From the Director

I am very pleased to report on another tremendous year for the Chatham physical therapy program. In this newsletter you’ll find information about our award-winning students and faculty, faculty and student international travel, graduate awards from the class of 2017, the numerous service activities for the students, the first recipient of the Sawhney-Gough Scholarship, a great alumni reception at CSM in New Orleans, and another fabulous Perry Patio Party.

This annual newsletter is a way for us to share and celebrate the successes of our faculty, current students, and alumni. If you have news that you would like to share, or if you have any comments about the newsletter and the program, please send them my way (jschreiber@chatham.edu). You can also post them in our Facebook Group (please join if you haven’t already done so!) Please also continue to visit our webpage (www.chatham.edu/pt) as we regularly post updated information there as well.

Best Wishes,

Joe Schreiber

From the Dean

During the 2017-18 academic year, Chatham University completed the Strategic Planning Process (https://www.chatham.edu/_documents/_about/strategic-plan.pdf). A highlight of this process was the identification and continued reinforcement of Chatham’s values - because I believe they strongly resonate with the culture and values within the School of Health Sciences. The values include: Health & Wellness; Community & Public Engagement; Collaboration & Innovation; Diversity, Inclusion & Respect; Active & Lifelong Learning; Global & Critical Thinking; Sustainability; and Women’s Leadership & Gender Equity.

The School of Health Sciences has had a very productive and rewarding year. We are in the process of completing a 3-year SBIRT grant (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment). This program has truly been a collaborative effort among all of the SHS programs. To date, we have trained over 700 students to effectively use patient centered, evidence-based techniques for assisting patients/clients with substance abuse disorders. The PT students have been active participants in this effort under the leadership of Dr. Sarah Jameson.

Other highlights from the School include: the counseling psychology program was awarded a multi-year HRSA Grant (WELL Project) that focuses on training psychologists in integrated care models; the occupational therapy program co-sponsored the “Out of the Darkness Campus Walk” for the second straight year in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; the movement science department has begun the process of applying for initial accreditation for the athletic training program; and the healthcare informatics program has developed two fully online 12-credit certificates, one in informatics and the other in analytics.

Finally, thank you so much to those of you that were able to support the Sawhney-Gough Scholarship Fund this past fall. And a very special thank you to Raj Sawhney and Steve Gough for starting this fund. It is truly my honor to be associated with such wonderful colleagues.

My best to you,
PUBLICATIONS


Susan B. Perry, Barbara Billek-Sawhney, Jason Woollard, Susan Little, Amy Szalinski. Balance and Mobility Improvements During Inpatient Rehabilitation are Similar in Young-Old, Mid-Old and Old-Old Adults with Traumatic Brain Injury. J Head Trauma Rehabil 2018. DOI:10.1097/HTR.0000000000000415


PRESENTATIONS


Rebecca Cooper DPT, Jessica Durbin DPT, and Jason Woollard PT, PhD. The Value of Glenohumeral Internal Rotation Loss and the External Rotation/Internal Rotation Strength Ratio to Prediction of Western Ontario Rotator Cuff Index Scores in Individuals with Chronic Subacromial Impingement Syndrome. Combined Sections Meeting (New Orleans) February 2018.


Trojanowski S, Beato MC, Dennis AN, Williamson A, Stephenson JB, Riley NA “The Use of an Online Learning Management System and Supporting Technologies to Serve as Preparation for the Neurologic Clinical Specialist Examination” Combined Sections Meeting (New Orleans) February 2018

Williamson A. “The impact of curricular changes to clinical experience and didactic sequencing on a clinical education program for Doctor of Physical Therapy Students” APTA Education Leadership Conference (Columbus) Fall 2017
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Katie Abebe, DPT ’11

Katie Abebe graduated from Chatham’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program in 2011. She joined BenchMark Rehab Partners in February 2012 as a Certified Lymphedema Therapist and Orthopedic staff therapist in our Austell, GA clinic. Katie was accepted into Benchmark Rehab Institute’s Orthopedic Residency program in July 2013 and shortly after that began her leadership journey as a clinic director of BenchMark’s Tucker, GA clinic. She passed her OCS exam in 2015 and became an APTA certified clinical instructor while transitioning to the Glenridge, GA clinic as a clinic director. Katie also graduated from her organization’s Leadership Development program in January 2016, and was promoted from a single site clinic director into multisite leadership shortly after that time.

In January 2017, Katie was promoted to her current role as Regional Director in Atlanta, GA and Birmingham, AL over 17 (soon to be 18) outpatient physical therapy clinics. She is a minority owner in 1 (soon to be 2) clinics in Atlanta, GA. Katie reports: “I serve on my company’s committee of clinical excellence where I have contributed to developing, what I believe to be our industry’s best professional mentorship program (inspired by my time at Chatham, I was one of the first classes to benefit from Chatham PT’s mentorship program). In my current role, I also lead two leadership cohorts for new clinic directors/year where we review operational excellence, clinical excellence, marketing strategies, HR best practices and leadership principles for our new and aspiring clinic directors in metro Atlanta. I serve as an OCS mentor for residents within Benchmark Rehab Institute’s Orthopedic residency program and I am currently pursuing my SMT certification. My journey has been that of continual clinical growth and leadership develop. I am so grateful to work for an organization that offers so many career options which have allowed my leadership passion to grow and allowed me to influence the next generation of outpatient physical therapists.”

Damian Keter, PT, DPT ’13

I graduated from Chatham University’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program in 2013. Immediately following I took a position at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. I became a APTA credentialed clinical instructor in 2014 and I am proud to have taken several Chatham PT students since that time. I accepted a temporary faculty appointment in both our Geriatric and Orthopedic residency programs in 2016 teaching Pharmacology, and co-teaching modules on Cervical and Thoracic spine. I passed my OCS examination in 2017 leading to board certification as an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist. In 2017 I also accepted a faculty role in our Orthopedic Residency program and am currently teaching Pain Science, Cervical spine, and Thoracic spine modules. I also serve as committee member in our Imaging and Manual Therapy special interest groups. I am a proud member of the American Physical Therapy Association as well as a member of the Orthopedic and Federal sections. I accepted a role within the Ohio Physical Therapy Association as State affairs co-coordinator for the Northeast District in January 2018 for a two year appointment. I have taken coursework in the Maitland and Mulligan methods of manual therapy and am currently pursuing COMT and CMP certification. I am also currently participating in coursework to become Certified in Chronic Pain Rehabilitation which will be completed in the next coming months, as well as plan to sit for the Certified Pain Educator (CPE) examination later this year. I have presented several times at the local level, mostly related to pain science and the role of Physical Therapy in pain management.

I feel that Chatham University has prepared me for the everchanging field of physical therapy, and has allowed me to keep up with current evidence as I required in teaching in a Residency program. The emphasis on evidence based practice, including the use of problem based learning has helped me to keep up with the vast amount of research which is published in our field and apply appropriately into clinical practice.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jillian Caster, DPT ‘08

Jillian (Despot) Caster graduated from Chatham University’s DPT program in 2008. She is a board certified wound specialist through the American Board of Wound Management and certified lymphedema therapist. She started working in geriatrics and skilled nursing after graduation and in 2013 began her career in outpatient lymphedema and wound care. She is currently the Chief Physical Therapist at Allegheny General Hospital’s Wound Healing and Lymphedema Center. This is one of the only outpatient wound centers in the region staffed by physical therapists. Jillian’s interests include off-loading and treatment of diabetic foot ulcers, limb salvage strategies, and nutrition related to wound healing.

Outside of her clinical practice, Jillian enjoys teaching. She was an adjunct professor at California University of PA in the gerontology program and has presented at various continuing education seminars on the treatment of wounds and edema. She is scheduled to present a case study at the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care in Las Vegas, October 2017. She is also a member of Association for the Advancement of Wound Care.

In 2013, she and Matthew Caster, DPT ’08, were married. They live with their two cats in Carnegie, PA. They enjoy spending time with friends and family, traveling, camping, hiking, gardening, and craft beer.

“I love my career and this profession. I am honored to be an alumna of Chatham’s prestigious DPT program.”

Matthew Caster, DPT ‘08

Matthew Caster graduated with his Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2008. He is board certified as an orthopedic specialist by the APTA. He has been working in the outpatient private practice setting since 2009. Currently he serves as the clinic director for the Eastside location of Pivot Physical Therapy in Pittsburgh PA. His duties include overseeing a staff of 15 clinicians and support staff and managing day-to-day operations of the largest Pivot clinic in the region. His patient care interests include manual therapy, hand therapy and applying evidence based exam and treatment techniques.

Additionally, Matt enjoys the educational side of the profession. He has lectured regionally on outpatient orthopedics and serves as a problem based learning facilitator and lab assistant here at Chatham University. He is also an active member of the APTA.

Outside of work Matt enjoys spending time with his wife Jillian (Despot, DPT ’08). They enjoy hiking, biking, cooking, gardening, camping and many other outdoor activities.

“I look back fondly on my Chatham experience. I believe that it really prepared me for a successful career in the PT field.”

High School Open House

Chatham DPT faculty and students were involved in the first ever School of Health Sciences High School Career Exploration Day on October 20, 2017. The event took place at Chatham Eastside and we welcomed 25 high school juniors and seniors from three area schools. The event was used to introduce students to the wide range of health care career field options available and also to attempt to increase diversity in our professions. Area high schools with more diverse student bodies were targeted for inclusion in the event.

Students learned about careers informally by visiting tables with each department during free time, but also during set 40 minute rotations offering hands-on exploration of each field. Current students helped move students from location to location, allowing them to talk informally with the high school students about their career path. Dr. Missy Criss and Dr. Ann Williamson walked students through how PTs assess and treat balance, letting students try simple tests and treatment techniques and brainstorm how to make interventions easier and harder.

The hands-on approach was well received by students and we are busy planning the second annual event for this fall!
Chatham Professor Emeritus Awarded State Humanitarian Award

We are very excited to announce that Judy Traister, PT, DPT, professor emeritus and former Director of Clinical Education here at Chatham, received the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association’s Humanitarian Award during the 2017 state conference! The Humanitarian Award recognizes physical therapists who volunteer and serve outside of the physical therapy field.

Dr. Traister has had an extensive history of providing service to others. She has been a longstanding volunteer with Surgicorps International, a non-profit organization that provides free surgical and medical care to those in need in developing countries. Her work with Surgicorps, across 11 mission trips over the past 8 years, has taken her to Bhutan, Guatemala, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Zambia. Judy has been a valuable member of the surgical team by providing much needed pre- and post-surgical services and consultation. When not functioning as a PT, she willingly helps out in a variety of other roles – providing comfort care, reassuring patients and families, giving hugs, attending to the needs to operating room team, planning trips, and packing supplies. During her career as a physical therapist, Judy has been a volunteer for the Lily Society of Easter Seals, the Art for AIDS Committee, and the Sports by Ability Games. She has been a continuous member of the APTA and PPTA since 1969 and recently retired from Chatham University, where she was a faculty member since 2001.

Congratulations, Judy, and thank you for your service and the example you set for others!

Go Baby Go at Chatham

Cass Bartoch, DPT ’18, took over as president of the Go Baby Go club this year and led the group to an exceptional year where 12 cars were modified for children with movement challenges. This club aims to help children with mobility impairments become more mobile by modifying driveable toy cars. Through the retrofitting of battery-powered cars to suit their physical needs and abilities, children can begin to explore their world at an earlier age and do so in a play environment. This not only helps with children’s cognitive development, but also helps build important social skills and a greater sense of independence. Additional highlights this past year included the opportunity to hold an event in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Pirate Charities in December. Several current Pirates, including Francisco Cervelli and Nate Kingham, assisted the students in putting the final touches on the cars for four children and families. In addition, both the club and Cass received awards from the Chatham University Office of Student Affairs for their efforts.

Please visit www.chatham.edu/pt/go-baby-go for more information.
Last year, DPT alumni and faculty, Raj Sawhney and Steve Gough, created the Sawhney-Gough Clinical Excellence Scholarship. An application process was created and implemented, and we received nine applications. After a blinded review process by the faculty, second-year student Linda Thompson was selected as the first recipient of this scholarship. Each year, Raj and Steve are committing $5,000, and they are asking for alumni support to match this $5,000 so that we can offer an annual $10,000 scholarship.

An evening alumni/student mixer is scheduled for October 18 to kick off fundraising for this scholarship this year—please join us! For more information about the event or to make a donation, contact Dr. Schreiber at jschreiber@chatham.edu or Stephanie Adamczyk, director of graduate alumni relations & giving, at SAdamczyk@chatham.edu.

Linda Thompson
First Recipient of the Sawhney-Gough Scholarship

Please share a couple sentences about your career prior to starting PT school?
► I graduated from PSU as a PTA in 2005 and worked for the next ten years in multiple settings, including SNF, rural hospital, OP private practices, as an aquatic therapist for six years. I have worked with a wide variety of patient’s from pediatrics to geriatrics, ortho, neuro and cardiopulmonary patients. Finally, I learned from a lot of wonderful PT’s that supported and encouraged me in my journey (including a Chatham alumnus!) I’ve been an APTA member since 2009.

Where have you done your clinicals, including the final clinical one this fall?
► CE I: Physical Therapy Institute in Mt. Lebanon, PA (OP ortho)
► CE II: AHN, West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA (Acute care, including WPH Burn unit and some in-patient rehab)
► CE V: The Children’s Institute, Squirrel Hill and Norwin, PA. Outpatient pediatrics

What has receiving the scholarship meant to you?
► (This is hard to put into words) Initially, I was so overwhelmed but incredibly thankful to be chosen as the recipient of the award. It helped me feel more confident in my skills, and was such a blessing financially so I didn’t have to struggle as hard to make it through another term. As a mother, I’ve been supporting myself and my disabled daughter, and school placed me into more financial stress than I had been in for years. So the scholarship certainly helped lift that burden. However, my son was also helping me with costs, and when I lost his support in March, I knew that I wouldn’t make it through the upcoming term if I hadn’t received the scholarship to help support me. I was and am so incredibly thankful that I didn’t have the added financial stress I would have otherwise have had without the Sawhney-Gough scholarship. I am well aware that I have been amazingly blessed by the support given through the scholarship and the entire Chatham community. I am exceedingly grateful.

Long term career plans/ aspirations?
► I have always dreamed of having my own private practice outpatient clinic, with a focus on pediatrics and women’s health, and hopefully an aquatic program. I truly enjoy working with a wide range of patients and feel that I would be able to continue this in private practice. I haven’t been able to pin down one area of study to specialize in, and plan to be as skilled in each area as possible. I am looking to find some mentorship for the first two years so that I can prepare for opening a business and build confidence in my skills and abilities as a PT.

As an aside:
► The teaching and training I’ve received at Chatham was everything I hoped for and more. Despite the struggles and the stress, I have gained what I needed to become the PT I want to be. Only experience can build on the solid foundation that Chatham has provided. I knew, when I first stepped foot into the Chatham Eastside building, that I had found the school that was right for me, and exactly where I wanted to be. Time has only strengthened that feeling. Chatham will always be family, and one that I’m thankful to be a part of.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Class of 2018

The Chatham DPT Class of 2018 had a memorable school year in the classroom and in the community. Throughout the year, students participated in service learning projects and volunteered with various organizations including The Woodlands Foundation, Three Rivers Adaptive Sports, Hospice, and Safety for Seniors. In May, the Class of 2018 completed the didactic portion of the curriculum to prepare for their final clinical experiences. Students will spend their final six months gaining skill and experience in a variety of clinical settings including acute care, in-patient rehab, skilled nursing, outpatient orthopedics, outpatient neuro, and pediatrics. During these rotations, students will present in-service presentations at their clinical sites on relevant evidence-based topics and sharing the findings from their systematic review projects. Four students will travel to Ecuador in August for an interdisciplinary service project with PT faculty members and occupational therapy students to provide services for children and families in need. The class will return to campus for a final presentation of their systematic review projects, NPTE prep course, and commencement ceremony in December. After graduation, the Class of 2018 will continue preparations to pass the licensure exam to begin their careers as Doctors of Physical Therapy.

Rob Meier, Chatham DPT Class President, 2018

Class of 2019

The Chatham University Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2019 is set to take on the healthcare industry by healing through movement! With the first year of foundational coursework completed, this dynamic group of scholars is well on their way to becoming movement experts, working through their first outpatient orthopedic experiences across Pennsylvania and Ohio. Outside of the classroom, the Class of 2019 is leading the Chatham community by example; not only did they organize a food drive for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, donating a total of 204 pounds of food and supplies to help those in need this holiday season, but they have also taken on leadership roles in the “Go Baby Go!” program in order to continue modifying cars for mobility-impaired children. This class is a tight-knit group that enjoys spending time with each other, from studying and practicing in the lab to exercising and experiencing all that Pittsburgh has to offer! At the end of next January, more than one-third of the class is planning to attend the APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in Washington, DC for the opportunity to network with established Physical Therapists and immerse themselves in relevant topic areas, while enjoying some off-time in the nation’s capital.

Jake Centra, Chatham DPT Class President, 2019
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Final Systematic Review & Research Presentations, Class of 2017

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kaleigh Cole</td>
<td>Effectiveness of Conservative Treatment for 1st Carpometacarpal Osteoarthritis</td>
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<td>Erin Gaffney</td>
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<td>John McDermott</td>
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<td>Tyler Meier</td>
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<td>Jill Claassen</td>
<td>The Effectiveness of Physical Therapy in Reducing Shoulder Pain Associated with Long-Term Wheelchair Propulsion in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury: A Systematic Review</td>
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<td>Kerrie O’Donnell</td>
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<td>Julia Smeltz</td>
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<td>Ian Chronister</td>
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<td>Sabrina Evers</td>
<td>Conservative Management of Non-Arthritic Related Hip Pain: A Systematic Review</td>
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<td>Lucie McGrane</td>
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<td>Kirby Poisel</td>
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<td>Tony Vespi</td>
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<td>Casey Patsilevas</td>
<td>Effectiveness of treatment of electrical stimulation for treatment of pressure ulcers: a systematic review</td>
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<td>Celeste Piofer</td>
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<td>Meghan Reiser</td>
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<td>Jackie Krichbaum</td>
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<td>Adrianna Ferraro</td>
<td>Efficacy of Low Level Laser Therapy on Common Musculoskeletal Conditions: A Systematic Review</td>
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<td>Julee Catania</td>
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<td>Alena Esposito</td>
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<td>Corey Henderson</td>
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<td>Rebecca Cooper</td>
<td>The Value of Glenohumeral Internal Rotation Loss and External/Internal Rotation Strength Ratio to Prediction of Western Ontario Rotator Cuff Index Scores in Individuals with Chronic Subacromial Impingement Syndrome</td>
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<td>Jessica Barnes</td>
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<td>Liz Boykiw</td>
<td>Elbow Pain in a Rock Climber: A Case Report Highlighting Regional Interdependence</td>
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<td>Jaimie Borchart</td>
<td>Chronic Low Back Pain And Nutrition: A Literature Review</td>
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<td>Megan Beebe</td>
<td>Does aerobic exercise decrease stroke risk factors after tia/mnds: A systematic review of the literature</td>
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<td>Kaylee Stangl</td>
<td>Effectiveness of Bracing Versus Exercise in the Treatment of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis</td>
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<td>Lauren Ashenbrener</td>
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<td>Morgan Brosnihan</td>
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<td>Natalie Meyer</td>
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<td>AJ Moyer</td>
<td>Effects of Physical Therapy on Oculomotor Deficits Following Concussion</td>
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<td>Evan Chiapetta</td>
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<td>Nathan Prenatt</td>
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<td>Brandon Maharaj</td>
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<td>Nicole Soose</td>
<td>The Effects of Solid versus Hinged/Dynamic AFOs on Gait Parameters, Energy Efficiency, and GMFM Score in Children with Spastic Diplegic Cerebral Palsy: A Review of the Literature</td>
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<td>Joe Porco</td>
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<td>Lauren Schauwecker</td>
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<td>Meredith Jochum</td>
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2017 Physical Therapy Program Awards

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<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Potential for Professional Excellence Award</td>
<td>Jill Claassen</td>
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<td>Faculty Commendation</td>
<td>Kirby Poisel</td>
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<td>Peer Recognition Award</td>
<td>Gordon Riddle</td>
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<td>Clinician-Educator Award</td>
<td>Ian Chronister</td>
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PT and OT Students in Ecuador

This year marks the 5th year occupational and physical therapy students will travel to Ibarra, Ecuador to provide therapy services to Ecuadorians of all ages!

In 2017, six DPT students – Megan Beebe, Jaimie Borchart, Alena Esposito, Corey Henderson, Meridith Jochum, and Lauren Schauwecker – took part in an elective course: “Global Health Perspectives: A Field Experience.” The course culminated in a 10-day trip to Ecuador in August 2018. OT and PT students provided therapeutic and enrichment services at CRECER (crecerecuador.wix.com/crecer), a pediatric outpatient clinic; Asilo, a residential nursing facility; and Funhi, a day-program for young adults with cerebral palsy and developmental delay. In addition, students took in many cultural sites and outdoor adventures across northern Ecuador. The students completed this coursework and travel to Ecuador with PT faculty Dr Ann Williamson and OT faculty Dr. Joyce Salls.

Grand Rounds

Chatham University’s Physical Therapy Grand Rounds Series continues every term in the Eddy Theater on the Shadyside Campus. Refreshments begin at 7:00 a.m. and the presentation runs from 7:30-8:30 a.m. CEU’s are presented to all physical therapists in attendance. Our alumni and clinical instructors are especially welcome.

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Mike Dzigiel joined us from the Cleveland Clinic to present a case detailing the rehabilitation process of a patient with a ventricular assist device. In the spring term, Dr. Jessica Davis presented a case on the management of a dancer presenting with hip pain. Most recently Dr. Kala Markel presented a case that illustrated the importance of identifying red flags for patients receiving cardiac therapy. These presentations, and most of the others over the past ten years, can be viewed on line at www.chatham.edu/pt/grand-rounds, or just google Chatham University Grand Rounds.

All Grand Rounds presentations are announced on our program webpage (www.chatham.edu/pt) and also through our e-mail distribution list. If you would like to be included on the e-mail invitation list, or would be interested in presenting a Grand Rounds Patient Case, please contact Dr. Steve Karas at skaras@chatham.edu.

Dr. Schreiber in Portugal

This past March, Dr. Schreiber once again traveled to the Lisbon, Portugal, to provide a 2-day module on the use of outcome measures in pediatric physical therapy. The module was offered (in English!) through the Associação Portuguesa de Fisioterapeutas for students pursuing additional credentialing in pediatrics. In Portugal, the initial physical therapy degree is the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree, and those individuals interested in more advance training in a specific practice area complete a series of 6-8 modules over a calendar year to obtain additional credentialing.
Service Learning Projects

During the second year of the program Chatham DPT students select one of our community partners for a service experience. Students serve young adults with physical and intellectual disabilities, vulnerable older adults who struggle to be safe at home, individuals receiving hospice care, and people with disabilities who participate in community sports and recreation programs. In reflective journals, students describe the personal and professional growth that is a product of the service learning experience.

2017 Service Learning Partners

Bethany Hospice
The Bethany Hospice mission is to care for those who have been touched by a life limiting illness, ensuring a life of quality and dignity. Companion volunteers work directly with patients and their families providing emotional support and companionship.
www.bethanyhospice.com
Contact: Kathi Leddy at kleddi@bethanyhospice.com

Safety for Seniors
The Safety for Seniors Project is an initiative of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Southwestern PA/Family Services. After an orientation/training, volunteers (in groups of 2-3) participate in home safety checks for elderly residents. During these checks, room-to-room checks are conducted to identify safety hazards. Free safety kits of supplies are distributed and smoke alarms are installed if necessary. Recommendations for further safety features can also be made. Each visit takes approximately two hours (includes travel).
www.jvcswpa.org
Contact: Karen Berry at berryk@FSWP.org or Sarah Papperman at pappermanS@FSWP.org

Three Rivers Adaptive Sports
The mission of Three Rivers Adaptive Sports is to promote quality of life, education and to provide quality year-round sports and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities, their families, and friends. Opportunities for volunteer participation varies, but some of the activities are bowling nights, water-skiing and snow-skiing (usually not until January.) A calendar of events is listed on the website.
www.traspa.org
Contact: Mark at mark4tras@comcast.net or 412-848-8896

The Woodlands Foundation
The Woodlands is committed to enriching the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness. The Woodland is located on 32 acres in Wexford, PA and includes a 48-bed lodge with a spacious activity center, creative arts building, indoor aquatic center, dining and kitchen services. Located on the property also are a nature trail, camping area, amphitheater, playing field, sports court, and an adaptive par-3 golf course. Volunteers assist participants with crafts, cooking, ADLs, swimming, recreational activities, and/or weekend retreats, etc.
www.woodlandsfoundation.org
Contact: Leanne Pontis at 724-935-5470 or lpontis@woodlandsfoundation.org

PT Fund Continues to Grow
Four years ago, 22 alumni jump-started the PT fund by becoming “Leadership Donors.” Thanks to their generosity and that of other donors over the years, the fund is now endowed at over $35,000. As the fund has continued to grow, we have been able to use the annual interest as matching funds to support current students’ attendance at CSM. Eventually when we reach our goal of $100,000, we will be able to provide much needed scholarship assistance each year to current physical therapy students.

Please consider making a donation to the PT fund. You can do so either by visiting chatham.edu/giving/gift/?fund=pt or by sending a check made out to Chatham University PT Fund to Dr. Joe Schreiber, Chatham University, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Thanks very much.
National Fall Prevention Awareness Day

Six first-year students from the Class of 2019 assisted Chatham faculty member, Missy Criss, with a National Falls Prevention Awareness Day project for Seneca Place physical therapist, Kaitlyn Begonia. The students helped with staff education in this long-term care and skilled nursing facility to celebrate the annual event. Staff had to rotate through different stations including: identifying hazards in an “unsafe room” and then checking their knowledge in the “safe” version of the room, learning about visual impairments by using goggles and “seeing” what residents see, and also beat the clock in a wheelchair safe set up race (placing cushions, leg rests, anti-slip and anti-fall devices correctly while being timed). Thanks to the volunteerism of our students, we have been asked to participate in this event annually! Way to go Chatham DPT program!

Alumni Events

Chatham faculty, students, and alumni came together for a reception at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in New Orleans in February. We met on Thursday evening, February 22, in the Norwich Room in the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. We’re looking forward to a similar reception next year at CSM in Washington DC—hope to see you there!

Clinical Education

Ann Williamson continues to serve as the Director of Clinical Education. This year, the DPT program and School of Health Sciences decided to adopt commercial clinical education software, Exxat, to assist in the management of all things related to clinical education. We are very excited to being using this software and sharing all of its utilities with our students, clinical instructors, and site coordinators for clinical education management.

As always, we value the roles that our alumni play in clinical education. Please consider reaching out to Ann Williamson regarding clinical support in 2019 and beyond! awilliamsom@chatham.edu.
DPT Program Partners with DeLaTorre to Work with Female Amputees

On October 21, 2017, the Chatham University DPT program and DeLaTorre Orthotics and Prosthetics partnered to host a community event exclusively for female amputees. The purpose of the event was to provide the 25+ attendees with insight into their current functional level using an outcome measure frequently used by insurance companies to determine lower extremity prosthetic componentry for which a patient is eligible. Attendees participated in the activities at Chatham Eastside with current DPT students, DPT alumni, and DeLaTorre staff. However, more than the outcome measure results, this event was an ideal opportunity for female amputees to interact and share their successes, challenges, and experiences with each other!

Stay connected

Have you earned a PT related certification? Started a new niche practice? Have an interesting practice related story to share with your Chatham colleagues? No accomplishment is too small—we want to hear about it!! Please contact Missy Criss at mcriss1@chatham.edu with your exciting information to be included on the web page, Facebook, and future newsletters!

Stay connected and get involved with the Office of Alumni Relations! We offer numerous volunteer and networking opportunities as well as alumni receptions at professional conferences and exclusive events at local Pittsburgh attractions. Interested? Please send us an e-mail at alumni@chatham.edu or visit us at chatham.edu/alumni. Stay connected with the Alumni Association via Facebook.