This fall, the College of Health Sciences and Professions is honoring several people who were instrumental in the early stages of the college's development. One of these pillars is Cindy Norkin, the founding director of the Physical Therapy program. The picture above is a mural that has been installed in the neuro lab in the PT department, which highlights Cindy’s accomplishments.

"I had the opportunity to visit with Cindy this past June at her home on Cape Cod. She and I had a great time catching up. She has been very active in her retirement with the revisions of her books as well as being “grandma Cindy” to her two granddaughters. Having been hired by Cindy, I am glad that she was willing to take a chance on a young physical therapist who wanted to start a career in teaching and research."

— Gary Chleboun, Director of the School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences
in January 1984, Dr. Cynthia “Cindy” Norkin spent nine days on the Athens campus working with Dean Hilda Richards and Associate Dean Michael Harter to develop the college’s new 24-month physical therapy bachelor’s degree program.

After being hired as director of the new School of Physical Therapy, Dr. Norkin had six months to recruit faculty, admit the first class, submit the application for candidacy (the first step in the accreditation process), and prepare courses to be taught. Her hard work paid off in 1986 when the APTA accredited the program with full compliance in all accreditation standards.

Dr. Norkin led the work to transition the program from the bachelor’s degree to a master’s degree program. In October 1994, the Ohio Board of Regents granted approval for the program to become the first physical therapy professional master’s degree program in Ohio. Since her retirement in 1994, she has continued to publish new editions of her two textbooks that are some of the most widely used physical therapy textbooks nationally and internationally.

Habitat for Humanity
Over half of the Physical Therapy class of 2020 volunteered this summer with Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio, framing up walls on Habitat’s new headquarters in Chauncey and putting a roof on a Habitat house in rural Athens County.

“It was great to get away from our desks for a little bit and I think it brought us closer as a class to work together on a project that was new to most of us,” said Class President Dave Hammond.

Many of the students who volunteered had never worked on any type of construction project before. According to Habitat, which tracks the value of volunteer hours for federal non-profit fund matching, the class of 2020 has donated $3,856 in time to Habitat this summer. Graduate Student Senate Representative Audra Burtch said, “It was so nice stepping outside my textbooks and notes for the day to help out with something bigger than myself.”

Habitat for Humanity presented the class of 2020 with a service award for their work with the organization this summer.

Join the 12th Annual OHIO PT Quad Rugby games
OHIO PT will host the 12th annual Quad Rugby tournament on Oct. 13. Registered teams will play 30-minute games against the Buckeye Blitz, a semi-professional quad rugby team based out of Columbus. Teams will consist of current students, alumni, faculty and community members all trying their best to outperform the Blitz. Teams receive t-shirts and pizza is provided. The best teams win gift cards to local businesses and everyone is entered into a raffle for a variety of prizes.

The Alumni Board of Directors is supporting the annual Quad Rugby event for the PT Day of Service. The Board is seeking to recruit at least one team (4-6 players) and to raise $250 in donations to fund one additional team. This event will coincide with an alumni social event as well as a CEU event, so it’s a great reason to visit OHIO and lend your support! Contact Matt Crill if you are interested in participating or donating to the event. If you are interested in learning more about and potentially joining the Alumni Board of Directors, contact us at pt.alumni@ohio.edu.

Upcoming CEU opportunities
The Ohio University PT department will be hosting two upcoming CEU opportunities for alumni and clinicians this fall. From Sept. 7-9, there will be a Dry Needling Level I class with an associated body donor lab component taught by ODNS. The following weekend, from Sept. 14-16 there will be a Dry Needling Level II course again with an associated body donor lab component.

Click [here](#) to register now!

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**Alumni Weekend 2018 — Calling Class of 1993!**
Ohio University's Annual Alumni weekend is Oct. 12-14 and the OHIO PT class of 1993 will celebrate its 25-year graduation date. Sheryl Ketchum and Leigh Ann Frick have worked hard to plan a weekend full of activities to reconnect.

Some of these activities include:

- Friday 5-6 p.m. Mock interview — Join the Alumni Board in conducting mock interviews for third year students!
- Friday 7 p.m. Dinner with the Alumni Board
- Saturday 8 a.m. to noon. Anatomy Continuing Education Review Course
- Saturday 5:30 p.m. Tour of the Physical Therapy Department at Grover Center
- Saturday TBA. Dinner together

*Shirts and physical therapy gear may also be available over the weekend.

**OHIO PT Alumni Mentor Program**
Are you interested in becoming a mentor to a current OHIO PT student? The OHIO Physical Therapy Alumni Board is looking for alumni to participate in a mentoring program for OHIO PT students approaching graduation or who have recently graduated. Students and alumni mentors will be matched based on location, certifications, and/or practice area through the assistance of the PT program and the OHIO Physical Therapy Alumni Board. As a mentor you may discuss and facilitate job searching, interview techniques, evaluation and treatment skills, continuing education, professional growth, critical conversations, and much more. There are no financial expectations or obligations.

The attached survey will allow us to create a database of alumni who are interested in participating in this exciting way to stay connected to the OHIO DPT program. We look forward to hearing from you.

Click [here](#) if you are an alumni!

Click [here](#) if you are a student!

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**Stay connected with OHIO Physical Therapy**

Update your contact info by using our [Connection Form](#) so that we can continue to build a stronger alumni community!