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Dear Alumni, Students, Friends, and Colleagues:

This fourth issue of *Insights* is a special one because it brings news of a milestone in our School’s history and focuses on collaborations that have been critical to our success. In fact, our School was born out of collaboration more than 20 years ago when leading administrators from 13 New Jersey Catholic hospitals and medical centers came to Seton Hall with a shared goal – making a difference in medical education. Over the last two decades, the School has achieved that goal and, for the past decade, I have had the privilege of working with a dynamic and dedicated faculty, staff, and administrative team.

While our objective will always be to integrate Seton Hall’s tradition of enriching the minds, hearts and spirits of students as we educate the healthcare leaders for the 21st century and beyond, we are now poised to enter a new chapter in our distinguished history. Effective July 1, 2008, the School of Graduate Medical Education became the *School of Health and Medical Sciences (SHMS)* because we believe that name more aptly describes our high-quality, nationally-recognized professional and post-professional health science programs and our commitment to post-graduate medical residency and fellowship education. While we will never forget our origin – a class of 150 medical residents and fellows enrolled in the School’s first fully-accredited Internal Medical Residency Program in 1989 – we will continue to build upon our success in educating health science and medical professionals who foster the art and science of caring.

With that in mind, this issue of *Insights* is chock full of interesting articles which reflect all that is good about our School and its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and external partners. Our feature article, “Fostering Relationships for Success,” provides a theme for this issue and highlights the many great relationships we are nurturing and developing, including clinical and academic partnerships, connections with clinical and academic researchers, and professional and personal bonds with alumni and current students. Many of our faculty have contributed articles to this issue, sharing their thoughts about their own work and that of their colleagues as it relates to building and fostering relationships for the School internally, externally, locally and internationally.

Enjoy this issue of *Insights*—there is something for everyone within its pages. Please know that you are always welcome to come to campus to experience first-hand the strides we are making as we educate and prepare today’s healthcare leaders for the challenges of tomorrow.

Brian B. Shulman, PhD
Dean
In the world of academe, collaboration and competition make a college or university stand out from its peers. For more than 20 years, Seton Hall University’s School of Health and Medical Sciences (formerly the School of Graduate Medical Education) has fostered internal and external partnerships to create highly successful professional and post-professional health and medical sciences programs that prepare healthcare professionals to assume leadership roles in the 21st century healthcare arena.
It all began with the foresight and collaborative effort of top administrators from 13 New Jersey Catholic hospitals and medical centers who came to Seton Hall’s campus to address medical education within the state. As a result of their meeting, the School of Graduate Medical Education was chartered, combining Seton Hall’s commitment to enriching the minds, hearts and spirits of its students with the mission of educating the healthcare leaders of tomorrow. Today, the newly re-named School of Health and Medical Sciences (SHMS) and its distinguished health sciences and medical faculty educate professionals in five fully-accredited, entry-level and two post-professional graduate health sciences programs, as well as medical residency and fellowship programs at five nearby hospitals.

The art and science of caring transcends the School’s programs of study and the faculty’s commitment to preparing skilled healthcare professionals. Moreover, it is the faculty and administration who build upon the School’s tradition to forge successful relationships with clinical partners, other academic institutions, clinical and academic researchers, alumni and current students.

More Than 500 Clinical Partners
The breadth and depth of the School’s robust academic experience is tied to hands-on learning. All five entry-level health science degree programs have integral clinical education components that necessitate strong, effective working relationships with external clinical sites to ensure that students receive extensive, diverse learning experiences. To date, the School has established contractual agreements with more than 500 clinical settings throughout New Jersey and surrounding states including schools, hospitals, nursing homes and early intervention settings. “That number grows each year,” noted Brian B. Shulman, PhD, Dean of the School. “In fact, many of our alumni are now employed at those clinical sites, supervising the learning experiences of our current students.”

The School’s post-medical school residency and fellowship programs have strong associations with five “sister” hospitals in the state – Saint Michael’s Medical Center, Trinitas Hospital, Saint Joseph’s Regional Medical Center, St. Francis Medical Center and John F. Kennedy Medical Center – and provide post-graduate medical training for physicians, dentists, and pharmacists in diverse specialty areas.

Win-Win Academic Partnerships
Relationships within SHU are also pivotal to the growth and success of the School. Dual-degree programs in Athletic Training (AT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Physician Assistant (PA) and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), offered in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Services, allow students to pursue an undergraduate degree followed immediately by a graduate degree program over the course of five to seven years depending upon the health profession selected.

With a strong local clinical network in place, the School is beginning to expand the scope of its clinical education partnerships by establishing international collaborations – a challenge set forth by Monsignor Robert Sheeran ‘67, University president, for Seton Hall as a whole in his 10-year strategic vision. The Dean and his team are currently working on securing clinical relationships in Denmark, the Philippines, Israel, Nigeria and India. Kim Poulsen, PT, DPT, a director of clinical education for the Department of Physical Therapy, is engaged in preliminary negotiations with the School of Physical Therapy, University College Oresund (UCO) in Copenhagen, Denmark, which also happens to be his alma mater. “Such a program would provide students with exposure and experiences in a very different clinical education medical model, allowing them to gain experience in sites of clinical excellence,” Poulson observed.
As a result of the success of those SHU collaborations, the School has forged similar partnerships with external academic institutions. The PA program has established academic program relationships with Monmouth University and St. Peter’s College and PA students from the College of St. Elizabeth will arrive on the South Orange campus for the first time in Fall 2008. “These programs are a win-win for both schools involved and their students,” noted Carol Biscardi, PA-C, MS, chair of the Department of Physician Assistant.

Ruth Segal, PhD, OTR, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, will welcome the first cohort of OT students from St. Peter’s College in the Fall of 2011 due to a newly signed articulation agreement. “The demand for OT education is high and our program is especially desirable because of its commitment to both academic work and experiential learning,” Segal said.

New partnerships in athletic training are also in the works with Rutgers University, Caldwell College and Farleigh Dickinson University. “These dual-degree partnerships are being driven by input from students who have already earned undergraduate degrees from those universities and have indicated that such collaborations would be beneficial in the future,” observed Carolyn Goeckel, MA, ATC, chair of the Department of Athletic Training. “Ultimately, such relationships provide other colleges and universities with an opportunity to partner with a well-known, highly-respected program that prides itself on a commitment to a dynamic blend of experiential, clinical and academic preparation.”

The School’s longstanding collaboration with the University of New England’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM), which began with the Internship Program at St. Michael’s Medical Center, led to the development of the Clinical Training Center, allowing third-year medical students to complete their clerkships at the Newark-based hospital. “In addition to the School of Health and Medical Sciences, this opportunity benefits Saint Michael’s and UNECOM, who collaborate to create a successful medical education experience. In turn, this collaboration also benefits the students who gain a high-quality clinical and academic experience in an urban setting,” said Judith E. Malinowski, PhD, director of education, UNECOM Clinical Training Center. “Nearly 20 percent of UNECOM’s third-year students take advantage of this opportunity which rounds out their medical school experience and provides more diverse clinical experience than rural Maine.” This collaboration began in an effort to develop a model distant clinical campus for UNECOM students and has grown to include the osteopathic internal medicine and emergency medicine residencies, Malinowski noted. The relationship also includes other students involved in training at St. Michael’s and provides faculty professional development opportunities.

Clinical and Academic Research Connections

Faculty throughout the School are involved in clinical or academic research which helps to bridge the gap between theory and practice and further emphasizes both the art and science behind a health sciences career.

Genevieve Pinto Zipp, PT, EdD, chair of the Department of Graduate Programs in Health Sciences, collaborated over the summer with Children’s Specialized Hospital on Camp Open Arms to assess the gross motor skill level of camp participants who have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and present with a haptic arm. “The primary focus of Camp Open Arms is to provide repetitive functional task training to the haptic arm throughout a daily, intensive camp program format,” Zipp said. “By engaging in pre- and post-camp assessments of various motor skills, we are looking to support the effectiveness of the camp’s treatment strategies.” Zipp also is in the initial stages of collaborating with Carol Kolberg, PhD, of John F. Kennedy Medical Center to launch a research agenda that would evaluate professional development.

Project KIDS (Karing Integrative Developmental Solutions), a partnership started in 2006 by Dean Shulman and SLP faculty member Theresa A. Cardillo,
MA, CCC-SLP, a director of clinical education in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, is a multi-year grant funded by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. The Project KIDS program is a community-based collaborative project with the Irvington Board of Education and has provided much needed speech, language and hearing screenings for Irvington preschoolers. This year, under the supervision of Cardillo and associate professors Vikram Dayalu, PhD, CCC-SLP and Deborah Welling, AuD, CCC-A, 28 SLP graduate students performed hands-on screenings and evaluations of 250 children in the Irvington Preschool Academy and Augusta Preschool Academy, recommending 110 children for follow-up treatment or evaluation. In one notable case, a child was quickly referred to a physician to undergo surgery and has improved hearing today as a result.

Lee Cabell, EdD, associate professor of health sciences, adds an international component to the School through his collaborative research with faculty members from the Department of Biomechanics and Engineering Cybernetics at Palacky University in the Czech Republic. Research has been conducted on a new ski-jumping technique over the past few years during FIS World Cup events in Innsbruck, Austria. Kinematic data were collected on 656 male elite world class ski-jumpers. The results were presented at the Fifth World Congress of Biomechanics in Munich, Germany two years ago, and an article presenting those findings is under editorial review by the Journal of Applied Biomechanics. As a result of that research, Cabell and his colleagues have embarked on subsequent studies. “These types of research and collaborative opportunities are important because they bring national and international recognition to our school and its faculty,” Cabell observed.

In the School’s Division of Medical Residencies and Fellowships, George Perez, MD, acting program director of the Seton Hall Infectious Diseases Fellowship program at St. Michael’s Medical Center and the School’s recipient of its 2008 Researcher of the Year Award, serves as the principal investigator for a study focusing on strategic management of antiretroviral therapy sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. “This study addresses the question of drug interruption versus continuous therapy for HIV,” Perez noted. “It has resulted in several publications and serves as the cornerstone of data that fuel present guidelines for HIV treatment.” The initial results were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2006, with the most recent data published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases in the April 15, 2008 issue.

Alumni Relations

The key to any school or college’s continued success is its constituency relationships and alumni play an important role in the growth and development of the School of Health and Medical Sciences. Many of the School’s more than 500 clinical education partners employ graduates from SHMS’ five entry-level professional programs and its two post-professional programs. Leslie Rippon, MS ’06, a certified athletic trainer, strength and conditioning specialist who works at South Plainfield High School and also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Athletic Training, has created a service...
learning opportunity at the high school for five SHMS students. “We have been working to revise the physical education curriculum to focus on fitness for life, including exercise physiology, balanced nutrition and different ways to exercise,” she explained. The body mass indexes and VO2max (oxygen level) of 156 high school students were assessed to see if the students were at-risk for obesity. Through a simple step test, the VO2max measured how efficient the students’ bodies were and the team then used that information to determine fitness levels. “Obesity can be prevented if we teach our kids to seek a healthy lifestyle,” Rippon said. Based on results of the study, Rippon will apply for grant funding to aid in building the high school’s new curriculum.

Some SHMS departments also have their own advisory boards comprised of alumni who are leaders in their fields, as well as current students who are rising stars. The School also holds two positions on the Seton Hall University Alumni Board of Directors. “We’re in the process of re-engaging our alumni,” noted Dean Shulman. “We want our alumni to return to campus and see how we’ve grown.” Goals for the future include creating an alumni calendar that would include two or three events each semester. “Those opportunities would be social as well as educational,” Shulman said. “While our alumni certainly enjoy events such as the School’s Annual Alumni Cruise on the Hudson, they would most certainly benefit from continuing education opportunities.”

Mentoring Students

To underscore their commitment to educating the minds, hearts and spirits of their students both inside and outside the classroom, SHMS faculty serve as mentors for student research. As a result, students jump at the chance to partner with faculty on an array of research projects. The Department of Speech-Language Pathology makes it easy for students to pursue research projects. With little room for elective coursework in its comprehensive Master of Science program, the faculty met to revise the curriculum and ultimately decided to offer a thesis option. In lieu of a single summer course, students selecting the thesis option develop a proposal to independently investigate an area of communication

“The relationships are continually evolving and demonstrate the value of the Seton Hall educational experience. We are looking forward to further enhancing existing relationships and establishing new ones. The best is yet to come.”
sciences and disorders. Working with a faculty member who serves as a research adviser in the chosen area of study, students spend three semesters surveying literature, gathering data and producing a scholarly document. It was originally thought that only a few students would select the thesis option. In actuality, almost 20 percent of the 2008 graduating class took advantage of the option and worked on research with the department’s seven full-time faculty. Students indicated that they chose the thesis option to learn more about a selected topic, work with a particular population or in a specific setting and better prepare for doctoral work.

Zipp, who chairs a number of PhD in Health Sciences dissertation committees, prepares her students to become scholars. She recently worked with Jesus (Jessie) Casida, PhD ’07 to publish “Leadership-Organizational Culture Relationships in Nursing Units of Acute Care Hospitals” in the January/February 2008 edition of The Journal for Health Care Leaders. “Many dissertations are published in peer-reviewed journals and, thus, are more available to the academic community,” she said. “This work reached even farther because it was also used by the journal as a continuing education offering for nursing professionals.”

The Best is Yet to Come

With the School’s exceptional success so far, it might be acceptable for Dean Shulman, and his administrative leadership team of John W. Sensakovic, MD, PhD, Associate Dean, Division of Medical Residencies and Fellowships, and Theresa E. Bartolotta, PhD, Associate Dean, Division of Health Sciences, to rest on their laurels. Instead, they are focused on building upon the legacy of the founding Dean, Nicholas DeProspo, PhD. “The relationships forged through the School of Health and Medical Sciences are continually evolving and demonstrate the value of the Seton Hall educational experience. We are looking forward to further enhancing existing relationships and establishing new ones.” Bartolotta said. “The best is yet to come.”

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DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETIC TRAINING

John Gallucci, of JAG Physical Therapy of West Orange, who serves as a Clinical Instructor for the Departments of Athletic Training and Physical Therapy, donated the proceeds of an event at his office to the School of Health and Medical Sciences Student Scholarship Fund.

DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Daniel J. Messina, ’05. Completed his 2nd NYC Marathon in November with a time of 4:21:53 as part of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center’s team. As the Chief Operating Officer of Centra State Health Care System, Dan led the opening in November 2008 of a new 40,000 square foot fitness and wellness center. Recently appointed to both the SHU Alumni Board of Trustees and the chairman of the Mid-Jersey MS Society.

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY


Marina Kaminski (Barth), ’02. Mom to baby girl Gia, born in August 2007. Has been working as an occupational therapist in health care settings for over five years, and recently accepted a position at St. Barnabas – West Hudson Division.

Leslie A. Old, ’00. Works as a school-based occupational therapist. Completed courses towards her pediatric certificate at Misericordia College. Married in April 2002, she and her husband have two daughters.

Jeannette Pastula, ’01. Works as an occupational therapist in both the school and early intervention settings.

Maria Paternoster (Morzello), ’02. Lives in Airmont NY with her husband Dominick and their baby girl Alexandria Julia, who was born in February 2007.


Michele Spinazzolo, ’03. Senior Occupational Therapist at Kessler Institute’s Cognitive Rehabilitation Program. Has received an OT Student Supervisor of the Year Nomination and been awarded Employee of the Month. Also serves as a guest lecturer at New York University.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT


The May 2007 graduates of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant program achieved a 100% pass rate on the Physician Assistants National Certifying Exam.

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Lisa K. Connolly (Kianos), ’02. Married to Kevin and is the mom of two sons. Works in early intervention for Classic Rehabilitation in Ocean County as a clinical speech-language pathologist and supervisor.

Maura McGuire, ’02. Married in 2007. Works as an adjunct clinical supervisor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at Marywood University in Pennsylvania. Practices as a speech-language pathologist in the Scranton School District’s autism program and also works as an independent consultant.

Jacqueline Shankle (Stasi), ’01. New mom to Emelyn born February 7, 2008.
Riding the Wave

Making a Difference in the Dominican Republic

Vincent A. DeBari, PhD, Director of Research Division of Medical Residencies and Fellowships

This isn’t a story about the island of Saba. However, it begins there, comes full circle and returns to another tropical locale. Saba, virtually a mountain that rises out of the warm, turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea in the West Indies, is where Clayton (Clay) Everline began his medical studies eight years ago.

While studying diligently at the Saba School of Medicine, he spent his down time indulging in another passion—surfing—and took surf breaks to neighboring islands. There, he witnessed rampant poverty and inadequate medical care. As a result, Clay Everline vowed that when he finished his medical education, he would give something back to the islands that had given so much to him.

In 2007, Dr. Clay Everline completed his medical residency in the School of Health and Medical Science’s Internal Medicine training program at St. Michael’s Medical Center in Newark, NJ. It was time to act on his commitment to give back. But where?

Everyone at “St. Mike’s” knows Monsignor Manny Cruz. Father Manny, a medical scientist who spends most of his time administering to the spiritual needs of patients, would help Dr. Everline to find his way. The Monsignor told Clay Everline about a convent in the Dominican Republic where the Sisters of the Heart of Jesus cared for desperately poor people.

Dr. Everline put together a team of medical professionals. A logical first choice was Humberto Jimenez, PharmD, a professor for the Rutgers School of Pharmacy who has family ties to the Dominican Republic. Dr. Kate Hanify, a fellow Internal Medical resident, also signed on. The trio then easily convinced Dr. Christopher Boni, an SHMS medical alumnus and a practicing internist, to head their team. Recognizing that they would need more assistance communicating with their Dominican patients, they recruited Marlene Peña, EMT, to accompany them. A final and very significant addition to the team was Dr. Suraj Saggar, a Clinical Fellow in the SHMS Infectious Diseases program.

In March, 2007, the team arrived in the village of Sabana Grande de Boya. “We were faced with many challenges, but our planning paid off and we were well prepared. We had medications available to treat everything from simple skin rashes to asthma. We also knew that we would be working long hours and seeing hundreds of patients” said Dr. Boni. According to Dr. Jimenez, the team’s work was “extremely rewarding.” This trip was so rewarding that they vowed to return for another mission in 2008. Moreover, they formed a nonprofit organization, The Waves of Health (www.thewavesofhealth.org) to raise funds for the mission.

And so it continued. In March of 2008 Dr. Boni, Dr. Hanify, Dr. Jimenez, and Father Manny went to the Dominican Republic town of Dajabon with a new team that consisted of SHMS Medical Residents Justin Pi, and Pan Ko, SHMS Podiatry Resident Monica Rendon, SHMS Infectious Disease Fellow Rajasingam Jayasingam, NP AnnaMarie Matos, PharmD Rabih Dabliz, translator Marsil Suriel, and photographer Robert A. Cumins. Waves of Health continued caring for the sick, helping in work camps (Bateys) and in their few spare minutes...got in a little surfing.

Making a Difference in the Dominican Republic

Vincent A. DeBari, PhD, Director of Research Division of Medical Residencies and Fellowships
Fieldwork opportunities in occupational therapy are beneficial for both SHMS and the organizations who serve as clinical partners. In fact, as a result of their interaction with SHMS students, professionals in other disciplines frequently expand their understanding and appreciation of OT.

During the Spring Semester, 10 first-year students in psychosocial occupational therapy completed fieldwork with partial hospitalization programs at Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Health/Catholic Community Services. Working under the supervision of non-occupational therapy professionals, the students became comfortable working with clients with mental illness while also learning about the unique concerns and clinical approaches of professionals who specialize in other fields.

Jeannette Vella, LPC, program manager for Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Health, and Jessica Cerezo, a clinician in the partial hospitalization program at Mt. Carmel Guild in Cranford, NJ were impressed with the first-year OT students’ hands-on approach and emphasis on engaging clients with significant impairments in arts and crafts and other activities. In fact, occupational therapists can help clients learn to do things to manage their symptoms and enhance their ability to function both inside and outside partial hospitalization programs. OTs frequently engage clients in relaxation, yoga, meditation, exercise, and leisure activities to help them relieve and cope with anxiety and other symptoms. They help clients develop problem-solving skills and build confidence needed to achieve competence and success in their daily lives. In fact, OTs can play a pivotal role in helping clients improve their self-care, home management, leisure, employment and social skills. Those contributions accord particularly well with the increasing emphasis being placed in mental health service delivery on illness management and recovery aimed at preparing clients to resume their life roles.

Dr. Jennifer Weberman, is a clinical psychologist and supervisor of Mt. Carmel Guild’s therapeutic nursery, a partial hospitalization program for children ages three to six with behavioral diagnoses such as oppositional-defiant disorder and ADHD. Prior to coming to the therapeutic nursery, Dr. Weberman had never worked with an occupational therapist. However, she was enthusiastic about the unique contributions of occupational therapy to the therapeutic program, particularly the occupational therapist’s creative activities-based approach to sensory, motor, cognitive and social-emotional development. The treatment team can rely on occupational therapists to identify neurological, medical, sensory-processing and other problems that require referrals. While other professionals exclusively provide non-academic psychotherapeutic services, the occupational therapist also directly addresses deficits and developmental challenges that impact academic performance and helps prepare young clients for entering kindergarten and first grade.

Making a Mental Difference

Students Share a Learning Experience with a Clinical Partner

Robert Faraci, PhD, OTR
Department of Occupational Therapy
New SHMS Administration and Faculty

**Stephen Abo, MD** is the program director of the osteopathic internal medicine residency at Saint Michael's Medical Center. A graduate of SHU’s hematology-oncology fellowship and the dual-accredited internal medicine residency, he also did a six month fellowship in breast oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in NYC. He is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hematology.

**Theresa E. Bartolotta, PhD, CCC-SLP** was appointed Associate Dean for the Division of Health Sciences in the School of Health and Medical Sciences and Associate Professor of Health Sciences. A licensed, certified speech-language pathologist, she was formally on faculty at Kean University. Her research interests are in communication skills in autism spectrum disorders, specifically Rett syndrome. Bartolotta is a consultant to the licensure board for audiology and speech-language pathology for New Jersey, serves on the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and is a Board Member of the New Jersey Rett Syndrome Association.

**Peter N. Benotti, MD** joined the faculty in March 2008 as Residency Program Director in the Department of Surgery at St. Francis Medical Center. Previously, he served as Department Director in General Surgery and Residency Program Director at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. He is a gastrointestinal surgeon who has practiced surgery since completion of residency training at the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

**Thomas J. Mernar, PhD, OTR** received his MS from Seton Hall as a member of the first graduating class in Occupational Therapy. He holds a PhD in occupational science from the University of Southern California where he was the recipient of the Penelope Louise Richardson Award. This award is given to the doctoral student who demonstrates outstanding potential in fulfilling the role of a faculty member. Mernar’s research has focused on understanding the biological foundations of occupation as well as how occupation and environment influence the health of elders relocating to nursing facilities.

**Andrew L. McDonough, EdD** is a licensed physical therapist who received his doctorate from the Department of Motor Learning at Teacher’s College, Columbia University. Dr. McDonough’s research interest is focused on motor control and learning in both healthy and impaired populations. Dr. McDonough was previously a faculty member in the Department of Physical Therapy at New York University.

**Raju Parasher, EdD** is a licensed physical therapist who received his doctorate from the Department of Motor Learning at Teacher’s College, Columbia University. Dr. Parasher’s research is focused on motor control issues specifically in individuals diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. Before arriving at Seton Hall, Dr. Parasher was the Director of the Amar Jyoti Institute of Physiotherapy at the University of Delhi.
Exploring Danish COLLABORATION

Physical therapy students may soon be working side-by-side with Danish students. Dr. Kim Poulsen, Director of Clinical Education for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, is currently working on the establishment of an exchange program between the School of Health and Medical Sciences and the School of Physical Therapy in Copenhagen, Denmark. The collaboration would make clinical internships in Denmark available to Seton Hall students while students from the Danish school would engage in clinical rotations in the United States.

Dr. Poulsen and Dean Brian B. Shulman met with faculty from the School of Physical Therapy in Denmark last summer to explore the potential collaboration. “Our meeting in July was very productive. We now have an informal agreement,” said Dr. Poulsen. “If a formal agreement can be reached, the exchange of students could begin in the Spring 2009 semester. This agreement may also serve as a springboard for a more extensive collaboration involving faculty members.”

Dean Shulman is excited about the possibility of new international alliances. “Our hope is to use this agreement as a template for future collaborations with overseas colleagues for other programs in the School.”

REACHING OUT TO OTHER UNIVERSITIES

The Physician Assistant Program’s first graduating class in 2004 was comprised exclusively of students referred from the SHU Department of Biology. Since that time, the program has been successfully reaching out to other colleges and universities and making careers as physician assistants available to additional qualified candidates.

Its first relationship was with Monmouth University (MU), a private university with existing affiliations with medical and dental schools that was interested in offering undergraduates another career choice. “I learned about physician assistants through a presentation at MU by a SHU faculty member. As a result, I entered the PA program right after college,” said Laurlee Roenigk, PA-C, MA ’07. “MU and SHU proved to be quite similar with small faculty-to-student ratios.”

Relationships with the College of St. Elizabeth and St. Peter’s College now also help the PA program to extend its reach to other areas of New Jersey and attract high-quality, talented students who, in turn, become well-respected practitioners in their communities. A win-win situation for all involved!”
WHERE ARE YOU?

Some alumni have disappeared from our records. If you know their whereabouts or would like to update your own records, please email us at shms@shu.edu.

- Gabriella Addari
- Vicki Allen
- Luz Alvarez
- Spiridoula Bakatsias
- Derek Benz
- Tivadar Beszterczei
- Joanna Biviano
- Robin Bodenstein
- DeVonna Bonimy
- Cindy Bono
- Margaret Broderick
- Christine Carbonaro
- Yen Cheng
- Michael Chuley
- Kimberly Clark
- Jeffrey D’Agostino
- Michele Edgar
- Emily Faraldo
- Jennifer Fernandez
- Renee Ferraraccio
- Christine Flynn-Mount
- Jonathan Freet
- Ronald Fronzak
- Shana Gjelsvik
- Scott Griffith
- Ashraf Hasen
- Jennifer Heinze
- Crystal Hemberger
- Albert Heuer
- James Houston
- William Ippolito
- Alice Isidro
- Gregory Jenkins
- Darce Jenkins
- Anna Kang
- Peter Keklak
- Kelly Larkin
- Patricia Leegan
- Allison Lengyel
- Patricia Lopez
- Bryan Manhardt
- Berry Margaret
- Natalie Martin
- Kimberly Meade
- Michael Moore
- Jill Morehouse
- Christopher Moschella
- Chad Niemann
- Laura Nizer
- Stephanie Pavese
- Deborah Pedroso
- Elvira Pichardo
- Keith Pidane
- Gabriela Plesek-Andia
- Raymond Ransom
- Renee Reinertsen
- Joseph Rios
- Bruce Rosenhein
- Jennifer Rydstrom
- Tricia Sarg
- Steven Saunders
- Heather Scheuer
- Joy Sensakovic
- Suzannah Sorin
- Frank St. George
- Dawn Stackewicz
- Mark Stansfield
- Deborah Sterman-Kolin
- Nicholas Tamburri
- Blair Tatton
- Courtney Taylor
- Michelle Tolentino
- Brian Van Ness
- Christine VanZandbergen
- Lisette Vargas
- Martin Waltsak
- Kristen Whipkey
- Janet Worobel
- Hannah Yap
- Elliam Zarnegar

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology has relocated to McQuaid Hall and the Department of Graduate Programs in Health Sciences is now located in Alfieri Hall (Lower Level).
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETIC TRAINING
Vicci Hill-Lombardi, EdD, ATC, was re-elected as the Northern District Representative for the Athletic Trainers Society of NJ.

DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HEALTH SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Ruth Segal, PhD, OTR, presented “Boredom in recovery for adults with substance use disorder and HIV/AIDS attending an urban day treatment program” at the American Occupational Therapy Association meeting in Long Beach, CA. Kate Collucci, MA, OTR, presented at the AOTA institute “Fitting the pieces together: working with children with complex disabilities and their families.” Meryl Picard MSW, OTR, presented at the AOTA conference “A literature review of cancer-related fatigue in breast cancer survivors: impact on occupation”.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Doreen Stiskal, PT, PhD, received a $35,400 grant from the National Arthritis Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as a co-investigator on a research project to study the effects of Tai Chi on arthritis. Diana Glendinning, PhD, PT, along with DPT students Latefia Bailey and Quasheema Torrellas, presented “The coordination of breathing and trunk movements,” at the Combined Sections meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Nashville, TN. Howard J. Phillips PhD, PT presented “Five-position grip strength testing in persons with clinical depression” at the APTA meeting. Catherine Maher, PT, DPT, and Genevieve Pinto Zipp, PT, EdD, presented “Mind Maps: Useful Schematic Tools for Organizing Concepts of Complex Patient Care in the Clinic and the Classroom” at the Teaching Learning Conference sponsored by the Clute Institute for Academic Research in Austria, June, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
Venugopal Balasubramanian, PhD, CCC-SLP, co-authored the article “Dysgraphias following focal lesions: Implications for models of writing”, Brain and Language, 2007. Nina Capone, PhD, CCC-SLP presented a paper entitled “Iconic gesture cues facilitate lexical-semantic learning for naming and extension of object labels” at the annual meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language in Edinburgh, Scotland.

DIVISION OF MEDICAL RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS
Fayez Shamoon, MD, Program Director, Cardiology & Interventional Cardiology Fellowship, St. Michael’s Medical Center co-authored an article, “Impact of Stent Deployment Procedure Factors on Long-Term Effectiveness and Safety of Sirolimus-Eluting Stents”, American Journal of Cardiology, June, 2008. Dr. Shamoon also was selected as a guest faculty member at the 2008 Sixth Annual New Jersey Cardio Vascular Symposium and received acknowledgement as the School’s distinguished alumnus at the University’s 2008 Many Are One gala.
Health Sciences Commencement Ceremony 2008
Skilled speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are in high demand. In fact, job openings for SLPs nationwide exceed the number of new speech-language pathologists who enter the field each year. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 49,000 job openings for SLPs are projected for the ten-year period between 2002 and 2012. In particular, programs in low-income, urban areas across the nation are experiencing critical shortages in the recruitment and retention of competent SLPs.

At the same time, federal mandates, improved medical screenings, increased emphasis on the treatment of infants and greater awareness of the importance of early identification of developmental delays, all combine to significantly increase the number of children in need of speech-language services. In fact, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has effected service delivery to 5.4 million children and contributed to the rising demand for appropriately trained SLPs. In the midst of these shortfalls, the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program is helping to fulfill the needs of children in Newark, NJ while also providing its graduate students with valuable clinical experience.

In 2006, the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, along with three Essex County, NJ nonprofit organizations (Newark Preschool Council, Inc., Youth Consultation Services (YCS) and Programs for Parents) was enlisted by Family Connections, a nonprofit mental health agency, to collaborate on providing comprehensive services for children from birth through age five who are at risk of developmental delays and/or mental health difficulties.

This program, Rise and Shine, was developed by Family Connections and funded by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

Rise and Shine services are based in Newark Preschool Council buildings located in the city’s Vailsburg section. Services include developmental screenings; individual play therapy; speech-language screenings and therapy; parent/infant music, massage and bonding groups; violence prevention, problem solving and personal safety preschool curricula; and training and support for family daycare providers, preschool teachers, parents and guardians.

Under the supervision of licensed practitioners, graduate students are given the opportunity to apply academic knowledge obtained in the classroom to clinical practice. Students assist in screening underserved preschool children for speech-language delays and providing prevention and enrichment activities for those deemed at risk for developmental delays. In the past two years, 138 children have been screened for delays in communication skills. Eighteen preschool children have been referred for further evaluation of speech-language skills and five have been identified with possible hearing difficulties requiring complete audiological evaluations.

Supervisors from the SHMS provided enrichment activities for 33 students during the preschool’s summer program last year. The activities will be provided again this summer. In keeping with SHU’s mission of “reaching out to our neighboring communities,” the Department of Speech-Language Pathology program is pleased to be part of an effort to help at-risk children “rise and shine.”
The Athletic Training (AT) program was once part of SHMS’s Physical Therapy and Sports Science Department and several courses are still co-taught by physical therapy and AT faculty. However, AT is now a separate department that draws from a wealth of knowledge and experience within SHMS, throughout SHU and beyond.

On campus, the SHU Athletics Department and the Athletic Training Education Program work closely together and two members of the Athletics staff serve as adjunct faculty. Heather Worthy, MS, ATC, Assistant Athletic Trainer, teaches the Therapeutic Modality Lab and has guest lectured in Therapeutic Exercise. Prior to joining SHU in 2005, she was employed at Hampton University. She brings a vast amount of knowledge and experience in using modalities to rehabilitate injuries and her ability to share practical experiences enhances her teaching capabilities.

Angelo Gingerelli, MEd, CSCS, one of the Athletics Department strength and conditioning coaches, co-teaches Exercise Physiology. Gingerelli has been working with SHU athletes since 2005, and has prior experience with the Pittsburgh Pirates, North Carolina State University and other organizations. The application of his accomplishments in the field of strength and conditioning to his lectures and laboratory experiences provides students with invaluable lessons.

Beyond the SHU campus, the AT program has many relationships and is involved in varied activities. For Athletic Training Month in March, AT students organized a clinical workshop for high school students considering AT careers. More than 40 high school students attended and took part in break-out sessions featuring a taping station for upper and lower extremity, a concussion assessment, and Abra Cadaver which included x-rays and lower extremity bone assembly and therapeutic exercise regimens to treat ankle injuries.

The high school students were accompanied by the certified athletic trainers from their schools including Approved Clinical Instructors (ACIs) Joe Koch (Roxbury HS) and Suzanne Barba (West Morris Central HS). Also accompanying their students and serving as presenters were ACIs Leslie Rippon, Nick Nicholaides and John Gallucci. Rippon, an alumnus of the SHU ATEP who currently works at South Plainfield HS, made a presentation about the management of common injuries. Nicholaides, who currently works at Ridgewood High School presented “Which ‘Trainer’ is Best for You?” a talk that highlighted the differences between personal fitness trainers and certified athletic trainers. John Gallaci, PT, ATC, president of JAG Physical Therapy, gave an informative talk about anabolic steroids. This type of community outreach allows high school students to experience some of the knowledge that ATs have to offer.
“Learning is a lifelong journey and the SHMS PhD in Health Sciences provides a great opportunity to continue that journey.”

A JOURNEY OF LEARNING

A Good Choice for Professionals in Multiple Fields

When Denise Rizzolo, PA, PhD ’08 received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Health Sciences from Seton Hall earlier this year, she became the first professional to receive two SHMS degrees. After receiving her physician assistant degree in May 2000 and practicing as a PA, Dr. Rizzolo knew she wanted to do more to serve her community, so she returned to SHU to pursue her PhD. “Learning is a lifelong journey and the SHMS PhD in Health Sciences provides a great opportunity to continue that journey,” observed Dr. Rizzolo.

If you are thinking about your next career move, a PhD in Health Sciences may be the key to new opportunities as an advanced practitioner, health profession leader, researcher or academician. In fact, the program is open to physical, occupational, speech and respiratory therapists, physician assistants, athletic trainers, nurses, chiropractors, hospital executives, secondary education teachers, university professors, social workers and pharmaceutical industry professionals.

SHU is one of only two schools in New Jersey to offer this program. Flexible schedules accommodate full-time students and working professionals interested in part-time and evening studies. Specialization tracks in health professions leadership, movement science and speech-language pathology are available.
SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

In addition to the School’s other scholarship funds, the Joseph R. (’50) and Rosemary Todino Scholarships, totaling $10,000 per scholarship, were awarded, for the first time this year, to five Seton Hall students who are residents of either Ocean County or southern Monmouth County. Each must have a demonstrated financial need while achieving (and maintaining) a 3.0 grade point average or better.

The Todino Scholarships shall be allotted annually in the following manner:

- At least one scholarship to a deserving upperclass undergraduate student at the Stillman School of Business.
- At least one scholarship to a deserving student of the Accelerated B.S.N. program offered by Seton Hall at the Georgian Court University campus in Lakewood, NJ.
- At least one scholarship to a deserving graduate student enrolled in the School of Health and Medical Sciences or an undergraduate student enrolled in one of the School’s collaborative dual degree programs.
- The two remaining scholarships may be awarded to students who satisfy the criteria of any of the above mentioned programs.

At the University’s 2008 Scholarship Dinner in April, two School of Health and Medical Sciences students received Todino Scholarships. Pictured below are Jennifer Spencer, speech-language pathology graduate student and Kathryn Pfister, physical therapy graduate student.

The School of Health and Medical Sciences extends its thanks to the Todino Family for their generosity, and its congratulations to the scholarship recipients.