Greetings from the Chair

This summer 2011, we welcomed another group of academically strong, enthusiastic students. The class of 2013 has 40 students, all of whom are high achieving and multi-talented! We are pleased to consistently enroll such a high caliber of students; it keeps us on our toes and makes us feel very positively about the future of the profession. Both current classes are active, enthusiastic learners who participate in service learning in addition to their academic coursework. Some of our students’ activities and accomplishments are listed below:

Service

- This autumn, SOTA partnered with the Ohio OT Associations in the Autism Speaks Walk. They joined practitioners in Autism Speaks fundraising event to increase awareness of autism and the role of occupational therapy.
- Once again our MOT students along with Dr. Rybski’s leadership offered their services in “Backpack Awareness,” for students at a local middle school. This event educates students and teachers about backpack safety.
- Three students, Nakia Chung, Shannon Perumal, and Brian Bonnett, will be traveling to Merida, Mexico for our collaborative international service learning project with the physical therapy students and faculty.
- MOT students continue to have a strong leadership role in National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), Tiffany A. Blum (MOT second year student) was elected President of the OSU Chapter of NAMI. The focus of this chapter is to provide assistance, support and public education about mental illness to our OSU community.

Research

- The class of 2012 is highly involved in advanced practice and research projects.
- Chelsea Hetrick and Audrey Petit are assisting Dr. Lane in her autism projects.
- Audrey Petit and Amanda Lewis are Graduate Research Assistants for the Dublin City School Write Start project.
- Jackie Peters is the Editorial Assistant for OTJR.
- Brittany Hand, who is an MOT/PhD student (MOT class of 2013) is assisting Dr. Lane on her Center for Clinical and Translational Science funded research project.
- We also have 12 MOT students who have enrolled in the rehabilitation engineering projects this year. Each will be working with a team of engineers to design an assistive technology or rehabilitation device.
Class of 2011
The Class of 2011 will complete their Fieldwork II this quarter and graduate on December 11. They will be hooded on December 10. We congratulate them for all of their accomplishments.

Doctoral Studies
Three MOT students began their doctoral studies this Autumn: Lindy Tomawis, Andy Persch, and Kelly Tanner.

- Lindy Tomawis graduated from the Ohio State Occupational Therapy program in 2009. She began her pediatric specialization was one of our LEND (leadership education program) trainees. After graduating from Ohio State, she was employed at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center on the child psych unit.
- Andy Persch received his professional training at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee (2005) and received his MS degree from the same institution in 2007. Prior to beginning the PhD program, he worked in the Madison Metropolitan School District and the Communication Innovation Pediatric Therapy Center.
- Kelly Tanner is our first MOT/PhD student. She entered the MOT / PhD program in 2010, will graduate from the MOT program in December and began the core PhD courses this Autumn.

Scholarship Recipients
We are pleased to announce our scholarship recipients for 2011-2012. In a class of exemplary students, it is difficult to select outstanding students; that said, we are pleased to award the following students:

- Elliot Barden received the Hite Family Scholarship. Elliot has an outstanding GPA, participated in the rehab engineering projects last year and is actively involved in service.
- Chelsea Hetrick received the Judy E. Smith Scholarship. Chelsea is a member of Pi Theta Epsilon and also has an outstanding GPA. She is very active in SOTA and has participated in recruiting activities of the division. She is currently earning a research specialization in autism.
- Tessa Yoder received the OT Alumnus Scholarship. Tessa is a member of Pi Theta Epsilon and has an outstanding GPA. She has been very active in service at all levels. She was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship for 2011-2012, the first School recipient.
Recent accomplishments of the faculty include:
Dr. Dennis Cleary was promoted to Assistant Profession and is now full-time. This summer, Dr. Cleary presented on the use of IPADs at the OT-PT School Based Institute and on worksite analysis and supports in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dr. Teaford with Dr. Flinn received an Ohio State CARES grant and an AHEC grant for their Farming with Arthritis project. This summer, faculty and student teams visited 15 county fairs, the Ohio State Fair, and the OSU Farm Science Review. They screened over 150 farmers and other older rural residents for arthritis and distributed information about arthritis prevention and management. In October, Dr. Flinn, Dr. Teaford, and two students presented a poster on the development of their arthritis screening tool at the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association’s conference in Akron on October 14. Dr. Teaford also presented a poster on the outreach project at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference at Michigan State University on October 3.

Dr. Teaford has been named a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. She will be honored at their annual conference in Boston, MA on November 20.

In October, Dr. Page received two awards: the Distinguished Member Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, which recognizes his service to the organization. This service has included chairing two of their international conferences, serving as chair for several of their key committees (e.g., Membership; Communications), and serving as a member of their Board of Governors.

Fall 2011 Issue 5
In early October, Dr. Page also delivered the distinguished lecture to the Occupational Therapy Division at The University of Toledo. Dr. Page was author on 4 papers at the ACRM’s annual, joint meeting with the American Society of Neurorehabilitation, and was co-author on 2 student papers presented at the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association. At the ACRM meeting Dr. Page received third place for “Outstanding Poster Award.”

Message from Pi Theta Epsilon
President - Audrey Petit
The Lambda Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) inducted 17 new members from the OT Class of 2012. PTE is a national honor society for Occupational Therapy students and alumni that recognizes superior scholastic achievement. This organization works toward the advancement of Occupational Therapy by promoting scholarship, leadership, and service. Each year, the Lambda chapter at OSU participates in various service and leadership activities and also hosts a fieldwork forum for current OT students. This forum includes a chance to dialogue and learn from other students who have just completed their Level II Fieldwork and are graduating from the program. Overall, PTE functions to prepare and support its members to be future leaders and professionals in their occupational therapy careers.

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Picture above: PTE OT Class of 2012
Rehab Engineering
The rehabilitation engineering projects, a collaboration among OT, PT, ME (mechanical engineering) and BME (biomedical engineering), have started up again this year with 9 different projects and 12 occupational therapy students. Last year, 64 students (43 ME/BME, 21 PT/OT), 3 medical center units and 10 community organizations participated in the design of 10 different devices. The Rehabilitation Engineering design program is a 3-quarter capstone series that focuses on real-world problems in the areas of assistive technology and rehabilitation technology. The end-goal is the creation of a prototype product that in collaboration with the office of Technology, Licensing and Commercialization can be commercialized.

Picture above: Rehab Engineering Open House
Design of an evaluation manual wheelchair
From Left to Right: Erin Hutter (Engineering Coach), Rachel Freiman (ME), Kelly Mueller (PT), Elliot Barden (OT), Ben Hoffman (ME), Carmen DiGiovine (Clinical Coach), Steve Wilson (ME), Sasan Ghassab (ME).

Kinesiology for Occupational Therapy
Congratulations to Dr. Rybski for the publication of her second edition of Kinesiology for Occupational Therapy. This publication articulates clearly the importance for OT practitioners to understand kinesiology in occupational therapy practice and it provides clinicians and students the evidence necessary to support their treatment strategies.

Upper Extremity Amputee Research
Dr. Flinn received the 2011 Grab the Evidence Grant for Basic Research Science and Evidenced Based Studies from the American Foundation of Hand Therapists along with joint funding by Touch Bionics, Inc. The study will investigate “Overuse injuries in the unaffected limbs of persons with unilateral hand amputations”. Her collaborators are Drs. Susan White and Carmen DiGiovine who will assist with statistical analyses and calibration of the research equipment.
OSU Presence at RESNA
Carmen DiGiovine, PhD ATP RET gave three presentations at the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) annual conference in Toronto, Ontario. The most prominent presentation, entitled Rehabilitation Engineering in Clinical Practice: Focus on Personalized Health Care, was developed in collaboration with Theresa Berner MOT OTR/L ATP. Dr. DiGiovine also presented “RESNA Position Paper on the Ultralight Manual Wheelchairs: Proposed Draft, Discussion and Feedback” as part of the Seating and Mobility Specialty Interest Group (pictured below) and “The Past, Present, and Future of RESNA Certification”.

Assistive Technology Clinic: Two Years of Success
The Assistive Technology center at The Ohio State University Medical Center enjoyed its 2nd anniversary this past summer. The center has 4 RESNA certified Assistive Technology Professionals, and over 8 full-time or part-time clinicians working in the center including a driver rehabilitation specialist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, rehabilitation engineer and speech language pathologist. The center saw a significant increase in the number of referrals from this year with over 1400 patient visits. The highlights of the year included the integration of AT services into the neuro-rehabilitation and orthopedic outpatient services, and the attendance at the International Seating Symposium (ADED) by 4 clinicians and the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED) conference by 2 clinicians.
**Groovin’ with Goodwill**

by Tessa Yoder

For my service project as a 2010-2011 Albert Schweitzer Fellow, I am partnering with Goodwill Columbus to create health and wellness programming for adults with developmental disabilities. Through the project I will partner a number of OSU departments to create programs for Goodwill clients that are fun, educational and sustainable for future years.

This summer, about 5 fellow classmates and I created an exercise video for *Groovin’ with Goodwill*, which was started as a project by the class of 2011 OSU occupational therapy students. The video caters specifically to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities, to engage them in movement and recreation. Each participant personally select a "move" to demonstrate for the video. After weeks of practicing the “move” to music each selected, we videoed them and featured them as the instructors of their own exercise video. The participants used their videos to teach a large group of day time participants at Goodwill Columbus. It was highly rewarding to see how proud they were of the final piece! We plan to create another video to be placed on Youtube for access by other Goodwill facilities.

My project will also develop an educational program on health and wellness in which students from different OSU departments and colleges will present 30-45 minutes on topics that are applicable to the participants at Goodwill. It is called *Happier & Healthier U*. The occupational therapy students will present first in the next couple weeks. The goal of the program is to empower the Goodwill clients by equipping them with information about healthy life styles to make healthier decisions in the future.

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**Memorial – Marilyn Page**

It is with great sadness we mourn the loss of a long time faculty member and friend, Marilyn Page. Marilyn Page was an educator in the OT Division at Ohio State University for more than thirty years; she began her tenure in the early 1970’s. Many Ohio occupational therapists have been personally touched by Marilyn’s kind nature and wealth of knowledge of mental health OT. A colleague recently shared a quote from Marilyn that beautifully embodies her passion, “I love students, I love teaching, and I love occupational therapy. I miss it all.” Marilyn will be missed, yet will continue to live through her students and her contributions to occupational therapy.
New Faculty Member Dr. Stephen Page

Dr. Steve Page is a new Associate Professor in the School of Allied Medical Professions at The Ohio State University Medical Center. He is the author of over 70 peer reviewed articles and has made over 100 national and international professional presentations. Dr. Page has also served as principal investigator of about $6,000,000 in extramurally funded research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, the American Stroke Association, and other organizations. Virtually all of Dr. Page's work focuses on restoring movement after stroke.

Dr. Page graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Wooster, completed a Master of Science Degree at Ball State University and graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Motor Learning and Control from The University of Tennessee. He also completed a 2-year, post-doctoral fellowship at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. Currently, Steve is in the final year of his Masters in Occupational Therapy Degree at The University of Findlay.

He has received numerous awards for his work including being named a fellow of the American Stroke Association (2006). and receiving the HealthCare Hero Award (2007), given annually by the Cincinnati Business Courier to recognize outstanding work with the uninsured. In October, 2006, Dr. Page received the first ever Deborah Wilkerson Early Career Award, presented by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and, in 2007, received both a certificate of appreciation for his work from the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Outstanding Paper award from the Ohio Physical Therapy Association. In October, 2011 Dr. Page received the Distinguished Member Award, also from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Steve also provides continuing education to therapists; for the past 5 years he has taught a highly-rated evidence based stroke rehabilitation course across North America, and began a new course this Fall discussing treatment of moderately impaired stroke patients.

Safe Patient Handling

Amy Darragh, PhD. OTR/L (co-I) and her research partner Marc Campo, PT, PhD (PI) received an R03 from NIH-AHRQ titled "The Effect of a Safe Patient Handling and Movement Program on Rehabilitation Outcomes". They are investigating the effects of integrating a safe patient handling and movement program into occupational and physical therapy practice, including mechanical lift and transfer devices, on the FIM scores of patients receiving inpatient rehabilitation services. This builds on their prior work, which established that occupational and physical therapists experience high rates of work-related musculoskeletal disorders and that these are often related to lifting, moving, and transferring patients. Dr. Darragh and Dr. Campo are engaged in research to explore the usefulness of patient handling technologies as a strategy for reducing work-related injury in therapists while promoting patient recovery. This R03 will allow them to compare patient outcomes before and after program implementation.