



Kines Grad Connection

Kinesiology Graduate Program Newsletter — December 2006, vol. 1, issue 1

From the Chair...

Welcome to “Kines Grad Connection.” In this biannual newsletter, we will highlight events related to the University of Michigan’s Kinesiology Graduate Program. The newsletter will contain updates on graduate student travel, presentations, awards, and publications, as well as track alumni and cite other news of note. In this first issue, for example, we include rankings of NIH funding for U.S. Kinesiology programs and give information about Kinesiology’s new building.

As the new Graduate Chair, I welcome any input you have. Please feel free to contact me (ferrisd@umich.edu) with any suggestions or comments.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Ferris



This picture was taken by one of my graduate students when we were in New Zealand at the International Society of Biomechanics Biennial Congress.

In this issue:
From the Chair
Travel
Awards
NIH Rankings
Presentations
Rackham Resources
Alumni Update

Travel

Kinesiology graduate students travel all over the world to present their research. Here are a few places Kinesiology was represented in the past 6 months...



England—Beth Crane



Japan —Chia-Lin Chang



Italy—Motor Control Lab



Germany—HNL

Student Awards

Simon Schenk Received Prestigious ACSM Award



Recent Kinesiology Ph.D. graduate Simon Schenk is the 2006 recipient of the “National Research Student Award” by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). This award is among the country’s highest honors for a graduate student in Exercise Physiology. Simon received this award based on work he completed as part of his doctoral dissertation in the Substrate Metabolism Laboratory. Simon attended a banquet to receive the award during the 2006 ACSM National Conference in Denver.

Simon, who hails from Australia, is now continuing his research and training as a Post-doctoral Fellow in Dr. Jerrold Olefsky’s laboratory at the University of California – San Diego, which is among the top labs in the world investigating cellular and molecular regulation of insulin action.



Melissa Wright, Pre-Candidate, received a GROCS (Grant Opportunities for Collaborative Spaces) award for Winter 2007.

GROCS is a Digital Media Commons program to fund student research on the use of rich media in collaborative learning. The award stemmed from work on a disability team project (KIN 503) with other graduate students from the School of Information and Masters of Fine Arts program. The research team plans to create an Adapted Computer Environment for an Online Art Workshop (ACE for Art) for individuals with tetraplegia (impairment in upper limb function due to spinal cord injury). Susan Brown, Associate Professor and director of the Motor Control Laboratory, will advise the team in their studies next semester.

Student Awards (cont'd)



Christopher Herman, Ph.D. Candidate—ACSM Graduate Student of the Year.

Chris received the 2005 Midwest American College of Sports Medicine Graduate Student of the Year award. He also was a finalist for the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program. Chris is completing his research at the Health Management Research Center under Dr. Dee Edington.



Dann Goble, Ph.D. Candidate —received a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship for 2006-2007

Dann is working on his dissertation research in collaboration with Associate Professor Susan Brown in the Motor Control Laboratory. His research focuses on limb asymmetries in the utilization of sensory feedback and bilateral coordination.



Julia Looper, Ph.D. Candidate —received a scholarship award from the Foundation for Physical Therapy

This national award is given to six Physical Therapists pursuing a Ph.D. It is based on Julia's past performance and plans for her dissertation. Julia is completing her research in the Center for Motor Behavior with Dr. Dale Ulrich

NIH Funding Rankings

UM Kinesiology Moves up to Third in NIH Funding Rankings

NIH Awards to Kinesiology Programs (only includes funds for Fiscal Year 2005)

<u>RANKING</u>	<u>UNIVERSITY</u>	<u>TOTAL COSTS</u>
1	PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY-UNIV PARK	\$3,041,760
2	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PK CAMPUS	\$2,477,806
3	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	\$1,808,248
4	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON	\$1,706,474
5	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT COLUMBIA	\$1,638,833
6	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	\$1,389,642
7	COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-FORT COLLINS	\$1,204,980
8	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN	\$1,129,852
9	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	\$1,087,545
10	WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	\$1,046,094



Presentations

Elizabeth Crane, Ph.D. Pre Candidate co-organized workshop on the effects of emotions on the body

“People in this field (human-computer interaction) struggle with what to do with emotion and there is little expertise on body and emotion,” says Beth Crane, Kinesiology Ph.D. pre-candidate. She co-organized a workshop to bring together researchers interested in emotion-related human-computer interaction . The emphasis was on cross-disciplinary teamwork and collaboration. Participants discussed a wide spectrum of applications, such as internet applications, artificial intelligence, office work, mobile computing, virtual reality, and home computer applications. Beth works under the direction of Associate Professor Melissa Gross in the Movement Dynamics Laboratory.



Joaquin Anguera, Ph.D. Candidate, presented research at two meetings

In October, Joaquin presented preliminary findings from his dissertation research at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Atlanta, GA. The study examined how spatial working memory contributes to visuomotor adaptation in young adults, and included brain imaging techniques (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging—fMRI) to examine areas of the brain involved in the adaptation.

In November, Joaquin attended a National Institute on Aging meeting in Dallas, Texas, titled, “Technical Assistance Workshop on Aging Research for Emerging Investigators and Students”. The meeting was specifically designed for minority doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers, and junior faculty who seek a career in aging research. Attendees presented a 10-minute talk on their research that was critically reviewed by faculty and program administrators. Joaquin’s presentation received the highest score in the group! He is completing his dissertation research under Assistant Professor Rachael Seidler in the Neuromotor Behavior Laboratory.



Chia-Lin Chang, Ph.D. Candidate, attended conference in Japan

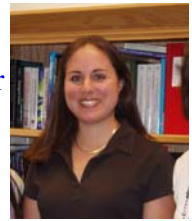
Chia-Lin attended the International Conference on Infant Studies in Kyoto, Japan during June 19-23 to present her research. Chia-Lin’s doctoral mentor is Professor Beverly Ulrich and she is completing her dissertation in the Motor Development Laboratory.



Presentations (cont'd)

Beth Smith, Ph.D. Pre-Candidate, attended two meetings

In June, 2006, Beth attended the annual conference of the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity to present a poster on her research. In October, she presented her research at the North American Federation for Adapted Physical Activity. Beth currently works with Professor Beverly Ulrich in the Motor Development Laboratory.



Meghann Lloyd, Ph.D. Candidate, presented research in early intervention for infants with Down syndrome



In June, Meghann presented preliminary results of her early kicking intervention for infants with DS at the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity. She presented further results in October at the North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity which Dr. Dale Ulrich and she hosted here in Ann Arbor. She also recently presented a poster on activity and behavioral observations for the same project in the combined section of the Canadian Society for Psychomotor Learning and Sport Psychology and Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology "Building Bridges" conference in Halifax in November. Meghann is currently collecting data on her dissertation titled, "Correlates to physical activity in young children with and without Down syndrome" for which she received a Special Olympics grant.

Julia Looper, Ph.D. Candidate, attended two meetings

In February, 2006, Julia attended the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in San Diego, California and presented a poster about her research on gait in new walkers with Down Syndrome. In October, Julia also presented her research at the North American Federation for Adapted Physical Activity. Julia currently works with Professor Dale Ulrich in the Center for Motor Behavior.



Antoinette Domingo, Pei-Chun Kao, and Greg Sawicki, all Ph.D. Candidates, traveled to Munich

Three Kinesiology doctoral students from the Human Neuromechanics Laboratory (HNL) attended the World Congress of Biomechanics in Munich, Germany, July 2006. Each of the students presented research projects they had completed in collaboration with their mentor, Associate Professor Dan Ferris. The conference venue was at the Munich University of Applied Sciences. The content of the meeting had a special emphasis of research involving state-of-the-art technology and medical applications.





Ph.D. Candidate, Meghann Lloyd, was featured in the Ann Arbor News, September 2006.

For a copy of the article, contact Carrie Braun (clbraun@umich.edu)

Thai graduate student visits UM Kinesiology

Ashira Hiruntrakul, a doctoral student from The Department of Physical Therapy at Khon Kaen University in Thailand, spent a month during the summer 2006 working in the Exercise Endocrinology Laboratory with Professor Katarina Borer. He was funded by a fellowship from the Royal Thai Government.



Nick Knuth, Ph.D. Candidate—has accepted a postdoctoral position at the National Institutes of Health, within the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), in Bethesda, Maryland. He will start the position in March 2007.

Marcus Bach Armas, Sport Management M.A. Student/Law Student—Marcus has accepted a position at Herrick Feinstein, L.L.P., in New York for summer 2007. He will be working on projects related to sports and entertainment.

Christopher Herman, Ph.D. Candidate—has been accepted into a postdoctoral MPH degree program beginning in July 2007, at the Harvard School of Public Health.

ALUMNI UPDATE....



KEITH GORDON, Ph.D. - Dr. Keith Gordon has been named the first Coolidge Scientist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC). He received his doctoral degree in 2005 working with Associate Professor Dan Ferris in the Human Neuromechanics Laboratory. His dissertation project examined how humans adapt to walking with robotic leg braces. At RIC, Dr. Gordon is using other robotic devices to study gait rehabilitation in spinal cord injury patients.



Resources and activities



Rackham Events and opportunities

(taken from Rackham's [email newsletter](#))

Here's a listing of information in Rackham's email newsletter. For more information, please go to www.rackham.umich.edu

[From Dean Janet A. Weiss: Rackham's New Office of Graduate Student Success](#)

[Chronologically Advantaged Grad Student Luncheon](#)

[2006 Margaret and Herman Sokol Faculty Lecture in the Sciences: "Paleomagnetism, Pangea, and Partnership"](#)

[Multicultural Food Fest](#)

[International Movie Night: Como Agua Para Chocolate \(Like Water for Chocolate\)](#)

[Fitness Fridays: Devising a Fitness Plan](#)

[Going Back to Graduate School](#)

[The Journey from Frustration to Fulfillment: For Graduate Students With The Challenges and Gifts of ADD/ADHD](#)

[The Imposter Syndrome](#)

[International Student Coffee Talk](#)

[How to Do a Literature Review](#)

[Hey Graduate Students! Did You Know?](#)

[Postdoctoral Opportunity](#)

January 07 - Events at Rackham

- 11 - Managing Your Mind®: Time Management for Graduate Students
- 11 - Tackling Your Taxes with Hands-On Follow-Up Session (see below) – Part I of II
- 16 - Balancing Work and Life in Grad School
- 18 - Follow-Up Session: Tackling Your Taxes - Part II of II
- 29 - Rackham Health and Fitness Fair





*Down the Road....
you'll find Kinesiology's New Home*

The Division of Kinesiology will have a new addition in the coming year. The historic Observatory Lodge, at the corner of Observatory and Washington Heights, is currently being renovated for Kinesiology. Move-in is expected to be September 2007. The 30,600 square-foot building sits across from the Mosher-Jordan residence hall and is a short walk from the Central Campus Recreation Building.



Anyone ready for Kin-ball? Intramural opportunities for Kinesiology graduate students, faculty, and staff....come and join the fun!

If you are interested in flag football, broomball, softball, innertube water polo, volleyball, and/or soccer, please contact Dann Goble, (dgoble@umich.edu) or Joaquin Anguera (janguera@umich.edu)



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Future information for "Kines Grad Connection" – If you would like to submit information to be published in future editions of "Kines Grad Connection", please email clbraun@umich.edu.

For more information about a graduate degree in Kinesiology, please contact, Carrie Braun, clbraun@umich.edu, or visit www.kines.umich.edu