

Physically Challenged Athlete Sports Page

The Official Newsletter of The Physically Challenged Athlete SIG • Summer 2011

Program Highlight

Move Along was created by Greg Callen, who himself suffered a T12 SCI after a fall. The goal of Move Along is to reach out to communities in the Central New York area and bring together families and friends that are either personally involved, or know someone that is physically disabled. Another aspect that Move Along wants to develop is the connection with institutions like Syracuse University and the community at large, where they can spread awareness of the program and recruit as many volunteers as possible.



For more information on Move Along, please visit their website at:
<http://movealonginc.org/>

A special thanks to Drew Jenk, PT for contributing to this piece. djenk@sptny.com

Sport Spotlight

Wheelchair rugby is considered to be the fastest growing wheelchair sport in the world for individuals with disabilities. The game is played indoors on a regulation sized basketball court using manual wheelchairs. The aim is to carry a white ball (identical in shape and size to a regulation volleyball) across the opponents' goal line to score one point. Physical therapists can become involved with wheelchair rugby by educating individuals about local clubs, volunteering at these organizations, as well as by becoming a medical classifier.



For further information on Wheelchair Rugby, contact the United States Quad Rugby Association:
<http://www.quadrugby.com/>

A special thanks to Anne Hart, PT, PhD, for contributing to this piece Anne.Hart@nau.edu

University Focus

Students at the University of North Florida (UNF) have been involved with a "buddy program" that was initiated by assistant professor Shana Harrington, PT, PhD in 2010. This program was established to assist with the physically challenged children who wanted to compete in the First Coast Kids Triathlon held each May at UNF. This year, 5 physical Therapy students at UNF were paired with children who had impairments such as amputation, type I diabetes, cerebral palsy, and brain cancer.

The PT students "raced" alongside each child (100 yard swim, 5K bike, 1K run) to ensure their safety during the event. Fun was had by both the students and the athletes!



UNF DPT Student, Staci Herring, heads out onto the bike course with her "buddy" during the First Coast Kids Triathlon held at UNF on May 1, 2011.

Back Page News & Notes

A behind the scenes update on the Physically Challenged Athlete Special Interest Group

The Physically Challenged Athlete SIG successfully held an educational session entitled "How to Become a Paralympic Medical Classifier" at CSM this past February in New Orleans.

Please "like" the Physically Challenged Athlete SIG - APTA on facebook to get up to date information on the SIG.

The PC athlete SIG has a web page dedicated to displaying adapted sports organizations across the U.S which can be viewed at: <http://www.spts.org/education/special-interest-groups/physically-challenged-athletes/adapted-sports-orgs>

For further information about this SIG, or if you would like to contribute to future newsletters, please contact Shana Harrington, PT, PhD, SCS, MTC at: s.harrington@unf.edu

This biannual newsletter is provided for the members of the Physically Challenged Athlete SIG of the Sports Section of the APTA. To learn more about the Sports Section or to join the SIG, please go to the: www.spts.org