INSIGHTS
LEARN THE ART & SCIENCE OF CARING

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

SERVING OTHERS

CELEBRATING ALUMNI

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Office of the Dean ............................................... 1
Are You Engaged? .............................................................. 2
Faculty Focus ................................................................. 4
New Faculty ................................................................. 5
Project KIDS ................................................................. 6
Healing the Children ........................................................ 7
Student Scholarship Fund Established ............................... 7
Serving the World ............................................................ 8
Off to A Great Career Start ............................................. 9
Chernobyl Occupational Therapist Embodies Servant Leadership 10
He-Said/She-Said ............................................................ 11
First Annual DPT White Coat Ceremony ......................... 12
Life After the PhD .......................................................... 13
Paying it Forward ........................................................... 13
Graduation 2007 ............................................................. 14
A Tale of Two Doctors ..................................................... 15
Share the News .............................................................. 16
Bike Peleton Fundraiser: Every Success Matters! ............. 17

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Dear Alumni, Students, Friends, and Colleagues:

Welcome to our third issue of *Insights*.

Under the guidance of our School’s mission “Learn the Art of Science and Caring,” the School of Graduate Medical Education’s bright future has continued to develop. The cornerstone of our foundation remains the students’ ability to contribute to an environment of quality and loving care, sensitivity and respect for human dignity.

More than 20 years ago, our school was founded in an effort to address medical education within the state. In September 1989, the inaugural class of 150 medical residents and fellows enrolled in the School’s first fully accredited Internal Medicine Residency Program. Our founding dean, Nicholas DeProspo, PhD, led with conviction, aiming to comfort those whose lives had been disrupted by illness.

Today, the School of Graduate Medical Education:
- educates medical residents and fellows at five local hospitals,
- prepares healthcare professionals in five fully accredited entry-level and two post-professional graduate health science programs,
- boasts a 100 percent job placement rating for all entry-level professional programs,
- provides students with the opportunity to work in collaboration with distinguished, interdisciplinary faculty in an effort to provide a hands-on academic and clinical experience, and
- offers access to state-of-the-art research laboratories and diverse clinical experiences in more than 300 sites in the tri-state area.

As always, it is our goal to remain focused on the quality of health care provided and the uniqueness of each individual served. Our students continue to learn about the role of teaming in healthcare delivery and how to apply problem-solving and critical thinking skills in the clinical arena. Our students are caring and compassionate leaders who apply their academic knowledge in delivering evidence-based practice to their clients and patients in order to make the world a better place.

This issue of *Insights* highlights some of our alumni who continue to do great work. I invite you to read this issue from cover to cover—you will see how our faculty, students, and alumni are touching the lives of so many people and making a difference.

Brian B. Shulman, PhD
Dean
Whether attending a higher education institution for an undergraduate or advanced degree, most of us do not think about staying in touch with the University after we graduate.

Staying connected after graduation does have many mutual benefits, but many alumni do not have any idea of what those benefits are or where to find them.

Just like the choices we make everyday, most of the time you have the choice of when, how and why you want to do something or why it would be beneficial to you. The same occurs when an alumnus is making the choice to become "engaged" with their respective University. Once you make that decision, Seton Hall’s Office of Alumni Relations and the School of Graduate Medical Education (SGME) have many opportunities for engaging alumni.

The first question many alumni ask is, “Where can I go to find out what’s going on?” The answer is the alumni website: alumni.shu.edu. This website will answer most, if not all, of the questions an alumnus has about what is going on at the University, how you can get involved and other pertinent information.

There are countless ways to re-engage with your alma mater. Seton Hall has some very unique programs in which alumni can participate. Hopefully, you will realize there are many other ways you can give back to the University that do not necessarily involve monetary donations.

Seton Hall’s Office of Alumni Relations manages a program called SHARP, the Seton Hall Alumni Recruitment Program. This program allows Seton Hall alumni to talk with prospective Seton Hall students on many different occasions. For example, during an Open House or Freshman Preview event, Seton Hall alumni can attend the events and talk with students and their parents about their Seton Hall experience as well as answer questions the parents or students may have. This program is a favorite among Seton Hall’s alumni.
If you have an interest in traveling, **Pirate Adventures**, Seton Hall’s travel program, offers something unique with every trip. For example, while in Rome last spring, alumni were treated to a private tour of the Vatican Museum, an experience that many would not have the opportunity to get traveling with any other program. Each trip is “Uniquely Seton Hall.”

Most alumni are not aware they could also start their own alumni chapter or club. Currently, Seton Hall has 19 alumni chapters around the country. From Seattle to Florida, there is most likely one in your area. If you are in an area without an alumni chapter, you can start one with guidance from the Office of Alumni Relations. These chapters play a significant role in the recruitment of students as well as maintaining a constant connection to Seton Hall through other alumni.

If you are looking to engage yourself in a much different way, there is a phenomenon that has caught on, and is one of the easiest ways to show off some Pirate pride: the Pirate bandana. If you have not yet requested your Pirate bandana, let us know! We have alumni from around the world sending us pictures posing with the bandana. Whether you are getting married, traveling to a unique location or just hanging out with family, we want your picture! We use these pictures in our magazine, on the web and in our e-newsletter, **Pirate Press**.

It’s important to keep in mind that as an alumnus of Seton Hall, you do not have to volunteer or participate in every program. Just participating in one program lets us know there is something out there for everyone; one program or event someone thinks is worthy of their time. The University is always looking for help and support from their alumni. Whether you volunteer your time at a SHARP event, attend a specific School of Graduate Medical Education event or make a monetary donation, it all counts.

To learn about any of the opportunities listed above as well as the many others available, please visit alumni.shu.edu or call us at 1-800-992-GRAD. We look forward to hearing from you!
OFFICE OF THE DEAN
Brian B. Shulman, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow, BRS-CL, Dean of the School of Graduate Medical Education and Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, along with Assistant Professor of Speech-Language Pathology, Theresa A. Cardillo, MA, CCC-SLP were awarded a $20,000 grant from PNC Bank. This funding will be provided in the form of scholarships for students enrolled in the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETIC TRAINING
Vicci Hill-Lombardi, EdD, ATC, was elected Northern District Representative for the Athletic Trainers Society of New Jersey in March. She will serve in this position for two years.

DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HEALTH SCIENCES
Genevieve Pinto Zipp, PT, EdD, Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Chair of the Department of Graduate Programs in Health Sciences published “Patient Expectations of Full-body CT Screening” in the American Journal of Roentgenology with co-authors Carol Kolber, PhD ’04, Diana Glendinning, PhD and John Mitchell, PhD. Dr. Zipp also published “Students’ Learning Styles and Their Preferences for Online Instructional Methods” in the Journal of Educational Technology Systems with co-author Thomas J. Butler, PhD ’04.

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Catherine Colucci, MA, OTR, Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education, presented “Preparing OT Students to Practice in Early Intervention” at the 10th Anniversary International Conference on Autism and Disorders of Relating and Communicating by the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders, November 2006.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
H. James Phillips, PT, PhD ’06, OCS, ATC, FAAOMPT and Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, published his abstract “Inter-Rater Reliability of a Behaviorally-Anchored Lift Task Evaluation” in the Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy. Kim Poulsen, PT, DPT ’05 and Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy presented “The Evaluation Process for the Student in Clinical Internships” at the JFK Rehabilitation Institute. Doreen Stiskal, PT, PhD ’03, was appointed Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Stiskal was also appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Aquatic Physical Therapy, sponsored by the Aquatic Section of the American Physical Therapy Association.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
Joseph L. Monaco, PA-C, MSJ ’00, was awarded a $2500 grant from the Center for Community Research and Engagement for his proposal “Service to Underserved Patients at the Orange Primary Care Clinic.”

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
Venu Balasubramanian, PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology, was appointed to the editorial board of Language and Linguistic Compass, a new online journal published by Blackwell Publishers, UK. He also served as a member of the organizing committee for the Stroke Education Network of New Jersey. Patricia Remshifski, MA, CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education, was appointed to the Higher Educational Committee of the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Deborah Welling, AuD, CCC-A/FAAA, Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology, conducted hearing screenings for the “Rise & Shine Grant,” in collaboration with the Newark Preschool Council, Family & Children Services and Youth Consultation Services.
Purabi Bharatiya, MD, is Associate Professor and Medical Director of the Developmentally Disabled Inpatient Unit, and Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program at Trinitas Hospital, Board Certified in Adult Psychiatry. Dr. Bharatiya is the two-time recipient of awards for her work with the developmentally disabled population with psychiatric disorders. She recently published an article on Geriatric Depression. Dr. Bharatiya has been a regional speaker and has offered many CME programs based on different psychiatric disorders.

Gary Bouchard, PhD, PA-C (Department of Physician Assistant) received his BS from Long Island University, EdM from Rutgers University, and PhD in Higher Education Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University. He has held faculty appointments at Touro College and UMDNJ. For the past six years, Dr. Bouchard was a faculty member in the Department of Medicine of Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and served as Senior Pre-Clinical Coordinator of the Physician Assistant program. His professional experience includes practice in surgery and emergency medicine.

Anwar Ghali, MD, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry at Trinitas Hospital is board certified in Adult Psychiatry and Administrative Psychiatry. He is a Past President of the New Jersey Psychiatric Association and a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He is a recipient of the Golden Merit Award for the New Jersey Psychiatric Association and a recipient of the Harvey Shwed Excellence in Teaching Award. He has published in the areas of Tardive Dyskinesia, Confidentiality, Emergency Psychiatry, Post-partum Depression and Sleep Disorders.

Mona Sedrak, PA-C, PhD (Department of Physician Assistant) received her BS in Allied Health Studies from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, MS in Education, Research, and Leadership from AT Still University and her PhD in Higher Education from Walden University. Prior to joining Seton Hall University, she was Associate Director of the PA Program at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio. Dr. Sedrak has a strong interest in learner-centered and web-based education.
Project KIDS, a community-based partnership started last year between the School of Graduate Medical Education’s Department of Speech-Language Pathology and the Irvington Board of Education, is continuing to expand. Funded by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey (HFNJ), 22 first-year graduate speech-language pathology students participated in a clinical practicum providing speech, language and hearing screenings, diagnostic services and enrichment to 102 preschool children at risk for developmental delays.

Under the supervision of faculty members, Theresa Cardillo, MA, CCC-SLP, Vikram Dayalu, PhD, CCC-SLP and Deborah Welling, AUD, CCC-A, students integrated learned skills into practice by identifying 48 children for speech-language intervention, 14 children for medical treatment of middle ear difficulties, four children with possible audiological deficits and four children needing Irvington Child Study Team evaluations.

Project KIDS continues to receive funding and support from many organizations. In addition to the grant from the HFNJ, PNC Bank committed to the project by granting $20,000 in scholarship money to speech-language pathology graduate students who will engage in their first year of professional employment in Irvington. Professor Cardillo and Dr. Dayalu have also received a $3,000 grant from the Center for Community Research and Engagement at Seton Hall to support a student research component in conjunction with Project KIDS. The program has received second-year funding from the HFNJ that will include collaboration with the School’s Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy departments.

Faculty members will continue to advance Project KIDS by using their expertise. Genevieve Pinto-Zipp, PT, EdD and Valerie Olson, PT, PhD, faculty members in the Department of Graduate Programs in Health Sciences will provide age-appropriate gross motor evaluation and enrichment services to students to promote future positive participation in their kindergarten program. Elizabeth Torcivia, PhD, OTR and Meryl Picard, MSW, OTR, faculty members from the Department of Occupational Therapy, will collaborate with the program in supporting the Irvington facility’s teaching staff in addressing sensorimotor development, including motor skills and sensory processing ability.
Healing the Children
Carol A. Biscardi, PA-C, MS, Acting Associate Dean, Division of Health Sciences

“It gives me joy but not because it is fun,” are the words George Argast, PA-C, MS ’99 uses to describe experiences working with Healing the Children and the 16-hour days spent in a less fortunate country providing much needed medical care. Healing the Children (HTC) is a non-profit organization that provides medical services to children throughout the world who lack sufficient access to and/or funds for medical services.

Many physician assistants (PAs) and other health professionals in the state know George through his illustrious careers as a nurse, hospital administrator, restaurateur, and most recently, PA. But working with HTC may be the best “job” he has ever had. George began his affiliation with the organization as many of us do with charities by giving monetary donations or participating in fundraising activities. But in 2002, George volunteered for a medical mission trip to Honduras with HTC. George first worked as an assistant administrator, and eventually was allowed to assist in the operating room with the eye surgeries. On this trip, George met an eight-year-old girl named Hellen. Hellen was unable to walk because of lower leg congenital deformities and was being carried around by her grandmother. Something about Hellen touched George’s heart, and when he returned to New Jersey, he began finding surgeons and other support personnel to help bring Hellen to the US so she could undergo amputation and be fitted for prostheses.

Within a few months, Hellen came to the US with her grandmother and eventually went home walking on her prosthetic legs. George provided transportation and other support for Hellen while she was in the US and still has contact with the initially shy girl who has now blossomed with new confidence because she can walk on her own.

George has also sponsored a team from each PA Program in NJ for the HTC Volleyball Marathon fundraiser held every March. His achievements truly represent our School’s and University mission of servant leadership.

Student Scholarship Fund
Established
Kimberly Caesar
Director of Major Gifts, University Advancement

The School of Graduate Medical Education (SGME) has recently established the SGME Alumni Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, thanks to the support of students, faculty and alumni. The monies in this fund will enable the School to better serve our growing and highly-skilled student body. Through this fund, we will be able to offer scholarship aid to our most deserving students.

Over the years, the health and medical sciences have ballooned and are becoming even more competitive. To that end, our enrollment numbers have increased and we are accepting more highly-qualified students into our programs. To properly address the ever-increasing competition, SGME needs to increase its scholarship offerings. This scholarship will enable us to accomplish that objective.

By investing in future generations of healthcare practitioners and leaders, you are directly enhancing the value of your education and degree. Your support of this scholarship will help the School recruit and retain the best students. We look forward to your support.

Please check this issue of Insights for your ‘giving’ envelope.
Serving the WORLD

How SGME continues to extend its services to the needy worldwide

Christopher Musico '07

The School of Graduate Medical Education continues its push to mold students into servant leaders, not only in the United States but also worldwide to areas that do not have access to essential medical care.

One of several hospitals with a clinical affiliation to SGME, St. Michael’s Medical Center in Newark, is exemplifying Seton Hall’s ambitious globalization project.

According to St. Michael’s Corporate Director of Medical Education and SGME’s Associate Dean, Division of Medical Residencies and Fellowships, John W. Sensakovic, MD, PhD, his hospital is playing a major role in delivering essential medical services to the underserved in the Dominican Republic. Over 12,000 Haitian citizens are recruited annually to cut sugar cane in the Dominican Republic. These migrant workers as well as their families are not granted legal status, and are forced to live in substandard conditions with little or no access to healthcare.

“Several of our current medical residents, fellows and a pharmacist are serving in an underdeveloped areas, greatly in need of medical care and assistance,” he said. “In addition, we already have faculty members who serve on a regular basis in providing free healthcare in the Caribbean basin.”

The current project in the Dominican Republic is not only the mission of St. Michael’s, but also the personal mission of Clayton Everline, MD, CSCS, who had a dream to go back to his roots while completing his Seton Hall medical residency at St. Michael’s. “I had a yearning to bring my Seton Hall residency-enhanced education back to benefit the local people who allowed me to study there years prior,” Everline said. “I sought to give back community service to one of the islands in the Caribbean.”

Everline was joined by Umberto Jiminez, St. Michael’s clinical pharmacist, Suraj Saggar, MD, Chris Boni, MD and Katherine Hanify, DO to travel to the Dominican Republic and bolster the support St. Michael’s already delivers to the region. According to Everline, the team is still finalizing plans with a set clinic and public health education schedule. “The whole team is enthusiastic to effect lasting positive changes in the area,” he said.
Physical therapy, athletic training and sports performance are three of the fastest growing professions in healthcare today. What happens when you combine these services? Just ask Drs. Brady Blaszka, Michael Marolla and Brad Samples, three 2005 alumni of our Doctor of Physical Therapy and Master of Science in Athletic Training programs.

Using their combined degrees, these young professionals have formed Performance Physical Therapy & Sports Conditioning (PPT&SC), a consulting company providing physical therapy, athletic training and performance enhancement services to local high schools and private sports training facilities throughout Northern New Jersey. Now in its second year, PPT&SC employs four part-time athletic trainers in addition to the comprehensive services provided by its founders.

Bill Martin, athletic director at Oratory Preparatory School in Summit, NJ, recently credited the services PPT&SC offer. “The professionals at Performance Physical Therapy and Sports Conditioning completely built the athletic training program at Oratory Prep from the ground up. These men and women go out of their way to ensure the safety and welfare of our student athletes. They are talented and sharp individuals who have built solid relationships with both our staff and student athletes.”

More praise has come from parents as well as students from the high schools, colleges and a private baseball instruction facility they service. Comments include, “the conditioning program...put together for my son made a real difference in his performance. Other programs we've tried weren’t nearly as effective...” and, “the trainers showed great care with me when I needed to rehabilitate my injuries.”

In addition to their work in the forefront of athletic training, Blaszka, Marolla and Samples provide physical therapy services in private practices in Wayne and Westfield, and have plans to develop their own client base in home care and shared commercial facilities. In the short time since receiving their professional degrees from Seton Hall, they have excelled in their professions and continue to expand their business with the belief that any goal can be achieved with the right balance of hard work, business savvy and dedication.
Imagine disabled children, orphaned, forgotten and never given the opportunity to grow or play. After viewing the HBO documentary “Chernobyl Heart,” this tragedy became a personal mission for New Jersey occupational therapist Jennifer O’Dea, calling her to the Vesonova Children’s Mental Asylum located in Southern Belarus, a rural area within the former Soviet Union.

Seton Hall occupational therapy alumni, students and faculty gathered on an evening to hear O’Dea describe her work as an occupational therapist in a third world country. Her actions give meaning to our University mission of “servant leadership in a global society.”

Twenty-one years ago, a nuclear power plant on the border of Ukraine and Belarus exploded twice. Much of the area is still highly contaminated, exposing millions to radiation. Innocent children in the area continue to be born with severe disabilities and most are abandoned by their families due to poverty, alcoholism and limited access to healthcare. Facilities like Vesonova become their home until the children reach the age of 21 when most are moved into the country’s prison system.

O’Dea is one of the first Americans asked to join Chernobyl Children’s Project International (CCPI). She has traveled three times to Vesonova, evaluating and providing direct intervention for each child, while supporting and educating the orphanage staff. She and her team strive to make the world understand that these children, hidden from society, can be rehabilitated and educated.

During her presentation, O’Dea described children assisted with simple measures such as a collar to support the head, or positioning to curtail skin breakdown. Much of her time is spent supporting and educating the workers on simple play and social activities, physical handling and mobility. O’Dea closed by saying she goes to Vesonova to “provide comfort and hope to children who usually have little to hope for.”

Alumni and students present at this event were awed by this young woman’s commitment and compassion. Colleen Smith, a first-year Seton Hall occupational therapy student, describes O’Dea as a “courageous and remarkable leader” who has helped her to believe “one person has the ability to produce widespread change.”

Jodi Huntington, MS, OTR ’01 says, “Her example strikes a cord with anyone who ever had a vision to make a difference but thought that would be an impossible feat. One person can make a difference.”
Recently interviewed was the first graduate of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program (MSAT), Noel Zeh (’03), and recent graduate, Meg Berry (’06), to compare their program experiences in the field of athletic training.

**Background**
Zeh received his BS from Lock Haven University as a Health Science major in May of 2001. He joined the MSAT program in September of 2000 as a class of one student, while Berry joined the MSAT program in September of 2003 as a “dual degree” student majoring initially in Sociology at Seton Hall University. Both completed the graduate curriculum in the then required three-year program. Currently, Noel is an Assistant Athletic Trainer at Seton Hall University, and Meg is an Assistant Athletic Trainer and teacher at Freedom High School in Orlando, Florida.

**Hill-Lombardi:** As the first student to graduate from the program, Noel, you have witnessed a lot of changes. What are some of the most important advances that we have made to the program since September 2000?

**Zeh:** Changing the program from a three-year to a two-year curriculum was an important improvement, as was reducing the overall number of credits required. Both will help to make the program more marketable.

**Hill-Lombardi:** What were your favorite classes and why?

**Zeh:** Orthopedic Clinical Medicine and Exercise Physiology stand out. They both provided information that was not only useful in clinical practice, but above the entry level.

**Berry:** I agree with Exercise Physiology, but would also like to add the Spine Evaluation course, for the same reasons as Noel.

**Hill-Lombardi:** What is the most outstanding feature of our program compared with other accredited athletic training programs?

**Zeh:** The variety of courses prepares graduates to read and understand diagnostic tools such as x-rays and MRIs.

**Berry:** Not just the courses themselves, but working with the physical therapy students in the classes allowed us to understand the jobs that each of us would be doing upon graduation.

**Hill-Lombardi:** Is the career of AT what you thought it would be?

**Zeh:** Yes. The rigors of the program prepare the student for the pace of clinical practice. I knew that I wanted to be an ATC (certified athletic trainer) while I was an undergraduate at Lock Haven, and got to spend time in the athletic training room and with ATCs.

**Berry:** Yes, I knew what to expect and was more than prepared by the SHU program. I have to say that it is more challenging when you are out on your own!

**Hill-Lombardi:** Noel, as a clinical instructor and alumnus, what improvements do you see that you would like us to make?

**Zeh:** The program should have more facilities. The laboratories and classrooms are somewhat crunched and transient. Also, I would like to see more research being presented and published.

**Hill-Lombardi:** Meg, what are your thoughts regarding improvements?

**Berry:** I would also like to see better facilities, including a specifically dedicated research laboratory space for the athletic training students.

**Hill-Lombardi:** No, as a clinical instructor and alumnus, what improvements do you see that you would like us to make?

**Zeh:** The program should have more facilities. The laboratories and classrooms are somewhat crunched and transient. Also, I would like to see more research being presented and published.

**Hill-Lombardi:** Meg, what are your thoughts regarding improvements?

**Berry:** I would also like to see better facilities, including a specifically dedicated research laboratory space for the athletic training students.

**Summary**
Feedback from our alumni is very important as it allows us to understand what works well and where improvements need to be made. Please feel free to encourage your fellow classmates to also share their thoughts. We look forward to seeing you at some of the alumni functions scheduled throughout the year.
First Annual DPT White Coat Ceremony

Kim Poulsen, PT, DPT, Department of Physical Therapy

Undergraduate students who begin their graduate studies are faced with learning complex academic material and a heavy course load. These students are expected not only to excel academically, but to also learn what it means to be a healthcare professional.

To mark this important transition, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program hosted the first White Coat Ceremony for the first year class on September 21, 2006. White coat ceremonies have become more popular over the past decade in medical schools, but few physical therapy schools have embraced the concept.

Acting Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, Doreen Stiskal, PT, PhD opened the event by welcoming all and introduced Reverend Paul A. Holmes, University Vice-President. His invocation highlighted the important role physical therapists play as servant leaders in the healthcare arena.

Next Kim Poulsen, PT, DPT, led the first year students in a recital of the professionalism pledge created from the American Physical Therapy Association’s (APTA) core values of professionalism: accountability, altruism, compassion, excellence, integrity, professional duty and social responsibility. After the pledge, the fourth year DPT students assisted the incoming students in donning their white coats as a symbol of becoming professional healthcare providers.

The honorary speaker, James Donleavy, PT, MS captivated the audience by speaking about the challenges of being a healthcare professional in an ever-changing environment requiring continued development of knowledge and skills to ensure provision of the best possible care. Donleavy works at Trinitas Hospital, one of our clinical affiliations. He has been instrumental in helping APTA secure direct access to physical therapy in the State of New York for Medicare patients.

As proof of pledging to professionalism at this event, students received a certificate and congratulatory handshakes from faculty members and Acting Associate Dean, Carol Biscardi. Judging from the excitement and subsequent feedback, the ceremony was a success and it looks like the start of a great tradition.
LIFE AFTER THE PhD
Terrence Cahill, EdD, Department of Graduate Programs in Health Sciences

Although the PhD is typically referred to as a terminal degree, for the graduates of our PhD program in the Department of Graduate Programs in Health Science (GPHS), it might be better referred to as an opportunity for new beginnings. Three of our graduates conveyed this sentiment as they discussed their lives after GPHS.

“Obtaining my PhD from Seton Hall has opened so many doors of opportunity for me. I was able to secure a full-time academic teaching position,” said Dr. Barbara Fralinger ’05. “I have had the chance to present at numerous professional conferences across the country; in fact, along with Drs. Zipp, Olson and Simpkins, this summer I presented two studies in Venice, Italy at the 2007 College Teaching and Learning Conference. I feel such a sense of accomplishment since obtaining my PhD; all of my hard work has paid off.”

According to Dr. Daniel Messina ’05, “Following graduation, life has been busy applying what was learned in PhD studies to my responsibilities as Chief Operating Officer of CentraState Health Care System.” Since graduation, Messina has continued his association with GPHS by working with us on hosting our annual Scientific Symposia in the last two years. Consequently, Messina received a Seton Hall service award at the Spring 2007 Many Are One gala.

Dr. Patricia Kluding ’03 is another graduate who continues to praise the GPHS program. “My PhD in Health Sciences degree from Seton Hall was excellent preparation for my current tenure-track faculty position at the University of Kansas Medical Center,” she said. “I learned so much from the curriculum and interactions with my mentor, Dr. Zipp, and other faculty. I have published four peer-reviewed research articles, two review publications and four abstracts. I have also received $63,000 in grant funding as a principal investigator and funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a co-investigator.

The graduates’ personal lives have also evolved after the awarding of their degrees. “My life during my education was so goal-oriented that I didn’t feel like I could relax,” Fralinger said. “Now, I feel much more free.”

Paying it FORWARD
Physician Assistant Alumni as Clinical PA Preceptors

Ellen D. Mandel PA-C, MPA, MS, Department of Physician Assistant

Physician Assistant (PA) alumni look up to Seton Hall’s “Hazard Zet Forward” as they look toward the future of the profession and serve as volunteer preceptors in their clinical training. Since the arrival of the first PA students on the Seton Hall campus in 1995, the PA Program has 250 alumni. Many of the PA alumni who work in various medical specialties give back to the program in terms of time, expertise and passion.

PA alumni, Ginny Comer ’02, and Anthony Mangieri ’98 are two notable examples. Comer serves as a preceptor in the breast cancer surgery practice where she works. She expresses a “strong sense of gratitude and desire to give back to the Seton Hall PA program in some small way.” Her happiness extends further, as her “children also chose ‘The Hall’ to achieve their higher education goals.” Mangieri, working in cardiology, states that “as a member of the first graduating class of PAs from Seton Hall, I have a unique perspective on the growth and legitimacy of the program at Seton Hall” and “patient feedback on the use of PAs in our office has been so positive that we have even hired a new graduate from the Seton Hall program.” These two PAs are among many who choose to pay it forward by training future generations of PA colleagues.
GRADUATION
2007
A Tale of TWO DOCTORS

Doctors Theodore (Ted) DaCosta, Jr. and Fayez Shamoon are two alumni of the School of Graduate Medical Education who stayed on to become highly respected teachers in their own right.

Vincent DeBari, PhD, Director of Research

The medical residency and fellowship training programs at Seton Hall’s School of Graduate Medical Education (SGME) benefit from the ethnic and cultural diversity deriving not only from the post-graduate medical trainees themselves, but from a faculty including physicians from all over the world. In several cases, our faculty includes our own former residents and fellows who have chosen to remain in the Seton Hall programs from which they graduated, passing on their knowledge and experience to our current student body.

In some cases, these alumni have even achieved leadership positions in our programs. Two such individuals are Theodore DaCosta Jr., MD, and Fayez Shamoon, MD, both of whom trained in our highly competitive fellowship programs after completing internal medicine residency training in the SGME Internal Medicine Program A.

DaCosta is a local product, first becoming an alumnus of Seton Hall in 1985, having graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences. After studying at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), DaCosta then came back to Seton Hall for residency training. DaCosta completed his training in internal medicine in 1992 and went on to complete a clinical fellowship in the Gastroenterology fellowship training program. He is currently an Associate Program Director in SGME’s Internal Medicine program. DaCosta continues his practice with a strong interest in weight reduction and obesity, which according to DaCosta, “is one of the most serious problems facing the American healthcare system today.”

Our Cardiology Program Director, Shamoon, comes to us from the Middle East, having received his MD degree from the University of Jordan. Shamoon continued his medical training at Jordan University Hospital and was an accomplished physician before immigrating to the United States. In 1989, he began his American training in medicine in the SGME program, where he distinguished himself as the Teaching Resident of the Year in 1991. Today, Shamoon holds the rank of Professor. Two years ago, he was honored with the Archbishop Meyers Outstanding Educator Award from SGME, and in 2004, he was named as one of New York Magazine’s “Top Doctors.”

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DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETIC TRAINING
Kurt Hiester, ’04. Two children, Hannah (3) and Rachel (1).

DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HEALTH SCIENCES
(Don) Scott Matthews, ’05 MS in Health Sciences. An OT and Executive Director of Intensive Therapeutics. Works with both children and adults as an OT and a social worker since 1990. Developed Camp Helping Hands in ’04 to provide constraint-induced movement therapy to families of children with Cerebral Palsy. In ’05, in collaboration with Natalie Smith-Zuzovsky and Patrick Cerria, developed and ran Camp Leaps and Bounds for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and later in ’05 Intensive Therapeutics was incorporated.

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Thomas Mernar, ’00. Lives in Los Angeles and completed his PhD in Occupational Science at the University of Southern California. Currently employed as an OT and Director of Rehabilitation at a skilled nursing facility in East Los Angeles.

Maria Porta-Oramas, ’01. Married to Anthony ’06. Working at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, Saddle Brook, NJ for five years.


Maria Paternoster (Morzello), ’03. Married to Dominick. Baby, Alexandra Julia in ’07.

Cheryl Ruemmler, ’05. Currently working full-time in Early Intervention through Kaleidoscope (Cerebral Palsy League of Union).

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
Tara Nicoletta-Gajano, ’99. Works as a surgical PA in Summit, NJ. Married to Bernie and has four children, Christofer, 16, Aniela, 4, Angelique 2, and Darius, 7 months.

James Michael Houston, Sr., ’02. PA Manager of Bariatric Surgery & Manager of Minimally Invasive Surgery Departments at Overlook Hospital. The Bariatric Center has been accredited by the American Society of Bariatric Surgeons and the Surgical Review Corporation as a Center of Excellence, a designation that is bestowed on few centers in NJ.

Elizabeth K. Budny-Buckley, ’04. Married Kevin in ’06 and lives in Greencastle, PA. Works as a PA in Chambersburg, PA.

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
Karen Marsh, ’01. Recently promoted to Coordinator of the Speech-Hearing Inpatient Department at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, NJ.

Shelly McManus (Spatafore), ’01. Married in ’04 and working at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, NJ since Sept. ’02.


Barbara Bandurski-Favretto, ’02. Married to Brian in ’03 and had daughter, Brianna Elizabeth ’05. Currently works as an Independent Contractor/Speech-Language Pathologist in Early Intervention.

Where are you?
Some alumni have disappeared from our records. If you know their whereabouts or would like to update your own records, please e-mail us at verderde@shu.edu.
Bike Peleton Fundraiser:
EVERY SUCCESS MATTERS!
Kim Poulsen, PT, DPT, Department of Physical Therapy

With an array of fundraising events, it can be challenging to decide where to put your time and money. However, once in a while an event comes along that strikes your heart and you do not hesitate to contribute to the cause.

One such event was a fundraiser for the Davies Phinney Foundation on January 14 2007, in the famed Copacabana Night Club in New York City. The event, in the form of a Spinning Class, raised money for research pertaining to the effects of exercise on Parkinson’s Disease. Spinning is a form of exercise in which you ride on a specialized stationary bike, led by a spinning instructor and it usually lasts one hour.

Once Diana Glendinning, PT, PhD learned of the event, she quickly tried to form a team to participate. She recruited faculty, students and secured financial support from the Dean’s Office of the School of Graduate Medical Education.

Davies Phinney is an iconic American cyclist you can name in the same breath when discussing American cycling legends, Greg LeMond and Lance Armstrong. Phinney started competitive cycling in the mid-1970s and retired in 1990 after a very successful career, including a bronze medal in the 1984 Olympics. After being diagnosed with early onset of Parkinson’s Disease in 2000, Phinney started the Davies Phinney Foundation in 2004.

Almost 200 participants with nationwide representation, including national sports magazines and companies, were joined by Drs. Glendinning, Phillips, and Poulsen as the Seton Hall cycling team and four Department of Physical Therapy students who served as volunteers: Ken Cheng, Oriana Nierojewski, Lisa Redavid and Clifford Yun. The dance floor in the nightclub was packed with spinning bikes, cyclists and our four students delivering water and sports drinks to thirsty spinners.

Phinney and the popular spinning instructor Josh Taylor from the New York Sports Club were on stage setting the pace on their own spinning bikes. With heart-pounding techno-trance music blasting, Taylor took the spinners on a three-hour long imaginative bike trek entitled “Mount Everest.” One noteworthy highlight was when Phinney himself took the microphone and related an anecdote from his participation in Tour De France: Once approaching the feared Alp’Duez, he found himself in danger of not being able to make the time limit; he could be excluded from the race. He eventually made the time limit by establishing incremental goals attainable one by one. Phinney Foundations’ slogan “Every success counts” was coined from this experience.

A special acknowledgement goes to our four ‘water carriers,’ Cheng, Nierojewski, Redavid and Yun. They made such a good impression on the event organizers that the student group has been invited back next year to be the main water carriers and helpers, an excellent honor. The Foundation can rest assured that SGME will return next year with an even bigger team, because “Every success counts.”
1ST ANNUAL ALUMNI CRUISE