College of Health Professions News

Preparing Leaders to Serve

Spring 2016



Physician Assistant Studies Program Receives Accreditation

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The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Sacred Heart University Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Sacred Heart University. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

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Center for Healthcare Education Ground Breaking Celebration

The University held the ground breaking ceremony for the new Center for Healthcare Education on June 18, 2015. Almost 200 members of the University Community came out to show their support. The new building, located at 4000 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, will house state of the art laboratory and classroom facilities designed to support a collaborative, team-based learning environment for the Colleges of Health Professions and Nursing.



The new Center for Healthcare Education will provide students with expanded space and updated equipment opening up new opportunities for learning and preparing them for their future professions.

One of those new opportunities is the exciting new multiprofessional education clinic planned for the building. It will offer specialized single-profession services and a collaborative, holistic approach to needed services for everyone from pediatric to geriatric populations. Disciplines that will collaborate in the clinic include <u>physical thera-</u> <u>py</u>, <u>occupational therapy</u>, <u>speech-language pathology</u>, <u>exercise science</u>, <u>athletic training</u>, <u>physician assistant</u> and nursing.

Along with a medical gym and individual treatment rooms, the clinic will have an aquatic therapy pool and an audiology suite used for teaching skills in hearing assessment, aural rehabilitation and fitting clients with hearing aids. Clinic staff will also have access to the motion analysis and human performance labs and a driving simulator. There will also be a simulated outpatient suite for evaluation and treatment of ambulatory patients.

Both suites accommodate high-fidelity manikins or actors playing roles as standardized patients. There will be a home-care suite to simulate occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology and nursing practice. An expanded human anatomy lab will also be used to support health professions and nursing students.

Enhanced athletic training, human performance and motion analysis labs will provide up-to-the-minute learning environments for the exercise science and athletic training programs. These will be used for developing clinical skills and evidenced-based practice and to support faculty/student research.





Tandet Building in Stamford will House Physician Assistant

Studies Program

The College of Health Professions is working with Stamford Hospital to launch its new full-time, 27-month master of physician assistant studies (MPAS) program, with an initial class of 28 students starting in fall 2016.

More than 700 applicants have applied to attend the program since the application process opened in April 2015, "reflecting the rapid nationwide growth in demand for physician assistants." Up to 150 people will be interviewed for 28 seats in the inaugural class.

The SHU MPAS program will be in Stamford, on the second floor of Stamford Hospital's Tandet Building, next to the main hospital on West Broad Street.

The 13,000-square-foot space is in the process of a full renovation and will include a state-of-the-art lab, class-rooms and a patient-assessment suite. The program will consist of a 12-month classroom phase followed by a 15-month clinical phase providing 2,000 hours of experience in several medical specialties. All students will complete clinical rotations primarily at Stamford Hospital.

Dr. Teresa Thetford, department chairwoman and founding program director of the physician assistant studies program, said "students will be prepared to practice medicine on health care teams with physicians and other providers."

One of the goals of the program is to improve access to quality health care in Fairfield County and surrounding communities, including rural and urban medically underserved populations.

Thetford said "SHU will emphasize primary care and population health and wellness as well as patient-centered care that is individualized."

"What makes us stand out will be our focus on patientcentered primary care and addressing the needs of the medically underserved," says Thetford.

"As health care in the U.S. continues to evolve, the need for primary care providers, both physicians and physician assistants, will grow," said Dr. Henry Yoon, associate director, Family Medicine Residency program at Stamford Hospital and medical director of SHU's MPAS program. "As a teaching hospital of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, medical academics and a sense of continuously improving the care we provide now and in the future are deeply engrained in our culture."

The aging of the population, chronic health needs and increasing demand for health services driven by the Affordable Care Act are good reasons to establish this program along with projections of a 38 percent job growth between 2012 and 2022 for physician assistants from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to the American Academy of Physician Assistants, only 22 percent of Connecticut physician assistants work in primary care.



Founders Day 2016



Clinical Associate Professor, **Dr. David Cameron**, was recognized for 20 years of service at the 2016 Founders Day Celebration on March 23, 2016.

Dr. Cameron joined the faculty of Sacred Heart University in the fall of 1996 as a clinical assistant professor in the Physical Therapy program. He is recognized as an orthopaedic certified specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and a member of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists. He has served the Connecticut Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) through committee leadership and association activities.

Dr. Cameron received a Ph.D. in Pathokinesiology from New York University, a MA in Sport Biomechanics from University of Connecticut, a BS in Physical Therapy from University of Connecticut and a BS in Physical Education from Central Connecticut State University.

Dr. Cameron had a fabulous wrestling career at Central Connecticut State University where he was inducted into the Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. He served as Sacred Heart University's interim head wrestling coach for the 2011-2012 season, guiding the wrestling team in the inaugural year of competition in the Eastern Interscholastic Wrestling Association. He was awarded the Sacred Heart University Student-Athlete Faculty Mentor Award in 2008 and 2013.

Over the past few years, Dr. Cameron has become involved in "Kairos Prison Ministry" and participates in "Kairos Inside." Kairos Inside creates Christian communities inside prisons that can transform lives, decrease prison violence, and reduce recidivism. Once a year Dr. Cameron leads a team of men into a Correctional Institution for a 3.5 day weekend to bring the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to the incarcerated men. The group returns on the second Saturday of every month to visit with and minister to the prisoners as well as taking part in six, Saturday morning training sessions.

Collaborative Programs

Sports Medicine Clinic for High School Students

Clinical Assistant Professor of Exercise Science, Eric Scibek, organized an interdisciplinary group of faculty from Exercise Science, Athletic Training and Physical Therapy to run a sports medicine clinic for high school students from across the state. There were 75 students in attendance and the goal of the clinic was to expose the students to various aspects of the sports medicine/human movement e fields. The clinic, titled "Shoulder Injury in the Overhead Athlete: Evaluation and Return to Play," took place on February 20, 2016.

Students spent time in the Human Anatomy Lab, Physical Therapy Lab, Athletic Training Lab, and observed a live demonstration of motion analysis. Participating faculty included Assistant Professor of Athletic Training, Dr. Julie DeMartini; Clinical Exercise Scientist, Brendan Rickert, and Clinical Assistant Professor, Jason Grimes and Professor, Dr. Frank Tudini of Physical Therapy. Participating graduate assistants included Brian Foley and Brian Wadsworth from Physical Therapy along with several undergraduate Exercise Science and Athletic Training students.



Physical Therapy student, Brain Wadsworth

Students have Posters Accepted for Presentation at Annual Conference

Students, Kayla Gamache, Jenove James, Breana Medeiros, Paul Sroka, and faculty advisor **Dr. Mary-Ellen Johnson**, from the Graduate Program in Occupational

Therapy have had their poster "Interdisciplinary Response to the Physical and Psychosocial Wellness Needs of Firefighters" accepted for presentation at the 2016

Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association Annual

Conference. The poster describes a project that created a series of videos to respond to the health and wellness needs of firefighters identified through previous research over several years. **Dr. Beau K. Greer** and **Dr. Wendy S. Bjerke** from the Exercise Science Programs, and **Dr. Linda L. Strong** from the College of Nursing created videos for the project consistent with their disciplines

Students, Abby Blacker, Melissa Hajkaluk, Cassie Tanner, Taylor Viniarski, and faculty advisor **Dr. Mary-Ellen Johnson**, from the Graduate Program in Occupational

Therapy, and Dr. Salome V. Brooks, PT from the Physical
Therapy Program of Springfield College, have had their
poster "Mindfulness and the Affective Domain and Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Education" accepted for presentation at the 2016 Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference. The poster describes the first stage of research to identify if and how occupational therapy and physical therapy programs use mindfulness to address the Affective Domain in the formation of compassionate & empathetic practitioners.

Athletic Training

Athletic Training Program Awarded Grant to Study Head Impacts



US Lacrosse has awarded Sacred Heart University's athletic training education program a \$15,000 grant to study the effects of on-the-field head impacts over the course of the Pioneers' college men's lacrosse season.

Students in the program have been working with professors and staff to collect data throughout the spring 2016 season by using helmet-mounted impact sensors during games and practices. The study — titled "The Effect of Cumulative Impacts on Vestibular Ocular Reflex in Division I Men's Lacrosse Players" — is being managed by Theresa Miyashita, director of the athletic training education program, with help from Clinical Assistant Professor Eleni Diakogeorgiou and SHU Athletic Trainer Kaitlyn Marrie.

"Little research has been focused on lacrosse, and it is the fastest-growing team sport in the U.S.," Miyashita says. "It is a high-contact, equipment-intensive sport that needs more research." Miyashita adds that she has particular insight and affinity for health in lacrosse players because her husband is a former professional player who is now assistant coach of the SHU men's team.

US Lacrosse, the sport's national governing body, awarded the grant to allow SHU to purchase the equipment needed to conduct the research: GForceTracker helmet sensors to record the severity and frequency of head impacts and the NeuroCom inVision system from Natus for pre- and post-testing athletes' vestibular ocular reflex.

Miyashita says she is excited about the research as both an educational experience for the program's students and for its potential effects on the future health of lacrosse players at all levels. "We have a great group here doing some really interesting research on a very important and hot topic," she says. "Our primary goal is to investigate the potential cumulative effects of sub-concussive impacts on collegiate lacrosse players, ultimately to improve player safety."

Athletic Training

Masters of Athletic Training Program Receives Approval

The Connecticut Office of Higher Education has approved an application for a Master of Science in Athletic Training program at Sacred Heart University to commence in the summer 2017.

The change from an undergraduate to a graduate program is in response to the decision of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education and the National Athletic Training Association to establish the professional degree in athletic training at the master's level

instead of the current bachelor's level.

Program director, Dr. Theresa Miyashita, and Athletic Training professors Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Dr. Julie De-Martini, and Dr. Gail Samdperil prepared the application for approval by the state.

Hit the Hill Day

Students from them athletic training program joined the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association on February 14th for the annual athletic training lobby day. Students spoke with various legislators regarding athletic training and the professions qualifications and education. Students were also able to experience the Connecticut legislative process, meet the organizations lobbying group as well as collaborate with other athletic training students across the state. This is the 4th year Sacred Heart University Athletic Training students have attended hit the hill day.



Students attend Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting



A group of ten students attended the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting in Boston on January 8—10th where Assistant Professor, Dr. Theresa Miyashita presented on a panel titled "Subconcussive Impacts in Sports: What do we Know?"

Exercise Science

Life & Sport Analysis Clinic Hosts RUNscience Clinic.



Brendan Rickert performs a VO2 max test with client Timothy Salit at the Life & Sport Analysis Clinic

The Life & Sport Analysis Clinic (LSAC) hosted its first RUNscience clinic, a full day evidence-based sports science clinic for local running coaches and athletes on January 3, 2016 at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. The clinic, which attracted more than 50 attendees, included keynote speakers David Epstein, author of the New York Times best-selling book *The Sports Gene* and Frank Gagliano, coach of the New Jersey and New York Track Club. Certificates of Completion for professional development credit for Connecticut high school coaches and teachers were provided.

Students Host Colloquium on Pediatric Obesity

Students from Valerie Wherley's exercise science class, EX 399, hosted a colloquium on December 2nd entitled, "Pediatric Obesity: Prevalence, Management, and Intervention Strategies". The colloquia was a summation of the Fall semester's work in the senior seminar class. The course covered a myriad of topics, beginning with investigating the "Fat Cell as a Complex Structure", and moving into such topics as body composition assessment, physical activity and energy expenditure, weight stigma and bias, and clinical management of pediatric obesity.

The colloquia presentation was created and organized by the 12 students in the seminar class. Based on the semester's chapter readings, webinars, discussion questions, inclass presentations, and guest lecture information, the students decided what to put in the presentation and how to organize it. Students were also responsible for creating an advertising brochure, and promoting the colloquia both within the university and to local community members. Approximately 90 students attended the event.

Health Science

Interdisciplinary Grant Research to be Presented

Assistant Professor, **Dr. Clotilde Dudley-Smith**, received a 2015/2016 CHP interdisciplinary grant. She is working with a Psychology department colleague, **Dr. Lisa Smith**, to increase awareness of eating disorders/body image on college campuses. Dr. Dudley Smith will be presenting her research at the Teaching Professors Conference in Washington, DC this June.

Health Science & Leadership Offers New Global Health Minor.

Globalization has brought about rapid change as citizens, governments, and markets worldwide have become increasingly interdependent. Today's health professions graduates will need the knowledge, skills and abilities to thrive in a competitive, globalized healthcare setting. The minor in Global Health responds to the demands of the 21st century by equipping students with competencies through a broad based and multidisciplinary program designed to prepare them for global engagement and global health incidents. It is designed for students who have strong international interests and wish to pursue those interests in a program of study.

SHU WELL Students to View "Body Worlds" in New York City

Assistant Professor, **Dr. Clotilde Dudley Smith** will be accompanying 45 <u>SHU WELL</u> students to New York City on April 27th to view Gunther von Hagens' Body Worlds, the original human anatomy exhibition.

Healthcare Informatics

Senior Capstone Projects

Senior Healthcare Informatics students presented their capstone research projects on March 30th at Cambridge.



Mr. Jordan Allen presents his capstone project "Sustaining HER Integrity Beyond Implementation"

Occupational Therapy

Students Working on Needs Assessments

The Needs Assessment and Program Development: OT543 class has 11 groups of students doing needs assessments and programs/projects to meet identified needs at not for profit community sites in Bridgeport, Milford, Stratford, and Trumbull. Two groups are doing the same internally for current Occupational Therapy students and incoming internal and external undergraduate students coming into CHP graduate programs.

Physical Therapy

Clinical Graduate Students Present Physical Therapy Project Work

Doctor of Physical Therapy students presented their service learning clinical project work for PT: 845 "Professional Practice Ill," in the form of poster sessions that showcased their efforts to develop health promotion or quality improvement programs at select community-based facilities, including physical therapy clinics, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and adult day care agencies.

The course was led by Clinical Associate Professor Donna Bowers. "The thing that makes these projects unique is that it is 100 percent community based, with 12-14 areas of opportunity," said Bowers. "Our students are pretty high caliber already, but this expands their role from one-on-one patient interaction to developing programs for groups of individuals or organizations."

One project titled "Say YES to Healthiness: Nutrition and Wellness Program" was developed for Mercy Learning Center (MLC) in Bridgeport. The students were interested in a nutritional and exercise development programs for the ESL class there. MLC has a complex curriculum and was unable to emphasize those areas. The students worked with a group of 24 women on nutrition education,

exercise and sharing of community resources, making them ambassadors for their own families.

A second project was "Griffin Hospital: Implementation of Work Hardening Program," which was developed for the Rehabilitation department of Griffin Hospital in Derby. Griffin Hospital was in need of physical and psychological therapy tailored to specific job functions, they currently provide pain control, return-to-function and range-of-motion therapy for work related injuries, but they are not job specific. The students did a feasibility study, implementation plan and cost analysis for creating a space and program to facilitate that."

A third project titled "Operation TheraVid: Increasing Therapist Efficiency Utilizing HEP Templates" was developed for outpatient clinic Rehab Concepts Physical Therapy in Guilford. TheraVid is the online home of the clinic's exercise program, through which patients can access therapy routines to meet their specific needs. The students evaluated the program and made recommendations to the physical therapy staff.



Physical Therapy

Combined Sections Meeting

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) 2nd year students, Allison Breakey and Jennifer Helft worked at the American Physical Therapy Associations Combined Sections Meeting on February 16, 2016, as student-volunteers.

Pictured right: from left to right:: DPT 3rd year student, Timothy McArthur, ESPN's Stephania Bell, Allison Breakey, Jennifer Helft, and Dr. Emmanuel Yung.



Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-Language Program Approved by State Department of Education

A review committee of the State Department of Education approved the Speech Language Pathology program at its January 8, 2016 meeting. This is the next to last step for the program's graduates to be eligible to be

certified to work in Connecticut public schools. The proposal will next go to the state board of education for approval which will be sometime this spring.

Aphasia Research



Carolyn Falconer-Horne works with senior undergraduate student, Gina Gallo, on data for her research.

Assistant. Professor, Carolyn Falconer Horne's Research is using transcortical direct stimulation (TDCS), a form of electrical stimulation to the brain that uses constant low current delivered to the brain area of interest by electrodes on the scalp, to study the effect of electrical stimulation on patients' ability to benefit from standard therapy. Safe and painless, TDCS has been tried for the treatment of depression, where early studies suggest it is helpful. A few preliminary studies suggest TDCS can be helpful in improving response to standard treatments in aphasia, as well. Prof. Falconer-Horne's research is attempting to learn whether TDCS is useful for stroke victims who have both aphasia and paralysis. If this lowrisk intervention can enhance aphasia victims' improvement and help them benefit more from traditional therapy, it could be an important tool for improving outcomes of stroke and other brain damage.

Faculty Focus

Athletic Training

Clinical Assistant Professor, **Eleni Diakogeorgiou**, presented a poster titled "Emergency Medical Services' Perceptions of the Roles and Responsibilities of Athletic Trainers on the Athletic Field." at the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting, January 8—10 in Boston, MA. Assistant Professor, **Dr. Theresa Miyashita**, presented a poster titled "The Impact of a Competitive Lacrosse Season on BESS Scores in Who Did Not Reportedly Sustain a Concussion." at the same conference.

Exercise Science

Clinical Associate Professor, **Dr. Wendy Bjerke**, recently published and presented the items below:

- Armstrong, S. N., Burcin, M. M., Bjerke, W., & Early, J. (2015). "Depression in Student Athletes: A Particularly At-Risk Group? A Systematic Review of the Literature. Athletic Insight" 7(2): 177-193.
- **Bjerke**, **W**. (2016). "Built Environment Assessments. An analysis of "Goat Trails." National Association for Community Health Improvement Annual Meeting. March 1-3, Baltimore MD.

Associate Professor, Dr. Anna Greer served as the 2016 Conference Planning Chair for the American Academy of Health Behavior, a national organization with a focus on health behavior research. The conference took place February 21-24 in Ponte Vedra, Florida. Dr. Greer presented two studies at the conference (listed below). Brianna Castrogivanni, a graduate student in the Masters of Exercise Science and Nutrition was a co-author on both studies.

- "Food Pantry Patrons Experiences Acquiring Food: Implications for Health Promotion."
- "Park Use and Physical Activity Among an Economically and Ethnically Diverse Group of Adults."

Conference Press Release: http://www.prweb.com/releases/2016/02/prweb13219759.htm

Dr. Greer, was elected to the American Academy of Health Behavior Board of Directors as a Member Delegate with a 3-year term (2016-2019) and was also invited to serve on the Advisory Board for the City of Bridgeport's Food Policy Council. She began service on the advisory board in January, 2016.

Associate Professor, **Beau K. Greer**, wrote an article for Modern Family's March 2016 online magazine titled, "Farm Confessional: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Foie"

Read the article:

http://modernfarmer.com/2016/03/farm-confessional-foie-gras/

Health Science

Assistant Professor, Dr. Clotilde Dudley Smith had two papers accepted for publication by the editorial board of the International Journal of Health Sciences.

- "Anorexia Nervosa and Risks of Exercise"
- "Self-Esteem and Body Image"

Dr. Dudley-Smith, received a 2015/2016 CHP interdisciplinary grant. She is working with a /Psychology department colleague, **Dr. Lisa Smith**, to increase awareness of eating disorders/body image on college campuses. Dr. Dudley Smith will be presenting her research at the Teaching Professors Conference in Washington, DC this June.

Healthcare Informatics

Chair & Program Director, **Dr. Stephen C. Burrows**, served as an External Reviewer for the Chapman University Health Science undergraduate program in November 2015 as part of the University's ongoing Assessment plan. Over a two-day period of time, Dr. Burrows and other members of the assessment team met with University administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni to gain an understanding of the current program's strengths and to identify areas for improvement. The team's assessment report provided guidance to the University for changes to the curriculum and department on ways to improve the students' education, experience and future career opportunities.

Faculty Focus

Occupational Therapy

Clinical Assistant Professor, **Dr. Lenore Frost**, had her study titled "How is patient handling being integrated into the curriculum of entry-level physical therapy programs?" accepted for presentation at the Triennial Congress of the International Ergonomics Association in Melbourne, Australia on August 13, 2015.

Associate Professor **Heather Miller Kuhaneck** was asked to co-edit the next edition of *Occupational Therapy for Children and Adolescents* published by Elsevier; the pediatric text used by 90% of Occupational Therapy programs in the USA. Dr. Kuhaneck will be adding video resources to the new edition and will be working on the text throughout the next year.

Clinical Assistant Professor, **Dr. Sharon McCloskey**, has been awarded the 2016 Award of Merit, from the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association (ConnOTA). The Award of Merit is to recognize individuals who have attained outstanding accomplishments in clinical practice, research, leadership or innovation and whose body of work is considered exemplary and influential by peers. Dr. McCloskey has been Chair of the Connecticut Revision of the State Guidelines for Occupational Therapy in Educational Settings (a collaborative project between the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association, and ConnOTA). The draft guidelines for occupational therapy in schools are now completed, and were received by CSDE in December 2015.

Physical Therapy

Clinical Associate Professor, **Dr. David Cameron is** involved in "Kairos Prison Ministry". In April he will lead a team of 24 men into Garner Correctional Institution for a 3.5 days weekend to bring the love and forgiveness of

Jesus Christ to the incarcerated men there.

Dr. Cameron and his group will enter the prison on Thursday April 21st and stay until Sunday April 24th ministering to 24 incarcerated men. The group will return on the second Saturday of each month to visit with and continue their ministry to the prisoners. Garner Correctional Institution is a level 3 & 4 (medium – maximum) security prison located in Newtown Connecticut.

Currently, Dr. Cameron's students have the opportunity to participate by committing to a time of prayer over the weekend. Students can voluntarily fill out a "prayer hand" to show their commitment to pray for the prisoners at a specified time during the weekend that the group enters the prison.

See video explaining Kairos Prison Ministry:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rQXOL2Gjns



Dr. Emmanuel Yung, was recently appointed as the Vice Chair of the Orthopaedic Section Education Committee. This committee is in charge of programming content for the Orthopaedic Section during Combined Sections Meeting (averaging 12,000 attendees), the largest national conference of the American Physical Therapy Association. Dr. Yung will also directly coordinate the programming of the Annual Orthopaedic Meeting starting 2017.

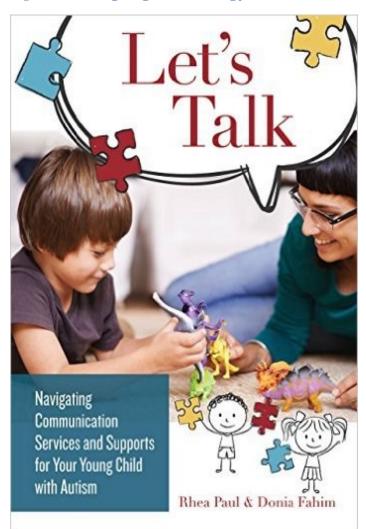
Clinical Assistant Professor, **Emmanuel Yung**, Major Jeremiah Samson, Ms. Stephania Bell, and Dr. Michael Wong spoke at the largest American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) conference called Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) entitled "*Cervico-Thoracic & Shoulder Interventions for Upper Limb Symptoms*" that was a CLOSED OUT session. As a result of this, Dr. Yung was quoted in the APTA CSM Newsletter article entitled: "Multimodal Therapy Treats Upper Extremity Symptoms"

The University of Pittsburgh (the #1 Doctor of Physical Therapy school in the country) has invited Dr. Yung to be their featured speaker for a 1-day continuing education course as part of the Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge research fund raising efforts on April 2, 2016.



Left to Right: US Air Force Major Jeremiah Samson ' 01, Dr. Emmanuel Yung, ESPN Senior Injury Analyst, Stephania Bell and Dr. Michael Wong, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Azusa Pacific University

Speech-Language Pathology



Professor and founding chair, **Dr. Rhea Paul**, and ASHA international affiliate Donia Fahim, consultant speechlanguage pathologist at New York University and cofounder/executive director of Autism Friendly Spaces, Inc., co-wrote "Let's Talk: Navigating Communication Services and Supports for Your Young Child with Autism." The book, released this fall by Paul H. Brookes, aims to help parents understand diagnostic and treatment services for young children with autism spectrum disorder.