

# NEWS RELEASE

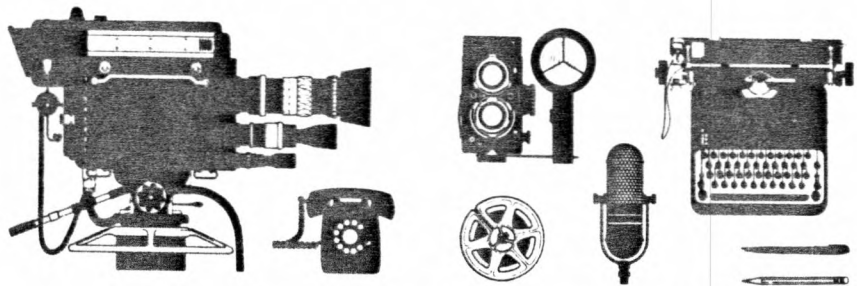
## University of Scranton

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APRIL 8, 1984

SCRANTON--The University of Scranton, the area's largest provider of professional health care degrees, will unveil its newly-renovated physical therapy facility this Wednesday, April 11.

University officials, program students and their parents, and members of the medical community will view the new facilities in Jefferson Hall at a reception to be held Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m.

The expansion and renovation project, which provides complete laboratory facilities for the University's physical therapy program, was made possible in part by a grant from the Pew Memorial Trust.

"There is a real need, not only in our community, but in the region and throughout the country, for physical therapy programs such as this one," said the Rev. J. A. Panuska, S.J., president of the U. of S.

"The University of Scranton has traditionally been a leading educator with respect to the health care fields, and this is certainly another very important step in that direction."

Fr. Panuska pointed out that the University is the only institution in the area that offers a professional physical therapy education program. In fact, he said, there are no such programs in the state outside the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.

He also noted that Northeastern Pennsylvania has a large elderly population and many people living in rural areas who might be in need of therapeutic services.

"The commitment we have made to this program reflects the commitment of the University to help satisfy this need and to provide qualified candidates for the health care professions," he added.

As a result of the project, the department now has expanded classroom and office space, research areas, a simulated clinical lab, a department library, and a collection of audio-visual materials.

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The new laboratories for neuroscience and human dissection, therapeutic exercise and strength evaluation, and cardiopulmonary physiology contain some of the latest state-of-the-art equipment.

"Ours is a developing program at this time and it is a very adequate one," said Dr. James Simon, department chairman. "The environment of this University is such that I am confident the program is going to become excellent."

The University of Scranton initiated the degree program in 1980 and will graduate its first class of physical therapists in May.

"The program was evaluated by the American Physical Therapy Association in February of this year and found to be in compliance with all specified accreditation standards," Dr. Simon said. "We expect to be fully-accredited in conjunction with the graduation of the first class."

Dr. Simon explained that students must graduate from an accredited program and then pass the state licensing exam in order to begin practicing in the field.

"It's a demanding career, but the employment opportunities are numerous throughout the country," he added. "Each year we receive more than 300 applications for the 40 seats in the freshman class."

The department is now staffed by five full-time and nine adjunct faculty members. In addition, the program has working affiliations with more than 60 health care agencies in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

By 1990, said Dr. Simon, the University plans to have established an entry-level master's degree program for physical therapy.

In addition to the bachelor of science program in physical therapy, the U. of S. offers baccalaureate degree programs in a variety of health care fields including nursing and medical technology, and a graduate degree program in rehabilitation counseling.

The University of Scranton also ranks in the top 10 percent of American liberal arts colleges with respect to the proportion of pre-medical students who are accepted into American medical schools.

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# PHOTO CAPTION

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DATE April 5, 1984

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Release SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1984 (with attached release)

### Cutline:

Faculty in the University of Scranton's department of physical therapy explain operation of new Cybex exercise and strength testing equipment. The equipment is part of the University's expanded physical therapy facilities in Jefferson Hall. Clockwise from left are U. of S. students Terri Turnbach, Frackville, Pa.; and Anita Carosi, Philadelphia; with Dr. James Simon, chairman of the department; and instructor Ed Kosmahl.