**Interim Situation for Applications to Graduate Programs in Biomechanics**

Dr. Jesus Dapena is planning to retire in the summer of 2013. This will be an important consideration in what will be stated below.

For our graduate programs in Biomechanics, we normally take new graduate students only once every two years. New students were admitted for the 2010-2011 academic year. They started in August of 2010. So the next time when we would normally have new students would be in the Fall of 2012. However, this is where you need to take into account that Dr. Dapena will retire in the summer of 2013. It would be impossible for any Master’s student to start in the Fall of 2012 and finish in the Spring of 2013. Therefore, any graduate student starting in the Fall of 2012 would be one year under Dr. Dapena’s guidance, and one year under the guidance of the biomechanist who will be hired to replace him. The departmental plan is to hire the new biomechanist in the Fall of 2012. That way, there would be a one-year overlap (Fall of 2012 and Spring of 2013) in which Dr. Dapena and the new biomechanist would coincide.

At this point, we don’t know exactly what will be the area of specialization of the new biomechanist, but it is almost certain that it will not be sport biomechanics (Dr. Dapena’s own specialty). Most likely, it will be a more clinical area, such as gait analysis or sports injuries or ergonomics or musculoskeletal modeling.

No new Ph.D. (doctoral) students will be admitted, because the new biomechanist will prefer to select his/her own Ph.D. students.

In sum:

1. If you are interested in a DOCTORAL program in Biomechanics, this will be impossible at Indiana University until after the new biomechanist is hired. (Possibly the Fall of 2013 or of 2014 would be when the new biomechanist will start admitting new graduate students of his/her own.)

2. If you are interested in a MASTER’S program in Biomechanics, this may be possible at Indiana University, but you need to keep in mind that the 1st year would be under Dr. Dapena’s guidance, while the 2nd year would be under the guidance of the new biomechanist. If you are interested both in Dr. Dapena’s own line of work (sport biomechanics) and in the new biomechanist’s line of work (unknown at this time), then admission may be possible for the Fall of 2012. (In any case, there will not be any admissions for the Fall of 2011, because of our present “every-2-years” calendar).

   2a) If you are a purely sport biomechanist, interested in optimum technique and performance, then Indiana probably would not be a good place for you to do your Master’s, because the new biomechanist would be very unlikely to work in that area.

   2b) If you are interested in gait or in some other clinical area, then the master’s at Indiana might work for you, because what Dr. Dapena gives in the 1st year can be
applied both toward sport biomechanics and toward clinical biomechanics. What Dr. Dapena usually teaches in the 2nd year of the Master’s is what is more specialized. So after Dr. Dapena leaves, you could move (for your 2nd year) into the clinical area, and function perfectly under the new biomechanist.

Here is the standard information that Dr. Dapena has sent in the past to students who ask about our graduate programs in Biomechanics (applicable in some cases to the “Master in Biomechanics”, and in other cases to the “Ph.D. in Human Performance, specialty of Biomechanics”). When reading this section, please keep in mind all that was said above.

Dear student,

You can find out just about everything you need about our graduate programs at my web page: http://www.indiana.edu/~sportbm/home.html Just click on “Graduate programs in biomechanics”, and also on “Research Interests”.

For financial aid, the Department of Kinesiology offers assistantships. (See http://www.hper.indiana.edu/cost/assistantship.shtml) However, international students usually are not supported during their first year. This is not a perfectly strict rule, but it is often the case. The main reason is that the Department of Kinesiology wants to know first if the student is capable of carrying out the duties that will be assigned to him/her, which sometimes can be a problem due to language difficulties. I realize that this is an important problem for many international students, but I don’t make these rules, and I can’t change them either.

For information on online graduate applications, go to http://www.hper.indiana.edu Then click on “Admissions” and then on “Graduate Students”. You can also go to http://www.graduate.indiana.edu/getting-started.php and click on “Admissions”. Then read the section on “International Applications” (if it applies to you). At some point you will be asked what degree you want to apply for. This will be “Master in Biomechanics” or “Ph.D. in Human Performance, specialty of Biomechanics”. There is also good information in the HPER Bulletin http://www.indiana.edu/~bulletin/iub/hper/2010-2012/HPER_Bulletin_2010-2012.pdf#zoom=100 (NOTE: The university occasionally changes without warning the structure of these web pages, so it is possible that the application process won’t work exactly as described above. If that is the case, please contact me (dapena@indiana.edu), and I will help you with this.)