

# SPOTon

Speech Physical Occupational Therapy newsletter | May 2014



## WE'RE **NATIONALLY KNOWN**, BUT **LOCALLY FOCUSED**

RehabCare is the leading provider of rehabilitation services, including physical, occupational and speech-language therapies, to over 2,000 hospitals and long-term care facilities in 46 states. The SPOTon newsletter is our way of informing, recognizing and celebrating the students who form the future Rehab Therapist community.

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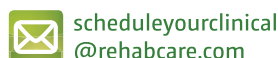


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## “HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US.”

### The Student Welcome Call Recap

by Paige Dellis



As a recent occupational therapy student graduate, I would have loved to have access to the monthly student welcome call. These calls can help you make the most of your clinical internship, as they feature advice from clinical specialists, recruiters and recently hired new grads. Our most recent student welcome call included: Clinical Performance Specialist Susan Evans, Recruiting Lead Linda Becker, and SLP New Grad at Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation – Highgate, Olivia Neiworth.

As an OT student, I was very nervous during my first level II Fieldwork. I tried to prepare for what lay ahead, but it was difficult. Clinical internships can be so varied. Sure, it's nice to talk to other students and grads who have faced the same challenges, but it's better to actually talk with RehabCare employees who have been there. That's what makes these calls so invaluable. Susan Evans shared the tip that students should, “use and abuse what resources we have because we love to

share them with you.” The great thing about those resources is they're always there, and we're always discovering better ways to utilize them.

On the student welcome call, Olivia said to, “always ask questions. If you're not asking questions, I think it is a little worrying to instructors.” RehabCare Student Programs truly cares about us as therapists and where we go with our future career. The student welcome call serves as a poignant and great introduction to your time at school and what we hope to accomplish together. Utilize these calls as an unparalleled resource in your continuing journey from student to new graduate.

It's simple to be invited to the next student welcome call – just [email us here](#) for call information.

*Paige Dellis is a recent graduate of Spalding University in Louisville, KY, with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Paige is currently temping in the RehabCare Student Programs department while Manager Jenn Vincent is on leave.*

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## “I LOVED IMPLEMENTING WHAT WE LEARNED!”

AN INTERN'S LOOK AT NEURO-DEVELOPMENT TREATMENT TRAINING



Left to right: Vienna Lafrenz, OTR/L Clinical Performance Specialist; Karen Hill, OT student; Wynna Bryant, Rehab Program Director; Jewell Shope, Area Director of Operations – West Region

On January 22nd, Kindred Nursing and Rehab – Woodland in Elizabethtown, KY was host to an exciting Neuro-Development Treatment Training (NDT) event. The course was taught by Clinical Performance Specialist Vienna Lafrenz, OT/L, who provided RehabCare therapists with extensive on-site training for five hours. While the course was offered to our therapists, our very own Clinical Internship Student, Karen Hill, attended the training as well. Karen is an OTA who is enrolled in the OT Bridge Program at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. She is currently completing one of her Level II fieldworks with RehabCare at the Kindred Nursing and Rehab – Woodland facility. I was fortunate to get a glimpse into Karen's experience and perspective during our interview about the NDT Training.

### What did you most enjoy about the NDT Training?

The training was very hands-on and the instructor repeatedly answered questions and gave demonstrations – as many times as needed.

### What does it mean to have a company provide you with these opportunities during your fieldwork?

It's a huge plus. Using fieldwork experience as continuing education while being in school helps me tremendously, financially and educationally. It allows me the benefit of additional training without the cost, which is huge when you are a student.

### What did you learn that can be applied to your patient care?

We've already implemented so many techniques from the training to our stroke patients. I don't have one specific thing, but I loved

implementing what we learned into our patient care. I also took the written materials with me and utilized them after my fieldwork experience was over.

### Were you able to share the information from training with your instructor or class?

Yes, I shared some of the new treatment techniques with my professors and students on our private Facebook page that was set up for me and my classmates. This provided a lot of information for discussion through our Blackboard portal as well. My classmates were excited to hear about the additional training, and it was great to be able to share with them.

### How have you enjoyed your fieldwork experience with RehabCare?

I began my clinical on January 6th, and it's been wonderful so far. The team is extremely helpful and answers any questions I have. I enjoy the shared knowledge through all disciplines and the team's willingness to help each discipline work together. As an OTA, I've worked in skilled nursing settings where the atmosphere is completely different [than Kindred Nursing and Rehab – Woodland]. Seeing the cohesiveness among the staff is very rewarding and brings so much value to everyone.

Karen finished her fieldwork experience at Kindred Nursing and Rehab – Woodland on March 28th and completed her second fieldwork at another RehabCare site, Christian Care of Louisville, in April. She is expected to graduate this August. We're excited to be providing Karen with not one, but TWO fieldwork opportunities within our company and to be able to watch her progress through her education.



## "I'M OVERWHELMED TO BE CHOSEN OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 500 FORMER STUDENTS."



Left to right: Sharon Dunn, Vice President of APTA; Harvey Miller, DPT, Outstanding Alumnus Recipient; and Jeannette Davis, DPT, Outstanding Alumna Recipient

### The Outstanding Alumna Award

Each year, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga PT Program and the PTA Program at Chattanooga State Community College host their annual Physical Therapy Forum. This year's forum on January 23, 2014 focused on Fraud and Abuse in Physical Therapy, and was presented by Sharon Dunn, APTA Vice President.

The lunch portion of the event featured the UT – Chattanooga staff presenting their Outstanding Alumna Award. This prestigious award is given to one of their physical therapy graduates who exemplifies excellence. Jeannette Davis, Rehab Program Director at Kindred Hospital – Chattanooga, was honored to be this year's winner.

In her own words, Jeannette describes her reaction:

*"I'm overwhelmed to be chosen out of approximately 500 former students. I am very passionate about being the best possible PT I can be, and I strive to keep myself current while providing the best possible outcomes for my patients. It's rewarding and humbling to have an institution like UTC acknowledge the contribution that this work has made to the community."*

Jeannette Davis, DPT, has been with RehabCare since May 2013 as the Rehab Program Director at Kindred Hospital – Chattanooga. Jeannette received her BSPT degree from UT – Chattanooga in 1993, starting with a solid didactic base. Within two years, she was working with their students in the clinic, and shortly thereafter, the UTC faculty asked Jeannette to begin lab assisting and/or guest lecturing in the classroom. This turned into adjunct teaching on a regular basis, and in 2006 she was asked to join UTC's DPT program. Jeannette graduated from UTC in 2008 with her DPT.

Jeannette has since had the opportunity to travel to Eastern Europe with other faculty from UTC on a trip funded by a grant from the university. She has also enjoyed opportunities to attend continuing education events with faculty from UTC, including Combined Sections, the Annual Conference and III Step. When asked how UTC shaped her into the clinician she is today, she said:

*"I have received guidance, mentorship and multiple growth opportunities through my involvement with the university."*





## REHABCARE'S OWN SPIN ON MARCH MADNESS

### The National Wheelchair Basketball Championship

RehabCare has its own spin on March Madness. RehabCare was a sponsor for the National Wheelchair Basketball Championship, hosted in Louisville, KY on April 3 – 6, 2014.

The NWBA ([www.nwba.org](http://www.nwba.org)) is the oldest and largest Disabled Sports Organization in the US for people with physical disabilities. It was established in 1948 to provide rehabilitation and reintegration for veterans returning from World War II. Today, the NWBA consists of more than 200 teams, 2,200 athletes and 600 coaches from 39 states in the US. The membership also consists of 18% disabled veterans. From 6-year-olds learning the basics of the game to the elite Paralympics players who rank amongst the best athletes in the world, the NWBA brings out the best in everybody. The NWBA has affiliations with the National Basketball Association (NBA), United States Olympic Committee (USOC), Paralympics, USA Basketball, the VA and Wounded Warriors.

Jayne Chilutti, OTR, RehabCare Program Director at Deer Meadows in Philadelphia, PA, is one of the Lead Classifiers for the NWBA. Alongside Jayne, we were excited to have many other RehabCare employees, including DPT and MSOT students, volunteering at this wonderful event. Our volunteers came from all over Kentucky, including the University of Kentucky DPT Program,

Spalding University MSOT program, and Jefferson County Community & Technical College PTA and OTA programs. Volunteers helped with everything from ticket sales to game day activities, from scorekeeping to stretching athletes (pre/post games), and even taping and massage.

Beginning on Thursday, April 3rd, the games concluded with the exciting Championship Games on Sunday, April 6th. A big congratulations goes out to the following teams who won:

- *Women's Division: University of Arizona Wildcats*
- *Division III: Carolina Tarheels*
- *Championship Division: New York Rollin Knicks*
- *Junior Division: Minnesota Timberwolves*
- *Junior NIT Division: Rockford Jr. Chariots*
- *Junior Prep Division: Atlanta Wheelchair Hawks*

In addition to the exciting games during the day, the NWBA hosted a great VIP/Celebrity game along with an Armed Services Salute Game, Medical All-Star Game, and a shootout. The NWBA also hosted a Junior Division High School Transition Forum for parents and students to meet with collegiate coaches and discuss schools, athletic eligibility, ACT/SAT scores, courses to take, etc. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to explore next steps in potentially moving to the collegiate level.



## SPOTon: A RECRUITER

LINDA BECKER

I recently was given the opportunity to participate as a guest speaker on a call for over 50 students on clinical internships. I love interacting with students as they are approaching graduation; there's a great deal of excitement and some apprehension as they prepare to transition from student to employee. Some of the most commonly asked questions recruiters get are about when to start looking for a position, how to find available positions and what our company is looking for in a new grad.

A student's interview process begins the minute they start their clinical internship assignments. While we may not offer them a traditional interview until they are within 3-4 months of graduation, our managers are assessing the students during the entirety of their clinical internship. Not only are we evaluating how they perform as clinicians, we watch how they interact with other staff members, patients, family members and other workers in the facility. We observe their behaviors as a professional – are they on time, do they communicate well, are they energetic, do they ask appropriate questions and seem engaged in their work? All of these things are considered when being evaluated for a permanent job opportunity, so it's important that the students present well from the minute they arrive for their first day.

Students can learn about future job opportunities through social networking sites, job boards for health care workers as well as the more generic job boards. RehabCare has an internal job board ([www.rehabcarejobs.com](http://www.rehabcarejobs.com)), and there are job fairs and events to attend through schools and state and national associations. We communicate continually with schools and universities across the country and send them updated job postings that are appropriate

for new grads. It's important to communicate with your professors – they likely receive job notices via email/mail/phone calls on a consistent basis. My favorite source: networking!

A clinical internship is an excellent time for the students to network with professionals of all disciplines in the building. It's good to talk with your CI and other staff members in the building about the type of position you are seeking after graduation. Licensed clinicians receive word of job opportunities they may or may not have an interest in, but may pass them along to you. Or, if given permission, they could forward your contact information to a potential employer. I recently hired a student who had done an internship with us over a year ago. When a position became available, her CI remembered that this particular student had mentioned wanting to permanently move to the area someday. Having impressed us as a student intern, we tracked her down to make her aware of the opportunity. As it turns out, it was the right position at the right time for her. She'll begin working with us this month!

It's important to keep an open mind. We like to see students that have done clinicals in a variety of settings. We look for versatility, and candidates willing to consider multiple locations are always of interest – being flexible on job location will only give you more options to consider. We're a nationwide company, and we will likely be able to offer opportunities to transfer to other locations in the future, should your ideal location not be available to you in your initial job search. Curious to see what opportunities await you right now? Visit us at [www.rehabcarejobs.com](http://www.rehabcarejobs.com)! Best of luck to you in your job search!





## SPOTon: ACADEMIC RELATIONSHIPS



Left to right: Anthony Disser lunching with Dr. Craig Jackson, Dean from Loma Linda University and Dr. Peggy Valentine, the Dean from Winston-Salem State University

The lead topic of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals (ASAHP) Spring Conference was "Connecting the Dots: Higher Education Reform and Employer Needs in Allied Health." Established in 1967 by administrators, educators and others concerned with critical issues affecting allied health education, ASAHP today includes over 125 deans of schools and colleges of allied health or health professions such as PT, OT, SLP, Rad Tech, Nursing, Nutrition and Athletic Training, among other disciplines. Held in the warm clime of Atlanta, ASAHP invited RehabCare to provide perspective on the challenges and needs of the employer community in healthcare.

Jason Zachariah, SVP, HRS for RehabCare, and Anthony Disser, SVP, Chief Clinical Officer for Kindred Healthcare, reviewed the disciplines in highest demand. They discussed the need to prepare students for an interdisciplinary approach to healthcare and the importance of managing care transitions. Jason and Tony stressed that employers such as RehabCare and Kindred must continue working together with academia to better prepare future clinicians to coordinate and deliver high quality patient care at the lowest possible cost. RehabCare received great feedback on the presentation from attending deans and the Association.



## SPOTon: THE APTA COMBINED SECTIONS MEETING CONFERENCE



We wrapped up yet another successful APTA Combined Sections conference this past February in Las Vegas. Over 3 days, we met over 700 PT's and PTA's from around the US. Our booth was quite the popular location, with over 600 students visiting, no doubt helped by our famous "PT One of a Kind" T-shirts. Faculty members from partner schools stopped by to say hello, in addition to former Clinical Internship students and students from numerous past events. Our largest showing of students was from Eastern Washington University. In fact, the entire 2015 PT graduating class was able to attend CSM this year, due to RehabCare's premiere sponsorship of their Wild Moose Chase Run, a fundraising event designed to send students to the conference.

Not only did we have a great turnout at our exhibitor booth, but our very own Clinical Performance Specialists, Judy Freyermuth and Leta Kent, stole the "seminar show" with their course on Seating and Positioning. For a standing-room crowd in the large conference room, Judy and Leta did a great job, receiving positive feedback from the audience and lots of great questions.

Lastly, the Walsh University/RehabCare collaboration research project was presented by Walsh University students. Their poster research project was on "Student Intention to Work with the Elderly Following a Skilled Nursing Clinical."