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DPT Candidate Voted President of APTA National Student Assembly

(December 14, 2010) Daniel Dale, a third-year student in Armstrong Atlantic State University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program, has been elected president of the Student Assembly of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), which represents some 18,000 physical therapy and physical therapy assistant students in university programs across the country.

The Student Assembly serves to voice students' concerns regarding the profession and the evolving health care system. It is governed by an elected board of directors, which consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, director, student physical therapy delegate, and student physical therapy assistant delegate. The term of office for each position lasts one year.

Dale decided to run for office after attending the National Student Assembly meeting in 2009.

"It is a tremendous honor to be elected by your peers," he said. "This represents an exciting opportunity to work with the national board of directors and will bring invaluable experience to my career in years to come."

Dale will focus on increasing student involvement in the organization during his term. "We want to reach out to all students across the country," he said.

Dale, who holds a bachelor's in exercise and health sciences from Kennesaw State University, is currently completing a clinical rotation at Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, a part of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. He is scheduled to complete another rotation in the spring at the Shepherd Center before earning his Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Armstrong in May 2011.

Prior to his election as president of the National Assembly, he served as president of the Georgia Student Special Interest Group and Georgia National Core Ambassador for the American Physical Therapy Association.

"Daniel Dale has been by far the most active student in the professional organization," said David Lake, Armstrong professor and interim department head of physical therapy. "Now he is in a position to represent all physical therapy students in decision-making processes by the American Physical Therapy Association."
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