To be a servant leader, there is a requirement for compassion, understanding, patience, being a team player, and dedication. It is my belief that in order to hold a job in the humanistic field of speech-language pathology each of these characteristics is necessary to best meet the needs of the various populations we serve. As a servant leader, one wants to do good for others. As a soon to be graduate in the field, it is my goal to make a difference in other peoples’ lives. The children and families which I have encountered throughout my experiences need a sense of hope and belief that you can help their precious child in the domains of language, speech, feeding and swallowing. It is my aspiration to provide these families with that hope and belief for their children.

My experience at P.G. Chambers during the fall 2009 school semester has granted me the opportunity to develop into a confident and knowledgeable aspiring speech language pathologist. At P.G. Chambers, these core characteristics were able to truly emerge. The P.G. Chambers School is a specialized school for multiply disabled children aged birth to 21 years of age. Working with these remarkable children truly captivated me – it brought so much more meaning to my clinical experience.

The internship program focused on the importance of the collaborative model. My training was not solely focused in the discipline of speech-language pathology. I believe this great asset of the internship program is what strengthened my salient team member abilities. I participated in numerous inservices in the disciplines of nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.

Being afforded an education in all the disciplines assisted me to better serve the population I worked with. The collaborative model addresses the needs of the whole child. As an intern, I didn’t solely focus on what I was doing as a speech-language clinician. I was able to integrate my understanding about the child not only from the domain of speech-language pathology, but was also able to learn about the child in terms of the other disciplines. This was markedly beneficial when I was given the opportunity to co-treat with my fellow students and professionals.
During my semester at P.G. Chambers, I grew not only as a student, but as a professional, and most of all as a human being. It requires patience to achieve goals that you have established for your clients. It is about taking smaller footsteps to achieve greater strides. The reward at the end of the day surpasses more than words can express. The best days I had throughout my experience were those that exhibited small but grand achievements. I fondly recall those moments. They were the moments in which a five year old child who had overcome two years at the beginning of her life in the neonatal intensive care unit was able to say three word utterances. They were moments in which a child who, unable to tolerate a skilled session for longer than 15 minute intervals, was able to sit throughout an entire 30 minute session fully attentive. These, although just two examples, are the moments in which my passion and love for this field took shape.

My greatest accomplishment throughout my experience had to be my capability to understand and make specific accommodations to each student that was on my case load. As a speech-language pathologist, you compose a plan of care for your clients and plan activities to address the goals you set. However, there were times in which I needed to look beyond what I had originally planned for the students – when they needed more than what was in my lesson plan. I was able to make quick, decisive modifications to adapt to the child and their needs during those times.

These attributes that I have gained from my education at Seton Hall and my various experiences in the clinical realm have truly empowered my professional demeanor as a forthcoming speech-language pathologist. It is these types of experiences that have impressed upon me a personal, solemn goal to be the best servant leader possible. It is my objective to provide not only my professional abilities to others, but to show compassion and kindness. My experience at P.G. Chambers afforded me an opportunity to grow in my knowledge in the domain of speech-language pathology and has allowed me the potential to meet my goal of serving others. I thank all of my clinical affiliations for the grandiose experience they have provided me. It is one which I will carry with me throughout my professional career.