Greetings

Hello again friends and alumni! This year has been another one filled with change, success, hard work, and gratitude. Our alumni group grows with each graduating cohort and so does our appreciation for who you all become and what you do. We have great joy and pride in helping to give you a foundation of athletic training, professional, and civic skills while you are with us at Daemen. We also value the relationships that we build with you and that you build with one another after you leave our doors. We are truly amazed and delighted to see the wonderful things that you are doing out in the world. In your professional lives, you are helping others in a variety of settings and geographic locations around the US. You are accepting challenging clinical opportunities and working on administrative and committee tasks. Some of you are serving to educate the next generation of students in some capacity. In your personal lives, you are, I hope, taking time to breathe and enjoy the beauty of what is before you. Many of you are also becoming a part of growing families. We congratulate you all on all that you are accomplishing, both professionally and personally!

Although we cannot highlight everything in this newsletter, we truly celebrate each success with you. There is now a section labeled “news you’d like to share…” on the Directory or you can simply email one of us your many adventures. I would like to be able to put more focused stories or issues that are written by you, our alum, in these newsletters. If you are interested, please let me know. Also, if any of you have a vision for more alumni involvement in this alumni association OR with our current students and program, I would welcome your ideas. We know you have much to offer and we would love to be able to make these connections for our AT students.

Thank you as always to the preceptors, administration, and faculty: Dr. Becky Begalle, PhD, ATC, PES (Department Chair and Program Director); Professor Tony Surace, Med, ATC (Clinical Education Coordinator); Dr. Lynn Matthews, ATC, PT, DPT, FAAOMPT; Professor Jeff Sage, MS, ATC, CSCS, PES Professor Karen Roehling, MS, ATC, PES, CES; Dr. Gary Styn, MD, Professor Michelle Copolo, MS, ATC; & Dr. Jennifer Scheid, PhD, CSCS. My thanks also to Pam Gorman for helping me format this year’s edition of the updATe.

Rebecca Romano Besch, MS, ATC, CSCS, PES
Alumni Coordinator

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To contribute to the next updATe, email Rebecca Romano Besch: rbesch@daemen.edu

Program Director updATe

Greetings from the Program Director. It has been a big year for the Daemen AT Program. We have endured a lot of change, but have certainly come out on top!

In July (2018), I was named the new Department Chairperson and AT Program Director. You may recall that in last year’s letter I was introducing myself as the new Clinical Coordinator. This was an unexpected change but presented a challenge that I was eager to take on for the sake of our program. My main focus this year was to hire a new Clinical Coordinator to get back up to full faculty, prepare our students for the BOC and have a lot of fun. I am pleased to say that we succeeded.

In January, we hired a new Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor for our AT Program, Tony Surace, MEd, ATC. Tony brings extensive clinical and administrative experience to us. His research experience and interests focus on sport related concussion. He has been a wonderful addition to our faculty and has made a great impact on our clinical education program in a very short time period. Tony has also been very effective in the classroom and is well liked by the students. We appreciate his positivity and serious, but fun, demeanor. We are thrilled to have him on board and are excited about the road ahead.
Our 2019 MSAT graduating class once again had 100% first time pass rate on the BOC exam. This is our seventh consecutive cohort to achieve a 100% first time pass rate, bringing our overall first time pass rate to 98.2%. This is a huge accomplishment and we continue to be extremely proud of our graduates.

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) released new Curriculum Standards that must be implemented by July 1, 2020 (https://caate.net/pp-standards/). This deadline is fast approaching and we have been working tirelessly modifying the current curriculum to offer the best experience possible. The new standards will enhance the athletic training skills set while allowing more autonomy with how programs administer their curriculum. Based on feedback from you, our alumni, we will be implementing course sequence changes, developing a new course, and repurposing existing courses. Examples include moving ATH 523 (Rehab) to the first year, modifying ATH 512 (Neuroscience) to be an advanced rehab course offered in the second year, and developing a stand-alone course in Sport Concussion. Additionally, all students will complete a 6-8 week immersive clinical education experience. The new curriculum is in the final stages of revision and approval. We will roll out the new curriculum for the cohort starting May 2020. If you have any interest in reviewing the proposed curriculum or serving on an Advisory level for program changes such as these, please contact me directly (rbegalle@daemen.edu). We always welcome your feedback!

We are very excited about the future of Daemen AT. We are in a great place during a time of transition in our profession. We have a proven track record of success and will continue to cultivate our program into a Nationally recognized AT curriculum. Be sure to follow us on Twitter @DaemenAT.

Rebecca Begalle, PhD, ATC, PES
Chairperson and Program Director

Program Highlights

Congratulations to Dr. Lynn Matthews who earned Tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor for Fall 2019! What a huge accomplishment!

- 7th consecutive cohort 100% first-time BOC exam pass rate!
- Led by Rebecca Besch, students volunteered at the NYS “I Love My Park Day” this spring helping to fix up the gorge trails at Whirlpool State Park. It was beautiful (except for the stairs)! In the fall, we helped Lois Shriver to beautify the entryway of the Amherst State Park located on Mill Street in Williamsville (we took out many thistles!). This is likely to be the last event we do with Lois there because she will no longer be volunteering with that organization. Luckily, we should be able to continue to work with her cleaning up trails at another location in Amherst.
- Led by Lynn Matthews, students volunteered this spring at the Western Region of Special Olympics bowling competition. In the fall, they served as route marshals for the Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk.
- Led by Prof Surace, Daemen AT students assisted with the 4th Annual Niagara EDGE Run held on May 19th, 2019. This event is a 5k/10k/1 mile walk which the proceeds benefit the concussion research program with UBMDosm and NFMMC. The students assisted by directing runners where to go on the course and handing out water. The race volunteers are a vital part of the success of this event.
- Congratulations to 2nd year student, Darlene Eckhardt for competing in the final round of the EATA quiz bowl in January!
- Our students had a unique opportunity to learn about, and practice, skills in suturing, injection, and aspiration from our medical director Dr. Michael Freitas, MD together with students from UB during an open lab experience on a snowy evening during the spring semester. It was a great experience!
First year AT students were able to take time from Prof Sage’s Foundations course to help teach and then test undergraduate Health Promotion students in First Aid during Prof Besch’s HPR 200 course. It was a fun and beneficial experience for our AT students, many of whom will someday serve as preceptors or instructors.

The annual simulation event was a success this spring with second year students creating real-life scenarios, with the help of moulage, for the first year students to test their skills. The highlight this year was exceptionally real-life performances from our 3rd year HPR students (soon to be AT students). I really thought we had some emergencies! So did the photographer as she asked one of the models if he could “not look dead.”

Prof Sage and Dr. Matthews accompanied 2nd year students to Albany for the annual AT Lobby Day during finals week. Kudos to the students for taking time out of a busy exam week to support legislative efforts for ATs in NY state.

Prof Surace and students from the AT department provided educational programming for high school students at Niagara Falls High School on March 21st and 28th, 2019. They instructed students on the management of the potentially spine injured football player with logrolling and equipment removal. They were also instructed in ankle taping with learning the basics of a closed basketweave, for which we provided demonstrations and the students practiced these skills on each other. The students that participated are part of a sports medicine class that is offered at Niagara Falls High School and the teacher is Bhawna Chowdhary, Ph.D.

Prof Surace provided a hydration station for the 1st Annual Wildcat spinathon that was held in the DC Lumsden gymnasium led by HPR professor, Jennifer Scheid-Liberg, PhD, CSCS. We had participants from the AT department volunteer as well participate. Proceeds from this event went to the DC Women’s Triathlon Team.

A new Daemen event during alumni weekend in June brought together Athletic Training and Health Promotion faculty and alumni for a fun evening. Alum also got together last year in June at the NATA conference...if you are going to Vegas and would like to get together, please use the directory to find one another and set something up!

The research project requirement for all MS AT students will remain as we move forward with the new curriculum. However, we have modified the requirement to include various forms, including, but not limited to primary data collection (independent or small group), systematic review, meta-analysis and critically appraised topics (CAT). The goal is to facilitate a strong understanding of the research process within the confines of the two year curriculum and the new expanding skill set within our standards.

We presented our first ever Preceptor of the Year Award to Marcy Gerlach from Sweet Home High School. Marcy provides invaluable experiences for our students and it was an honor to be able to recognize her hard work and dedication.

AT Camp ran this summer from June 26 – 28. Karen Roehling led the campers in a great experience! They earned CPR/AED certification and visited the cadaver lab, as well as learning some basic AT facts and skills.

Please follow us on Twitter @DaemenAT!
We are really trying to use this as an avenue to keep interested parties abreast of what is going on in our program and we hope that you will not only follow us, but retweet, too!
Clinical Education update

I would like to introduce myself as the new Clinical Education Coordinator in the AT program at Daemen College. I joined the program in January, 2019. I am extremely excited to join the experienced faculty here at Daemen College. I look forward to working with all of you in the future to maintain the very reputable AT program with a terrific group of faculty, staff, and students. Everyone has been very helpful to me during the transition to this new position.

I come from a background of developing and directing a sports medicine outreach program in Western New York over the past 15 years in Niagara and Northern Erie County at a local hospital in Niagara Falls, NY. I have been the AT at Niagara Falls High School for the past 22 years as well as an adjunct professor at NCCC and Daemen College. Also, I have had the opportunity to be a primary instructor for Sports Medicine Concepts, Inc. for the past 20 years, a business in Livonia, NY that focuses on preparing sports healthcare professionals for those potentially catastrophic moments that we all hope never happen in sport. This course focuses on the management of potentially catastrophic injuries in athletics.

I completed my Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training/Physical Education in 1996 from Canisius College. I then went on to graduate school to earn my Master's degree in Education from East Stroudsburg University (ESU) in 1997. At ESU, I really found my passion in the area of emergency response in athletic training. My Master's thesis focused on the "Effect of selected tools on facemask removal time and head motion". When I completed my thesis and came back to WNY where I was born and raised, I realized the lack of prepared sports healthcare professionals working the sidelines of games in Niagara and Northern Erie County. I had a goal to provide high level athletic training with focus on emergency response and concussion management.

I have completed research in conjunction with the UB Concussion clinic here in Buffalo with physicians, Dr. Scott Darling, Dr. John Leddy, and Barry Willer, PhD. We have looked at the use of low grade aerobic exercise prescribed after a concussed patient has completed the Buffalo Concussion Treadmill Test (BCTT) to tolerance and then prescribing low grade aerobic exercise such as walking, jogging, or biking without exacerbating concussion symptoms. We have ongoing studies in our concussion clinic in Niagara Falls.

I look forward to working with AT students in the area of emergency response and concussion management as well as interprofessional training in the new simulation center that will be opening on campus in the Spring of 2020. This center will provide the opportunities for students to work with real “patients” who are hired actors from the community that will portray injuries and illness for real patient interaction experience.

Our active clinical sites for this academic year include: Buffalo Bills, University at Buffalo, Niagara University, Daemen College, Buffalo State, D'Youville College, Erie Community College, Grand Island High School, Niagara Falls High School, Nichols School, and St. Joe's Collegiate Institute. This year we have added Niagara Wheatfield High School, Clarence High School, Niagara County Community College, and the Kenton Union Free School District. For our gen med rotations, we have added the Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo and the Summit Family Health Center in Niagara Falls. For a non-traditional clinical experience, we added Excelsior Orthopaedics for a multi-faceted experience to include: sports specific training, physical therapy, physician extender, and DME experience with athletic trainers and physicians from Excelsior Orthopaedics. General Physician, PC has agreed as well to have students in their offices under the supervision of physicians from the group in the area of Orthopaedics. They have offices across Western New York.

This semester I was able to experience the interviews for potential graduate students entering our program as well as those BS/MS students applying to enter the program. I was very impressed with the applicants that have applied and committed to joining our program. Very promising! When I look at the wide variety of clinical sites that we are able to offer our students, I want to thank all of our active clinical sites and preceptors that are committed to our program. This year, we have added a special award to our AT banquet at the end of the year. This award is the “Preceptor of the year award”. This award was determined by nominations from the students from our program. The criteria for the award included: a preceptor with our program for at least 2 years, gone above and beyond to challenge our students in the areas of critical thinking and skill development, maintains the DCAT program requirements that are the CAATE standards, and have maintained a professional student/preceptor relationship. Our winner this year was Marcy Gerlach, Athletic Trainer from Sweet Home High School. Congratulations to Marcy! Marcy has shown her commitment to our program over the years and she is willing to make our students part of the sports medicine team at Sweet Home High School. She goes above and beyond the call of duty as a preceptor in making students comfortable yet challenging them to develop into athletic trainers of the future. She provides them the opportunity to perform hands on skills with real injuries with the right amount of supervision from her. Students have really enjoyed being at Sweet Home High School over the years. Once again, congratulations Marcy!

I look forward to working with all of you in the future and have enjoyed the process thus far in becoming Clinical Education Coordinator.

ATSA update

This year our ATSA members were able to participate in many Athletic Training endeavors. In October, members of the ATSA collaborated with the Health Promotion Student Association in order to organize and implement the Homecoming and Family Weekend Wellness Walk around campus. The ATSA E-board also sponsored a table at the Daemen College Health Fair in order to inform the campus about making nutritional choices throughout their diet. This fall, we were able to use the proceeds from last year’s banquet to fund a night out at a Sabres game with kids and police officers from Buffalo through Kids Event Tickets. It was a great night! The students of ATSA also served and created a video...
for the NATA social media video contest for National Athletic Training Month with the theme of “ATs Are Health Care”. On May 7th, students took to the road along with Professor Sage, to head up to Albany, NY to speak with legislators and push for our licensure bill to move forward. Lobby Day for our students was funded by the New York State Athletic Trainers Association (NYSATA).

On Friday, May 10th, the ATSA hosted our 2nd annual ATSA Charity Banquet. This year, our charity of choice was Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center. We raised money through basket raffle donations and 50/50 raffles to be able to fund the purchase of an AED for the riding center. Lothlorien teaches people with special needs and disabilities to ride horses while incorporating rehabilitation techniques. Due to the nature of the patients, an AED is greatly needed to keep everyone as safe as possible in the case of an emergency. [As I put this newsletter together, I have been informed that the ATSA raised nearly $1500! Amazing! RRB]

ATSA wouldLastly like to thank the Professors for constantly encouraging us through our two years in the program and providing countless opportunities for us to excel in the profession of Athletic Training.

Darlene Eckhardt, BS 18-19' ATSA President

2018-2019 ATSA E-board: Darlene Eckhardt–President, Elizabeth Hauke–Vice President, Erin Deheer–Treasurer, Bethany Lewis–Secretary

Best of luck to the 2019-2020 E-board: Kristen Schlabach (President), Griffin Spatorico (Vice President), Abigail Gullo (Secretary), Audrey Yokopovich (Fundraising Chair), Justin Losowski (Secretary)

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### 2019 Graduate Awards

The following awards were given to the 2019 MSAT graduates:

**Sue Rocque Award**, in recognition of exemplary professionalism, commitment, and dedication to the AT program: Elizabeth Hauke

**Clinical Excellence Award**, in recognition of outstanding performance during clinical educational experiences: Darlene Eckhardt

**Top Research Award**, in recognition of superior research abilities in the form of writing and conducting an independent research project: Schneidie Delmas

**Academic Achievement Award**, in recognition of the highest GPA: Darlene Eckhardt

**ATSA Service and Leadership Award**, as voted on by the graduate’s peers: Elizabeth Hauke

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### Alumni News

#### 2019 Cohort

**Erin Deheer**, (AT) - University of Chicago Laboratory School 
**Schneidie Delmas**, ATI Physical Therapy - On-Site Early Intervention Specialist (AT) 
**Darlene Eckhardt**, General Physician PC (AT, Physician Practice) 
**Elizabeth Hauke**, Onondaga Community College (AT, Intern) 
**Bethany Lewis**, ENCORE Rehabilitation outreach program in Fayette, AL (AT) 
**Kendall Marshall**, Excelsior Orthopedics - Outreach AT 
**Michelle Rivers**, Excelsior Orthopedics (AT), Per Diem at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in their outreach program

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#### 2018 Cohort

**Rebecca Delahunty**, Athletico (AT) 
**Kaitlyn Gustafson**, University of Maryland - Assistant AT (Softball & Spirit Squad) 
**Jacob Habermehl**, Excelsior Orthopaedics - Outreach AT (Williamsville South HS) 
**Conner Lorenzo**, University of Rochester Sports Medicine - AT 
**Phillip MacLeod**, Excelsior Orthopedics - In-house AT 
**Krista Mau**, Buffalo State College - Assistant AT (W Soccer, M/W XC, M/W Swimming, M/W T&F) 
**Amanda Methé**, Phoebe Putney Health System- Schley County HS (AT) 
**Midori Powell**, Western Carolina University - Intern Athletic Trainer

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#### 2017 Cohort

**Lucas Alioto**, University of North Florida - Assistant Athletic Trainer - Men's Soccer/Swimming 
**Stephanie Czaja**, Crunch - Personal Trainer 
**Caleb Earl**, Excelsior Orthopaedics-Outreach AT, Williamsville East HS 
**Courtney Hayden**, Excelsior Orthopaedics - Clinical AT 
**Mallorie Larson**, Excelsior Orthopaedics- Clinical AT Excelsior Express 
**Rachel Reichart**, Buffalo State College - Assistant AT (Football, Women's Hockey, Men"s/Women's T&F) 
**Meghan Short**, Head AT and Assistant AD at The Williams School in New London, CT 
**Mitchell Taffe**, New Orleans Saints Intern 
**Stephanie Rose (Woleben)**, Brooks Memorial Hospital/ GPPC of Dunkirk - Head AT Jamestown Community College 
**Luis Zuniga**, Finger Lakes Health - AT for Penn Yan Academy

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2016 Cohort

**Paulina Behrens**, Penn State Behrend - Head AT 
**Kolleen Brown**, Northwestern State University AT with Women's Basketball; Assistant Director of Sports Medicine 
**Joelle Davis**, Excelsior Orthopaedics - Outreach AT to Nardin 
**Rachel Reichert**, Buffalo State College - Assistant AT (Football, Women's Hockey, Men"s/Women's T&F) 
**Meghan Short**, Head AT and Assistant AD at The Williams School in New London, CT 
**Mitchell Taffe**, New Orleans Saints Intern 
**Stephanie Rose (Woleben)**, Brooks Memorial Hospital/ GPPC of Dunkirk - Head AT Jamestown Community College 
**Luis Zuniga**, Finger Lakes Health - AT for Penn Yan Academy
Publications & Presentations

Dr. Begalle:


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**2015 Cohort**

Cleon Clayton, Brooks Memorial Hospital Sports Medicine, AT; Lakeshore Orthopedic, AT in physician practice; Per diem AT for Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital  
Kyle Clifford, Daemen College, Asst AT, Strength & Conditioning Coordinator  
Jared Contreras, Southern Methodist University, Asst AT (Football)  
Danielle Dorchak, UBMD Orthopaedics, Outreach AT to Cheektowaga School District  
Kerry Guerin, Upstate Orthopedics-AT/DME  
Jeremy Plochko, UBMD Orthopaedics, Outreach AT to Maryvale School District

**2014 Cohort**

Ryan Bohn, Ohio University, Asst AT (Football)  
Ron Cooper, Asst Director of Sports Medicine at the University of Nevada  
Jamal Cort, earned his DPT. Will be working with the Utah Jazz NBA and g-league teams.  
Shelby Knoller, Syracuse University, Asst AT (Women's Soccer, Women's Rowing, and oversees Softball GA)  
Zhujun (Jess) Zhou, Professional PT, Grand Central Station Office-AT

**2013 Cohort**

Lizabeth Sherman (Aiello), Head AT Denbigh High School  
Sean Burfeind, Inova Sports Medicine; Clinical Athletic Trainer/Surgical First Assist  
Adam Domroes, General Physician P.C. as a Clinical Systems Trainer  
Lauren Duft, University at Buffalo, AT (Volleyball & Women’s Tennis)  
Megan Hendel, Chiropractor at Healing Hands Chiropractic in Greensboro, NC  
Patrick Palkowski, Senior Territory Manager of WNY Area at ConMed Linvatec  
Kayce Wagner, University of South Carolina Upstate, AT (Women’s Basketball & M/W Tennis)  
Adam Wysocki, James Desiderio, Inc., Management

**2012 Cohort**

Andrew Benzin, Synergy Nutrition & Wellness (Functional Nutrition)  
Brianna Cooper, University of Rochester Sports Medicine, AT - Full Time Sports and Spine Outpatient Rehab  
Craig Frost Jr, Military Reserves  
Gabrielle Lorusso, Excelsior Orthopaedics, DME AT  
Sean McGuire, Personal Trainer  
Alexe Pask, Alfred State College, Head AT  
Mike Wild, SUNY Cortland - Faculty Instructor; AT for XC and Track and Field


**Dr. Matthews:**

**Manuscripts:**


**Presentations:**


**Professor Surace:**


• **Surace AF**: Management of the potentially spine injured football player; UBMD Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Annual sports medicine symposium, ECMC. August 10, 2018.

**Academic Festival 2019**
KEY:
1: Academic Festival
2–4: ESPN Disney Internship
5–8: Charity Banquet
9, 18–19: Welcome Back
10–12: 2nd Year Research Props
13–14: 1st Year Research Props
15–17: Service Projects
20–23: Excellence Awards