

DPT

March Newsletter

Sarah Graham, SPT & Lisa Ennis, SPT March 2024

Faculty Focus: Dr. Katie King National MS Awareness Month

"I started my journey specializing in caring for individuals affected by MS back in 2017 when I focused my clinical care in an outpatient neurologic setting after becoming board-certified in neurologic physical therapy. I became involved with a local MS support and became the co-leader of the group. To this day the group is still involved in the community, but now under the leadership of a friend, Bethany Hill-Anderson, who is also involved with on-campus events here at Gannon in support of our DPT program. You may see her around! In 2020, I earned Partner in MS Care designation for the clinic I treat patients at, Optimal Performance & Physical Therapies in Riverview, and earned certification as a Multiple Sclerosis Certified Specialist then as well. I am motivated by both my patients and students each day with each interaction!"

March is National MS Awareness Month, and April 20th is Walk MS at Al Lopez Park in Tampa. Dr. King will be organizing a group to represent our PT program! If interested in attending, please contact Dr. King!

Interested in learning more about local MS support? Reach out to Bethany at southshoremsfriends@gmail.com

Life Beyond the Books

Come watch as two of our second year DPT students, Berina and Cristina, compete in a powerlifting competition held at O'Malley's Power Gym in Valrico on Saturday, March 16th at 9 am. Watch our very own Gannon students hit personal records on the platform. O'Malley's is catered to powerlifting and strongmen competitors. If you interested in either of these sports, want to learn more, or just want to come support, it will be an amazing event!



Important Dates!

- 3/17: St. Patrick's Day! 
- 3/20: ADVISING DAY! 
- 3/28-4/2: Easter Break
- 3/29: Good Friday 
- 3/31: Easter Sunday

Happy
Easter!



Interested in contributing to the monthly newsletter?
Email Sarah Graham at graham063@gannon.edu for more info!

Clinical Corner

Darlene Chamorro



Clinical Experience Number: CE3

Site/setting: Moffitt Cancer Center

Demographic: Oncology patients (mainly patients >50 y/o but occasional 20 y/o's) who are having chemotherapy or other secondary issues

Caseload: 6-7 patients per day, 1-on-1 15-40 minute sessions

Responsibilities: Chart review, evaluations, treatments, communication with RNs/Physicians/PTAs/OTs/PTs

Most Rewarding Experience: Working with this population has been amazing and I love the facility. To this day, one of my most rewarding experiences was getting a 47 y/o female who rides horses for a living who came in post-stroke with her R side being weak. Since her incident she had been riding horses as therapy but she was having trouble mounting the horse using her dominant side (aka her R side). In order to assist with this activity, my substitute CI and I grabbed a step and put a cylindrical bolster on top and had her mimic the mounting activity initiating with both LEs. Yes, it was a lower height but she had to start somewhere and every time she came in, she requested that we finish the session with that activity since it was the only thing she couldn't replicate at home. It would use up a lot of her energy but she absolutely loved working on that activity because it was related to something she loved doing. So, adapting the activities in a way that incorporates the patient's interest has been my absolute favorite task.

Advice for Clinicals: Get to know the patient and do your best to incorporate their interests into the activities throughout the session. 1) It'll be more salient for them and their everyday life and 2) they'll enjoy seeing you and not dread having to come to PT, maybe then they won't consider PT to stand for "Pain and torture".

Student Spotlight

Katie Carver

Hometown: Bloomington, IN

Year in Program: First year

Area of Interest: Orthopedic

Favorite Class: Neuroscience

How do you maintain school-life balance? I try my best to give myself brain breaks even if it is just going on an hour long walk or taking Friday or Saturday off

Favorite activities: Soccer and Basketball

Advice for Future Students: Enjoy the journey! Try not to get caught up in all the little things and remember the big picture.

