Help During and After Boston Marathon Bombing

Treating Wounded at the Finish Line

Roz Puleo NS ’11 had never been in battle, but she knew right away something was wrong when she heard the first bomb explode at the 2013 Boston Marathon.

“I don’t know how, but I had a gut feeling that it was something bad,” said Puleo about the infamous attack that killed three people on April 15. She was volunteering in one of the medical tents across the street from the Boylston Street finish line.

With smoke rising from across the street, fear was in the air during those first few moments as people tried to decipher exactly what had happened. Then the second bomb went off, a call went out over a loudspeaker asking all nurses and physicians to report to the finish line, and she knew her original task of treating exhausted and dehydrated runners was over.

The medical team to which she was assigned, which included a physician, physical therapists, other nurses, and athletic trainers, quickly shifted into

Assisting Victims to Move Forward with Their Lives

In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing last April, Master of Science in Nursing student Lisa Conti started a fledgling non-profit to assist injured victims to pay for their medical expenses. The third-year nurse practitioner student was standing on Boylston Street with friends near the race’s finish line when the first bomb went off. Despite the heavy academic workload at the end of the semester, Conti began formulating her organization after sending one of her blog posts with the phrase “Make Room for Love” to CNN’s iReport.

“I know a lot of people have donated to the One Fund, and that’s great,” she said,

Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Degree Approved

The MGH Institute will launch the first Entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree program in New England in June 2014.

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education on April 30 approved the school’s application to grant the degree and launch the three-year professional doctoral program. It is one of only nine entry-level programs in the country.

The OTD program will complement the Institute’s existing suite of entry-level degree programs in physical therapy and speech-language pathology in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS), as well as degree programs in the School of Nursing.

The full-time OTD program will prepare students with advanced skills and scholarly experience beyond current master’s degree programs in the field, specifically in such areas as leadership, health policy, health care delivery systems, and interprofessional teamwork.

“Our new Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree is designed for the person who wants to become a leader in occupational therapy, contributing to the future growth of the profession and

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President’s Perspective

On a beautiful sunny day in April, countless lives were touched and, for some, irretrievably altered by the horrific and senseless bombings that marked an abrupt and gruesome ending to this year’s Boston Marathon, and shook the foundations of our community. Many have already written about and commented poignantly and eloquently on the unimaginable destruction, grievous deaths and injuries, heroic bystanders and first responders [see page 1], and the surreal days that followed.

Atul Gawande, a surgeon at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, posted a notable blog for The New Yorker two days after the bombings, lauding the coordinated and skilled responses of Boston’s hospitals in saving the life of every victim who was not killed outright.

But beyond the emergency treatment, surgeries, and stabilization Gawande describes so well, what soon became apparent was that healing, recovery and a return to daily life for the victims and their families depended primarily on the expertise and continuing care provided by the very health professionals the Institute educates: the nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists. It is their knowledge, skills, and dedicated efforts that have been so instrumental in the care and rehabilitation of those who suffered limb amputations, brain trauma, hearing and visual loss, and other physical and emotional injuries.

Too often, the work and impact of these professionals goes unnoticed, is not well understood, or even misunderstood by the public and the media. Therefore, it has been most gratifying to see the media’s attention to and recognition of the vital roles played by therapists and nurses in the victims’ moving stories of recovery and rehabilitation.

Day in and day out over the weeks and months following the bombings, these often unsung health professionals have worked tirelessly and compassionately with the victims and their families to restore hope and function and quality of life.

How fateful that our new neighbor in the Charlestown Navy Yard, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, was scheduled to open a short 12 days after the bombings. Having such an oasis of recovery, restoration, and hope when the Boston community most needed it could not have been better planned or foreseen.

I am proud to say that many of our faculty and students, along with nearly 100 of our alumni who are employed by Spaulding, became part of the teams providing such skilled and humane care for the bombing victims. I have no doubt the injured and their families know well, and are not likely ever to forget, the difference these often silent health professionals made in their lives and their futures.

President and
John Hilton Knowles Professor
Tuition Hike Lowest in Decade, Financial Aid Increases

The MGH Institute will increase tuition in its core programs for the 2013-2014 academic year by just 2.0 percent. This is less than the national Consumer Price Index increase of 2.1 percent, and substantially less than the average increase at 10 major private universities in Metro Boston, where published reports indicate that tuition at those schools will increase an average of 3.5 percent.

“With the cost of higher education continuing to outpace inflation, the Institute needed to make a bold statement to keep our tuition as low as possible,” said Board of Trustees Chair George Thibault, MD. “We believe our decision to enact the lowest increase in a decade will be welcomed by our students.”

The Board also continued its recent trend to increase the amount of financial aid available to its students, who on average owe upwards of $90,000 in undergraduate and graduate loans upon graduation. For 2013-2014, the Institute has earmarked nearly $4.5 million in financial aid, a 10.2 percent increase from last year; just six years ago, the Institute distributed $1.5 million in financial aid to its students.

“We see students every day, in all our programs, struggling to pay for their education,” said President Janis P. Bellack, PhD, RN, FAAN. “I’m gratified the Board has taken such an aggressive approach to keeping costs down and making the Institute affordable for more students.”

Dr. Bellack added, “It’s crucial that additional financial aid is available to attract and retain the best and brightest students who want to pursue their dreams of a health professions career at the Institute.”

Career Services Available to Help Graduates in Job Search

It wasn’t until Mary Stanton was in the final stages of completing her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree this summer that she realized she needed some assistance searching for her first professional job.

The MGH Institute’s new Office of Career Services in the Office of Student Affairs was just the place for her to turn.

Led by Russell Abbatiello, MEd, it offers students a wide range of ways to prepare for their professional years by providing services such as résumé critiques, interview practice, job search strategies, and networking techniques.

“I think it was definitely a needed resource,” said Stanton, who recently joined the Institute’s alumni LinkedIn page to connect with the site’s several hundred members and to view jobs that are posted regularly. “After you work so hard on getting your degree, it’s great that there’s someone who can help me make the transition to the workforce and guide me through the process.”

“Resources like LinkedIn, Facebook, and Glassdoor enable job seekers to become known to the right people,” Abbatiello said. “Job search success is less about who we know and more about who knows us. Networking through social media is vital in getting our story out to the right audiences.

“It’s more of a people-search than a job search,” he continued. “It’s imperative for students and alumni to add social media to their job search tool belt.”

“There is no question that our graduates have always been well prepared professionally,” noted Dean of Students Carolyn Locke. “Now they have someone dedicated to supporting them as they begin their job search.”

Abbatiello is working with Kami Crary, Director of Alumni Relations in the Office of Development, to create an alumni network where new graduates can connect with successful alumni in the field.

Abbatiello and Crary plan to implement an online career portal called CareerLink, where students, faculty, and alumni can access an exclusive job board for health professionals and practice communication skills through the InterviewStream simulation tool. This will allow users to hone interviewing skills by video recording mock interviews and analyzing them.

“It’s rewarding to know that the students I am helping could someday be saving someone’s life because of a job that I may have helped them get,” he said. “It’s because of this that I am so invested in making sure this service is a great success.”

Abbatiello will present the webinar, “Networking Your Way to the Job – Effective Strategies for the Job Search,” at 12 p.m. on August 28.

To register for the seminar, or to receive more information on services for alumni, email the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@mghihp.edu. Join LinkedIn at www.mghihp.edu/LinkedIn.
The MGH Institute is the only school in Metro Boston named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The results of the prestigious education magazine’s sixth annual report on the Academic Workplace, the 2013 Great Colleges to Work For® survey, are based on responses from more than 44,000 employees at 300 colleges and universities across the United States.

“Being named for the fourth year in a row as a ‘Great College to Work For’ is an affirmation from our faculty and staff of our strategic commitment to being a ‘preferred place to work’,” said President Janis P. Bellack. “We are proud that the MGH Institute is considered a great place to work, and will continue to strive that it remains so.”

In all, only 97 institutions in the United States achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. The MGH Institute, one of just three Massachusetts schools on the list, was included in the Small Colleges category for schools that have fewer than 3,000 students.

This year, the MGH Institute received recognition in the following five categories:

- Collaborative Governance,
- Compensation & Benefits,
- Facilities, Workspace & Security,
- Confidence in Senior Leadership, and
- Respect and Appreciation.

“The institutions that the Great Colleges program recognizes provide innovative educational experiences—while also offering their employees outstanding workplace experiences—and we are eager to help readers learn more about them,” said Liz McMillen, the Chronicle’s editor.

Department of Physical Therapy Assistant Professor Tracy Brudvig, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, Chair of the Faculty Senate, noted a culture of collaboration among faculty, staff, and administration, as well as the school’s state-of-the-art interactive classroom and physical therapy lab, as key reasons for the Institute’s high marks.

Assistant to the Dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Mary Ellen Ferolito, Chair of the Staff Council, noted the generous employee benefits for health care, retirement, and vacation. She also praised the Institute’s regular reviews of salary benchmarks and adjustments to ensure that employees are being paid in line with peers in other organizations.

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- President Janis P. Bellack

The Chronicle’s 2013 Great Colleges program recognizes small groups of colleges, based on enrollment size, for specific best practices and policies. The results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, professional support staff, and administrators. Employee feedback was the primary factor in determining whether an institution received recognition.

Now in its sixth year, the Great Colleges program has become one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country.

ALONG THE WATERFRONT

President Janis Bellack was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts, as well as to the Board of Directors of Partners HealthCare International. She also is serving a three-year term on the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Board’s Accountability Committee.

School of Nursing Dean Laurie Lauzon Clabo was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Professional Nursing, the official journal of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and also was appointed to chair an AACN task force on advanced practice nursing.

School of Nursing Professor Patrice Nicholas was appointed as a review panel member to a Special Emphasis Panel of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
Four faculty members are the recipients of the third round of the MGH Institute’s Changing Course Faculty Teaching Fellowships:

School of Nursing Assistant Professor Susan Hamilton will redesign the Population Health course by aligning learning objectives with assessments and replacing PowerPoint slides with embedded videos. Her mentor is Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation Clinical Associate Professor Lynn Foord.

Department of Physical Therapy Clinical Instructor Erin Riley, Department of Occupational Therapy Clinical Associate Professor Mary Evenson, and Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Clinical Assistant Professor Meredith O’Dea Bosley, along with mentor Professor Emerita Cynthia Zadai from the Department of Physical Therapy, will develop a library of interprofessional case studies for use with the Cerner simulated electronic health record.

Karen Kelly had never even heard the word aphasia until her 58-year-old mother, Joanne Coggins, was afflicted with it after having a stroke in 2008.

“I don’t think anyone knows what it is until a loved one gets it,” said Kelly of the condition that most often is caused by a stroke but also can occur from a traumatic brain injury. “More people need to know about it.”

Fortunately, Coggins has been receiving treatment for the past two years from faculty-supervised speech-language pathology students in the MGH Institute’s Aphasia Center. But Kelly wanted to inform the public about the condition, so she organized Massachusetts Aphasia Awareness Day. Upwards of 300 people—including dozens of Institute students, faculty, and clients with family members—attended the June 27 Statehouse rally on Beacon Hill.

“Like most people, I wasn’t aware of aphasia until Karen explained it to me,” said Rep. Garrett Bradley, D-Hingham, who sponsored an official proclamation signed by Gov. Deval Patrick. “This is not an end, but a beginning to try to get more people to understand it.”

Aphasia each year robs more than 80,000 Americans of their ability to verbally communicate effectively. According to the National Aphasia Association, it occurs more commonly than Parkinson’s disease, cerebral palsy, or muscular dystrophy.

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Evenson Elected Fellow of American Occupational Therapy Association

Department of Occupational Therapy Clinical Associate Professor Mary Evenson, OTD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA, was elected as a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) at the organization’s 2013 annual conference.

Dr. Evenson was honored in recognition of her contributions for excellence in fieldwork education and professional development.

“I am delighted to be able to apply my expertise in building the fieldwork program that will be integral to the new Entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) curriculum,” said Dr. Evenson. “It is exciting to work collaboratively with colleagues in physical therapy, communication sciences and disorders, and nursing to promote the interprofessional education initiatives and innovations that are part of the MGH Institute’s mission.”

Dr. Evenson has published extensively on the topic of fieldwork education and has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences. She is a contributing author to the AOTA’s Fieldwork Educator Certificate program, which supports clinical educators in promoting excellence in their supervisory roles to train fieldwork students.

Before joining the MGH Institute in 2012, Dr. Evenson held academic appointments at Boston University and Tufts University. Her clinical experience includes positions at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

Dr. Evenson has served patients across the continuum of care, with a specialty in arthritis care and management. She also has worked with staff development and clinical education in the hospital setting.

Occupational Therapy Degree Approved, continued from page 1

the well-being of the public,” said SHRS Dean Leslie Portney, DPT, PhD, FAPTA.

OTD Program Director Regina Doherty, OTD, MS, OTR/L, a clinician and educator with more than 20 years of experience in the field, noted, “This innovative and highly interprofessional curriculum will prepare graduates to think critically about occupational therapy practice, and provide them the skills needed to excel in today’s dynamic health care and education systems.”

Employment for occupational therapists, who improve quality of life for individuals with varying functional limitations and disabilities, is expected to grow by 33 percent from 2010 to 2020—much faster than the average for all professions. According to the 2012 U.S. News and World Report ranking of the top 100 jobs, occupational therapy ranks eleventh.

Upon completing the program, graduates will be eligible to apply for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy exam, and become licensed occupational therapists.

The Institute expects to admit 25 students to its first OTD class in June 2014. The applicant pool is expected to be a mix of recent college graduates as well as career changers from professions outside of health care.

The new program has been granted candidacy status by the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, with a final report of accreditation status expected before the first class graduates in the spring of 2017.

Along the Waterfront

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Associate Professor Charles Haynes was inducted as a member of the International Academy of Researchers in Learning Disabilities.

School of Nursing Professor Inge Corless received the 2013 Excellence in Nursing Research award from the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses.

Four faculty members were recently promoted. Three are in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders: Marjorie Nicholas to Professor; Margaret Kjelgaard to Associate Professor; and Meredith O’Dea Bosley to Clinical Assistant Professor. Also promoted was Kelly Macauley to Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.

Registrar Jim Vitagliano, from the Office of Student Affairs, was named 2013 Employee of the Year.
Institute Community Walks to Combat Racism

More than two dozen staff members, faculty, and students from MGH Institute participated in April’s Virtual March to support the YWCA’s national Stand Against Racism effort.

The school was one of several Boston organizations that sponsored local walks to commemorate the 50th anniversary year of the 1963 March on Washington, which culminated in the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech on the Washington Mall.

Using pedometers, the virtual marchers added up the steps towards a shared goal of 450 miles—the distance from Boston to Washington.

“I wanted to be a part of commemorating Dr. King’s historic civil rights march,” said staff member Andrew Criscione. “It was a great opportunity to show solidarity against racism and promote equality.”

MGH Institute’s 33rd Schweitzer Fellow to Help Older Adults

While working last fall with an elderly patient during the aftermath of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, Jessica Eder devised a project that would lead to her being named a 2013-2014 Albert Schweitzer Fellow.

Eder, a second-year Master of Science in Nursing student, realized that older adults are particularly vulnerable during emergencies.

“After everything you see in the news—the recent tornado in Oklahoma City, heavy snowfall this past winter, Hurricane Sandy—these are large-scale events that older people especially need to plan for,” explained Eder, the 33rd MGH Institute student named a Schweitzer Fellow since the program’s inception 30 years ago.

Partnering with FriendshipWorks, an organization that connects volunteers with socially isolated older adults in Boston, Eder will provide emergency planning training over the next 12 months to volunteer companions and older adults. Her goal is to teach program participants that volunteer companions can play an active role in helping older adults prepare for emergencies, as well as provide vital friendship.

“As I am learning in my nursing classes at the Institute, sensory ability diminishes as we age,” Eder said. “For example, when the power goes out, diminished sensory ability can make it more difficult for older adults to determine if food is safe to eat. This is a serious issue for this population.”

Eder was one of 15 Boston-area students who were chosen after undergoing a competitive review process.

While continuing as a full-time nursing graduate student at the Institute, she will volunteer 200 hours developing and implementing her program, and will receive a $2,000 stipend. Upon completion, she will join the more than 2,700 Schweitzer Fellows for Life alumni who are committed to addressing the health needs of underserved people during their careers as health professionals.

“Jessica is an example of the extraordinary students who choose to attend the MGH Institute,” said Alex Johnson, PhD, CCC-SLP, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “We know she will join past Institute Schweitzer Fellows to make a difference addressing health disparities throughout Greater Boston.”

Leslie Portney, Dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, gave the prestigious Pauline Cerasoli Lecture at the 2013 Combined Sectional Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in February.

Department of Physical Therapy Professor Emerita Ruth Porttilo and Department of Occupational Therapy Associate Professor Regina Doherty recently co-authored the newly released Health Professional and Patient Interaction, 8th Edition.

Two School of Nursing faculty members were awarded research fellowships for the 2013 - 2014 academic year:

Clinical Associate Professor Ellen Long-Middleton received the Faculty Geriatric Research Fellowship for her project, “The Influence of Nursing Home Structure and Process on Long-term Feeding Tubes for Dysphagia.”

Associate Professor Ruth Palan Lopez received the Faculty Research Fellowship for her project, “Pilot HIV Prevention Study for Adolescent Young Women.”
The MGH Institute graduated the largest class in its 36-year history on May 9, when 492 students became members of the Class of 2013.

More than 2,000 family and friends packed the Hynes Convention Center as graduate students in nursing, physical therapy, communication sciences and disorders, and health professions education participated in the school’s 33rd Commencement ceremonies.

The keynote address was given by Rebecca Onie, co-founder and CEO of Health Leads, the Boston-based non-profit that has nearly 1,000 college student volunteers working with 9,000 patients in 22 clinics in six cities.

Onie urged the graduating students to challenge assumptions and bring new energy and ideas to help create better patient care strategies and outcomes.

“Let us choose, together, to measure our health care not by how many diseases we cured, but by how many diseases we prevented. Not by the excellence of our specialists or the sophistication of our technologies, but by how rarely we used them,” she said.

“Their are very excited and proud that I’ve joined the Air Force,” said Kaufmann, a 2010 University of Rhode Island graduate, who called her grandfather an “inspiration” for joining that branch. “This is a great opportunity.”

“Even though I was young when 9/11 happened, I thought I might want to do something with the military,” said Wolf, a 2010 University of New Hampshire graduate, whose grandfather was in the Army during the Korean War. “It’s doing something for the greater good.”

After spending the past three years immersed in their nursing education, they believe this post-graduate commitment will go by quickly, even if they are assigned to a combat zone.

“If they want me to go, I’ll be ready,” said Kauffman. Added Wolf, “I didn’t sign up to skirt going into battle.”

Before that time comes, they will complete their basic training this summer, with Kaufmann in Panama City, Florida, and Wolf in Tuscon, Arizona.

The women, who each became 1st Lieutenants upon graduation, are following in the footsteps of School of Nursing graduate Kayse Eichelberger ’12, who was awarded the Air Force scholarship in 2011.

The Master of Science in Health Professions Education program graduated its first class when 16 students completed the Institute’s innovative interprofessional degree.

“This is a significant milestone in the history of the Institute,” said Director Deborah Navedo, PhD, CPNP, CNE, “because we are now formally preparing educators to teach the next generation of health care professionals.”

The graduates of the Center for Interprofessional Studies and Innovation program, which is one of just a handful of such programs in the country, came from backgrounds that included medicine, psychology, and pharmacy.

“We are delighted to be collaborating with such a broad cross-section of clinician/scholars as learners,” said Dr. Navedo. “It’s a huge step forward for expanding our mission of interprofessional education.”
Ranks of Institute Faculty Emerita Reach 11 Members

Zadai: Creating Master PT Clinicians

When the Graduate Programs in Physical Therapy launched the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) program in 2000, Clinical Associate Professor Cynthia Zadai anticipated that within five years all PTs who wanted to achieve the discipline’s new professional entry degree would have done so.

Thirteen years later, she currently is working on admitting the last cohort to the online program that has produced more than 800 MGH Institute graduates.

“We thought the initial students primarily would be MGH Institute alumni, but within two years the class had expanded beyond our alumni as word got out about how valuable a program it was,” said Dr. Zadai, DPT, MS, CCS, FAPTA, who officially retires in September and was named a Professor Emerita at the end of the 2012-2013 academic year. She will coordinate and teach in the program until its 2014 conclusion.

“We were able to set the standard for transitional DPT programs across the country, and I’m gratified to have been a part of that,” she said. “It was the right program for the right time.”

Dr. Zadai was one of the first faculty members recruited by physical therapy legend Dr. Nancy Watts in the early 1980s to teach her specialty of cardiovascular and pulmonary practice in the school’s post-professional Master of Science in Physical Therapy program.

“The focus was on having expert clinicians teaching their peers to become master clinicians, with the goal of improving patient care,” said Dr. Zadai, who in 2001 was named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association, the highest honor among the association’s membership categories.

For years, she juggled her part-time faculty position while rising to the rank of Chief, Rehabilitation Services at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. But by the late 1990s, she decided to focus on preparing the next generation of physical therapy leaders and became a full-time professor at the Institute.

Carey: A Rewarding Career at IHP

When Mary Carey, PhD, RD, joined the MGH Institute in 1980 to develop the Master of Science in Dietetics program, little did she know that eventually she would have a 27-year career in which she filled several roles at the school.

Dr. Carey, who eventually would become the school’s first academic dean, was one of four current and former faculty members named this year as a Professor Emerita in recognition of their long and distinguished careers.

“Oh, it was quite a time to be at the start of the Institute,” said Dr. Carey, who came from the University of Kansas Medical Center. “We had the chance to develop the school because there was nothing else like it anywhere else.”

While the dietetics profession didn’t require professionals to have an advanced degree—in fact, even today there still is no mandate—she built a program in which students graduated with an exhaustive knowledge and were prepared to immediately enter the workforce.

“Things changed and it just couldn’t be sustained any longer.”

After taking a little time off to rejuvenate, she spent two years as administrator for the Communication Sciences and Disorders program before being promoted to academic dean in 1998, a position she held until her 2007 retirement.

“There was just the president and the program directors at the time, and it was decided that there should be someone to handle the administrative side of academics,” she recalled. “I knew all the faculty so that was a big help, but it still was a real challenge.

“I had no idea I would be at the Institute so long,” continued Dr. Carey, “but there were always new things that kept me involved. It wasn’t just a place where I worked. It was a major part of my life, a second home to me.”
Couple Earns DPT Degrees in Successive Years

When David D’Almeida walked across the Hynes Convention Center stage during the MGH Institute’s 2013 Commencement and was congratulated on finishing his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, his wife, Jennifer, knew exactly how he was feeling.

That’s because she had done the exact same thing the previous year.

“It was great to see David finish,” said Jennifer following the May 9 ceremony. “Now we both have our DPTs and can move on to the next stage of our life together.”

Originally from the Greater Toronto area, both were high school athletes who had undergone physical therapy to recover from injuries and also majored in kinesiology in college. By the time they became a couple, they agreed to pursue a career in physical therapy, which led them to move to Boston.

While the original plan called for both to go through the three-year program together, fate intervened when Jennifer was admitted in 2010, with David following suit the next year—something that in hindsight worked out quite well.

“It was interesting that we took the same classes with the same professors, but I never asked Jennifer about anything that was coming up because I wanted to earn my degree on my own merits,” he said. “Not that I would have told him if he had asked,” Jennifer added with a laugh.

Alumni Recognized for Their Achievements

For the past several years at Commencement, the MGH Institute has honored two of its graduates for being exemplary health care professionals who are leaders in their respective disciplines.

In 2013, Kathleen Gill-Body DPT ’02, MS ’86, received the Bette Ann Harris Distinguished Alumni Award, the Institute’s most prestigious alumni honor that is named after the school’s first graduate. J. Aleah Nesteby MS ’07, RN, received the Emerging Leader Alumni Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of an alumnus who has graduated within the past ten years.

Gill-Body: Influencing Physical Therapy Neurological Rehabilitation

For the past 27 years, Dr. Kathleen Gill-Body has greatly influenced the physical therapy profession’s development in rehabilitation management of patients with neurologic disorders.

Dr. Gill-Body is an internationally recognized master clinician who has spent most of her career managing patients, teaching and mentoring graduate students, and pursuing a scholarly agenda with other nationally recognized experts.

“It is easy to make the case for how influential Dr. Gill-Body has been through both her scholarship of research and teaching,” said Judith Deutsch, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Associate Professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey. “Her leadership of important initiatives and collaboration with thinkers in the field has yielded important contributions to physical therapy.”

Dr. Gill-Body has been awarded $1.5 million in research grants, published dozens of research articles, and assumed state and national professional association leadership roles.

Board certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, currently she is a senior physical therapist at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Previously, she spent more than 25 years practicing at Massachusetts General Hospital and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

Nesteby: Creating a Nationwide Clinic to Assist Transgender Patients

Since graduating with a Master of Science in Nursing from the School of Nursing in 2007, J. Aleah Nesteby has focused on advocating for transgender patients.

During her first year of practice as a nurse practitioner at Baystate High Street Health Center in Springfield, her concern for the barriers facing transgender patients in accessing compassionate and respectful care led her to design and implement a transgender health clinic that now draws patients from all over the country.

“Aleah made it her mission to build from scratch a successful transgender clinic not only for our patients but as a means to educate our medical, nurse practitioner, and physician assistant staff and students,” noted Center Director Michael Rosenblum, MD, FACP.

Nesteby also sought and obtained two competitive grants to support staff education in transgender health care and disseminate information and educational materials on the topic to extend the reach to other communities.

“Aleah’s vision and leadership have been extraordinary, her inclusivity admirable, and her impact on patients and the community broad,” said Katie Seamon ’12, RN, MS, who has worked with Nesteby at Baystate since graduating.
Mattson Receives Highest Faculty Honor

Department of Physical Therapy students taught by Assistant Professor D.J. Mattson, DPT, EdD, SCS, the 2013 Nancy T. Watts Award for Excellence in Teaching recipient, greatly appreciate his teaching style.

“He first commitment in the classroom is to the student, as he demonstrates to us every day,” said Murray Cohen, one of several Doctor of Physical Therapy students who wrote letters in support of Dr. Mattson’s nomination for the MGH Institute’s highest faculty honor.

Added another student, Jenna Fils, “He is always challenging us to offer our thoughts on a given topic and is very accepting of opinions that may be different than his own. I feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful professor to learn from and I know that many of my classmates feel the same way.”

For Dr. Mattson, the feeling is mutual. “It is a privilege to teach our students who are exceptional and so bright and eager to learn,” he said. “But this award is not received in isolation because all the faculty help bring out the best in each other. We also have an administrative structure that provides state-of-the-art teaching facilities and helpful instructional support services. The Institute is a great place to teach.”

Dr. Mattson joined the Department of Physical Therapy faculty in 2006 after teaching and doing clinical practice in New York. An expert in musculoskeletal function, he earned his Doctor of Education degree from Liberty University in 2006 and a DPT degree from the MGH Institute in 2007. He now teaches courses that include Diagnostic Imaging, Principles of Pharmacology, and Concepts of Neuromusculoskeletal Dysfunction.

“We make the expectations clear: It is essential for students to learn about anatomy, physiology, and biomechanics,” Dr. Mattson explained. “But it’s also important that they learn to be sound clinical decision makers.”

Several students wrote that he takes great care to create a classroom environment that develops critical thinking, engaging his students in lectures, large group discussions, and small group problem-solving with case studies.

“The respect that D.J. shows his students is unparalleled,” said Cohen. “Rather than seeing us merely as beginners who have miles to go before we competently treat a patient, D.J. sees us as the future of the career and attempts to inspire us in us a drive to deliver the best possible care to patients and to advocate for our profession as we move forward.”

Even with a full-time teaching load, serving as Faculty Senate chair during 2012-2013, and being an active member of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, Dr. Mattson also spends a great deal of time practicing community health care. During each of the past several years, Dr. Mattson has led DPT students to Dr. Mattson’s nomination for the MGH Institute’s highest faculty honor.

 Twenty Years Later, a Friendship Renewed

When Phoebe Chung arrived two years ago at the new student orientation for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program, the last thing she expected was to see a childhood friend whom she hadn’t seen in two decades.

Phoebe Chung, left, and Vicki Chan hadn’t seen each other since kindergarten in Hong Kong (below).

“T kept staring at this woman, and I couldn’t figure out who she was at first,” recalled Chung, “but then I saw her name tag and couldn’t believe it was Vickie Chan.”

“I thought it was impossible because I kept looking over at her, too,” Chan added, “but it was so cool to run into her after all these years. What were the odds of that happening?”

The two women, who grew up in Hong Kong, were best friends in kindergarten. Eventually, they attended different grammar schools and lost touch, as is often the case.

They took different paths prior to coming to Boston; Chung studied in Australia, and Chan went to college in the United States. Once they reconnected at the IHP, it wasn’t long before they became friends once again, both on campus and off.

“Our classmates thought it was pretty wild,” said Chan as the pair chatted at the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders traditional social event the night before Commencement.

“But I’m so glad it happened,” added Chung.
To view all 2013 Commencement photos, go to www.mghihp.edu/commencement.
BSN Program Gets New Assistant Dean

Catherine Franklin, MS, RN, FNP-BC, wants to help make the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program even better.

“This is a very well-developed curriculum,” said Franklin, who replaced Alexandra Paul-Simon, PhD, RN, in January as the new assistant dean for the program.

“I am thrilled to be able to continue the tradition and work with leadership, faculty, and our students to improve on this already well-established program.”

One of Franklin’s initial efforts will be to work with faculty to make the curriculum more interactive to meet the evolving needs of today’s adult learners.

“Engaging students more is a priority, and one that can help the School of Nursing continue to entice the best and brightest to choose our program,” she said.

Her responsibilities include oversight of program operations and leadership for the ABSN program’s growth and improvements.

“I am thrilled to have Cathy, a well-respected faculty member, join the leadership team,” said Laurie Lauzon Clabo, PhD, RN, Dean of the School of Nursing. “She brings to this position her commitment to both contemporary nursing education and student success.”

Franklin continues her clinical practice one day per week as a family nurse practitioner primary care provider at the Lynn Community Health Center, caring for a predominantly immigrant patient population. This allows her to stay connected to patients and issues in the clinical practice arena, enhancing her perspective and ability to lead the School of Nursing’s more than 200 BSN students.

Franklin joined the Institute in 2007, teaching students in the primary care specialty track of the direct-entry Master of Science program. She has previous experience as a staff nurse on in-patient acute care and emergency units in Boston and North Shore teaching hospitals, a nurse manager for 10 years at Massachusetts General Hospital, and as a nurse practitioner for 10 years in primary care practice, specialty practice, and urgent care settings.

Franklin has volunteered her time and skills on international medical missions over the last few years, including trips to Guatemala and the Mexican border.

Nursing Faculty Elected to National Academies of Practice

Assistant Professor Deborah Navedo, PhD, CPNP, CNE; Clinical Assistant Professor Gail Gall, PhD, APRN, BC; Clinical Associate Professor Pat Reidy, DNP, FNP-BC; and Clinical Associate Professor Ellen Long-Middleton, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, each were elected in April as a Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow of the National Academies of Practice for excellence in nursing and for being dedicated to furthering practice, scholarship, and policy in support of interprofessional care. They join a select group of 150 NAP members whose role is to advise health care policy makers in Congress and elsewhere. At far left is former School of Nursing faculty Karen Wolf, PhD, APRN-BC, ANP, DPNAP.

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Danuza Nunn ’01 wrote a clinical narrative “Swallowing concerns remedied by skill, experience, and a good old-fashioned tea party” for the January 10 issue of MGH Caring Headlines. She will be returning to the Institute in fall 2013 to pursue a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences.

Abby Czekanski ’07 and Brian Conklin were married Sept. 1, 2012, at St. Clements Castle, in Portland, Conn.

Rachel Sakofs ’07 and her husband (above) celebrated the first birthday of their son, Amit. Recently, the Greensboro, NC, resident started her own practice called: “Read, Write...Eureka!” providing multi-sensory, structured language therapy and tutoring to students with reading and writing difficulties.

Sarah Tremblay ’08 co-presented a talk on toddler development during Better Speech and Hearing Month in May for the MGH Department of Speech, Language & Swallowing Disorders and Blum Center.

Tara Johnson ’08 gave a presentation to the Northern Berkshire Parkinson’s Support Group in Williamstown in March.

Shannon Clarkin ’09 married Captain Matthew Collier, in Providence, Rhode Island, in September 2012.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH and REHABILITATION SCIENCES

PHYSICAL THERAPY


Darlene Kilhart ’92, ’02 was appointed director of Rehabilitation Services at Quabbin Valley Healthcare in Athol.

www.mghihp.edu
Alumni Gather in San Francisco

Alumni and friends of the MGH Institute joined President Janis Bellack on April 22 for a reception in San Francisco, where they were able to catch up with fellow graduates and meet members of the administration. Among those in attendance were School of Nursing graduates (l-r): Trini Hirsig ’12, Kerry Decker ’07, Andrew Mendelson ’10, Lisa Doyle Mendelson ’10, and Katherine Burchell ’10.

Treating Wounded at Finish Line, continued from page 1

emergency-care mode. Using limited supplies, the team treated dozens of spectators who had been injured by flying shrapnel.

“We were nervous because we didn’t know if there were other bombs,” explained Puleo, who works as a family medicine nurse practitioner at Lynn Community Health Center “But I’ll tell you—it was the most impressive display of teamwork I’ve ever been a part of. The way everyone’s instincts kicked in was unbelievable.”

Victims with more serious injuries passed through her tent on the way to ambulances that whisked them away to local hospitals. Puleo, who is expecting her first child in September, stayed inside the tent, doing what she could to comfort those with less severe injuries while staying calm amidst the chaos.

“With the injuries I saw, and the amount of blood that was lost, I was amazed so many people lived,” she said, noting that all the victims treated in the tent survived.

Just 45 minutes after the bombs detonated (“It seemed like an eternity,” she recalled), the tent was evacuated of all personnel, although Puleo stayed near the scene in case more help was needed.

Three weeks after the bombing, the nightmares and visions that had haunted her slowly faded. Now, she’s looking back at the horror and dissecting her actions.

“Maybe I could have comforted people better, or done more, I don’t know,” Puleo mused. “We all did what we needed to do.”
Hoyt Receives $250,000 Research Grant

School of Nursing Assistant Professor Alex Hoyt, PhD, RN, will investigate whether better patient care is delivered in states where nurse practitioners have more or less autonomy.

Dr. Hoyt won a $250,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to find out. Although he doesn’t know the outcome of the research he will conduct over the next two years, he is confident his findings will influence the future of nurse practitioners.

“No one’s ever analyzed these data, so I’m curious to see the results,” Dr. Hoyt said, noting that he will be reviewing data from the Journal for Nurse Practitioners from 1989 to the present. “I expect that it will influence policy at the state level as to whether or not nurse practitioners work more efficiently with physicians.”

Currently, each state independently decides the level of autonomy for nurse practitioners. Lobbying groups can greatly influence state policy, so Dr. Hoyt hopes his research can shed some quantitative light on an issue that has direct consequences for providing care to millions of Americans.

Dr. Hoyt will review primary care health care organizations in expansive states New Hampshire and Washington state, as well as restrictive states Georgia and Illinois, to compare differences.

Hoyt Receives $250,000 Research Grant

Assisting Victims to Move Forward, continued from page 1

referring to the charity started by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick that raised more than $60 million since the April 15 tragedy.

“When I first asked people about what they thought of me doing this, many said they would like to know exactly where their money would be going. And eventually I’ll be writing checks and delivering them to Boston-area hospitals and to individuals in need who I am able to reach.”

The Watertown native says what she has been exposed to during her MGH Institute education helped spur her to launch the non-profit, despite her intense and rigorous academic schedule.

“I’m going to spend the rest of my life working in health care, helping people, so I saw this as a way to begin that now,” she said.

Conti’s first fundraiser in late May garnered $3,400, thanks in part to autographed items donated by the Red Sox, Bruins, Patriots, and Celtics. Her short-term goal is $20,000.

“Do I think I’m going to be able to raise millions of dollars? Probably not,” she said. “But I can see it growing over the years and expanding the scope so money can go to all kinds of people who need financial assistance.”

While she still needs to develop the criteria and process by which people can be eligible to receive funding, she notes that victims who lost limbs will eventually have to replace their initial prosthetics well after the spotlight dims and the public’s attention invariably moves on to help those affected by another tragedy.

“As a student doing clinical rotations in hospitals, I’ve seen people who are spending their final days of life talking with lawyers and trying to figure out how to pay for their medical bills,” she said. “That’s just not how it’s supposed to work, and hopefully this organization can help people out, even if just in a small way.”
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November 6, 2013