

# Movement for Life Annual Golf Outing

By M. James McIntyre

A total washout cancelling golf did not deter diehard supporters of the annual Movement for Life Invitational, last August 20. Nearly two inches of rain deluged the University of Michigan Golf Course the weekend before and the day of the fifth edition of the special event that supports motor behavior and development research for people with physical disabilities.

Invitational Chair **Mike Leoni** restructured the day's schedule, moving the program and auction to lunchtime, drawing nearly 100 of the area golfers planning to play. While rain continued, the live and silent auction generated more than \$25,000 from nearly 40 items including U-M and professional sports collectibles, California vacation getaways, a Great Lakes cruise and a charter flight to Kohler, Wisconsin for a day of golf at Whistling Straits.

Through individual gifts, organizational sponsorships, raffles and entrance fees, the outing was able to gross more than \$100,000 for the first time and netted more than \$70,000. The event proceeds were divided between the Nicholas Leoni Endowed Research Fund, the Motor Control Laboratory under the direction of Dr. **Susan Brown** and the Neuromotor Behavioral Laboratory directed by the Dr. **Rachael Seidler**. Both are movement science faculty members in Kinesiology. This was the most successful event in the last five years for the Movement for Life Invitational. To date, the Invitational has grossed nearly \$300,000 and netted almost \$200,000 for human motor research for those with physical disabilities.

The most recent contribution from the event brings the Nicholas Leoni Endowed Research Fund to \$311,000 in pledges and contributions. The goal of the Movement for Life Invitational committee chaired by its founder **Mike Leoni** (BA '88 Kin.) is to bring the endowment to \$500,000 over the next five years.

The 2008 edition is slated for Monday, August 18 at the U-M Golf Course. The goal is to net \$100,000; up \$30,000 from 2007. Proceeds from the Sixth-annual Movement for Life Invitational will support research in the Motor Development Laboratory directed by Dean **Beverly Ulrich** and **Dan Ferris'** Human Neuromechanics Laboratory as well as the Leoni Endowment.

Currently the Motor Development Laboratory is investigating the development of stepping patterns and gait of infants with typical development and those born with spina bifida. Its primary goals are to understand the processes that impact patterns of behavior, identify potential control parameters that can lead to improvements in performance, and test the effectiveness of interventions on the development of new behaviors such as walking.

The research teams in the Human Neuromechanics Laboratory focus on both healthy human subjects and neurologically impaired patients suffering from spinal cord injury or stroke. The hope is to design and expand the use of robotic leg braces capable of benefiting both healthy and disabled individuals. These intelligent exercise machines could allow individuals with neurological disabilities to improve their mobility and quality of life. In addition, all of the current research projects could potentially lead to more effective therapies for gait rehabilitation.



For more information about the Movement for Life Invitational, contact **Jim McIntyre**, Director of Development by calling (734) 615-4272 or sending an email to [mjmcinty@umich.edu](mailto:mjmcinty@umich.edu).



Left: Don Eaton shows off his successful purchase of a Detroit Tigers Jersey autographed by Brandon Inge.



Left: Mike Leoni has Sport Management intern Ronnie Brant, Bloomfield Hills, model the Wolverine football helmet autographed by former football players Desmond Howard and Anthony Carter.

Right: Bill Dufek (BS Ed. '83, PE) Ann Arbor, Bob Patek (MD '83), Long Grove, Illinois and Jeff Cohen (BGS '83), Farmington Hills.



Right: Dean Beverly Ulrich thanks nearly 100 guests for braving the elements to attend the luncheon, even though the golf outing was washed out.



Left: Laura Gable, Ann Arbor, explains the value she has found in working with the ULTrA program and Kinesiology's Motor Control Laboratory. At right is her daughter, Sydney.



Right: Shawn Patton, Bev Ulrich and Shelly Kovacs.



Left: Nick Rademacher (Jr., Mov. Sci.), St. Johns, Shelly Kovacs, Director of Student Services, Arkan Jonna, Bloomfield Hills and Mike McInerney, (BGS '80), Bloomfield Hills.



Right: Marc Feeney, Ann Arbor, previews the table of auction items.