



FranU DPT Summer 2023 Newsletter

Ending the Spring Semester

At the end of our Spring 2023 semester, 1st year students finished Anatomy and Physiology courses, 2nd year students finished their didactic work, and 3rd year students graduated and are headed out into the field! We are very proud of each of our students for all of their accomplishments and cannot wait to see what is next for them.

Graduation Awards and End of Semester Ceremonies





1 - DPT Class of 2023 graduate Chloe Cordell receives her doctoral hood from program director Dr. Kirk Nelson and associate professor Mari Kantrow.



2 - Ryder Matherne (left) and Alexa Lonibos (right) received the 2023 Best Original Research award from Program Director Kirk Nelson

DPT Class of 2023 Graduation

FranU DPT graduated its 3rd cohort, the Class of 2023 with 40 students. Graduation was held at the Raising Canes River Center on March 13, 2023. General John Wissler gave the commencement speech.

DPT 2023 Awards Ceremony:

The DPT program at FranU held a pinning ceremony and graduation reception on March 12 to recognize student achievements for the DPT Class of 2023. Awards were given for academic achievement, clinical performance, research, and service.

- **Academic Achievement:** Awarded to those individuals who have achieved a 4.0 cumulative GPA
 - Recipients: *Abby-Gayle Harson, Vincent Rusciano, Geoffrey Hart, Chloe Cordell, Gabrielle Lafontaine, Nicholas LaHaye, Patricia Ryan, Cassidy Dailey, Mollye McManus, Brennan Young*
- **Clinical Excellence:** Awarded to those individuals who have received top scores in the Clinical Performance Instrument (Top 10%)
 - Recipients: *Geoffrey Hart, Abby-Gayle Harson, Cassidy Dailey, Nicholas LaHaye*
- **Scholarly Achievement:** Awarded to the best systematic review and original scholarly projects.
 - **Best Synthesis Research:** *Dosage Parameters for Functional Electrical Stimulation Lower Extremity Cycling in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury: A Systematic Review* by **Abby-Gayle Harson and Kaitlyn Ourso**
 - **Best Original Research:** *Use Of Bioimpedance Analysis to Assess The Acute Changes in Fluid Compartment Volume Levels in the Legs Of Healthy, Normal Individuals After Using Normatec Intermittent Pneumatic Compression* by **Ryder Matherne and Alexa Lonibos**
- **Franciscan Student Service Award:** The Franciscan Service Award recognizes and honors students on excellent performance, contribution of service, leadership, teamwork qualities, and dignity in dealing with fellow students, visitors, University faculty, staff, and administration.
 - Recipient: *Alexa Lonibos*
- **Core Value Awards:** Peer nominated awards based on FranU's core values
 - Humility: Chloe Cordell
 - Justice: Bailey Marsh
 - Reverence and Love for all Life: Saya Menzies
 - Joyfulness of Spirit: Ryan Tate
 - Service: Micah Fontenot

White Coat Ceremony

The FranU DPT Class of 2024 received their white coats at a ceremony on April 21, 2023. The white coats symbolize their entrance into clinical affiliations following their 2 years of classwork at FranU. They will complete 3 clinical rotations before graduation in 2024.



3 - The Class of 2024 posing after they received their white coats in preparation for clinical rotations.

Recent Happenings



DPT Olympics

Each year, the DPT Student Officers host a field day of games for the 1st and 2nd year students. It presents students with an opportunity to have some friendly competition while getting out of the classroom with fun activities and games, including quiz bowl, kickball, beach volleyball, and the new edition this year, pickleball. This year many students, faculty, and furry friends attended and participated in the games and activities. Once the games were all done, the attendees were delivered crawfish which was the end to the perfect day! This year's winners: the Second Years! Congratulations to all the participants, and we can't wait for next year to do it all again!

Open House

Over the past school year, FranU and the DPT program have hosted various open houses catering to prospective graduate and undergraduate students. At the events, spectators are gifted some FranU swag and informational programs before they are brought on a tour of campus including classrooms, simulation hospital and the PT gym! Prospective DPT students were able to learn more about some of our unique offerings such as biomechanical analysis, musculoskeletal ultrasound and the Anatomage table. We are so excited to continue showcasing our program through the upcoming open houses, and we invite you to come see what FranU DPT is all about! *The next DPT Open house is June 22.*

PT Job Fair

In April, FranU held a 'mixer' for DPT and PTA students to get to know employers. Over 20 companies were represented at the event. Our students learned about the different job opportunities available in the area across many settings.



5 - FranU DPT Alumni from the Class of 2021, Nick Stark (left) and Logan Seal (right) participated in the PT Job Fair for Baton Rouge Orthopedic Clinic

Research Roundup



DPT Research Day

FranU DPT hosted its 3rd annual DPT Research Day on April 14. 22 scholarly project posters were presented by the graduating class of 2023. The Hawaiian-themed event provided continuing education credits for PTs and PTAs. Awards for the best presentations as voted by their peers were **Kacie Pertuit & Abigail Bertaut** for their 1st place project, "The Impact of Virtual Reality Rehabilitation Using Head-mounted Displays on Lumbar ROM and Pain: A Scoping Review" and **Chloe Cordell & Lauren Whisenand** for "Effects of Early vs Delayed Rehabilitation Intervention on Economic Burden in Spinal Cord Injury Patients" won second place.



6 - DPT 2023 graduate Danielle Rankin (left) explains her research poster to 2nd year students (from right) Emily Hicks, Peyton White, Erica Moreno, and Alanna Boudreaux.

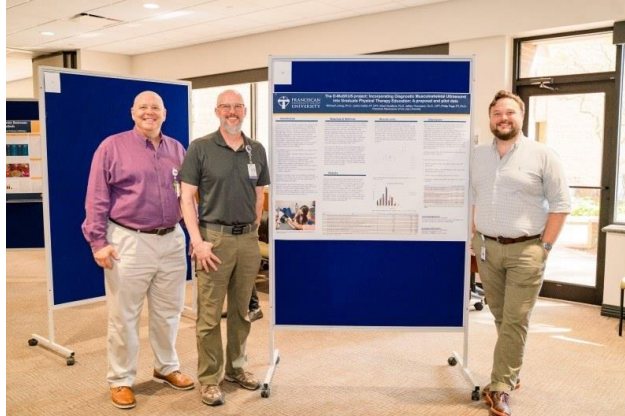
Research and Scholarship Showcase

At the 9th annual FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase in April, several DPT faculty members presented their research posters including **Dr. Michael Ludwig, Dr. Jeff Thompson, and Dr. Jaime Caillet**. FranU faculty members **Dr. Bert Swafford and Dr. Phil Page** won first place for Best Faculty Research, “Developing a Knowledge-Confidence Index in Physical Therapy Students.”

First year DPT Students **Hannah Vicknair and Abby Trahan** also presented their research, “Humeral Torsion Assessment using Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Athletes: A Scoping Review. Poster presentation.”



7 - At the FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase, first year DPT students Hannah Vicknair (left) and Abby Trahan present their research poster.



8 - Dr. Phil Page (left), Dr. Jeff Thompson, and Dr. Michael Ludwig proudly pose with their faculty research poster presented at the Research and Scholarship Showcase.

MiniGrant Awarded

DPT students **Jacob Jackson and Grayson Dubois** were awarded a \$250 mini-grant from the FranU DPT program for their scholarly research project, “Differences while navigating stairs between ROAMI walkers and traditional walkers: a pilot study.” Their project is led by Assistant Professor, **Dr. Mari Kantrow**.



9 - 2nd year DPT students Grayson Dubois and Jacob Jackson were awarded a \$250 mini-grant from the FranU DPT program for their scholarly research project,

Speaking of Sports Medicine...



The FranU DPT program co-hosted the 6th Annual James Andrews Endowed Lectureship in Sports Medicine with Tulane Orthopedics and the Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine in April. Faculty Jenn Watson coordinated the continuing education credit, while **Dr. Phil Page** (pictured 2nd from right) presented on the biomechanics of the foot and ankle.

Dr. Phil Page also presented a 1-hour webinar on the use of biomechanical technology for gait analysis in patients for Noraxon, a manufacturer of biomechanical analysis equipment. The webinar can be viewed here: [Integrating Technology with Clinical Gait Analysis](#)

Dr. Phil Page (pictured bottom right) chaired the scientific program for the ICCUS Society in Jacksonville Florida and presented his research on the biomechanics of quarterbacks and pitchers. The Society is an honorary, multidisciplinary sports medicine, rehab and research group of top clinicians and scientists.



Featured: Advanced Interventions Elective

by Kelly Kramer



3rd year DPT students at FranU are able to enroll among several electives in specialized areas of practice including neuro rehab, orthopedics, sports medicine and pediatrics. In Louisiana, PT students are able to take courses prior to graduation to satisfy the requirement for dry needling practice after graduation. Last year, Assistant Professor **Dr. Jaime Caillet** wanted to make this type of opportunity available to Fran U DPT students. She developed an “Advanced Interventions” course that includes hands-on training for dry needling as well as certification in instrument-assisted soft tissue mobilization. The course consists of a didactic component to set the framework and basic knowledge needed to understand how, why and when to do advanced interventions, with an emphasis on dry needling. After completing weeks of didactic work, including reading and presenting scholarly articles and studying evidence on different philosophies behind dry needling, the students participate in 25 lab hours of practice. After completion of the course, the students are presented with a certificate to practice dry needling in the state of Louisiana once licensed.



Dr. Caillet mentioned the course was written with the main focus being the board exams. She wanted the course to be driven and backed by evidence-based practice methods. When asked what the most important part of the course was, Dr. Caillet went on to explain, “I want to teach the students to have a reason behind why they would needle someone. But not just why. How will they benefit? I want them to learn to think on a larger scale – there is a bigger response to needling than just sticking a needle in a muscle. There’s so much more we can do.” She went on to explain how dry needling is such an important “tool in our bag” as PTs, but she wants to teach someone how to appropriately utilize that tool in this course.

When talking about the future of this course, Dr. Caillet mentioned the possibility of the course developing because of the ongoing research behind evidence-based practice using dry needling and other advanced techniques in physical therapy. She sees this class as a great opportunity for any student; however, she does understand the increasing appeal to students who are particularly interested in outpatient orthopedic practice. When asked how to attract students with varying interests, she mentioned the increasing and developing research that looks at how dry needling and other techniques can be used for neurological disorders and more. Dr. Caillet explained with excitement that while this is still a new course offering, there is great opportunity for expansion and development with new evidence and research being produced. We are proud of the course and are excited to see how it

develops over time as our students find more information about dry needling and advanced interventions.

Feature: Sounding Off with MSK Ultrasound



FranU DPT differentiates itself from other programs by offering unique entry-level opportunities using the latest technology; this helps ensure a well-prepared PT workforce for the future. Several professors in the DPT program have been integrating musculoskeletal (MSK) ultrasound imaging into the curriculum. **Drs. Michael Ludwig and Phil Page** introduce ultrasound to first-year students in the Structural and Functional Anatomy class.

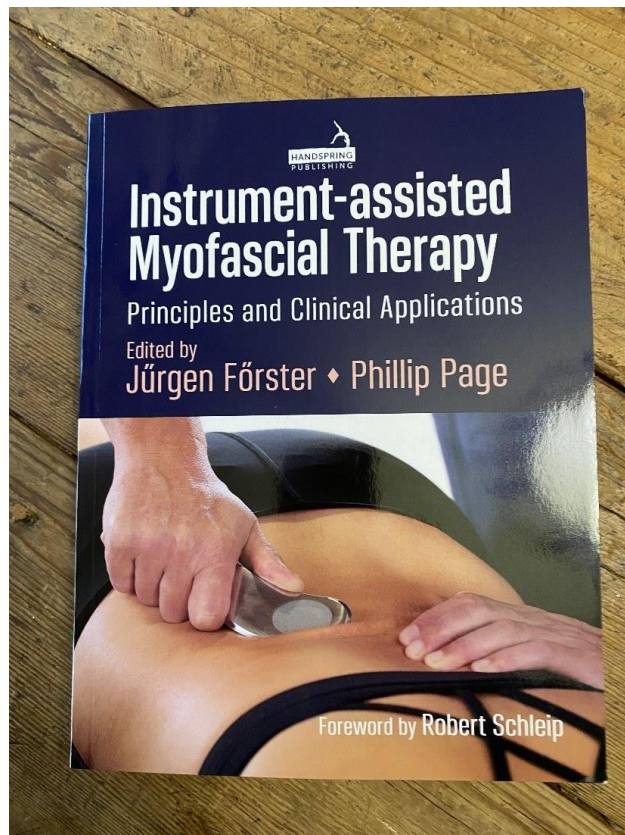
Thanks to several research endowments, FranU DPT has 11 ButterflyIQ portable hand-held ultrasound units that use an iPhone or iPad, providing cost-effective and feasible scanning. DPT faculty **Dr. Jaime Caillet and Jenn Watson** assist the hands-on instruction during first-year anatomy and plan to integrate MSK ultrasound into 2nd year orthopedic content. “We’ll have the ability to evaluate soft tissues for potential issues and to guide interventions such as dry needling as our students progress in the program,” stated Caillet.

Dr. Phil Page has been co-authoring a regular series in the International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy on using MSK ultrasound, including a clinical commentary on its use. **Read more on the FranU LinkedIn Blog:** [Integrating Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Technology at FranU DPT](#).



10 - First year students Hanna Hutchinson (left) and Mallory Compton (right) participate in MSK ultrasound practice during lab.

DPT Faculty Scrapes Together New Book



FranU DPT Associate Professor **Dr. Phil Page** co-authored a textbook, "Instrument-Assisted Myofascial Therapy." IAMT is a commonly used technique in physical therapy involving hand-held instruments to

improve tissue blood flow and mobility. The book is divided into chapters that clearly demonstrate IATM treatment of body parts from the neck to the toes featuring full-color photographs. World-renowned fascia researcher Dr. Robert Schleip provided a foreword to the book.

Upcoming Events

- La. Parkinson's Conference: July 15 (Pennington Conference Center)
- DPT Open House: July 20
- DPT Orientation for New Students: June 28 and August 11
- New DPT Student Mixer: August 11
- Summer Semester Ends: July 28
- Second-Year Orientation: August 11
- Fall Semester Starts: August 14
- APTA-LA Fall Conference: August 25-27 (Baton Rouge)

Research Presentations and Publications

- Wolfe C, **Page P**, Voight M, Norman C, Draovich P. EDITORIAL: The Deceleration Index - Is it the Missing Link in Rehabilitation? *Int J Sports Phys Ther.* 2023;18(2).
- Manske RC, Voight ML, Wolfe C, **Page P**. MSK Ultrasound Bites: The Use of MSK Ultrasound in the Evaluation of Elbow Ulnar Collateral Ligament Injuries. *Int J Sports Phys Ther.* 2023;18(2).
- **Page P, Swafford A**. Developing a Knowledge-Confidence Index in Physical Therapy Students. Poster presentation. FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase. April 2023. [First Place, Best Faculty Poster]
- **Page P**. Pathomechanical Analysis of Movement: A Clinical Decision-Making Algorithm. Poster presentation. FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase. April 2023.
- **Trahan A, Vicknair H, Page P**. Humeral Torsion Assessment using Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Athletes: A Scoping Review. Poster presentation. FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase. April 2023.
- **Caillet J**. Dry Needling: Beyond Pain. Poster presentation. FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase. April 2023.
- **Ludwig M, Caillet J, Swafford A, Thompson J, Page P**. The D-MaSKUS project: Incorporating Diagnostic Musculoskeletal Ultrasound into Graduate Physical Therapy Education: A proposal and pilot data. Poster presentation. FranU Research & Scholarship Showcase. April 2023.
- **Page P**. Kinematic sequencing of hip-shoulder separation in pitchers and quarterbacks. ICCUS Society 21st Annual Meeting. Jacksonville FL. April 28, 2023.

- **Page P.** Functional anatomy of the foot and ankle. Tulane Orthopedics / Andrews Endowed Sports Medicine Lectureship. New Orleans LA. April 22, 2023.
- **Page P.** Integrating technology in clinical gait analysis. Noraxon Educational Webinar. April 6, 2023.

Contact Us



If you have any questions about our program, please feel free to contact us!

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