Welcome to the first issue of the A to Z e-newsletter. We are Anne Skleder, Dean of Chatham College for Women and Zauyah Waite, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Together we want to take this opportunity to say hello and to share information about the experiences of the students of Chatham College for Women.

As a family member or friend, we want you to know how thankful we are that your student chose to pursue her higher education at Chatham University. In our administrative roles, we are honored to have the opportunity to interact with our students on a daily basis and want to use this e-newsletter to give you a sense of the academic and co-curricular activities Chatham students experience on campus. Our intent is to connect with you on a regular basis so you get a chance to know Chatham a little better and also feel comfortable contacting us should you ever have any questions or just want to talk with someone about your student. To connect with us just reply to this email.

Sincerely,

"A" - Anne Skleder, Ph.D. (left) and "Z" - Zauyah Waite, Ph.D. (right)
The A to Z Duo!

Chatham University welcomed His Excellency Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Brazilian Ambassador to the U.S.

In celebration of its Global Focus Year of the Americas: Brazil, Chatham University welcomed His Excellency Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Brazilian Ambassador to the U.S., who received an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from President Esther L. Barazzone, Ph.D. on October 30, 2008.

Ambassador Antonio Patriota (front) meets with Chatham University’s undergraduate Scholars. The Scholars Program advisor, Dr. William Lenz, is pictured in the background.
Museum studies students present a one-of-a-kind 20th-century photographic retrospective of Pittsburgh

To celebrate the imagery of Pittsburgh and the City’s 250th anniversary, Chatham University presented Our Evolving City: Pittsburgh in Photographs 1900-1980, November 5-21 in the Woodland Art Gallery. The exhibition was curated by the students of Chatham’s ART 368 Museum Education and the Visual Arts class, taught by Elisabeth Roark, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art, who sought to emphasize the rapid and considerable changes experienced by the City.

Family and Friends Weekend, October 31 – November 2
Family and Friends Weekend 2008 centered around connecting with students, with Chatham and with Pittsburgh. From athletic games – soccer, volleyball and swimming & diving – to traditional student events including the Ghost Walk and Mocktails, to the Gateway Clipper Cruise, it was a weekend to remember!

Three Chatham undergraduates selected to participate in prestigious Simon Graduate School of Business, University of Rochester Early Leaders Case Competition
Jesse Brant, Kristina Krajina, and Jordan Thorpe were among only 50 teams selected nationwide to participate. The competition was held Friday, November 7, 2008 and Saturday, November 8, 2008.

Battle of the Classes, November 8 – 13
Window painting pictured below, kicked off this week of friendly competition among the classes. Featured events this year included: Balloon Pop Trivia, Three-legged Soccer, the Chatham Scavenger Hunt and the Turkey Run, a nine hour fundraising drive during which students raised $1,947 for the Rainbow Kitchen, a local shelter. The week ended with Song Contest, a tradition that dates back over seventy years!

International Fashion Show, Dessert Night & Diwali Celebration!
On November 12, The International Student Association presented a wide array of international clothing, both traditional and current trends, and served a variety of native desserts they prepared themselves. Our exchange students from Kobe Japan gave a special performance while faculty, staff and administrators modeled fashions along with our students. Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, a traditional Indian Festival, was also celebrated with Indian cuisine and a color ceremony.
Young Entrepreneurship Fair
Chatham’s Entrepreneurship Club hosted a Young Entrepreneurship Fair as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA November 17-23 (www.unleashingideas.org). On November 18, local young entrepreneurs and Chatham students exhibited and sold their products / services and discussed their businesses with faculty, staff and student. Products on display included; “simple sugars” body & face scrubs; organic beauty products; fair trade items; unique jewelry, and hand-knitted scarves & hats.

Ice Hockey Home Opener, November 8

Basketball – Purple Reign, November 21-22

Students who staffed the Purple Reign “Coaches Against Cancer” Fundraiser.

The half time attraction shoot -out teams.

Swimming coach, Mike Myers taking charge of the Tailgate on 11/22.

Students enjoying the delicious tailgate food.

Chatham students were all smiles because the Cougars won their first home game, 2 to 1 against Portland.
Here’s a glimpse of what we have in store for students. For a complete list of programs and activities, please encourage your students to visit MyChatham.

**Practice Makes Perfect**
Kaplan, a leading test preparation company, is holding FREE practice tests on campus Saturday, November 22 for students interested in preparing for graduate programs requiring the standardized tests GRE, GMAT, DAT, PCAT, or MCAT. These practice test sessions are held regularly, and more information on future sessions can be obtained by contacting Career Services (Mriter@chatham.edu).

**Being an RA is Wicked! Info Session**
If your student is interested in applying to be an RA, remind her to attend one of the information sessions to learn all about the process and ask questions: 12/01, 8:00 PM - 9:15 PM, Fickes Hall; 12/02, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 01/06/09, 4 – 5 p.m., Carriage House; 01/07, 10 – 11 a.m. Linzer Apartment.

**Yearbook Sales**
Remind your students to purchase their 2009 Cornerstone Yearbook during lunch or dinner at Anderson Dining Hall, 12/04/2008 - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. This year’s publication will be a full color hard bound book handed out during the end of spring semester. Contact the Cornerstone at cornerstone@chatham.edu for more details.

**Candlelight, Chatham Eggnog & Holiday Ball**
Candlelight & Eggnog are two of Chatham’s oldest Traditions. They, as well as Holiday Ball, fall on the first Friday of December, celebrating the closing of the first semester. Students have the opportunity to invite family and friends to participate in the kick-off of the holiday season. Candlelight starts the evening in the beautifully decorated chapel. The choir performs a few selections and community members share readings. The entire campus joins in singing seasonal songs and it draws to an end with a traditional candlelight ceremony. Next, everyone goes to Chatham Eggnog held in the Mellon Board Room and then on to the Buhl Atrium for the Holiday Ball. Friday, 12/05/08, 8:00 pm, Chapel

**Tips & Advice**
Home for the Holidays . . . Holidays can be stressful — especially college students’ first holidays back at home. Here are nine helpful pointers to help make this time enjoyable. These pointers are adapted from an article written by Dr. Janet Butler Haugaard, Executive Editor and Writer at St. Mary’s College of Maryland and Dr. Lynn Willett, Vice President for Student Affairs at Coastal Carolina University, Copyright 1988 Words by Wire. The pointers are written from the perspective of parents. May you find the tips insightful and here’s wishing you and your student much holiday cheer.

- **Say positive things.** Comment six times in five days, “You look wonderful!” or “It’s wonderful to see you!” Make no remark on the weight gain or the miserable hair.
- **Get Information gently.** “Tell me about your friends” is a good opener to help your children see their new acquaintances somewhat objectively as they describe them.
- **Use your third ear.** Listen, listen and listen some more. Your daughter’s unexpressed but overriding anxiety could be, “Can I make it? Will people like me? Should I even be in this hard school?” You can help by listening and reassuring.
- **Don’t ask.** Social vices are very much a part of your worries, but don’t pry. Your children already know your wishes, and grilling them now may force them into lying. Restating your opinions may make you — and even them — feel better; but outright probing and threatening will be counterproductive.
- **Keep calm.** Despite your valiant efforts, flare-ups may erupt. The sudden temper loss may be due to college stress or to outright irritation with family members. Hear it out, calmly filing away for future reference any apparently irrelevant accusations (“And you were really horrible to Aunt Martha at high school graduation!”). These may be important keys to another issue, and a day or so later you
can invite conversation on this concern.

- **Ignore unopened book bags.** As Friday turns into Saturday and these supposed college students still have not touched the book bag, they continue to mention “I have this chem. Test next week.” Bite your tongue. You want them to succeed, but they have to want it before anything can happen. However, it is a fact that finals are around the corner. If needed, casually, remind students there is considerable assistance provided through the PACE Center, in the Library, including tutors for every class and study sessions, workshops on study strategies, test-taking and procrastination. Suggesting that students take advantage of these services is often the best way to help position students for success.

- **Limit yourself to one (good-natured) comment on their appalling loss of table manners.** One day these will return.

- **Respect their new status.** For some time now your student has been in a community where students are respected as full adults by faculty and staff alike. Your daughter has been deciding for herself when (or even if) to quit socializing and go to bed. She has had to discipline herself to hit the books. But you are entitled to demand consideration, which is the trait your freshman has been practicing in residence life. The issue, you can explain, is the worry about their safety. “Call us if you’ll be later than 2 a.m.” is a reasonable request, and when they call in at 1:59, ask that they call again at 4:30, “so we won’t worry.” Fair is fair.

- **Give.** Hug them hard when they leave at the end of the weekend. And give them something to take away, like cookies. Or a little extra cash :-)