

## TWO UMF-PT ALUMNI TEAM UP TO RAISE OVER \$11,000 FOR THE NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR FOUNDATION.

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA – Eric Galvez (DPT 2003) and Anang Chokshi (DPT 2004) participated in the NBTF Orange County Angel Adventure 5K Charity walk on 10/21/06 to raise funds for the NBTF (National Brain Tumor Foundation). The NBTF is a non-profit organization that raises funds for research and provides support and information to patients and their families.

In October 2005 Eric was diagnosed with a golf ball sized meningioma between the brain stem and cerebellum. He spent 5 weeks in the hospital and is still receiving outpatient therapy. The surgery left him with severe coordination and balance deficits requiring him to use a walker for mobility. For the majority of the 5K he pushed the wheelchair and crossed the finish line with min A without an AD from Anang.

"I am good friends with Anang. We go back to our days of hanging out at *Sharky's* and *Churchill's* in school. I was really happy to have a friend from PT school here on the west coast; I was excited to hear he

would be joining me on the walk."

"Eric had a big influence on me during school, especially with regards to professional involvement. He is not only a born leader, but a very good friend. So when he mentioned that he wanted to lead a team for this project I was just excited to be a part of it" said Anang.

Eric added, "The walk is a great cause. At first I wanted to do it because I needed a physical goal to shoot for, then it became a mission supporting a cause I really believe in. I was really surprised at how many people's lives have been affected by brain tumors"

Most of the donations were from friends or former class mates.

"I made some great friends in physical therapy school. I'm glad we were able to take on this horrible disease and raise funds to fight it." said Eric.



**Class of 1981 Frank Svehota** checked in with us recently. He is the manager for Providence St. John Health OP Rehab Dept. in Novi, MI. He told us that he hired UM-F PT graduate **Tina Baylerian Schaffner** (Class of 2003) who works full-time in his department and assists on weekends in acute care in Southfield. He wanted to let us know how pleased he was with Tina and praised the high admission standards we have at UM to graduate more high caliber DPT students like Tina. THANK YOU FRANK! And thank you Tina! You both bring our profession honor, integrity and professionalism from which we all benefit.

**Class of 1992 Melissa Wright** wrote in and told us that she has been accepted to the UM PhD program in Kinesiology. She began Spring 2006 under a research assistantship program and was also offered Rackham Fellowship her first year. CONGRATULATIONS MELISSA!



**Class of 2000 Nikki (Thomas) Warner** told us that she's working in outpatient neuron services at RIM and became a clinical specialist in neuro (SCI, amputee focus) She recently joined Mobility Research and became a trainer for lite gait. Best of all, she proudly announced the birth of her son Chase James Warner, born 7/6/05. CONGRATULATIONS NIKKI!!

**Class of 1991 Jason Hamilton** recently accepted a position at the Urban Health and Wellness Clinic (UHC). He currently holds the title of staff physical therapist/instructor. Jason brings to the clinic a total of seven years of outpatient orthopedic experience with two and a half years of those years working as a director. Jason currently resides in Fenton, MI with his wife, Carrie (Roeser) Hamilton, also a 1999 physical therapy graduate from the University of Michigan-Flint. They have one child, a son, Patrick Benjamin Hamilton, who is twenty two months old. Jason looks forward to the UHC position as well as welcoming past graduates' to embrace the new facility. Jason can be reached at [jasonham@umflint.edu](mailto:jasonham@umflint.edu).

If you have not already done so, send an e-mail to your class list serve coordinator and they will add you to a list of members of your class so that you can communicate with them. If your class does not yet have a list serve coordinator and you would like to volunteer to do this for your class, complete the form found on page 6 and return to us.

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