

POST PROFESSIONAL TRANSITIONAL DPT PROGRAM

FACULTY PROFILES

Denise McVay

Dr. Denise M. McVay is an Assistant Professor and Director of the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Utica College. She joined the faculty in 1995. Dr. McVay earned a BS in Sports Medicine from Marietta College, a BS/MS in Physical Therapy from D'Youville College and a DPT in Physical Therapy from Utica College. She is certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS) as a Geriatric Certified Specialist (GCS), and licensed within the State of New York. Dr. McVay continues her interests in the area of gerontology research and has presented at national physical therapy conferences on balance in the elderly.

Samantha Marocco

Dr. Samantha Marocco received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Russell Sage College, her MS in Basic Science-Gerontology from Clarkson University, and her BS in Physical Therapy from Russell Sage College. She is a board certified specialist in geriatrics and has diverse research interests in fitness and aging, Alzheimer's disease, and the oral history of her profession. She has presented at national PT meetings on varied topics including: Geriatric Physical Therapy in the 1960's, Competency Based Hiring Practices in Academia, Lymphedema Management of a Patient with Primary Lymphedema, Characteristics of Clinical Instructors, Use of Oral History in Problem Based Learning, Physical Therapy Management of an Individual with Systemic Sclerosis, as well as other topics. She facilitates her local Alzheimer's Disease Support Group and conducts community presentations on "dementia and memory" and "fitness and aging". She lives in Saranac Lake, NY with her family and enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, and canoeing in the Adirondacks.

Deanna Errico

Dr. Deanna Errico joined the Utica College faculty in 2010. Dr. Errico earned a BS in Sports and Exercise Studies from the University of Buffalo, a MEd in Athletic Training and Biology Education from Alfred University, an MPT from Clarkson University, and a tDPT from Simmons College. She was a full time faculty member in the entry-level PT program at Clarkson University from 2002-2011. She is a Certified Athletic Trainer with extensive athletic training experience and is currently the Past-President of the New York State Athletic Trainers' Association but while president worked tirelessly to improve athletic training in NYS as well as improve their relations with physical therapy. She has also been a volunteer athletic trainer for the US Olympic Committee. Dr. Errico has publications in both the PT and athletic training arena and has presented at numerous regional and national professional conferences.

Shauna Malta

Dr. Shauna Malta is a Professor and former Chairperson for the Dept of PT at Utica College. She joined the college in 1995 as the Director of Clinical Education for the entry level PT program. She earned her DPT degree from Utica College, MS in Adult Ed from Elmira College & BS in PT from Russell Sage College. Her interests and teaching are focused on the adult learner, transitioning to problem based learning and the role of the clinical educator. She has published works in the Journal of PT Ed. and has presented at national conferences including APTA CSM, Ed Leadership & the Assoc for Schools of Allied Health Annual Conf. She is a lifelong resident of central NY with clinical experience in inpatient rehabilitation settings.

ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

Manuel Barrera

Dr. Manuel "Jason" Barrera, Jr. joined the faculty in 2010. Dr. Barrera earned a BS in Physical Therapy from De LaSalle University in the Philippines in 1998 and a DPT from Utica College in 2010 receiving the "2010 Excellence Award." He is currently working fulltime as a Home Care PT as well as part time for a spine and rehabilitation center. He is licensed in several states and his area of interest includes orthopedic PT with particular emphasis on rehabilitation of the recently discharged acute care patient.

Kevin Birkemeier

Dr. Kevin Birkemeier joined the faculty at Utica College in 2012 and teaches in the online distance program. Dr. Birkemeier earned a BS in Physical Therapy with a Minor in Biology from Daemen College in 1998 and a DPT from Utica College in 2011. He works full time as a home care physical therapist and also supervises physical therapist assistants concurrently. He is a member of the APTA and is an Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) through RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America).

Christina Brown

Dr. Christina N. Brown (Johnson) joined the faculty at Utica College in 2009. Dr. Johnson earned an MS in Physical Therapy from Utica College in 2004 and DPT in Physical Therapy from Utica College in 2006. She works full time as the Assistant Director of Physical Therapy in a small rural hospital well known for orthopedic surgery. She is a member of the APTA and an active clinical instructor. Areas of interest are acute care and orthopedics.

Lucia Corriette

Dr. Corriette joined the adjunct faculty in 2013. Dr Corriette earned a Diploma in physical therapy (BSc equivalent) from the University of the West Indies in 1997. In 2010 she completed an MBA from the

University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. She attained a DPT from Utica College in 2012. Dr. Corriette has worked extensively in acute care hospitals and in out-patient rehabilitation in the Caribbean. She has also worked with amateur and professional athletes. Her areas of interest include back pain and rehabilitation of the hand. Dr. Corriette is licensed in the State of New York.

Nuket Curran

Dr. Nuket Curran PT became a member of the adjunct faculty in 2016 after completing her DPT from Utica College in 2014. She earned a BA degree in physical anthropology/functional anatomy from the University of Pittsburgh, and her undergraduate BS degree in PT from the University of Ulster at Jordantown, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Since 2007, Dr. Curran has been the Director, and Quality and Risk Management Safety Officer for UPMC Centers for Rehab Services and currently runs her own private PT business. Prior experience includes treating patients diagnosed with issues including: oncology, mastectomy, lymphedema, bariatrics, orthopedics, neurology and acute medicine. Before this, she built a thriving practice in Belfast, Northern Ireland, seeing patients with orthopedic diagnoses on an outpatient basis in a community based private clinic.

Patricia Dispirito

Dr. Patricia Dispirito has been an adjunct faculty member in the Post-professional transitional DPT Program as well as the Health Studies program since 2010. She received a dual degree in Biology and Psychology at Russell Sage College. Her BHS in Physical Therapy was earned from the University of Florida. She received her DPT from Utica College in 2007. A lifelong resident of Central New York, Dr. Dispirito holds a NYS license in Physical Therapy and has worked in acute care, home care and outpatient settings. Her special interests include Women's Health, and back and pelvic pain.

Sibyl Edward

Dr. Sibyl Edward joined the faculty at Utica College in August 2013 as an Adjunct part time lecturer and teaches in the Post Professional Transitional program. Dr. Edward earned a BSc. (U.S. equivalent) in Physical Therapy from The University of the West Indies School of Physical Therapy in Mona, Jamaica in 1990 and a DPT from Utica College in 2012. She is a lifelong residence of the island of St. Lucia; a picturesque island in the Caribbean (North West of Barbados). She is currently the Senior Physiotherapist at a General (Acute Care/Rehabilitative) Hospital in Castries (main city of St. Lucia) and also practices as a part time Physiotherapist with some sporting organization (Swimming and Cricket). Additionally, when time permits, she also practices as a part time in-home care therapist with a major Private Hospital in the city and lectures to business places and paramedical staff on issues relating to body mechanics and back care. Dr. Edward is also the Secretary of the recently formed Physical Therapy Association of St. Lucia Inc. and also a founding member of that Association.

Jennifer Enjem

Dr. Jennifer L. Enjem joined the faculty in 2009, as part of the online distance program. Jennifer graduated from Utica College in 2001 with a BS in Health and Human Studies followed by her M.S. in Physical Therapy in 2002 and DPT in 2007. She is employed in the Utica area, practicing in an inpatient rehabilitation setting. Dr. Enjem's professional interests lie with the neurological and geriatric patient populations.

Chad Hanifin

Dr. Chad Hanifin joined the adjunct faculty in 2014. He earned a BS in PT from Quinnipiac College in 1999 and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Utica College. He has multiple clinical experiences in acute care, inpatient rehabilitation and home care settings

with a focus on evidence-based practice. He also has extensive experience as a clinical instructor and participates in area volunteer opportunities as well such as cancer fundraisers each year.

Michele Leslie

Dr. Michele Leslie became a member of the adjunct faculty in 2014. She earned a BS in Anthropology from Temple University in 1994, a BS in physical therapy (1998) and an MS in physical therapy and management (2000) from the University of Brighton, UK, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Utica College. She is currently working as a clinician in the British Virgin Islands at the only hospital in the region, in home health care, inpatient and outpatient physical therapy services. Dr. Leslie has also completed McKenzie Parts A-D and is an active member of the British Virgin Islands Allied Health Council and the UK Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Susan Mintz

Dr. Susan Mintz joined the adjunct faculty of Utica College in 2013 after completing her DPT at Utica College. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and later pursued her master's work in orthopedic manual therapy after moving to California. Her experience includes pediatrics, geriatrics, acute care, home health and rehabilitation. She presently resides with her husband and children in Los Olivos, California where she works in a private out-patient clinic in this beautiful semi-rural area. Additionally, she volunteers with multiple organizations in the area including Medical Reserve Corps, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) as an instructor, and local sports organizations.

Seth Omes

Dr. Seth Omes joined the adjunct faculty of Utica College in 2015. He earned his undergraduate PT degree in 2000 from the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines and a DPT in 2015 from Utica College. He is currently contracting at an acute care facility as well as working as a home health physical therapist. Previous work experience includes rehabilitation, subacute care, SNF and sports PT, as well as working as a clinical instructor.

Jessie Potter

Dr. Jessie Potter joined the adjunct faculty of Utica College in 2015. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Springfield College (2004), and her transitional DPT degree from Utica College in 2007. She has previous experience working in an acute care facility with a variety of patient diagnoses, but more recently, since 2010, she has been a pediatric physical therapist providing services in both early intervention (birth to age 3) and preschool (ages 3-5). She treats in a variety of settings and works closely with parents and caregivers to tailor each treatment program to the child's individual needs.

Jennifer Proffitt

Dr. Jennifer Proffitt joined the faculty in 2015. She holds a BS in PT from the Medical College of Ohio in 1994, and a DPT in 2015, from Utica College. She has extensive clinical teaching experience as well as peer instruction via multiple inservice presentations. Since 2007, she has been the Dir. of Outpatient Therapy Services at her facility, responsible for strategic advancement of multiple therapy departments. She is also the Director of the Clinical Education Program there, and is responsible for the quality of clinical education provided to PT, OT & ST students.

Eric Stewart

Dr. Eric Stewart joined the faculty in 2010. Dr. Stewart earned a BS in Health Studies from Utica College of Syracuse University in 2001, a MS in Physical Therapy in 2004, and a DPT from Utica College in 2008. In 2008 he was given the national "Emerging Leader of the APTA" award. His area of practice is in the acute care and rehabilitation setting in the Maryland area including Johns Hopkins Medical Center. He has been on the Annual PT Conference Program Committee, including chair and also on the CSM program committee for the acute care section. His area of research interests include obesity & physical activity; treatment of patients with LVAD.