

Network – McMaster Faculty of Health Science Newsmagazine

Spring '13

Rehabilitation science students spruce up business skills

Physiotherapists Cathy Hoyles and Caroline Gill work almost half a continent apart – one in St. John's Newfoundland, the other in Hamilton – yet both are honing their business management skills in McMaster University's Master of Health Management (MHM) program.

Currently, 79 health professionals from across Canada are enrolled in this online, 32-month interdisciplinary program between the School of Rehabilitation Science (SRS) and the DeGroot School of Business which includes two intensive residencies: one at the beginning and the second towards the end of the program.

It began in the fall of 2010 with 18 students; another 31 students were admitted in 2011 and a further 48 students entered this academic year – all progressing through the program at different levels. The first class will graduate this spring.

A broad range of health professionals are enrolled: technologists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, physicians, nurses, surgeons, dietitians, dental hygienists, chiropractors, kinesiologists, and social workers. Most work in hospitals, and clinics. While they have the necessary skills to deal with patients, they are at a point in their professional careers where they are looking to, or being promoted to, areas of leadership or management.

"They know how to deal with a client but not a spread sheet," said Michelle Benjamin, program manager. "This program provides them with foundations to enhance their skills in business areas where they are taking on management roles."

Gill values the knowledge she has gained. "There is the access to current literature, the critical thinking involved, the discipline of writing and meeting deadlines and last, but not least, the relationships/friendships made across so many disciplines."

Hoyles agrees. "Essentially, this program prepares you to 'walk through doors that may open in the future."