

## From the Director



► Greetings, and I do hope you all are well. I am once again very pleased to share our annual program newsletter with you and to report that the students, faculty, and alumni continue the great work that is the hallmark of the Chatham Doctor of Physical Therapy program. In particular, I would like to recognize the efforts of the current students, faculty,

staff, and Chatham administration in meeting the extraordinary challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would especially like to acknowledge the Clinical Education team (Ann Williamson, Sarah Jameson, Gordon Riddle, and Julie Englert) along with our many clinical partners, for their efforts in ensuring that our students continue to participate in high-quality clinical experiences. As I write today, all of our current students are on track to complete their clinical education coursework and graduate on time, a truly impressive accomplishment.

Aside from the pandemic, this has been another excellent year for the program, highlighted by the accreditation site visit in October 2019 and subsequent full 10-year reaccreditation for the program!

As always, if you have news that you would like to share, or if you have any comments about the newsletter or 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 visit our recently revised webpage [www.chatham.edu/dpt](http://www.chatham.edu/dpt) and be sure to check us out on Instagram (@chathamdpt).

Best Wishes,

## From the Dean



► This has been an unprecedented year for Chatham University and for the country. We continue to be in a health crisis that has led to exceptional demands being put on our healthcare workers. I know many of you have been instrumental in directly caring for people affected by COVID-19 while others of you have been affected through limited employment as healthcare offices and services were closed, curtailed or in telehealth mode. In addition, we

continue to confront horrific racial incidents that reminds us that we have so much work to do in creating a just and equitable society in our country. With this as the backdrop, our faculty and staff have continued to deliver a very high level of quality education but with increased sensitivity and compassion for our students, knowing the difficult times we are facing.

I would like to update you on some recent events within the School of Health Sciences. I congratulate the PT program for their successful ten year re-accreditation. In my many years in academia, I have never once seen a Program receive the maximum number of years for accreditation—with not a single recommendation or citation. The hard work of the faculty and Dr. Schreiber's leadership is to be commended. Our Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics program just launched a new and timely Certificate of Completion in Telehealth this fall in addition to the already existing certificates in healthcare informatics and analytics ([www.chatham.edu/telehealth](http://www.chatham.edu/telehealth)). Our nursing and post-professional online occupational therapy programs successfully converted their residencies to virtual events this year and the PA program hosted a virtual white coat ceremony this summer with a very moving rendition of the Oath of Geneva. We look forward to continued accreditation successes this next year for our occupational therapy, counseling psychology and athletic training programs.

Warm regards,

## FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP, 2020-2021

**Bednarek M, Williamson A,** Downey P. High-Fidelity Simulation in an Entry-Level Physical Therapy Program: A Format for Debriefing. *Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal* July 2019

**Bednarek M.** Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in the Home Health Setting. APTA Home Health Section *The Quarterly Report*. Winter 2020; 55(1).

Lefebvre K, Wellmon R, Bartlo P, **Bednarek, M,** Hoffman J, Karnes J, Vandenberg L. Effects of guarding on the outcomes of the 6-minute walk test. *Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal*. (in press)

**Bednarek M,** Childers C, Panaro N, Shaw D. “Advanced Competency in Home Health Live Training” Invited Preconference Course at APTA Combined Sections Meeting. Denver, CO February 2020

**Bednarek M,** Kelly Lindenberg. “Phase 1 Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Building on the Basics” Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association Move PA Annual Conference. October 2019

Ciolek C, **Criss M,** Wharton MA. Help! My patient has dementia. Effective strategies to enhance care for individuals living with dementia. PPTA Annual Conference, Geriatric SIG programming, Seven Springs, PA, October 2019 (invited professional meeting presentation)

**Criss M.** Does adding a single contact with older adults improve aging knowledge/attitudes in DPT students? Poster Presentation, PPTA Annual Conference, Seven Springs, PA, October 2019.

Scudder, A., Loughran, M., Bucey, J., Strong, G., Korach, N., Doas, M., **Jameson, S.,** Anderson, J., & O’Keefe, L. (2019). *Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): Expansion of Substance-Misuse Training to Non-Physician Healthcare Trainees.*

Moses, **J. Karas,** S. Evaluation and treatment of trigeminal symptoms of cervical origin following a motor vehicle crash: A case report with 9 month follow up. *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine*. (2020)

Faville **J. Karas S.** Venous Malformation in the Gastrocnemius Muscle. JOSP. (2020)

Young J, McDevitt A, Emerson A, **Karas S.** Mintken P. Upping you’re A game in OMT research. AAOMPT. (Orlando, FL) October 2019.

Ramiscal L, Henry L, Pettman E, **Karas S.** Pain Prevalence in Upper Cervical Stability Testing in Healthy Individuals. AAOMPT. (Orlando, FL) October 2019

**Perry SB.** Billek-Sawhney B. Schreiber J. Stroke Prevention: Education and Barriers for Physical and Occupational Therapists Caring for Older Adults. *J Phys Occup Ther Geriatrics*, published online Apr 22, 2020

Downey PD, **Perry SB.** Marchetti G. Thompson D. Use of a fracture prevention screening algorithm predicts self-reported falls in post-menopausal women. *Physiotherapy Theory and Practice*. 2020; 36:134-141.

**Perry SB.** Billek-Sawhney B. Schreiber J. Physical activity testing and self-monitoring recommendations provided by physical therapists for stroke prevention. Poster Presentation APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Denver, February 2020

**Schreiber J,** Gagnon K, Kendall E, Laforme-Fiss A, Rapport MJ, Wynarczuk K. Development of a Grading Rubric to Assess Learning in Pediatric Physical Therapy Education. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*. 2020; 32(1): 70-79.

Nixon-Cave K, Kaplan S, Dole R, **Schreiber J.** Pediatric Physical Therapists Use of the Congenital Muscular Torticollis Clinical Practice Guidelines; a Qualitative Interview Study on Its Implementation. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*: 2019; 31: 331-336

**Schreiber J** & Brilmyer J. Use of real-time, interactive video for observation of pediatric physical therapy. Clinical Forum Presentation. Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Annual Conference. November 2019

**Schreiber J,** Gagnon K, Kendall E, Fiss A, Rapport MJ, Wynarczuk K. Experiential Learning Assessment Tool Analysis: A Pilot Study. Platform Presentation. Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Annual Conference. November 2019

Rapport, M. J. K., Gagnon, K., Wynarczuk, K. D., LaForme Fiss, A. C., **Schreiber, J. M.,** Kendall, E. A. Assessment of student performance in pediatric PT: Reliability and feasibility of a new grading rubric. Poster presentation at the ATPA NEXT Conference, Chicago, IL, June 2019

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Brian Dzurenda, MPT '96



► Brian Dzurenda is a 1996 graduate of Chatham University's inaugural physical therapy program. He has been a practicing PT for 24 years and was a classmate of Dr. Karas. His career started at Shadyside Hospital in an eclectic setting, but when the chance came to become more involved as a baseball coach in 2001, he began working in the home care setting. He points out the similarities of PT and baseball, "In both PT and baseball you need to set realistic goals that are attainable. Research is the key to both. In PT you need evidence to back your treatment choices and in baseball you need statistical data to support your every move." He has used statistics well in baseball as the head coach of Serra Catholic, guiding them to several successful seasons on the way to becoming Pennsylvania's most successful high school baseball coach. "In many ways baseball players are like (PT) patients. They need to follow your instructions, or they will not be successful. There needs to also be an element of trust in both circumstances where the player or patient trusts that you know what you are doing. Confidence is the key in both instances."

While he has managed his time as a PT and Coach, Brian wishes he would have taken time to learn a bit more about the business side of health care and pursued additional education in business and management. In 2000, Brian married Chatham alumna Meredith Toth, who is currently a PT for ManorCare in Shadyside. They have two daughters who are very active, one in ballet and the other in cross country and track. No decisions on whether we have two more PTs in the making. If you are interested in learning more about Coach Dzurenda please e-mail him at [Brimpspt@aol.com](mailto:Brimpspt@aol.com).

## Alumni Advisory Panel and Mentoring Program

► The Alumni Advisory Panel continues to provide information and consultation for the program. The alumni mentoring program (M2M) was created by this panel, and continues through Linked IN. The primary goal of the mentoring program is to support mutually beneficial professional relationships in which an experienced person (mentor) provides advice and support to another individual (mentee) to maximize professional growth, skills and knowledge. This program is mentee driven and collaborative, which allows flexibility within the mentor/mentee relationship. The relationship can be both long-term and short-term solution focused. The mentor and mentee will establish the length of the relationship, goals, communication methods and frequency of meetings based on their individual schedules. For more information, please see the Mentoring Program LinkedIn page at [www.linkedin.com/groups/12155606/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/12155606/)



## PT Fund Continues to Grow

► Six years ago, 22 alumni jump-started the Physical Therapy 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 [www.givecampus.com/campaigns/14322/donations/new](http://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/14322/donations/new) or by sending a check made out to Chatham University PT Fund to Chatham University, Joe Schreiber, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Thanks very much.



## Sawhney-Gough: Year 4!

As you know, Raj Sawhney and Steve Gough created the **Sawhney-Gough Clinical Excellence Scholarship** in 2017. After a blinded review process by the faculty, second-year student Brian Ta was selected as the third recipient of this scholarship this past year. Each year, Raj and Steve commit \$5,000, and we look to alumni support to match this \$5,000 so that we can offer an annual \$10,000 scholarship. This year, Nicole Stout, MPT '98 also generously donated the \$2,000 honorarium for her 2020 APTA Maley Lecture. Nicole's lecture focused on using research to change the way we treat individuals with cancer. You can watch the lecture at [www.apta.org/article/2020/06/24/maley-lecture-cancer-rehabilitation-insights-on-the-future-of-our-practice](http://www.apta.org/article/2020/06/24/maley-lecture-cancer-rehabilitation-insights-on-the-future-of-our-practice).

To make a donation to the scholarship fund, visit [www.givecampus.com/campaigns/5097/donations/new](http://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/5097/donations/new). You can also contact [jschreiber@chatham.edu](mailto:jschreiber@chatham.edu) or Julia Homa, special projects manager in the Office of University Advancement, at [j.homa@chatham.edu](mailto:j.homa@chatham.edu).

## Dr. Raj Sawhney Retires

► The Musculoskeletal PT class proceeded like no other in the summer of 2020. A switch to PBL on Zoom, masking up for labs after a long pause of in-person classes...and the final lesson taught by Dr. Raj Sawhney.

Dr. Sawhney joined the Chatham PT program in August 1994. He, along with Drs. Steve Gough and Pat Downey, originated the foundational and clinical musculoskeletal curriculum. With his easy demeanor, enormous knowledge base, and unparalleled expertise, Dr. Sawhney has enlightened and inspired every PT cohort since that time. Furthermore, his company has been an outstanding clinical partner for the program, providing high quality lab assistants and many clinical education opportunities.

Dr. Sawhney provided additional support to the PT program by starting, with Dr. Gough, the Sawhney-Gough scholarship fund in 2017. Each year the fund provides a scholarship to a current student.

The topic of Dr. Sawhney's final class session involved case discussions of various LE pathologies. Drs. Schreiber, Downey, Perry, and Jamison spoke about his contributions to the program and the profession. The Class of 2021 presented him with a unique pair of socks, as tribute to his signature piece of apparel. The new retiree plans to continue clinical practice on a very limited basis, and resume traveling the world. Best wishes to Dr. Sawhney!



## Brian Ta: 2019-2020 Sawhney-Gough Scholarship Winner

Hello dear Chatham alumni,

My name is Brian Ta. I decided to pursue a career in physical therapy because of my interest in physical rehabilitation and the role PTs have as educators and health advocates. I completed my undergrad at the University of California Davis, and dabbled in athletic training, personal training, and strength coaching before choosing to pursue my Doctorate of Physical Therapy at Chatham. My clinical experiences include Novacare in Allison Park, West Penn Hospital acute care, Pivot Eastside, and will soon include UPMC Shadyside acute care.

I am honored to be this year's recipient of the Sawhney-Gough Clinical Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is a testament to Dr. Sawhney and Dr. Gough's commitment to investing in the future,

which I am proud to be a part of. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone in the Chatham DPT community who supported this award and helped make this scholarship possible. I would also like to dedicate this award to my late father, Randy Giang Ta, whose immigrant hustle and lifelong frugality made graduate school an option for me to begin with.

The chaos and uncertainty that is the year 2020 has made it difficult to envision my future career goals, but I am thrilled to learn about what this profession has to offer and I look forward to exploring what I can offer in return.

Go Cougs,  
Brian Ta



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Systematic Review Projects, Class of 2019

Jess Harper Ben Geierman Evan Tyger Alexis Castro	The Effectiveness of Dry Needling as a Physical Therapy Intervention in Patients with Acute Shoulder Pain
Gabby LaMarca Lauren Thompson Alli McLaughlin Ryan Starne	What is the effectiveness of ankle joint mobilizations as a physical therapy treatment on individuals with acute, subacute, and chronic ankle sprains: A systematic review
Greg Lydon Collin Smay Matt Craven Jake Hixson	What are the biomechanical effects and overall effectiveness of exercise programs aimed at prevention of ACL-injuries?
Jenny Lake Samantha Kollar Andrea Mick Julie Sealy	What is the effectiveness of physical activity interventions in reducing the likelihood of obesity in children and adults with myelomeningocele?
Joe Bello Megan Carabotta Brittany Santone Madison Leiser	What is the Effectiveness of graded exercise and graded exposure on chronic LBP?
Jacob Sterner Duran Orsi Karan Shah Rachel Collins	Effectiveness of Continuous Passive Motion Therapy and Exercise Compared to Exercise Alone following Total Knee Joint Replacement: A Systematic Review
Kristen Broadt Aimee Campbell Sandy Federico Jared Krater	What is the effect of physical therapy on the biomechanical factors and risk of lower extremity injury in runners?
Kelsey Altman Sean Crandell Julie Van Horn Olivia Zeiler	Is cardiovascular training effective in improving memory and cognitive functioning in older adults?

Cody Nail Caleb Sliter Nick Schrader Nate Spahr	Effects of High Intensity Interval Training versus Moderate Intensity Continuous Training on individuals with Coronary Artery Disease, a Systematic Review
Dana Colonese Lina Vassilleva Emma Bittner	Thoracic Outlet Syndrome - Can We Diagnose It and Effectively Treat It? A Systematic Review of The Evidence
Bobbie Sue Kist Tessa Sova Korin Wengryn	The Effects of Mindfulness-Based Therapy on Chronic Low Back Pain: A Systematic Review
Tyler Lotz Athena Withrow Amber Spear Erica Fisher	The efficacy of graded exercise in the treatment of post-concussion syndrome in the adult population: a systematic review



## 2019 Physical Therapy Program Awards

**Potential for Professional Excellence Award**

Jacob Centra (center)  
Gabrielle LaMarca

**Faculty Commendation**

Joseph Bello (left)

**Peer Recognition Award**

Nate Spahr (right)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Class of 2020

► It's been a peculiar year for Chatham's DPT Class of 2020. COVID-19 threw some curveballs at us earlier this year, but the Chatham Community has come together and adapted to these unprecedented times. One morning, Dr. Schreiber came into our neuro class and provided some updates on the evolving COVID-19 situation and the potential implications that it may have on our program. About four short hours later, the situation escalated quickly, and we learned that we will be going virtual for the foreseeable future. Dr. Perry and the faculty were quick on their feet and decided to frontload much of the remaining lab work that we could not do virtually. We got through much of the curriculum but had to make up some lab time and our final practical after completing our next term. Our class finally was able to complete all didactic coursework and we are now spread out across the country for our clinical experiences.

Prior to the quarantining, social distancing, and mask-wearing, our class was able to participate in several of the same hands-on experiences that previous classes have had including service learning/volunteer opportunities at places such as Safety for Seniors, The Woodlands and Bethany Hospice; working with amputees at Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Harmarville; and working with kids at places such as Western PA School for Blind Children. The Chatham community has also continued to participate in community service events/programs such as Out of the Darkness walk for suicide awareness, Go Baby Go, and Graduates Go Green. Lastly, I'll leave you with some great news. In late May, we learned that our program has been re-accredited for ten years! I know a lot of hard work went into the accreditation process and it speaks volumes about the Chatham DPT program's faculty, students, and alumni. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of all of the faculty and my classmates when I say it is a HUGE relief. With graduation and the NPTE right around the corner for this group of young professionals, we are all eager and excited to take on the world and make a difference in the lives of many!

Jeff Keegan, DPT Class of 2020 President



The Class of 2020, still learning in the pandemic!





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Casting week

## Class of 2021

► As we near the end of our first clinical experience, the Chatham DPT Class of 2021 can look back on the last year and feel proud of this accomplishment. The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly re-shaped the lives of people all over the world, and it should be no surprise that it has affected student life as well. While we shouldn't minimize the life-altering events of job loss, eviction, or loss of life, we should maximize the opportunity we have being physical therapy students and the contributions we make inside and outside of the classroom.

Over the past year, students have been involved in fundraising, volunteering, and various leadership roles to further enhance the relationship between the community and the physical therapy profession. Some

of these contributions include raising hundreds of pounds of food for the Greater Pittsburgh area, as well as being leaders for "Go Baby Go!" where students help modify toy cars for children with mobility-impairments. Additionally, we have students regularly attend local PPTA meetings in order to maintain the standard of Chatham DPT evidence-based practice. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of the DPT faculty and staff. It is through their hard work and dedication that we, as students, can continue to learn and maintain the standard of excellence in the classroom and the clinic.

Chris Bradley  
DPT 2021 Class President

## Grand Rounds

► Chatham University's Physical Therapy Grand Rounds Series will continue its fall, spring, and summer schedule, adapting for the foreseeable future by offering the presentations via Zoom. This is a convenient way to hear great information for CEUs, although we understand you will miss the bagels. Our alumni and clinical instructors are especially welcome.

Our fall topic is *"Thinking Up: Innovating Care Delivery and the Patient Experience in Post Acute Care"* by Dr. Joe Brence. It will be a live Zoom event October 20 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Our most recent presentations have included Dr. Helena Pingree discussing concussion and post-traumatic vestibulopathy and Dr. Michael Fronczek presenting a case utilizing blood flow restriction in rehabilitation.

Grand Rounds presentations are announced on our program webpage at [chatham.edu/dpt](http://chatham.edu/dpt) > Resources & Partnerships. 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 ([skaras@chatham.edu](mailto:skaras@chatham.edu)).

A link to Grand Rounds will be at [chatham.edu](http://chatham.edu) under the CAMPUS EVENTS tab. If you attend, please e-mail [mselewitz@chatham.edu](mailto:mselewitz@chatham.edu) so we can provide you with a CEU certificate. We hope to be back at the Eddy Theatre as soon as we are able.

# Go Baby Go Update

from Club President Lynne Gillott

► The 2019-2020 Chatham University GoBabyGo! Club year was one for the books! With the help of our new occupational therapy student club members, we were able to put on a total of three events—two in the fall of 2019 and one social-distancing event in the summer of 2020—for ten wonderful kiddos with varying mobility deficits.

Our first event was held in August and followed the traditional layout of a GoBabyGo! event. Approximately two days before the event, a group of PT and OT students congregated at Chatham Eastside to build the cars and to troubleshoot any unforeseen challenges prior to the morning of the event. Bright early that Saturday morning, the cars were tested once again, decorations were hung, and things were set for the arrival of four incredible families and their special kiddos. Within minutes of receiving and decorating their cars with fun stickers, the new drivers took their mark and drove up and down the Eastside hallways. It was truly a memorable experience for all!

In September 2019, GoBabyGo! co-presidents Lynne Gillott and Michaela (Golden) Hughes attended the 2nd Annual Assistive Technology Makers' Fair in Monroeville, PA to speak with a number of professionals in the area about the organization. The co-presidents were able to promote the club and develop connections with various other organizations to increase support and awareness of resources within the Pittsburgh area.

Just a few weeks later in November 2019, the GoBabyGo! team took on a new, exciting event that had never been done before. With the collaboration, help, and support from Fox Chapel School District, approximately ten club members headed off to Dorseyville Middle School for an

unforgettable event for an unforgettable little one. With the help of 15 STEM middle school students and the Dorseyville staff, the group built and adapted a power wheels car for a special kiddo from the area. The group decorated the car so beautifully and made the new set of wheels a perfect fit. At the end of the event, much to our surprise, the middle

school staff and students presented the club with a very generous check that allowed us to expand our recipient list. The club is so grateful for the hard work of Dorseyville Middle School and for the opportunity to work so closely with their students to make this dream event a reality.

Despite unprecedented circumstances, the show had to go on! In August 2020, the GoBabyGo! team took on social-distancing and held a safe, outdoor drive-up event for five wonderful families. With the help of both PT and OT students, as well as the kind donations from Dorseyville Middle School, children and their families traveled from all over to receive their cars and take them for a test drive around the Eastside parking lot. All possible precautions were taken, as masks were mandatory, families and club members were socially distanced, and cars were disinfected a multitude of times prior to being taken home. While different from our typical events, fun was had by all and memories were made that will last a lifetime!



We would like to thank all who have helped to make these events possible. With the help of so many, we have been fortunate enough to restore the gift of mobility to a number of amazing children and their families. Your support and kindness is more than appreciated! We are looking forward to seeing what this year will bring under the leadership of new club co-presidents Megan Zugger and Emma Stine!

- **For more info**, visit [www.facebook.com/chathamGBG/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/chathamGBG/?ref=page_internal)
- **Sparkt Interview**: [sparkt.com/students-give-special-needs-children-the-gift-of-mobility](https://sparkt.com/students-give-special-needs-children-the-gift-of-mobility)
- **Dorseyville Middle School Event**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpuhzHOhnYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpuhzHOhnYY)
- **WPXI**: [www.wpxi.com/video/?id=REI5DO7NYTQP6IFXAFSXDUYFA](https://www.wpxi.com/video/?id=REI5DO7NYTQP6IFXAFSXDUYFA)



# Clinical Education Update

Dr. Ann Williamson, [awilliamson@chatham.edu](mailto:awilliamson@chatham.edu)

► The impacts of COVID-19 on our educational programming are certainly not unique to our DPT program. All health-related professional programs are experiencing significant challenges this year. Among the most visible challenges are student academic preparation in the psychomotor domain and, of course, the application of knowledge and skill through clinical education experiences.

While our clinical education program has not been short on challenges, we have not been short on success either!

The classes of 2020 and 2021 worked very hard through spring and summer adapting to virtual learning modes and maximizing opportunities for safe skill practice when permitted to do so. Ultimately, both cohorts reached typical academic preparation standards and proceeded with clinical experiences. In fact, we were able to proceed with initial clinical experiences for all class of 2021 students and final clinical experiences for all class of 2020 students.

It is the ingenuity, creativity, and agile mind-set of our entire program faculty that made this possible as well as the trust, perseverance, and adaptability of every student.

However, achieving typical didactic goals and outcomes in order to proceed with clinical education experiences is only a part of this success story.

It is, in large, the support of our clinical partners affording students quality clinical education in these unique times that brings us to this point. Healthcare administrators, clinical coordinators, and clinical instructors continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to support clinical education through the COVID-19 pandemic. To our clinical partners, we truly can't thank you enough for your willingness to accept the additional challenges you are facing this year. We are exceedingly grateful to you for mentoring our students, maintaining the rigorous bar we set for our students, and for keeping them safe while even having a little fun along the way.

While we can't celebrate just yet, we are pleased by how successful things have been thus far.

Please accept my sincerest thank you on behalf of the CE team, our DPT program, and the university.

As 2021 approaches please consider pledging continued support or reaching out to establish new support for our program and its students.

# Service Learning

► Chatham University DPT program has long enjoyed a close relationship with community service learning partners. Students have served The Woodlands, Three Rivers Adaptive Sports and Safety for Seniors for more than ten years. Restrictions due to Covid, however, have prohibited student participation with these organization in 2020.

We are pleased to announce two new partners, Special Olympics of PA (SOPA) and GIFT. These organizations offer students an opportunity to serve in a virtual program.

Students volunteering with SOPA will partner with athletes for a virtual team heptathlon. Students volunteering with GIFT will help this local senior community organization with an initiative to combat the deleterious health affects of social isolation. Student and their senior partners will have a weekly phone check in, offering support, active listening, and, we hope, a few laughs.

Service learning is an important part of the Chatham DPT experience. We look forward to the day when we can resume participation with our historic partners while growing our relationships with new partners.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@chatham.edu) or visit us at [chatham.edu/alumni](http://chatham.edu/alumni). Stay connected with the Alumni Association via Facebook.