

THE Spotlight



Baylor University
ROBBINS COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Physical Therapy

Illuminating the physical therapy profession, our students, the lives of others and the world.

**DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY**
2023 Annual Report



Message from the Interim Chair



I am proud to say that **Baylor's Department of Physical Therapy** ended 2022 in a position of strength and is looking forward to an even stronger presence in 2023.

Since the inaugural **Spotlight**, the Department of Physical Therapy has experienced a number of transitions. We welcomed **Dr. Jason Carter** as the Dean of **Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences**, and I was honored to be appointed as Interim Chair of our department. We also welcomed **Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Ardolino** and **Dr. Megan Flores** into our faculty ranks. Even as we have welcomed new colleagues, we also have said a few goodbyes. On behalf of Baylor's Department of Physical Therapy, I would like to thank **Dr. Kendra Gagnon**, **Dr. Lisa VanHoose** and **Dr. Rich Severin** for their significant impacts on our students, staff and faculty. Even as they move on to new opportunities, we are grateful for their continued service to our Baylor program as associated faculty members.

The Department of Physical Therapy continues its vision: To be a nationally recognized leader in innovative, inclusive and transformative physical therapy education and practice. The **Doctor of Physical Therapy** (DPT) program initiated a new curriculum in January 2023, with first-of-its-kind developments to further support hybrid physical therapy students. Additionally, we are poised to offer our first endowed scholarships this year, bringing additional support to students as they follow their dreams to become physical therapists. And, we continue PhD student interprofessional collaborations between the Department of Physical Therapy and the **Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation**. We will have two military affiliated PhD students graduate in 2023 who have been advised by **Dr. Shane Koppenhaver**. To continue development of our collaborative PhD offerings, the Department of Physical Therapy will be starting PhD-funded students this fall, with lead advisors from the physical therapy faculty. We look forward to our collaborations with our sister departments within the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences. Finally, we celebrated the graduation of 93 DPT students in December, and eagerly await the graduation of our inaugural cohort of orthopedic residents in March 2023.

This issue of the **Spotlight** shines a bright light on the impacts made by our faculty, staff, students, residents and graduates to the profession and their communities. I hope you enjoy their stories and find some heartwarming encouragement, as together we all work to advance the physical therapy profession.

Brian Young, PT, DSc

Clinical Associate Professor and Interim Chair,
Baylor University Department of Physical Therapy

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Recent Scholarships, Achievements & Recognitions



Christy Gantt, PT, DPT



Teresa Bachman, PT, DPT



Shane Koppenhaver, PT, DPT

Baylor DPT faculty published more than 38 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 7 books/book chapters in 2022. **Baylor DPT faculty** presented 36 professional presentations at both national and international conferences in 2022.

The **Baylor DPT faculty** submitted over 20 grants in 2022 and have been awarded over \$1,500,000 in funding.

Congratulations to **Christy Gantt, PT, DPT, Teresa Bachman, PT, DPT, and Shane Koppenhaver, PT, PhD**, for being recognized by Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences as “Pure Gold” award winners for excellence in teaching, scholarship and service.

Congratulations to **Emilio “Louie” Puentedura, PT, DPT, PhD**, who served as keynote speaker for conferences in Barcelona and Valladolid, Spain in 2022.

Baylor DPT faculty serve our profession both at the state level and nationally. Recently **Rich Severin, PT, DPT, PhD**, was elected to serve as Chief Delegate of APTA Academy of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary beginning in 2024!

Congratulations to **Lisa VanHoose, PT, PhD, MPH, FAPTA**, for her founding of the Ujima Institute in Monroe, Louisiana and **Anne Boddy, PT, DPT, PhD**, who serves as the treasurer for the ReBloom Center in St. Augustine, Florida.

In late January, the Department of Physical Therapy received notice that the **Baylor Scott & White Health-Baylor University Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency** has been granted initial accreditation through January 2028 by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE). ■



Rich Severin, PT, DPT, PhD



Lisa VanHoose, PT, PhD, MPH, FAPTA



Anne Boddy, PT, DPT, PhD

A Warm Welcome

Meet our two new full-time clinical associate professors as they discuss their academics and ambitions.

Megan Flores, PT, PhD



Dr. Flores arrived at Baylor with a decorated background in neurorehabilitation of pediatric and adult patients. Her outstanding academic focus has earned her a place as **Awards Chair for the**

APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy as well as **Secretary for the Texas Physical Therapy Association**. But she's not finished leaving her mark on the physical therapy field.

"I've already written a grant and started to do more in that area than I was doing before," Dr. Flores said. "With teaching, I'm starting to develop some courses for our new curriculum, and I feel free to use best practices to develop those courses."

Dr. Flores joined **Baylor PT** in August and noted feeling an overwhelming amount of encouragement in her first few months.

"[Baylor is] very supportive of allowing me to explore and grow in the areas that I want to explore and grow in, especially research," Flores said. "And the expression of faith that I see in the faculty and the students has been refreshing. The support that I felt at all levels has been really wonderful."

Yet that sense of dedication to community and scholarship doesn't end at Baylor.

"Even though I've only been here a few months, I've already connected with other researchers across **Robbins College**," Dr. Flores said. "I feel like the potential to do some really innovative and interesting things is there, and I'm excited about where that could go."



Elizabeth Ardolino, PT, PhD

Dr. Ardolino joined Baylor's full-time faculty with a distinguished history of teaching and clinical experience in adult and pediatric neurologic

physical therapy. Her scholarship centers around the development of new outcome measures for those with neuromotor disorders, extending into three main research aims.

"First, it's in developing new outcome measures for people with neurologic diagnoses," Dr. Ardolino said. "I develop these new tools and then I test them and make sure that they have good, what we call, psychometric properties. So good reliability and validity so that they can be used accurately in the population that they were designed for."

"My second research aim is in testing new interventions for children with neuromotor disorders. I've been particularly focused on something called locomotor training, which is where we use a body weight support harness and help the child regain the ability to stand and walk and have better trunk control."

"And then my third research aim is in looking at non-cognitive factors that affect student success in a doctor of physical therapy program—looking at things like grit and resilience and reflection on learning and how those impact how well students do as they go through our curriculum."

Dr. Ardolino is also looking forward to her collaborative projects with others in the **Baylor Department of Physical Therapy**, which include novel interventions for children with cerebral palsy. Though she only started in August, Dr. Ardolino noted that she already feels like she has made a second family at Baylor. She's looking forward to expanding her research, and her faith, in the classroom. ■

Adjunct Spotlight

Autumne Hollingsworth, PT, DPT, NCS

Waco, Texas

Movement Science, Clinical Neuroscience,
Neuromuscular I and II



Why do you adjunct for Baylor or what attracted you to Baylor?

I love being surrounded by other faculty (both core and adjunct) from all over the country with vast amounts of expertise related to physical therapy and otherwise. The intensity of lab attracted me to Baylor.

The idea of intensives for hands on portion of learning rings true to actual clinical practice and feels very relevant, while also challenging.

How has being an adjunct at Baylor affected your PT practice?

I'm a better practitioner because of my adjunct work at Baylor for a couple of reasons. Teaching is the highest form of learning, and the other faculty I teach with are leading our field. So, I walk away having had conversations with other clinicians about the care I am providing with a fresh perspective.



Wesley Thornton, PT, DPT, NCS

Denver, Colorado

Neuromuscular I and II

How has being an adjunct at Baylor affected your PT practice?

Honestly, teaching at Baylor changed the course of my PT career. My early adjuncting experiences with Baylor

prompted me to return to school to obtain a PhD with the goal of a full-time role in academia. Each year I return to Baylor, I am reminded of the joy I get in helping shape the future of the profession.

What sets Baylor DPT apart?

These students have a limited amount of time to absorb a lot of information. I am always impressed at their dedication and focus. Understanding that they are constantly juggling so much, I strive to create an environment that promotes their growth and grasp of the material—not just for the approaching exam, but for their long-term PT careers. I hope I have succeeded in doing that, and that I have provided a fraction of the joy the students give me each and every year.

Learn more about select adjunct faculty members at Baylor and their impact.

Antonia Silva, PT, DPT, NCS

Waco, Texas

Functional Movement, Clinical Neuroscience,
Neuromuscular I and II



Why do you adjunct for Baylor or what attracted you to Baylor?

I have been a clinical instructor at Baylor Scott & White Healthcare for the Baylor DPT program since its first cohort, and I was attracted by the outstanding students whom I had the pleasure to guide through clinical

practice experiences. I found the lab immersion concept to be innovative and exciting, so when I was invited to contribute to these labs, there was no question that I wanted to be among those students and faculty.

What sets Baylor DPT apart?

I feel valued by my team—the core faculty elevate the unique skills of each adjunct during the course instruction, and the students are so generous in offering their appreciation for our efforts. The faith-bolstered approach to learning really creates an environment of kindness and giving in this way.



Jeff Tompkins, PT, DPT, OCS

Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania

Health Promotion, Fitness
Management

How has being an adjunct at Baylor affected your PT practice?

It has really kept me fresh and up-to-date regarding current clinical practice.

Baylor students are very sharp, so I know I need to stay up-to-date on what is currently going on in the PT world. It also helps to prevent me from feeling a little burnt out with clinical practice. I always come back from teaching at Baylor with a renewed passion to help people because of how passionate students and faculty are at Baylor.

What sets Baylor DPT apart?

Speaking as a clinical instructor of many students, Baylor's program facilitates a learning environment that helps set its students up to think much more clinically and critically. The faculty truly care and it shows. ■

Pursuing Her Dream

How an award-winning chemistry teacher dropped everything to become a pelvic physical therapist.

About nine years ago, **Brandie Freeman, PT, DPT, MEd, APHC**, had her youngest son. She needed pelvic physical therapy but had trouble getting to her appointments, as a chemistry teacher in northwest Georgia.

“I had to commute [one hour] to Atlanta and it was so, so hard to coordinate my care with childcare and my work schedule,” Dr. Freeman said. “If I didn’t have the layers of support that I have with my spouse and flexibility at work, I wouldn’t have been able to go.”

Yet something happened as she went to physical therapy. And it culminated in a clear indication of what she was meant to do.

“I had no idea that I would be called into this field,” Dr. Freeman said. “I loved teaching. I was actually the state science teacher of the year in Georgia, and I felt like God was using me in the classroom. But that seed was planted, and I was familiar with the physical therapy field.

“I had a dream—a literal dream—and I saw myself sitting on a therapist stool and there was a patient up on the treatment table. Their legs were covered up with the sheet you would do at pelvic physical therapy. They took their hand on my arm, and they were crying and telling me thank you.

“I quit my job and all the things that I had accomplished as an educator to be a pelvic floor therapist.”

Her next step was to find the right program. Dr. Freeman began by searching for not only the quickest path to becoming a pelvic physical therapist, but the best path in terms of preparation. The accelerated two-year format

at **Baylor University**

was a major asset on both fronts.

“Because I do have that commute into Atlanta, I knew that every day for three years I could commute over an hour to some of the schools inside of the city, and then two hours a day would be wasted driving,” she said. “Those would be times that I would be away from my children, that I wouldn’t be able to study.

“Then, with what I knew I wanted to do, pelvic health is presented in the Baylor curriculum, but it’s a broad scope of all the fields of physical therapy. I knew I had to do quite a bit of specialization training afterwards, so it made sense for me to go to a school where I could stay in my community. I didn’t have to move, and I didn’t have to commute.”

At Baylor, Dr. Freeman was able to learn remotely and then fly into Texas to get hands-on instruction from experts in the field. She considered the time that was saved extremely valuable for being with her family and making progress on her dream. And she maintained that singular career focus throughout the program, earning an A in every class.

“I wanted to make sure they knew that I wasn’t skimming over a neuro so I could be just a pelvic physical therapist,” she said. “There are patients with neurological conditions that come see me. The neuro classes I took at Baylor were excellent. People with pelvic floor issues, they have hip and back pain, and those classes that I took at Baylor, they were





outstanding.

I feel like I

appreciate the fact

that the professors—I don't want to say, 'put up with me'—but they supported me because I was the only one out of a hundred that just wanted to talk about pelvic floor physical therapy."

Because of the flexibility she received in Baylor's DPT program, Dr. Freeman took pelvic floor classes while she was in school. So when she graduated with her doctorate, she already had 300 hours of training in pelvic floor therapy. Then, she did her doctoral internships with leaders in the field of pelvic health in Colorado and Arizona, thanks to Baylor's broad network of clinical sites.

"Within three months of graduating, I opened my own practice," Dr. Freeman said. "Within a month, I had a full schedule. Then, two months later, I had a clinic."

She founded the first pelvic health clinic in Paulding County, Georgia. At first, other business owners dissuaded her from opening one in a rural area. But she wanted to cater to people who can't easily travel for pelvic pain—people just like her, nine years ago.

"If you could imagine living an hour away from Atlanta, and not only do you have a new baby to care for, you have to either transport your child an hour away in their car seat or arrange

for childcare, but for a much longer period to be able to go out and take care of your own physical needs and any injuries or issues that you may have from your childbirth," Dr. Freeman said. "Then, you're adding that extra layer of accessibility.

"Also, there's a large group of people that I see who have pelvic pain and it hurts to sit, and you're having to drive an hour or 45 minutes or so to get care for that condition. You visit the physical therapist, they relieve your pain, but then you have to go sit for an hour and commute. That's problematic, and it would certainly slow down people's ability to get better."

**"I was the only one
out of a hundred that
just wanted to talk
about pelvic floor
physical therapy."**

As Dr. Freeman looked back on everything, she thanked God for what He did along with Baylor for supporting her calling. Not even a year since graduation, she is the highest-rated pelvic floor therapist in Atlanta.

"I've already helped 350 different human beings from this rural area that wouldn't have been able, and I'm actually more affordable and as far as cost efficiency to the patients too," she said. "I've made this affordable, accessible outlet for care that a year ago did not exist.

"If I had been in another program, I would still be in school." ■

Giving Back

The second annual **Baylor DPT Moving for Parkinson's Disease Fitness Challenge** was completed by students from the **Class of 2024** and faculty. They were sponsored by friends and family at levels including Silver (\$5), Gold (\$20) and Platinum (\$50). Close to \$2,500 was raised for **ReBloom Center**, a nonprofit organization that provides free exercise classes,

voice training, support groups and educational resources for those diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

The event coordinator, **Anne Boddy, PT, DPT, PhD**, would like to thank all sponsors and participants. ■



The REBLOOM Center would like to thank Baylor University's Hybrid Physical Therapy students and faculty for raising awareness about the importance of movement for Parkinson's disease. Their hardwork lunging and squatting secured enough funds to cover one month of diverse exercise and voice training classes to improve the health of people living with Parkinson's. Your generous support and effort has helped us reach over 75 people and delivered over 300 free wellness classes in our community!"

**– Melanie Lomaglio, DPT
President and Founder**





Striking a Pose at PT Prom

The class of 2023 celebrated alongside the Baylor faculty and their significant others in a PT Prom-styled end of year party in Baylor’s beautiful Barfield Drawing Room. The evening included awkward photos, tacos, donuts, dancing and presenting superlative awards to faculty members. Some of the favorites were:

- **Dr. Jessica Fedda:** Most likely to run a 5-minute mile in (comfy) heels
- **Dr. Christy Gantt:** Most likely to have been interrupted talking about clinicals to receive this award
- **Dr. Louie Puentedura:** Most likely to have multiple skeletons in his closet
- **Dr. Casey Unverzagt:** Least likely to throw the baby out with the bathwater
- **Dr. Lisa VanHoose:** Most likely to win the Nobel Peace Prize for advocacy and an Oscar for her role in The Delirious Aging Adult (lab acting role)
- **Dr. Brian Young:** Most likely to let his hair down (if he had any)



“Melissa and Emma [student event coordinators] gave us the chance to laugh, dance and see each other in something other than lab attire. It was a great experience that I hope will be adopted by the cohorts that follow us.”

– Nicholas Young, student

Congratulations, Graduates!

To all of the 93 graduates in the Class of 2022: We're so proud of your hard work and dedication. We can't wait to see where all of you head next and to continue the relationships we've developed.



Award Recipients

Baylor Lights Award: Meghan Barrington, DPT

Illuminate Award for Leadership: Chris Frioux, DPT

Give Light Award: Brianna Brown, DPT

Shine Bright Award: Brittany Drennan, DPT

Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award: Reagan Rupard, DPT



Thank You

A special recognition for our class leaders:

Dillon Marks (Class Leader), **Meghan Barrington** (Assistant Class Leader) and **Christopher Frioux** (Class Leader Ex-Officio). Thank you for your dedicated faithful leadership and support.

A special acknowledgement for the inaugural members of the Baylor DPT C.A.R.E Council:

Brianna Brown, Gia Yarbrough, Celeste Meyer, Awais Arshad and **McKenzie Gleason**.

The C.A.R.E Council serves to enhance connection, belonging and pave the path as

inclusive healthcare professionals.

*Communicate with compassion and courtesy
Acknowledgement and advocacy - sensitive
cultural events
Resources for students in
need of support
Empathy for students facing
challenges.*

Thank you for building the C.A.R.E Council, informing the practice of others through monthly newsletters and creating space to acknowledge and work alongside our faculty in response to socially relevant current events. ■

Bringing Big-City Healthcare to Medium-Sized Waco

The first residency of its kind is making an impact on the Waco community—and on its inaugural clinicians.

In March 2022, **Hannah Lewis, DPT**, and **Tyler Fleck, DPT**, joined the orthopedic physical therapy residency at **Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Hillcrest**. During their time in the program, they've had the unique opportunity to elevate their skills through close mentorship and practice within the community of Waco, Texas.

"It's kind of interesting because I'm not a Waco or Texas native," Dr. Lewis said. "The community is new to me and being a clinician in the community is new to me. It's been interesting to almost grow along with the people that I'm treating. It's definitely making an impact in the community, I can say, as far as the people that I'm reaching."



Casey Unverzagt, DPT, DSc

"I just think there's almost a culture that's being developed amongst Baylor Scott & White, and specifically with PT, that truly you don't have to go elsewhere to get excellent care,"

Casey Unverzagt, DPT, DSc, Clinical Associate Professor for the Baylor University Department of Physical Therapy and the residency's academic coordinator, said. "**Trevor Carlson** is the program director. He often speaks of bringing big-city medicine into medium-sized Waco and that's really what I think one of the aims of this, is for individuals in central Texas to not be like, 'Oh, I have to go elsewhere in order to get quality of care.'"

"To elevate the quality of the PT that you can find in Waco certainly helps the patients," Dr. Fleck said. "To be able to get people back to their



"We came together as a team very quickly and I feel like we're almost a family."

Hannah Lewis, DPT

goals and back to what they want to be doing more quickly than we likely were before has an impact on the community from a healthcare utilization and financial sense as well.”

The professional and personal impact that the residency has had on its residents is clear.

“I feel like we’re kind of on the fast track to becoming better clinicians in one year,” Dr. Fleck said. “We’re constantly being challenged and growing and improving, and just when we start to get comfortable, we get pushed a little more. So it’s really been a profound rapid period of growth over the last nine months.”

**“We’re
constantly being
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improving.”**

Tyler Fleck, DPT

“What I didn’t expect was to just have so much fun,” Dr. Lewis said. “We came together as a team very quickly and I feel like we’re almost a family. It doesn’t feel like just a residency. I don’t feel like just a resident.”

“I think everyone from the leadership to mentors to the residents—their heart’s just in the right place, and this is very evident in the day-to-day activities that we do,” Dr.

Unverzagt said. “To see the two organizations truly come together for a common goal, a common good—it’s just been phenomenal.” ■





Faith in Action

Gia Yarbrough faced several difficult experiences that led her to lean on her faith and family.

At the start of 2022, during her first clinical rotation in Houston, **Gia Yarbrough** learned that her mom was diagnosed with cancer.

“Thank God that she is now cancer free,” Yarbrough said. “That was one of those instances where faith really had to overcome because I was going through clinicals, I was away from home. I wasn’t able to be there for her the way I wanted to be.”

Before being accepted into the DPT program at Baylor, Yarbrough faced loss in her family and some financial struggles. Unfortunately, her mom’s cancer diagnosis was followed by other trials, including a rough breakup and her grandfather having health complications.

“I was really just kind of down and out,” she said. “But in that moment, I turned to my foundations at Baylor as well as in the DPT program. I’m not the biggest person to reach out for help, but I knew they were there. It was pivotal for me to have the encouragement from the **Baylor DPT** faculty and staff.”

Next, she went to her rotation in Florida and faced two hurricanes in two months. It was a difficult time overall, and with graduation on the horizon and a job search underway, Yarbrough leaned on others.

“In determining next steps in life, not having any certainty, but also very confused because

there was so much emotional turmoil I was going through, I reached out to professors, and all of them told me the same thing, ‘Gia, you’re doing fine. You’re going to be fine, but we’re here if you need us. If you feel like you’re not OK, that’s OK. We’re here.’

“They gave me the encouraging words. Many of them met with me personally via Zoom, and made the time, sent the emails. Our professors have a 24-hour turnaround, if not sooner, so that’s always been helpful.

“They respected my privacy but also opened themselves up vulnerably to be there for me.”

As she looked back on her experiences, Yarbrough is quick to recognize how she was able to withstand so many trials and continue forward with her dream.

“With prayer and my faith, I completely stand on that,” she said. “With my family support, I’ve been able to come to the point where now having job offers and being able to choose what it is that I want, and I give that to my Baylor DPT family, faculty, staff and members of my cohort for the way that they have supported me. And even the things they didn’t know about, still being there for me, and giving me not only the personal development but the professional development and the education to where now, when I walk into rooms, all of my interviewees, directors of physical therapy programs and supervisors are incredibly impressed—not only with my background knowledge but in the experiences that I’ve been able to overcome, and I credit that to the program as well as my faith and belief in God.” ■

Advancing Interprofessional Education

“I don’t know of another physical therapy school that has done anything like this.”



On day three of the lab for the course **DPT 6220: Bracing, Orthotics & Prosthetics**, an interprofessional education (IPE) activity took place for 94 Baylor physical therapy students, nine occupational therapy students and six prosthetic students and residents from **University of Texas Southwestern School of Allied Health Sciences**.

One of the faculty, **John Fergason, CPO**, Chief Prosthetist at the **Center for the Intrepid at San Antonio Military Medical Center**, has been a part of these types of blended learning programs since 2015.

“I think one of my biggest charges is to help the physical therapy students know how to interact with someone who does prosthetics and to be able to figure out how they can work well together when they’re often not in the geographically same place,” he said.

“For us, as a prosthetist/orthotist, the physical therapist is a key to getting successful results with our patients that have limb loss. But a bigger piece is teaching each of these fields how to communicate with each other and to understand what are the things that are within your scope,

what are within my scope and where do our two scopes of practice cross?”

What surprised Fergason, known as one of the best prosthetists in the country, is something that was added to the IPE activity by **Casey Unverzagt, DPT, DSc**, Clinical Associate Professor for the **Baylor University Department of Physical Therapy**.

“You had these patients come in and give of their own time just because they want to be a part of something,” Fergason said. “They want to help, and they really want to help the people that come after them in rehabilitation.”

“One of the things that was the most fascinating, though, was watching the physical therapy students gain a whole new appreciation of what an occupational therapist brings to the table. I think the prosthetic orthotic students got an eyeful about how much a therapist, OT or PT, knows that’s within their own scope that affects the successful outcomes for those of us doing the prosthetic orthotic services.”

“So what he [Unverzagt] showed, I’ve never seen it done before in an educational setting, where you’ve actually had PTs, OTs and prosthetists



doing co-treatments. Simulated co-treatments certainly, but getting histories together and somebody filling in the gap that another clinician didn't think of or maybe even missed. I think that the interaction was priceless.

So Casey, he gets credit for putting something together that honestly is unprecedented. I don't know of another physical therapy school that has done anything like this."

The field of orthotics and prosthetics is rather unique. Like the fields of physical therapy and occupational therapy, it involves a wide range of patients. For instance, Ferguson works with those in pediatrics, geriatrics, athletes, active duty and retired service members, and more.

Yet, the field requires a lot of creativity and problem-solving. Problem-solving both in regard to technique and physically producing something that will give someone mobility that they wouldn't otherwise have. Everything that he produces is through his own hands or those of skilled technicians on the team.

"Prosthetics and orthotics is really a medically based art," Ferguson said. "It requires an incredible diversity of knowledge, but again, it's all within this small scope. Physical therapists have to know this whole room. I have to know this chair. I have to know a much smaller scope, but it's as deep as a well."

Ultimately, the IPE activity will contribute to the success of the patient.

"One key is it has little to do with me, has little to do with Casey," Ferguson said. "It has everything to do with what he and I try to demonstrate about how we're going to try to work together and

put our egos aside, put our own successes and our desires for that aside, and to try and come together with a solution that works. And that is what that IPE did. I've never seen it work like that, and really when you look at that, you say, 'OK, each of those disciplines got to see and hear something that they did not know before they got there that morning.'"

Ferguson was adamant that other programs need to be doing these types of learning experiences for students. Thankfully, other schools have already taken note.

"The funny thing was this last year when we were reaching out to UT Southwestern again to partner with us, some of the students who came last year asked to come back: 'Hey, can we please come back?'" Ferguson said.



"And this is no convenient deal. They got to drive up there several hours staying in a hotel the night, spend all day with us and then drive home again. But they asked, 'Hey, we really want to do that.' And they recruited some people from the class below them and say, 'If you want a wild experience, come do this. You'll never see anything like it.'"

"So I can't say enough about it, and Baylor has embraced it and allowed us to have the funds and the support necessary to make an activity like this happen as well as the OT school, which saw the value in it and cut their students loose for a full day with us. Cut it right out of their curriculum. I really could go on and on." ■

THE Spotlight

Illuminating the physical therapy profession, our students, the lives of others and the world.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Baylor University

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