the SHRS Admissions Team at [shrsinfo@iupui.edu](mailto:shrsinfo@iupui.edu) or 317-274-4702.



OT students practice their clinical skills in the pediatric lab.

# SHRS Faculty and Staff Awards



## **AMY BAYLISS – 2015 SHRS SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Dr. Amy Bayliss, associate clinical professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, received the 2015 SHRS Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition of her dedication to physical therapy education. She makes student mentoring a priority and consistently exceeds teaching expectations. Amy focuses on evidence-based practice in her courses, and regularly involves students in research activities and presentations. She has been awarded the Golden Goniometer, a department teaching award voted on by students, seven times in the last nine years. Amy has also been instrumental in developing the department's peer review forms and procedures.



## **JEFFREY CRABTREE – 2015 SHRS SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Dr. Jeffrey Crabtree, associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, received the 2015 SHRS Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition of his dedication to occupational therapy education. As the director of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Post-Professional degree program, he developed the courses and curriculum and recruited four adjunct faculty members for the inaugural class. Jeffrey also considers student mentoring a crucial part of the educational process and has provided guidance to all OTD students.



## **JOYCE MAC KINNON – 2015 SHRS DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Dr. Joyce Mac Kinnon, associate dean for academic affairs and professor, was presented with the 2015 SHRS Distinguished Leadership Award at the school's annual luncheon on May 20. The award recognizes a stellar record of leadership and commitment to the SHRS mission and strategic goals. Joyce has served in her role with SHRS for over 12 years, and has successfully managed several critical projects including the development of the health sciences undergraduate and the physician assistant studies programs.



## **KAREN MITCHAM – 2015 SHRS STAFF RECOGNITION AWARD**

Karen Mitcham, administrative assistant for clinical education in the Department of Physical Therapy, was presented with the 2015 Staff Recognition Award. The award recognizes a commitment to the SHRS strategic goals and service beyond the scope of responsibilities. Karen has been with the school for over 16 years and brings a high level of expertise in her field. She has worked as the school's clinical education contracts liaison, coordinating between the IU legal department and the various clinical facilities to ensure the continuation of the school's clinical partnerships.



## **REBECCA REBMAN – 2015 SHRS EMERGING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Dr. Rebecca Rebman, program director and assistant professor in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program, received the 2015 SHRS Emerging Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition of her dedication to physician assistant education. Rebecca has been a leader in the emerging PA program, acting as interim director and then stepping into the full director's role. She has been an instructor in 10 PA courses and has developed syllabi and evaluations for at least two courses. Rebecca is also the co-PI of the IU Health Careers Opportunity Program, funded by a grant awarded to the school by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



## **PATRICIA SCOTT – 2015 SHRS SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD**

Dr. Patricia Scott, associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, received the 2015 SHRS Sustained Excellence in Service Award in recognition of her numerous service contributions to the university. Within the school, she has served as the faculty advisor for the Phi Theta Epsilon Honor Society, and as a member on various department and school committees. She is also a member of the IUPUI Budgetary Affairs committee and an advisory board member of the Center of Inter-Professional Teaching and Practice. Patricia has also been instrumental in developing the SHRS Mentoring Initiative, designed to provide advising to SHRS junior faculty.



## **WILLIAM THOMPSON – 2015 EMERGING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Dr. William Thompson, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, was awarded the 2015 Emerging Excellence in Research and Scholarship Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the SHRS research agenda. William has had a very productive year writing seven publications and participating in five grant submissions. He has also made student mentoring in research a priority, involving two DPT students and six undergraduates in his investigations. William was also awarded the Young Investigator Travel Grant for the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research Conference, and the Young Investigator Award at the Orthopaedic Research Society Workshop on Musculoskeletal Biology.



## **STUART WARDEN – 2015 INDIANA UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES TEACHING AWARD**

Dr. Stuart Warden, associate dean for research and associate professor, was awarded the 2015 Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award in recognition of his dedication to student mentoring and instruction through evidence-based practice. His courses within the physical therapy program focus on developing student understanding of musculoskeletal injuries and treatments. Stuart is also the director of the Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research at IUPUI and involves students in his investigation of interventions for musculoskeletal conditions.

# SHRS New Faculty and Staff Highlights



## ASHLEY BURELISON

Ashley Burelison joined SHRS as an academic counselor for the Department of Health Sciences undergraduate program. Her previous position was in the IUPUI Health and Life Science Advising Center, where she helped IUPUI students identify their interest within the health and life science majors. Ashley also served as a student services coordinator for the IUPUI Department of Mathematical Sciences. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from IUPUI in 2013 and just completed her Master of Science in Education degree from IU Bloomington. In her spare time, she coaches high school cheerleading and enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her family.



## SALENA HALE

Salena Hale joined SHRS as the program assistant for the Department of Occupational Therapy. She came from the Regenstrief Institute in the Center for Aging Research where she also served as a program assistant. Salena earned her Bachelor of Arts in General Studies from IUPUI in 2014. In her spare time, she enjoys bike riding, learning to play the piano, listening to music, and taking long road trips.



## ROSSLYN HOSKINS

Rosslyn Hoskins joined SHRS as an administrative assistant for the IU Health Careers Opportunity Program (IU HCOP). She earned her undergraduate degree in nonprofit management from IUPUI, and is currently pursuing a master's degree with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Rosslyn has a passion for volunteer work and spends a lot of her time working with the homeless and young mothers who wish to further their education. She is also training to become a grief recovery counselor. In her spare time, Rosslyn loves to travel, is an avid reader, and a self-professed foodie.



## PAIGE HUMMEL

Paige Hummel joined SHRS as the assistant to the chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy. She came from the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at IUPUI where she served as an administrative assistant. Paige earned her Bachelor of Science in Business in 2009 and her Master of Business Administration in 2012 from the University of Indianapolis. In her spare time, Paige loves to travel and visit friends scattered across the country. She also enjoys sports and college football, with Ohio State being her favorite team.



## ASHLEY JONES

Ashley Jones joined SHRS as the site coordinator for the IU Health Careers Opportunity Program (IU HCOP). She came from Pike High School in Indianapolis where she taught physical education for three years and coached the school's basketball team. Ashley earned her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from IUPUI in 2011, and a Master of Art in Health and Wellness from Liberty University. She is very active in her spare time, where she enjoys running, traveling, sports, playing flag football, and spending time with her family.



## JORDAN JONES

Jordan Jones joined SHRS as the admissions coordinator and school recorder. He came from the New College of Florida in Sarasota where he served as the assistant director of records. Jordan earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education from Ball State University in 2012. He is very social with friends and family, and enjoys discovering new craft breweries throughout Indiana. Jordan also enjoys golfing, softball, boating, camping, hiking, and visiting historical sites.



## SEAN SRENIAWSKI

Sean Sreniawski joined SHRS as a lecturer with the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from DePauw University in 2000, a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training from Indiana State University in 2001, and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Florida in 2011. Sean previously served as an integrated science teacher in Orlando, and as a surgical physician assistant for orthopedics and sports medicine at OrthoIndy. His area of speciality is orthopedics and sports medicine with a focus in ACL tear prevention, reconstruction surgery, and rehabilitation. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, cooking, fitness, traveling, and spending time with his family.



# OT Chair Receives AOTA's Highest Honor

By Jill Jansen



**Dr. Fisher accepts the award from the President of the AOTA, Dr. Virginia Stoffel.**

For more than 30 years, Thomas Fisher, PhD, OTR, CCM, FAOTA, professor and chair of the OT Department, has served in multiple leadership roles with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). This year, the organization awarded Dr. Fisher its highest honor – the AOTA Award of Merit, recognizing him as a “21<sup>st</sup> Century Visionary Occupational Therapy Leader-Scholar.” The highest award for an occupational therapist to receive from the AOTA, it recognizes an occupational therapist who has made outstanding global contributions to the profession.

Dr. Fisher has a long history of leadership with AOTA. He previously was elected vice president of the association and a member of the AOTA Board of Directors twice. He was a recipient of the AOTA's Lindy Boggs Political Advocacy Award twice, another highly competitive award, and has served on more than a dozen task forces and committees over the years, offering insight and expertise on issues such as professional mentoring, scope of practice, strategic planning, and national certification exam preparation. Dr. Fisher led the efforts to obtain OT licensure in two states and was selected by the AOTA several years ago to chair a committee of national-level deans and scholars in exploring the profession's transition exclusively to a doctoral degree.

A 1977 graduate of Indiana University's occupational therapy program, Dr. Fisher joined SHRS in 2003 as director of graduate studies in the Department of Occupational Therapy. He assumed the position of Department Chair in 2004. Under Dr. Fisher's leadership, the OT graduate program has continued its legacy of achievement and is currently ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and is the highest ranked OT program in Indiana. Besides being the founding director of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Dr. Fisher, along with Dr. Jeffrey Crabtree, designed and launched the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Post-Professional degree program in fall 2015, which has been a goal since 2009.

“Some of our students who enter the OT program do not know much about the profession; to watch them grow and evolve while they are with us is extremely rewarding and promising for the consumers of OT services,” says Dr. Fisher.

Dr. Fisher accepted the AOTA Award of Merit at the Annual Conference and Exposition's Award Ceremony in Chicago in early April.

## IU Nutrition & Dietetics to Mark 100-Year History with 2018 Celebration

By Jill Jansen

April 2018 may seem like a long way off, but not when you're planning an event 100 years in the making. “One Hundred Years of Nutrition & Dietetics” is the theme of a celebration to be held Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the COURSES Restaurant and Bakery at Ivy Tech Community College near downtown Indianapolis. The location is easily accessible with plenty of free parking.

“We're looking forward to welcoming our graduates from as early as the 1940s to this event, which will include an opportunity to enjoy historic food, reminisce, and share stories,” says Jacquelynn O'Palka, PhD, RDN, clinical professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition & Dietetics.

While planning is underway, Dr. O'Palka said the event will likely include a luncheon, continuing education speakers, and a special event for graduates of the pediatrics fellowship program. The organizing committee is also working with the IUPUI archivist to gather historic photographs and memorabilia to display at the event.

It should come as no surprise that food will play an important role in the celebration. Event organizers are working with the restaurant to re-create many of the recipes familiar to graduates of the dietetic internship program at IU Medical Center, including the famous strawberry shortcake made from the family recipe of Lute Trout, director of the nutrition and dietetics program from 1923 to 1948.

To register for the celebration event or to update your information, visit our website - <http://go.iupui.edu/ND100> - or contact us at 317-278-0933.

**Indiana University**  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



**Department of Nutrition and Dietetics**



## Organ Donation Career Becomes Something More

By Ric Burrous

Few jobs in healthcare are more intense than working in an emergency room or as a paramedic, when seconds can mean the difference between life and death.

But for Sarah Taylor, a student in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, working in those fields was an introduction to what can follow those life-saving efforts: becoming part of the organ and tissue donation system, and serving Indiana Donor Network as a clinical support coordinator.

Indiana Donor Network is one of 58 designated organ recovery organizations in the United States. It provides a vital link between people waiting for life-saving organ transplants and donors, and works closely with Indiana hospitals, donor families, and the United Network for Organ Sharing.

Sarah has been involved with healthcare since 2008. Her work in Columbus as an emergency room technician, and in Columbus and Greenwood as a paramedic, exposed her to the life-or-death stakes that healthcare professionals deal with every day.



**INDIANA  
DONOR NETWORK**  
Saving lives through organ and tissue donation



**Sarah (c) and a colleague at Indiana Donor Network work with Tim Scully (l), SHRS Director of Career Services, to develop internship opportunities with the donor network.**

“As a paramedic provider or working in an emergency room, you become focused on saving the life of someone right in front of you,” she said. “If that doesn’t occur, it can create a void, wishing there was something more you could have done to save a person’s life.”

That “something more” turned out to be organ donation.

“It was humbling to think that even after death that someone could make the selfless decision to save a stranger’s life through donation, and in doing so allowed their legacy to live on,” she said. “I was intrigued by that; the more I learned about donation, the more I wanted to be part of that community.”

In December 2012, Sarah joined Indiana Donor Network, then called Indiana Organ Procurement Organization. She has never regretted the decision to join the network.

“Indiana Donor Network is such a unique facet of healthcare,” Sarah said. “It’s really amazing to see so many people from so many backgrounds come together with one common goal in mind — to save lives.”

Sarah, who already has an associate degree in paramedic science from the IU School of Medicine’s health professions program, began pursuing a bachelor of science degree from SHRS. She’ll earn that degree in December 2016.

She is part of the Vital Link Donation Center, which Sarah considers “the epicenter” of the company. The donation process starts there and includes several steps:

- New referral calls from hospitals and coroners
- Determining donor eligibility
- Assisting donor families through the process of tissue donation
- Completing legal paperwork
- Coordinating logistics with clinical teams



**Sarah and an Indiana Donor Network co-worker promote the Driven 2 Save Lives campaign at a local event.**

Sarah helps create training materials for the donor network, and is also involved in the organization’s educational training programs. That allows her to contribute to the network’s future.

Sarah thinks a lot about the future, if only because “our work can ensure that recipients and their families have one,” she said. “This work has made me a more well-rounded healthcare professional, while demonstrating how much good there still is in the world. The donation/transplant community is truly one of a kind.”





# 2015-2016 SHRS Academic Superstars

## IUPUI Top 100

The **IUPUI Top 100** is a highly competitive university award that recognizes IUPUI's outstanding undergraduate students based on their academic achievement and extracurricular activities.

**Alexis Hunt**, graduating senior of the Health Sciences program, was also part of the IUPUI Cross Country team. She was a Bepko Scholar, a Summit League Distinguished Scholar, and named to the IUPUI Top 100 two years in a row. After graduation, Alexis went on a medical mission to Nicaragua where she worked with a pediatric neurosurgeon and physician at a local pregnancy crisis clinic. Her long-term goal is to become a physician assistant and plans to apply to the IU PA program.



Dean Austin Agho (l) and Dr. Brent Arnold, health sciences department chair (r) with Alexis Hunt

## William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion

The **William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion** recognizes graduating students who have demonstrated noteworthy dedication to community engagement throughout their academic career. SHRS is proud to have seven students awarded the medallion this year: OT students Seanna Nichols, Kaylin Staley, and Lauren Tom; and PT students Sarah Crusier, Hannah Enochs, Jason Pociask, and Sarah Raciti.



Plater Medallion awardee Hannah Enochs, PT Class of 2016



Plater Medallion awardee Kaylin Staley, OT Class of 2016, with Dr. Plater



Plater Medallion awardee Sarah Crusier, PT Class of 2016, with Dr. Plater



Plater Medallion awardee Lauren Tom, OT Class of 2016, with Dr. Plater



Plater Medallion awardee Jason Pociask, PT Class of 2016, with Dr. Plater



Plater Medallion awardee Seanna Nichols, OT Class of 2016, with Dr. Plater



Plater Medallion awardee Sarah Raciti, PT Class of 2016, with Dr. Plater



2016 IUPUI Elite 50 winners (l to r) Leah Van Antwerp, OT; Seanna Nichols, OT; Arianne Mason, PT; Jason Pociask, PT; Sarah Raciti, PT; and Dean Austin Agho

## IUPUI Elite 50

The **IUPUI Elite 50** recognizes IUPUI's top graduate and professional students based on their dedication to scholastic achievement, community service, and research activities.

SHRS was fortunate to have five students named to the 2016 IUPUI Elite 50: OT students Leah Van Antwerp and Seanna Nichols; and PT students Arianne Mason, Jason Pociask, and Sarah Raciti. Three of these students were also named to the Premier 10, the top overall awardees out of the Elite 50: Seanna Nichols, Jason Pociask, and Leah Van Antwerp.

# Students Impacting Lives With GoBabyGo@IU

By Taryn Francissen

IU PT students are making an impact on the IUPUI campus as well as in the surrounding community. With the introduction of GoBabyGo@IU to our school, our students are making a difference in the lives of children with developmental disorders.

GoBabyGo was founded in 2006 by Cole Galaway at the University of Delaware when he noticed that assistive devices for children with physical and developmental disorders created a financial strain on families. Because these devices were necessary for these children to gain independence in mobility, he wanted to develop a modified vehicle that could provide mobility at an affordable price. The idea for a modified electric vehicle was born and brought to life, building the groundwork for GoBabyGo. The vision of this organization was to spread to different universities throughout the nation.

GoBabyGo@IU was started by PT students, Andrew Wiseman and Michael Mohr in January 2015. Their vision was fueled by their desire to provide more than just basic mobility for patients. They wanted to take on challenging patients and incorporate PT concepts into their design rather than only providing them with a point of entry with mobility.

Working with IU alumna and adjunct faculty member Sara Davis, DPT, PT, they identify students within the Wayne Township school system who make good candidates for receiving a GoBabyGo modified vehicle. These patients are also chosen based on their family members being open to the idea of trying these new devices.

Once patients are identified, the concept designs for modifications are created by students at the IUPUI School of Engineering. These mechanical engineering students work with GoBabyGo@IU for their senior capstone design course taught by Professor John Stang. These concepts then go into building mode, which can take an entire semester to build. The patients and their families are brought in after the modifications are complete and are taught how to operate and maintain their adapted vehicle.

Not only are the vehicles effective for giving children access to independent mobility, it also acts as an incentive for them to practice functional skills. Because the base of the vehicle is a children's toy, it feels more like playing than working through a physical therapy session. They are interacting with modifications intended to improve function as well as external stimuli while still having fun.



Sara Davis (l) and Michael Mohr (r) help a patient work through her exercises on her new modified vehicle.

Sara Davis (l) and PT student, Jacki Fletcher, work with a patient as he moves through exercises on his modified vehicle.



The GoBabyGo@IU organization is quickly growing and evolving. The organization hopes to implement a social aspect for the patients by gathering families who the program has helped so the children can interact with one another. They have been featured in news promos and were awarded the Dare to Dream Community Service Award from Wayne Township in February 2016.

Moving forward, the structure of the student organization will be inclusive of first, second, and third-year students. First-year students will have the opportunity to participate in organization and gain valuable experience from their involvement. Second-year students will help run the organization based upon their experience. Third-year students will take on an advising role to the other students involved in the program.

Since becoming a registered student organization, GoBabyGo@IU has established a foundation account with IU. This enables interested donors to make secure contributions online. The funds are then used to purchase materials needed to create modified vehicles for the patients.

As GoBabyGo@IU grows and evolves, more children will experience the assistance of modified vehicles and gain independent mobility. It's an exciting organization with a very bright future.

**This is what sets the IU program apart from other GoBabyGo programs - creating mobility independence while working to improve functional abilities.**

# SHRS Internships Put Undergraduates to Work

By Brenda Lawless & Tim Scully

SHRS faculty and staff have been busy over the last two years building community networks that will develop into positive experiential learning opportunities for the school's undergraduate students. Internships are becoming a required stepping stone that employers expect from college graduates, and give graduates an edge in their chosen career path. Working with several healthcare and nonprofit organizations throughout Indiana, SHRS has placed several students in meaningful internships that are exposing them to several areas within the healthcare field.

Second-year health sciences undergraduate student, Fatima Gunn, recently completed an internship at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana (RHI). Working with the traumatic brain injury coordinator, she gained experience with several different areas of the rehabilitation, including outpatient visits, infection control, data entry, and shadowing. As a prospective occupational therapy student, Fatima finds the wide range of experience, as well as the shadowing crucial to her educational development. Knowing how nervous some people can be about internship experiences, she advises that "students should not be afraid to reach out and make connections. Being courageous will help you gain the experience you need to succeed."

## SHRS INTERNSHIP PARTNERS

- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Specialty Health
- Community Health Network
- Down Syndrome Indiana
- Indiana Donor Network
- Indiana Public Health Association
- IU Health Methodist Hospital
- IU School of Medicine
- Joy's House
- JumpIN for Healthy Kids
- Noble of Indiana
- Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky
- Premier Hospice and Palliative Care
- Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
- Tangram Disability Services

# IU OT Students Serving the Community

By Martina Allen, OTD, OTR

During the 2015-2016 academic year the IU OT students have been involved in several community service activities. They participated in fundraisers for the Central Indiana Alzheimer's Association and Bloomington Children's Therapy Services and a food drive for Gleaners Food Bank. They prepared and served meals for families at the Ronald McDonald House and assisted clients with participating in The CLIMB, an exercise program at the Indiana Parkinson Foundation that focuses on fighting the effects of Parkinson's disease.

The students capped off the spring semester with two very successful building events with Servants At Work, Inc. (SAWs), an organization that builds wheelchair ramps to enable persons with disabilities or age-related conditions to access their homes and communities.

First-year OT students (l to r) Leah Kubisch, Naija Fields, Savannah Jilg, Rachel Stephens, Amy Bercovitz, Sara Lefeld, and Christina Christenson pose with paintings they were given by the homeowner, who is an artist, as a thank you for building the ramp.



First-year OT students build a wheelchair ramp to improve access to the home.

# SOTHMANN DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

## It's Not About Us Any Longer

By Shelby Miller, IU PA Class of 2016

Up until this point in our lives, it's been all about us. We've put a tremendous amount of time and effort into getting to this moment. In the past, we spent excessive amounts of time studying to get that passing grade which earned a high school diploma and a college degree. We are programmed to dedicate everything we have to earn that passing letter grade, but that will not be the case after today. With those good grades under our belt, we can now become the providers we strive to be.

Moving forward, our work will focus on helping someone else. The measure of our work will be our patient/client outcomes, and the trust earned from our healthcare colleagues. So if your focus continues to be on yourself only, you may fail for one of the few times in your life.

Instead of studying for an anatomy exam, you most likely will spend an hour or two of your evening reading about new guidelines and promising treatments that will benefit your patients. We didn't choose this industry to focus on ourselves. But what you may not realize - until you watch a patient walk when you believed they would be wheelchair bound for the rest of their life, or see a patient laughing with their family when you weren't sure they would ever breathe again - is that by helping others, you are helping yourself. That patient's smile or their first step after an exhausting journey is your grade and reward.

**One piece of advice I have heard throughout my academic career is that simply being a good person goes a long way in the health professions.**

Not only is our focus shifting towards the needs of others, but we also have a responsibility to advocate for our professions. Being the best provider or professional you can be is one way to do that, but paying it forward is another option. We all have the opportunity to impact the future of our professions, and that is through giving back. Most of us have been required to complete some sort of clinical rotation or job shadowing. That was possible because of clinicians who generously offered their time and experience to help shape us into caring and competent healthcare professionals. We have all had that one "ah hah" moment during a clinical education experience that would not have been possible without someone else's expertise and supervision.

So I challenge each of you to give back to the professions by training students to be exceptional providers. Show them the things that cannot be taught in the classroom such as bedside manners, teamwork, and those short cuts that will make them more efficient. By helping them, you will make a significant impact on the profession you take so much pride in.

I also remind you to keep thinking of this verse from a Tim McGraw song: "When the dreams you're dreamin' come to you, when the work you put in is realized, let yourself feel the pride, but always stay humble and kind."

So as we walk off into the world of healthcare with that message instilled in our minds, whether it's today or sometime in the near future, let us not forget the responsibility we carry as members of the healthcare community and servant leaders in this world. I speak for all of us when I say a sincere thank you to everyone who has stood by our sides during this journey. Congratulations Class of 2016, it's time to go out and make a difference in this world!



# SHRS Celebrates Academic Accomplishments

The 2016 Student and Donor Recognition Celebration was held on April 20 and gave SHRS a chance to publicly recognize student success and donor generosity. Dean Agho and the department chairs recognized student award/scholarship/fellowship recipients and numerous donors who have funded the awards with an evening reception at the NCAA Conference Center.



## IU PA Student Elected to National Group

By Brenda Lawless

A student of the IU Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program, James Millward (Class of 2017), was recently elected to the national board of directors for the PA Foundation and the Student American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAPA). The PA Foundation is the philanthropic powerhouse of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), and as a board member James will help develop service and fundraising initiatives for PA students. It is a two-year assignment that will send him to Alexandria, Virginia for regular meetings and events.

IU MPAS Director Dr. Rebecca Rebman commented that “during his first year in the program, James was elected by his cohort to represent our program in the SAAPA from 2015-2016. His presence at the annual AAPA conference this year and election to these boards created opportunities for the IU MPAS program to be nationally recognized. James’ dedication to philanthropic endeavors will enhance not only our program’s spotlight but also that of the profession.”

James commented that he is “excited to serve as PA Foundation Student Representative and to be an advocate for PA students through the SAAPA. The mission of the PA Foundation is ‘To empower PA engagement in philanthropic programs that will improve health.’ I have a passion for service and have seen firsthand the positive impact that healthcare professionals can have in underserved areas of the U.S. and other countries. I look forward to helping ensure that PA students throughout the country have opportunities to contribute in service and provide healthcare education to communities in need.”



James poses with his academic advisor, Professor Jill Gardner, during the 2015 IU PA Whitecoat Ceremony.



# SHRS Annual Student Scholarships

Our students continue to benefit from the **school's number one philanthropic priority – student scholarships and awards.**  
Please join us in congratulating our scholarship and award recipients!

## HEALTH SCIENCES

### Dr. Karen Gable Health Sciences Scholarship

Christian Porter, Zachary Weniger

## NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

### Dr. Sheila Ward Dietetics Fellowship

Amy VanDeWielde

### Arlene Wilson Dietary Fellowship

Callie Neumann

### Dr. Karyl Rickard Pediatric Nutrition Award

Deborah Abel

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

### Katherine Belzer Fellowship

Hilary Harris, Sarah Lefeld,  
Siobhan McGuire, Anna Salyer,  
Louella Schoenfeld

### Carol Duke Nathan OT Fellowship

Emma Neukam

### Carol Duke Nathan Leadership Award

Lauren Tom

### Anita H. Slominski OT Fellowship

Siobhan McGuire, Louella Schoenfeld

### Dr. Patricia Laurencelle OT Award

Seanna Nichols

### OT Student Research Award

Kamille Hamzey, Lani Kuegel, Hannah Parker,  
Lauren Tom

### Linda S. Riccio Occupational Therapy Perseverance Fellowship

Kayci Silcott

### OT Alumni Giving Circle

Austin Gray, Kiersten Kennedy

## PHYSICAL THERAPY

### Patricia Rae Evans Fellowship

Allyson Garrett

### Stephen O. Jones Fellowship

Allison Longgood

### PT Community Engagement Award

Sarah Cruser, Hannah Enochs

### Constance Brown Fellowship

Nazneen Gittham

### Frances Ekstam Fellowship

Jacquelyn Fletcher, Courtney Goldsbury

### William D. Porter Award

Sarah Raciti, Lucia Seasley

### Katherine Belzer Fellowship

Kelsey Christensen, Carrie Esposito,  
Luke Laskowski, Kayla Moore,  
Deanna Proimos, Elizabeth Staats

### Zachary Gregory Emerging Leadership Award

Kirsten Zambon

### PT Faculty Choice Award

Attie Kempf, Jethro McConnell

### Ron and Lauren Cram PT Perseverance Fellowship

Micah Witted

## SCHOOL-WIDE AWARDS

### Mark Sothmann Dean's Leadership Award

Shelby Miller, Physician Assistant

### Dean's Academic Excellence Recognition Award

This award is funded through collective donations to the SHRS Annual Fund.

Allyson Garrett  
Aaron Gegg

Austin Gray  
Kaitlyn Kennedy

Kiersten Kennedy  
Teresa McNeany

Angela Trozzi  
Taylor Stewart

Emily Strauss  
Lara Vallely



## SHRS RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

# Finding Solutions to Indiana's Healthcare Surrogate Laws

By Brenda Lawless

Dr. Amber Comer, faculty member of the school's Department of Health Sciences, working closely with Indiana Senate legislative partners, has played a key role in the creation of a bill seeking to improve Indiana's laws regarding healthcare surrogate decision-making.

Dr. Comer provided research used for Senate Bill 193, Consent to Healthcare which was proposed during the Spring 2016 legislative session. The bill has been earmarked for additional review.

Healthcare surrogate decision-makers are a crucial part of patient care once a person is unable to make medical decisions, usually due to an injury or disease. However, recent studies have shown that very few have completed healthcare representation forms that legally designate a decision-making surrogate.

For example, an elderly widow with dementia has been under the care of her adult granddaughter for several years and has been admitted to the hospital for pneumonia. To determine her future treatment plan, her physicians want to perform a bronchoscopy, a procedure that requires informed consent. However, the granddaughter who had never been legally named the healthcare surrogate, could not provide the needed consent. This resulted in delayed treatment and placed physicians in the difficult position of determining the legal decision-maker.

"It is important to amend the Indiana Healthcare Consent Statute so that it represents real Indiana families. It is unacceptable for families who are already in crisis because their loved one is sick to have to face the addi-

tional burden of being told that they are not allowed to make medical decisions for their loved one without going to court to procure a legal guardianship," remarked Dr. Comer.

Unfortunately without this type of agreement in place, surrogates are generally determined through an inconsistent and out-of-date state law. This often creates situations in which patients have no qualified surrogate or where they have multiple surrogates with competing interests who are unable to reach a consensus on medical care.

Also under current state law, long-term unmarried partners cannot be legally designated as healthcare surrogates. Despite the fact that in most cases these partners had been caretakers or knew the most about their partner's health, they would be overlooked by state law as a decision-maker.

Dr. Comer has investigated this issue for several years, and she has received tremendous support from the medical community. She has also provided numerous workshops on the importance of this bill. Dr. Comer has also presented on this topic at the Fairbanks Ethics Lecture Series and the recent "Before I Die Festival."

Dr. Brent Arnold, professor and chair of the health sciences department observed that "this is an excellent example of how the work of Indiana University's faculty is used to serve Hoosiers. In this case, it will help Hoosier families make more timely medical decisions for their loved ones."

Senate Bill 193 would establish an order of priority for authorized consent for another individual, including someone who has served as a caretaker for that individual. It is anticipated that this law would alleviate delays of patient care and minimize the need for court intervention. It is hoped that after review over the summer, it will be reintroduced in the fall 2016 legislative session.



Dr. Amber Comer, assistant professor Department of Health Sciences



# Translating Research into Lifelong Rewards

By Ric Burrous

Physical activity's role in the lives of people from childhood to old age has fascinated IUPUI researchers in the Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research since it was launched in 2010.

Based in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences since its inception, the center explores bone and muscle health, often in connection with exercise and physical activity. Stuart Warden, PhD, PT, FACSM, of the physical therapy department and also the SHRS associate dean for research, is the founding director.

The campus's role in the field will grow soon with the launch of the new Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health, primarily housed in the School of Medicine. Dr. Warden's goal is to integrate the two centers to expedite the translation of research findings, with his facility remaining a resource for those on campus and beyond interested in assessing body composition, muscle and bone health, and functional performance of subjects in research studies.

The Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research has focused on how bones and muscle can change over a lifetime. Exploring the role exercise and physical activity plays with the very young to the very old is exciting for researchers.

The role of exercise for children is important, but no more intriguing than getting a deeper understanding of the aging process and its role in understanding the risk of falls, osteoporosis, and other health issues that come with the loss of bone mass and muscle strength as people age.

A lot of the research starts in laboratories through the study of animal models. "But another part is to translate those findings to humans," Dr. Warden said. "We want to make our work relevant to human health."

IUPUI's role as a health campus makes it ideal. "We have tremendous breadth and depth of projects that relate to our field, and having so many hospitals around gives us access to projects and patients that other universities and institutions simply don't have," he commented.

Faculty members play vital roles, Dr. Warden said, but one of the center's great assets is students who are part of the team. He noted that many professional students, excepting those in occupational therapy, are not required to do hands-on research and want to be clinicians.

"However, many end up making significant contributions to faculty projects working part-time as research assistants, and some ultimately come back to complete research doctoral degrees," he said. And that fulfills another goal: to enhance the quality of the field.



**Our work is really diverse. It can focus on in-patient treatments in hospitals, then shift to treating and evaluating elite athletes in out-patient settings.**



Research has demonstrated that exercise should be strongly encouraged during the early years to promote life-long bone health, and findings also indicate that exercise later in life is still a benefit. Dr. Warden recommends that 60 minutes of daily exercise, particularly in weight-bearing activities such as running, jumping rope, basketball, and other sports, is a good way to build and maintain muscle and bone strength and balance, and reduce the risk of falls and other issues later in life.

"We know that the loss of bone and muscle beyond the age of 50 continues at a rate of one to two percent per year," Dr. Warden said. "But even as we get older, regular exercise can help us live better, healthier lives."



# SHRS FACULTY & STUDENTS IN PRINT

This list of publications highlights the SHRS emphasis on evidence-based practice, and covers January 2015 - December 2015. Faculty are highlighted in **blue** and students are highlighted in **red**. For information about the individual publications, please contact Dr. Stuart Warden at [stwarden@iu.edu](mailto:stwarden@iu.edu).

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## Finding Effective Interventions for Liver Transplant Recipients

By Patricia J. Scott, PhD, MPH, OT, FAOTA

Transplant recipients face complex physical and mental challenges during the organ transplantation process. These challenges include disruption of the ability to perform valued roles (such as worker or parent) and can interfere with their participation in normal activities. This disruption also influences the lives of family or friends who become caregivers, often much longer than anticipated. The science to explain these challenges lags far behind the medical advances that have made organ transplantation an accepted medical procedure.

By researching the lives of people waiting for and recovering from organ transplantation, we can find the solutions that will enable transplant recipients to resume productive lives. With the collaboration of the Department of Surgery with the IU School of Medicine, we have created a three-phase translational research program.

Phase 1 of this study included data collection on quality of life and role performance of 161 liver recipients who were over two years post-transplant. We found that more than half of the subjects did not return to their valued roles without formal intervention and experienced a significantly lower quality of life.

Phase 2, which lasted four years, was dedicated to identifying modifiable factors that improve the quality of life for liver transplant patients. Recovery data was collected at 12 time periods throughout a two-year period, with a focus on activities of daily living (ADL), self care, work, and other productive roles. We partnered with the national transplant community at this time to help create awareness and provide further resources for our study subjects.

Phase 3 of this investigation includes the development of the 'Life Role Activity Following Transplantation' (Life-RAFT) intervention. Life-RAFT also involves a feasibility study to explore the efficacy of these informational materials.

We were not surprised to see global interest for this study and have recruited international partners - from Norway, Switzerland, Japan, Sweden, and the UK - to help establish a valid cross-cultural measure of participation. Together, we have founded the International Role Alliance for the study of Participation (IRAP).

We are currently developing a scoring system with a database of 500 "normal" subjects to create a study baseline; then we plan to distribute the system to 100-plus researchers and clinicians from around the world. It is anticipated that their data will make the next steps in intervention possible. Ultimately the number of persons with disabling health conditions who can benefit from a measure of role performance to enable full participation in society will increase exponentially.



# Jaimee Haan, PT, CWS

## 2015 SHRS Distinguished Alumni

By Brenda Lawless

The SHRS Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually to alumni who have made significant contributions in their respective professions. Jaimee Haan, PT, CWS, was selected as the 2015 SHRS Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, and was presented with the award at the 2015 SHRS Interdisciplinary Research and Education Conference last fall.

Jaimee was a devoted basketball player in high school until she was sidelined by severe knee injuries which required extensive reconstructive surgery. After being treated by physical therapists on her road to recovery, she knew that physical therapy (PT) was what she wanted to do. She spent the remainder of her high school career volunteering and shadowing in PT clinics getting a feel for what it took to be a successful therapist. Jaimee was accepted into the IU PT program and graduated with the Class of 1999. That is also where she met her husband, Bob, who was a classmate in her cohort.

Looking back on her academic tenure with IU, she was most impressed with Dr. Rebecca Porter who taught in the program and served as the program director. "Dr. Porter left a big impression on me because she was so passionate about the field and was very committed to her profession. She made her students passionate about neuroscience even if they weren't interested in the material," Jaimee remarked. She fondly remembers the moment when she decided to work in wound care. The director of IU Health's rehabilitation services (previously Clarian), Pauline Flesch, spoke at the commencement ceremony. Pauline's passion for the practice was so contagious that Jaimee found herself gravitating toward that area.

Jaimee has also found a foothold in professional advocacy by serving with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). She strongly believes that active participation in the APTA is crucial for all practicing PTs, and has been very impressed at the level of involvement of IU graduates. "It is clear that Dr. Altenburger sets very high standards for his students," Jaimee commented.

Her advice to new graduates is to "never limit your possibilities by focusing on one practice environment right out of school. Students are usually surprised by other areas within the profession that they may become passionate about. It's not all about rehabilitating athletes." She also recommends that graduates stay connected with their alma mater, as that network is very important as they move through their careers.

Now, with over 15 years of professional experience under her belt, Jaimee's next goal is to complete her doctorate in physical therapy. We are proud to call her one of our own and congratulate her on a remarkable career.

Jaimee preparing for the award ceremony at the 2015 SHRS Research & Education Conference.



# IU Physician Assistant Students Give Back

By Taryn Francissen



Keri and Kyle receive recognition from Dean Agho (far left) and Dr. Rebman (far right) for their commitment to the PA Fellowship.

This year, 40 physician assistant (PA) students created the Physician Assistant Class of 2016 Fellowship and pledged a combined total of \$25,858. The fellowship will be fully funded within five years and will continue to grant awards to future PA students beginning in 2021.

This new fellowship was created to provide a legacy fund supporting PA students and giving the PA Class of 2016 an opportunity to give back.

The income that this fellowship generates will support an annual award for a first-year IU PA student who holds a minimum 3.5 GPA. The recipients will demonstrate service as an ambassador of the PA profession, believe in providing quality and compassionate care, and challenge themselves academically and in leadership roles.

This fellowship initiative was led by students Keri Wingler and Kyle Brinson, who were honored at the 2016 Student and Donor Recognition event by Dean Austin Agho and PA Program Director Dr. Rebecca Rebman.

## Deb Abel Recognized for Contributions to Pediatric Nutrition

By Taryn Francissen

Deborah Abel, clinical assistant professor of dietetics and nutrition at Florida International University, has been awarded the prestigious 2016 Rickard Leadership in Pediatric Nutrition Award. This annual award is presented to an alumnus or a graduate student who has made outstanding contributions to the field of pediatric nutrition.

Dr. Abel is a 2012 graduate of the PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences program. At Florida International University, she developed a Pediatric Nutrition Graduate Certificate Program that is fully online and available anywhere in the world.

In 2003, Dr. Abel completed the pediatric nutrition fellowship at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. She then served as the pediatric clinical dietitian in the hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit for 10 years. In that position, she developed a nutritional care system at the bedside that was patented. During her doctoral work, she assisted in creating the national eLearning Leadership in Pediatric Nutrition Graduate Certificate Program.

The Rickard award, established in 2013 by Karyl Rickard, SHRS professor emerita, and her husband Eugene Rickard, recognizes graduate students or alumni who have made significant contri-

butions or demonstrated leadership in the field of pediatric nutrition.

"Dr. Abel's accomplishments as a passionate leader and educator in the field of pediatric nutrition are remarkable," Karyl Rickard said. "She is uniquely positioned to continue to make significant leadership contributions to the field of pediatric nutrition."



(l to r) Dr. Eugene Rickard, Dr. Karyl Rickard, Dr. Deborah Abel, and Dr. Austin Agho at the 2016 Student Recognition Reception.

## 2017 SHRS Inter-Professional Education and Practice Conference

January 21, 2017  
IUPUI Campus Center



## Save the Date!

Join us for our annual SHRS Inter-Professional Education and Practice Conference: **Learning Today What I Can Put in Practice Tomorrow**. It will feature three continuing education workshops and research presentations. Continuing education credits will be available for attendance.

More detailed information will be available at our event website:

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## Legacy Society

The Legacy Society formally recognizes individuals who have made significant planned gift commitments to the school. If you have included the school in your estate plans, we encourage you to contact the Dean's Office so we may recognize your generosity.

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# Linda S. Riccio

## Embodying the Spirit of Philanthropy

By Taryn Francissen

Since 1989, IUPUI schools have honored individuals, corporations, and foundations with the annual Spirit of Philanthropy Awards. These awards celebrate the gifts and volunteer service the recipients have bestowed upon the campus. The contributions remind us how important philanthropy and volunteerism are to the campus, community, and civic life.

This year, we are pleased to announce Linda Riccio as our recipient for the SHRS 2016 Spirit of Philanthropy Award. Linda is a noteworthy healthcare advocate and 35-year veteran of long-term care operations and clinical/programmatic development who holds a BS in Occupational Therapy from Mount Mary College. She is a national dementia care educator and is instrumental in helping facilities enable the elderly to live meaningful and productive lives in home-like settings. Linda has a diverse skill set in program development and implementation resulting in fiscally responsible and effective healthcare programs. Linda also serves as vice president of operations of Vertis Therapy, a national provider of contract rehabilitation services.



Dr. Thomas Fisher (l) and Dean Agho (r) pose with 2016 Spirit of Philanthropy awardee, Linda Riccio, and OT student, Kayci Silcott, at the award presentation.

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“As a core campus value, the philanthropic spirit at IUPUI connects teaching, learning, research, and community engagement with the needs of people locally, nationally, and globally.”

~ IUPUI Chancellor Nasser H. Paydar

In 2003, Linda Riccio witnessed firsthand how IU faculty members provided support and encouragement to her son Paul when unexpected health conditions challenged his academic pursuits. Years later, Linda partnered with the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in her professional roles at Creative Rehab Strategies, Vertis Therapy, and Creative Health Solutions. Inspired by today's faculty and students, she generously endowed the Linda S. Riccio Occupational Therapy Fellowship to provide funding for occupational therapy students who overcome adversity to achieve their educational goals.

We are proud to recognize Linda's spirit of philanthropy!



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