

OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY / OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Connecting OIT / OHSU Physical Therapy alumni, students, faculty, clinicians, and community

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3rd Quarter
2025



Winter 2025 Integrated Clinical Experiences Left: Cohort 2026 deliver the Musculoskeletal Pro Bono Clinic coordinated by core faculty member, **Jacki Brechter**, PT, DPT; Center: **Kayla Grove**, SPT Cohort 2027, with Walk with Ease Plus (WWE+) participant, Gilbert Ortega; Right: **Connor Cary**, SPT Cohort 2027, with WWE+ participant, Lin Warner.

Program Director Message

There is nothing more beautiful than Klamath Falls in the Summer! While the amazing outdoor activities have been calling to faculty and students over the past weeks, we have been vigilantly progressing in developing the program and working on documentation to submit for full accreditation. We will be submitting our self-study at the end of 2025, preparing for a site visit in mid-March 2026, and then anticipating full accreditation status in early June 2026.

In addition to working on accreditation, the student body has grown as we welcomed six new students to be part of the Cohort of 2028. Since mid-June, our new cohort has hit the ground running - with a term full of Anatomy, Biomechanics & Kinesiology, Nutrition & Wellness, and Intro to PT. Our 3rd year students (Cohort 2026) are out in the clinics this summer, working alongside PT mentors all over the state and honing their clinical skills. Our 2nd year students (Cohort 2027) are developing their clinical skills in class to prepare for their 1st clinical experience in the Fall, and participating in our community programs.

The faculty has also grown. We are now 6 core faculty with the addition of Dr. Nah-yeon (Hannah) Ko in early June. In addition to the outstanding teaching, our faculty contribute to the profession and our community through their research and the development of community projects that connect our students to our community from the start of their learning experience. Our faculty continue to harness community opportunities to teach through pre- and post-testing participants in Balance & Beyond Capstone and participating as coaches in Mini Kickers soccer camp for 2 to 4-year-olds through a collaboration with the local YMCA. These programs provide amazing opportunities for our students to practice in-class teaching while supporting the program's mission to provide pro-bono care for our community.

Thank you all for following the updates to the program's amazing growth...we have so many exciting things on the horizon for our program.

Marybeth Grant-Beuttler, PT, PhD, PCS
Program Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

What's New

A warm welcome to the
Class of 2028!

New Faculty Member -
Welcome Hannah Ko!

Students engage in active
learning across the
curriculum.

Faculty presentations &
research projects



Students hit the field for the Summer
Integrated Clinical Experience

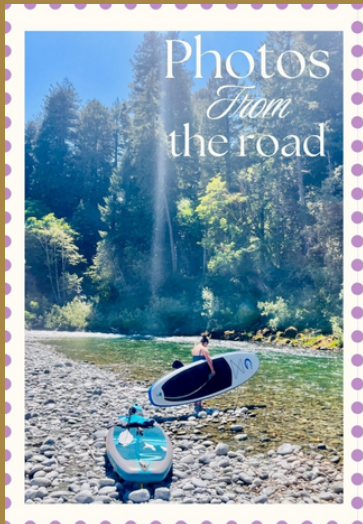
Student News

Grace Bruschi, SPT Cohort 2026, recently completed her APTA Pelvic Health Level 1 Certification. "This experience has profoundly changed my perspective on physical therapy. The journey began with a live webinar, connecting me with DPTs, PTAs, and SPTs from across the nation and even as far as North Korea. I gained invaluable knowledge about how physical therapy can effectively treat conditions like urinary

incontinence and prolapse. A week later, I traveled to Crown Point, Indiana, for the hands-on lab portion of the course. Here, I learned to perform internal and external pelvic exams, and to utilize TENS and NMES on the pelvic floor. The most important takeaway,

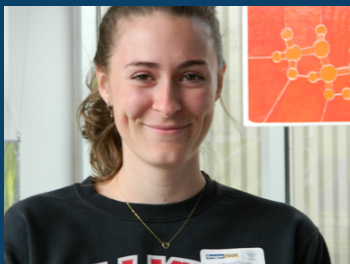
however, was the profound importance of being explicit—explaining the "what" and the "why" behind every assessment and intervention. This simple yet powerful principle is a golden nugget of wisdom that will not only shape my future as a pelvic health provider but will also elevate my practice across all physical therapy settings and patient populations." Grace was also recently interviewed by 'We Are Healers,' a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing Native representation in healthcare. This interview was a part of their curriculum, designed to provide information and inspiration for Native youth interested in becoming physical therapists. "I've had the honor of working with

this organization over the past two terms. It was an incredible opportunity to share my personal journey to physical therapy school and offer wisdom to aspiring students. We conducted the interview at the Smith River at Peacock Bar, a location I chose for its deep personal significance. This experience was truly a privilege, and I feel so lucky to be a part of an initiative that helps Native youth and works to increase Native representation in the physical therapy profession. I'm excited to see how my story might inspire the next generation of healers."



Welcome to the Class of 2028!

Our newest cohort joined us this June, and we are excited to see what their future holds.



Roxanne Black



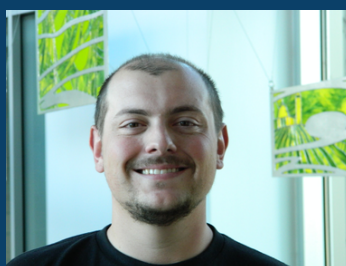
Matthew Tran



Carsen French



Matthew Seth Chin



Hayden Stubbs



Cooper Bales

Capstone Updates

Balance & Beyond Capstone – “Investigating the effects of the Better Bones & Balance® (BBB) program on validated measures of balance (Bertec SOT, mini-BEST, FSST), functional strength (5xSTS), and balance confidence (ABC Scale) in rural community-dwelling older adults aged 65 or older.” While the popular BBB program primarily focuses on improving bone health, our project researches its potential secondary benefits. We aim to gather evidence to determine if these classes also help older adults feel more confident and secure on their feet.

The **Balance & Beyond Capstone Group** completed the initial assessments at the end of June 2025. This was a big success, and we couldn't have done it without the help of students from the Class of 2027. Initial assessments included the Mini-BESTest, the Five-Times-Sit-to-Stand test, and the Activities-specific Balance Confidence (ABC) Scale. We also used a high-tech Bertec balance system to get precise measurements of how well each person could stay balanced. In the coming weeks, we'll do a final round of testing to measure improvement. Afterward, our team will carefully analyze the results while protecting participant privacy. Ultimately, strong results from studies like ours can be used to make a case for federal funding, which would help make these essential classes more widely available not only here in Oregon, but across the United States.

–Submitted by **Jesus Egoavil**, SPT Cohort 2026

Physical Therapy Clinics within Indian Health Services – “Identifying the steps and considerations for establishing physical therapy services in Northern California to improve healthcare access for Native American communities.”

This summer, the **Indian Health Services Capstone Project** is laying the groundwork for a truly impactful endeavor. They're diving deep into the powerful qualitative analysis program, Quirkos, to master its capabilities and prepare for the research ahead. Logan Maly and Grace Bruschi, SPTs Cohort 2026, are meticulously crafting interview questions and organizing them into a format that will resonate with local clinics. They plan to submit their IRB application prior to Fall Term, moving them one step closer to beginning their work.

–Submitted by **Grace Bruschi**, SPT Cohort 2026



Lateral Ankle Sprains in Collegiate Soccer – The Soccer Capstone Project by 3rd year students, Cohort 2026, Reilly Combs, Moises Angulo, Alex Lindsey with faculty mentors **Ronald Rea**, DSc, PT, COMPT, CEP and **Jacki Brechter** investigates whether playing consecutive soccer games with less than 24 hours of rest increases the incidence of lateral ankle sprains (LAS) among NAIA collegiate soccer players aged 18–23 at Oregon Tech. This research is driven by the unique scheduling in the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC), where teams frequently play back-to-back games—a format uncommon in professional or most collegiate leagues.

While LAS is a well-documented injury with known risk factors, no existing research has explored the impact of games played less than 24 hours apart. Prior studies show that fatigue increases injury risk, particularly in the second half of games, and that inflammatory markers can persist for up to 72 hours post-game. These findings suggest that closely scheduled games may elevate injury risk due to accumulated fatigue. To investigate this, the researchers will collect predictive data from Oregon Tech's soccer teams using outcome measures such as the Y-Balance Test, ankle dorsiflexion range of motion, and hip strength via VALD Dynamometry. These tools will help determine whether injuries are linked to fatigue or pre-existing physical imbalances.

The project aims to inform conditioning strategies, influence CCC scheduling policies, and contribute to injury prevention research. The team has finalized outcome measures, coordinated testing logistics, and obtained IRB approval. Students in the 2026 cohort have trained the 2027 cohort to assist with data collection, completed on August 9. This study offers a novel opportunity to examine injury patterns in a unique collegiate athletic context.

Reilly Combs (top) and **Alex Lindsey** (bottom), SPTs Cohort 2026, assessing participants.



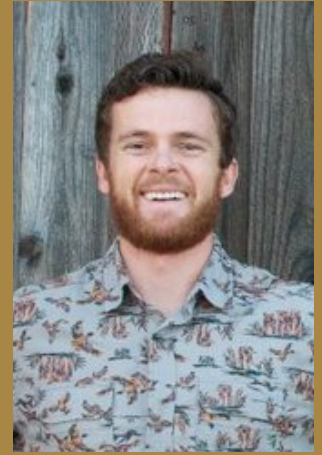
Faculty News

We are delighted to announce that **Marybeth GrantBeuttler, PT, DPT, PCS**, Program Director, Core Faculty, has been awarded tenure and promoted to Full Professor! Please join us in congratulating Dr. GrantBeuttler on this well-deserved recognition of her exceptional leadership, dedication to student success, and significant contributions to the profession of physical therapy and our program's mission.

Her scholarly work has advanced pediatric physical therapy practice and education, enriching both the academic community and clinical care.



Associated faculty member, **Wesley McGeachy, PT, DPT, NCS** submitted an abstract for CSM 2026 Posters: Building a Respiratory Muscle Strength Training Pathway: Interdisciplinary Insights and Implementation Challenges through Data



Purpose:

To describe a multi-year interdisciplinary effort to establish a formal respiratory muscle strength training (RMST) pathway in an academic medical center, and to present supporting survey findings on staff training, clinical experience, and leadership perceptions. RMST offers a low-cost, evidence-based strategy to promote respiratory recovery and reduce hospital stays, making it a multidisciplinary opportunity across physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology in acute care.

Welcome, Hannah Ko!



Na-hyeon (Hannah) Ko, PT, DPT, PhD, PCS, joined Oregon Tech as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Originally from South Korea, she has lived in Seattle, New York City, and Los Angeles, bringing a broad range of cultural and professional experiences to her teaching and research. Hannah holds a PhD in Biokinesiology from the University of Southern California, an MA in Motor Learning and Control from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a post-professional DPT from A.T. Still University.

As a Board-Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist, Hannah has over 15

years of clinical experience in diverse settings, including a preschool in the Bronx, NY, school districts across the greater Los Angeles area, outpatient clinics, and home health, developing a deep commitment to early intervention and equitable access to pediatric physical therapy. Her research focuses on how the brain controls movement, using non-invasive brain stimulation such as transcranial magnetic stimulation to investigate motor control and promote neuroplasticity.

Prior to joining Oregon Tech, Hannah served as a core faculty member at California State University, Fresno. She relocated to Klamath Falls in pursuit of her next academic and personal adventure. Outside of work, she enjoys riding her electric bike, hiking, and playing the piano.

As a proud member of the OHSU Huntington's disease Clinic team, associated faculty member, **Angelina Ciavarella, PT, DPT, NCS** (pictured center), attended the Huntington Disease Society of America (HDSA) Annual Convention which took place in Indianapolis, IN, on June 26–28th, 2025. She joined the team social worker, Rachel Lynne (pictured left) and the lead neurologist, Dr. Lauren Talman (pictured right) for this wonderful convention to learn how to provide the best care and support for people and families impacted by HD. Uniquely, this convention is attended by clinicians, researchers, and individuals with HD as well as their family members and/or caregivers. The convention was kicked off with a Team Hope walk, which is HDSA's signature fundraising campaign designed to provide hope and support for those affected by this disease. You can learn more about Huntington's disease, current research, and where to find a Team Hope walk near you at <https://hdsa.org/>.



Anne Davenport, PT, DPT, GCS (top left) was highlighted in the APTA May Magazine article "Physical Therapists in Unusual Settings (www.apta.org/apta-magazine/2025/05/01/apta-magazine-may-2025) and was selected in partnership with **Ellen Radcliffe, MPH, CHES**, (center left) to join the 2025–2026 Rural Population Incubator Program with a grant award for their initiative, "Promoting Physical Activity, Advancing Doctor of Physical Therapy Education." Ellen and Anne have also been accepted to present at the Oregon State University Extension Services Annual Conference on October 1 with their session "Practical Partnerships for Rural Health: Aligning OSU Extension and Higher Education to Meet Community Needs."



In July, Anne attended the Medical Improv Collaborative Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, hosted by the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine and Children's Mercy Hospital. The conference explored innovative applications of improvisational techniques to improve healthcare communication, teamwork, and resilience. Anne is applying the knowledge gained to advance emotional intelligence—a key theme in the OIT/OHSU DPT program—and to inform her ongoing research on Medical Improv as a co-curricular activity in physical therapy education.



Anne and **Ashley Iliff, PT, DPT, FAAOMPT, Cert. DN, Cert. SMT, Dip. Osteopractic**, Director of Clinical Education and Core Faculty member (bottom left), recently attended the APTA Faculty Development Workshop in Chicago at Northwestern University. This intensive program provided in-depth training in evidence-informed teaching strategies, curriculum design, mentorship, and leadership development—further strengthening their capacity to foster excellence and innovation in physical therapy education.

Community Outreach

This Summer Term, Cohort 2027, as 2nd Year students, are participating in MiniKickers, an Integrated Clinical Experience. This experience brings our Doctor of Physical Therapy students together with the YMCA to provide a 6-week caregiver-and-child summer soccer clinic. Preschoolers ages 2 to 4 learn the basics of soccer through fun games, teamwork, and laughter. DPT students are paired with a caregiver-and-child team for individual guidance and support. The clinic is led by YMCA Soccer Coordinator, **Ellen Radcliffe**. The Summer Integrated Clinical Experience is facilitated by faculty members, **Kayla Taylor** and **Marybeth GrantBeuttler**.

Thank you to the Klamath Basin Senior Citizens' Center for providing scholarships to support this program.



Students training during Week 1 of Summer Term with **Ellen Radcliffe** in preparation for the MiniKickers Soccer Camp.



Facilitating Motor Development

Above: **Jackson Buresh**, SPT Cohort 2027 with participant in an obstacle course.

Right: **Ellen Radcliffe** demonstrating the agility ladder with a participant



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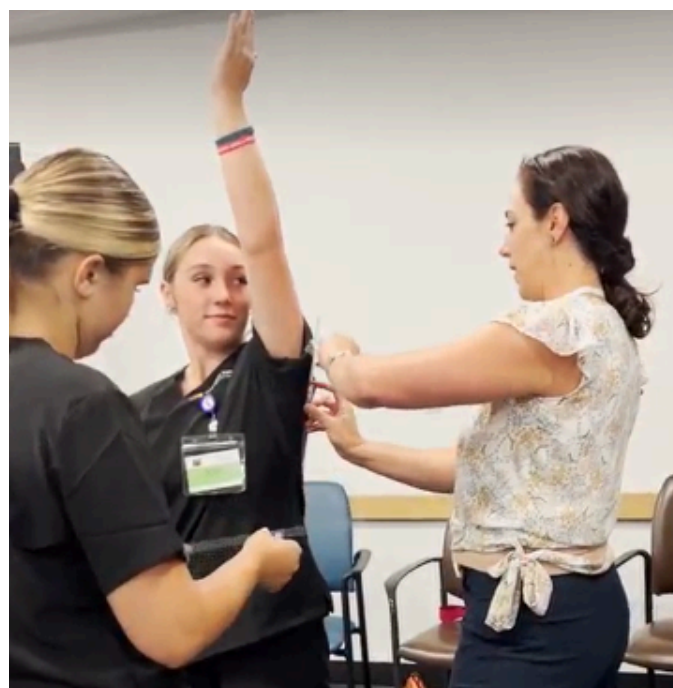


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Above: 1. Students and **Marybeth GrantBeuttler** giving high fives. 2. Students create a celebration tunnel, **Sam Lipsker**, SPT Cohort 2027 on left facing camera. 3. **Kayla Taylor** (top right in photo) starting a team hand-stack. 4. **Katie Mull**, SPT Cohort 2027, with participant lining up a goal.

Community Outreach

It has been a busy summer of community outreach and spreading the word about our program. **Marybeth GrantBeuttler** showcased the OIT/OHSU DPT Program at the On Track Middle School Health & Science Fair, held at the Klamath Tribes Community Fitness Center in Chiloquin (top right). For the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon, Marybeth provided an engaging demonstration of our research lab, and highlighting the value of collaboration between physical therapists and osteopathic physicians (center right). Marybeth and **Ashley Iliff** also met with students from Klamath High School to spark interest in physical therapy careers and share pathways into the profession (not pictured).

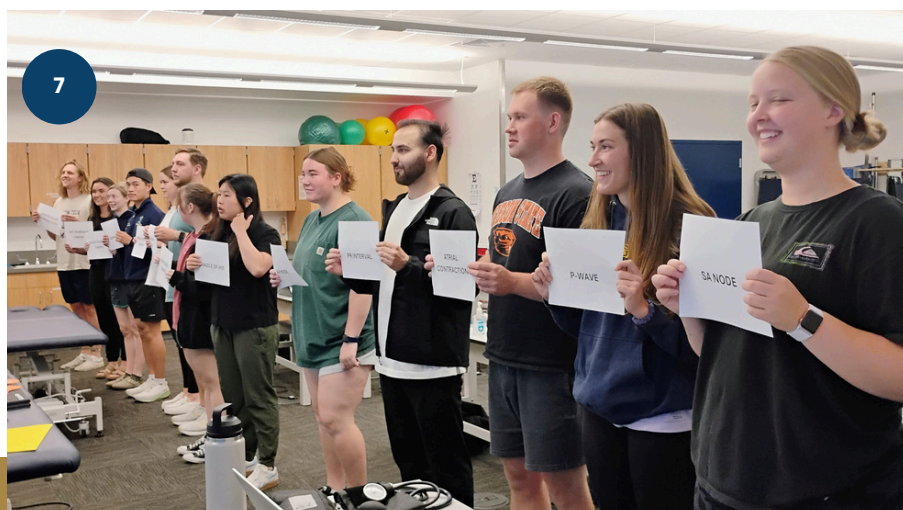
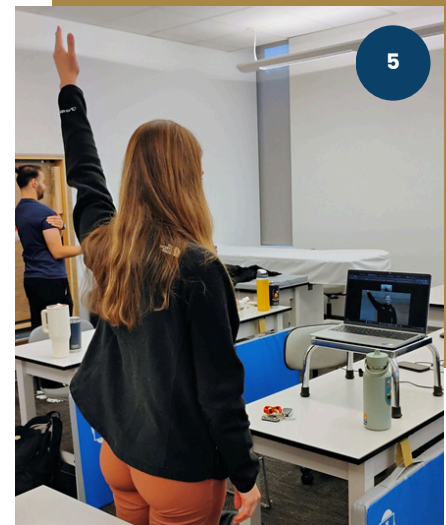
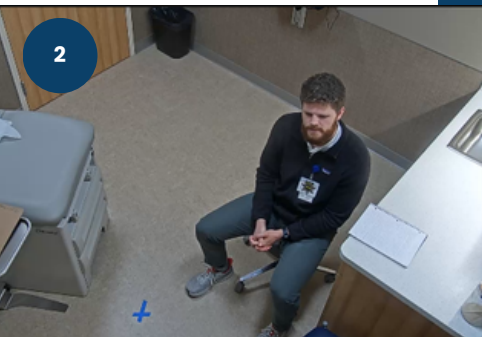


Faculty Members, **Hannah Ko** and **Ashley Iliff**, showcased physical therapy and the research lab during MedStars. MedStars is a healthcare camp hosted at Oregon Tech in Klamath Falls, designed for high school sophomores and juniors interested in exploring healthcare careers. The three-day camp, a collaboration with Cascades East Area Health Education Center, OHSU School of Nursing, and Oregon Tech. It provides hands-on experiences in various healthcare fields like nursing, physical therapy, medical imaging, and more

Active Learning in Action

Our students and faculty have been deeply engaged in hands-on learning across diverse settings this term. **Wesley McGeachy** and **Jacki Brechter** brought realism to PT 715 Teaching and Learning in the Simulation Lab. Logan Maly, SPT Cohort 2026, (#2) practices a subjective interview, emotional intelligence, and pain neuroscience education with community physical therapist as patient volunteer, **Caroline Riblett**. In PT 775 Physical Therapy in Rural Communities with **Anne Davenport**, students honed telehealth skills (#5). Meanwhile, PT700: Management of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Dysfunction with **Amy Wells** and **Anne Davenport** featured Cardiopulmonary Jeopardy (#6) and EKG role-play (#7) to reinforce content.

In PT 625 Assistive Device Training with **Heather Higgins-Honek** and **Anne Davenport**, students braved the weather to master assistive device training (#4) and a wheelchair obstacle course (#3). We are thankful to Norco and Invacare for supporting a hands-on Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) Lab. Certified ATPs guided students through tailored learning experiences on complex mobility devices, wheelchair fitting, and custom adaptive equipment. (#1)





A grateful participant in the Spring Musculoskeletal Pro Bono Clinic on graduation day with **Grace Bruschi** (left) and **Alex Lindsey** (right), SPTs Cohort 2026.

Moises Angulo, SPT Cohort 2026, during the LAS Assessment Day (above). **Anna Nelson**, SPT Cohort 2027, with MiniKickers participant (left). **Katie Mull**, SPT Cohort 2027, with Walk with Ease participant in Spring Term (center). **Anne Davenport** and **Ellen Radcliffe** at the Forum on Rural Population Health & Health Equity (right).



Students taking a study break with faculty member **Wesley McGeachy's** dog, **Theo**

Left to Right: **Rory Schedler**, **Cooper Brown**, **Lan Le**, **Sophie Bishop**, and **Katie Mull**

Upcoming Events

- September 4, 2025 (via zoom) - Program Information Session
- September 5, 2025 - Summer Term Ends
- September 27, 2025 - Open House

September 27, 2025 White Coat Ceremony

- October 1, 2025 - Fall Term Starts

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