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Division 1 Mechanic Celebrates an Academic Trojan Victory

By DAVE HERSHENSON

(Jan. 5, 2005) Paul Sum, a mechanic at Central City Division 1, is celebrating a different type of USC Trojan victory than Tuesday's 55-19 gridiron win over Oklahoma University.

His son, USC graduate student Paul Sum, received the Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award from the American Physical Therapy Association. The award acknowledges a student physical therapist with exceptional scholastic ability and potential for contributions to orthopaedic physical therapy.

Kornelia Kulig, associate professor at USC, nominated Sum for the award.

"Jonathan is truly an outstanding student, soon to become an insightful and well-educated practicing physical therapist with a tremendous potential to contribute to the Orthopaedic Section of the APTA," said Kulig. "Jonathan is equally effective when working with the less privileged members of the Los Angeles community as well as the most privileged."

The senior Sum was delighted to hear the news.

Desire to help people

"Jonathon was always into sports, but couldn't get into the baseball program," said proud pappa Paul Sum, "so he decided to pursue physical therapy. From day one at USC, Jonathon knew what he wanted to do. His main objective has always been to get in this industry to help people – he's not in it for the money."

Jonathon received his baccalaureate degree from USC in 2001 and will receive his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree when he returns from his four-month internship in Phoenix. He has already completed full-time internships at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and at Hopi Indian Health Services on the Hopi Native American reservation.

Jonathon will receive his award at the New Orleans American Physical Therapy Association conference next month, and couldn't be happier to receive the award.

"It is truly an honor and privilege, not simply for the award, but to be recognized by leaders in our profession and to be in the company of previous USC recipients," he said.

Mechanic Paul Sum has a USC National Champion in his own family – and couldn't be happier.

