Letter From The Director

I would like to highlight our adjunct faculty who provide excellent instruction to the students and who have contributed the Division on many levels over the past 5 to 10 years. These faculty members provide their expertise by teaching important content, that complements and extends the instruction our core faculty provide. We are fortunate to have adjunct faculty who bring their recent clinical experiences into the classroom – keeping our students and faculty up to date with current practice.

Theresa Berner, MOT, OTR/L has taught the Division’s assistive technology course for 10 years. For the past 5 years, she has taught the course with Dr. Carmen DiGiovine. Theresa is the Rehabilitation Clinical Manger for the Assistive Technology (AT) Center in OSUWMC Outpatient Rehabilitation. She has held positions as an OT, supervisor, and now manager in the medical center’s rehabilitation department for the past 20 years (her entire career). Currently, she is responsible for all aspects of the AT Center operation; she is also involved in the seating, positioning, and driving rehabilitation programs. Theresa sees her role with the OT students as closing the gap between the classroom and the clinic. She works hard to maintain and grow the collaboration between the OSU clinics and the Division. Theresa is pleased when she sees the students apply their classroom knowledge in the clinic.

Amy Grace, OTR/L, joined the adjunct faculty of the OT Division this autumn. She teaches the second year students with Drs. Darragh, Rybski, and Flinn in the neuromuscular and orthopedic courses, assisting with labs and lectures. In addition to her teaching roles, Amy practices in the Assistive Technology center of the OSUWMC Outpatient Rehabilitation. She has practiced OT for 26 years, 19 of which have been at OSUWMC. Her areas of specialty are wheelchair seating and positioning, driving rehab, low vision, neuro-rehab, and adaptive UE treatment. She enjoys the daily challenge of finding the right technology for new clients. She has enjoyed interacting with students, helping them translate classroom information to clinical practice.

Teresa Gueth, MS, OTR/L, first taught the OSU OT students in the 1980’s; she has been an adjunct instructor since 2004 (10 years!). She teaches the administration/management course, initially on her own and for the past 4-5 years with Monica Robinson. For the past 5 years, Teresa has been the Manager of Inpatient Therapies at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. She has been a dedicated OT for 35 years, and has excelled in many areas of practice, including sensory integration, pediatric private practice, and work rehabilitation. Teresa fully enjoys the OT students, and appreciates being part of their learning. She also appreciates their flexibility – particularly the class period when her daughter gave birth…and several quick phone calls during class were necessary!

Joanie Ferneding Smith, MS, OTR/L, has taught for the OSU Occupational Therapy Division for five years! She has taught the mental health courses with Dr. Sharon Flinn and has coordinated and taught the mental health practicum. She is lead therapist and manager of the Kettering Behavioral Medical Center Occupational Therapy Department. As an administrator she manages therapists who work with both adolescents and adults. Joanie has worked as an occupational therapist for 33 years, 2 years at the Miami Valley Hospital and 31 years at Kettering Hospital. Although her passion is mental health, she has also practiced in oncology and pain management. Joanie states that she loves teaching to watch students hit that “aha moment” when everything seems to click. She also supervises Fieldwork I experience and loves to watch students grow on a daily basis. She finds it very rewarding to see students grow in their confidence and skills.

Lisa Juckett, MOT, OTR/L, teaches our Service Learning course with Dr. Melinda Rybski and Dr. Anne Kloos at the Physician Free Clinic. In this position, she supervises the students while they are in the clinic and provides mentoring onsite and in the classroom. Lisa is one of the occupational therapists at OSUWMC Dodd Rehabilitation Hospital. She has been practicing for 3.5 years, Dodd was her first position! Lisa works predominantly with clients who have spinal cord/brain injury. She is also the OT representative for the rehab department’s fall prevention and strength/endurance program. Lisa has been an instructor for the Division for almost 3 years.

Our Mission: Excellence in research, leadership and practice.
Comments on Service from the Chair

The faculty and students have had a very busy autumn, with many positive events and accomplishments. The Ohio State University students and staff are dedicated to service in our community. Professor Monica Robinson with SOTA President Cristina Capretta have demonstrated ongoing leadership in organizing multiple service and fund raising events with high student participation. As a result, the faculty members have seen our students grow in professional development both inside and outside the classroom.

This newsletter exemplifies our commitment to service as we share with you examples of our ongoing service to the community. A number of these service events were initiated by the students, demonstrating that they understand the importance of community service and prioritize advocacy for our clients and the OT profession.

SERVICE REPORT FROM CRISTINA CAPRETTA, SOTA PRESIDENT

Our Student Occupational Therapy Association has certainly been busy this season, particularly in community service activities! SOTA kicked off the school year with their first annual "We Wheel Rock You” Pay-to-Play Wheelchair Rugby Tournament. In collaboration with the Semi-Professional Buckeye Blitz Wheelchair Rugby team, SOTA worked intensively to raise both money and awareness for individuals with disabilities on our very own campus! This event was a tremendous success and we have already begun working to make next year's event a great success!

Also this fall, SOTA celebrated Backpack Awareness day by helping our very own Health and Rehabilitation Science students “pack it light and wear it right.” We set up a station in the School’s lobby to weigh students’ backpacks and to provide education on appropriate weight. The students were incredibly receptive to our backpack intervention and SOTA was recognized by AOTA for their efforts on this day!

Sunday, October 27th, SOTA celebrated Global Occupational Therapy Service Day. Global OT Service Day concept is to change the world through volunteerism and to advocate for the purpose and importance of OT to citizens around the world. Occupational therapy students, their friends and family and faculty members participated by devoting time to some of non-profit, human service organizations around Columbus. Students spent the morning helping with yard work and painting at the Universal Design Living Laboratory, hosted a football tailgate with clients at Harding Hospital, partnered with NAMI to hold a clothing and book drive at Regency Manor, and spent the evening throwing a game and movie night for residents at Creative Living! It was a beautiful day to celebrate OT and the service initiatives we are invested in year-round!

FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Sharon Flinn and Dr. Meg Teaford are the recipients of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association 2013 Model Practice Award for their work with Farming with Arthritis.

Monica Robinson received a Service Award from the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association for her work as the President of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association from 2009 – 2013.

Dr. Stephen Page was a finalist for the Licht Award, which recognizes Outstanding writing for paper published in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Carmen DiGiovine was awarded a 3-year contract from the Department of Veterans Affairs in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh and Minkel Consulting. The contract is a continuation of the work previously completed to develop Assistive Technology Labs at the VA’s five Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs). The contract continues supporting the PRCs, while developing AT labs at the Polytrauma Network Sites. The contract focuses on education and training, program development, outcome measures and device reviews.
On September 30th, second year students traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in AOTA’s Annual Capitol Hill Day. Students had the opportunity to attend a morning briefing session with the AOTA legislative lobbyists and Political Action Committee Board Members, and then set out to meet with legislators. OSU OT students met with staff members for Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, Congressman Steve Stivers, and Congressman Pat Tiberi.

Our students advocated for the future of occupational therapy practice and spoke with legislative staff about the Medicare outpatient therapy cap, increasing NIH funding for rehabilitation research, the role of occupational therapy in mental health treatment, and decreasing cuts to the Federal Education Grant. In addition to these crucial issues, they worked to spread knowledge and awareness of occupational therapy as a profession and our roles in neuro-recovery, rehabilitation, and mental health. This was an enlightening experience and we greatly appreciate the importance of lobbying for our profession and the clients we serve. We are committed to continuing our role in advocacy in the future as occupational therapy practitioners.

OSU well represented at the 2nd Annual Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars

OSU Division of Occupational Therapy faculty Drs. Jane Case-Smith, Amy Darragh, and Stephen Page traveled to the University of Illinois at Chicago in May with School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Candidates Kelly Tanner, Lindy Weaver, and Andy Persch for the 2nd Annual Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars. The “Summit” was launched in 2012 and is designed to provide an interactive forum for occupational therapy researchers to collaborate and share the details of their work. The OSU contingent presented novel research in the areas of safe patient handling, constraint induced movement therapy, stroke, transition to adulthood, and Autism.

Do you have news to share?

Please let us know if you have news to share. Contact Robinson.171@osu.edu
“The mission of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is to develop ‘leaders in service’: individuals who are dedicated and skilled in addressing the health needs of underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others.” Samantha Lavach and Samantha Sanderson are recipients of the Fellowship this year for their program Mindfulness Yoga. Their project promotes community integration, social participation, and health and wellness for adults with mental illness by implementing a community-based, adaptive yoga program. The Mindfulness Yoga program enhances key components of mental health recovery by providing the opportunities for participants to increase physical and mental health and become active members of the community. The program has been successful in building rapport and friendships among participants, increasing self-awareness, and empowering the participants to fully engage in an activity where all are accepting of what each contributes. This has been made possible because of the Division’s relationship with Southeast Inc, a behavioral community health center.

OSU was widely represented at the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association’s Annual Conference. Drs. Cleary, Rybski and Darragh served as Committee Chairs. Several faculty and students presented posters, workshops and institutes. Once again, OSU students joined in service to the Association by volunteering to prepare bags and work at the conference.
Instruction Techniques to Rehabilitate, Evaluate, and Assess in Stroke

I-TREAT

In collaboration with the American Society for Neurorehabilitation and with sponsorship from Bioness, Inc., the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences hosted a national neurorehabilitation conference in June, 2013. The conference was directed by Dr. Stephen Page, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, and attended by occupational and physical therapists from across the United States. The focus of the conference was stroke rehabilitation and assessment, including “hands on” laboratories where attendees had the opportunity to learn new techniques from experts in the field. In 2014, Dr. Page will be editing a special issue of a peer reviewed journal that will feature the conference proceedings.
LOOK FOR OUR FACULTY AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS


Case-Smith, J., Holland, T., & White, S. (2013) Efficacy of a co-taught writing program. Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics, Early online, posted April 2013


Carmen DiGiovine was a co-presenter for two workshops and lead author for a scientific paper presentation at the Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) 2013 Conference in Seattle, WA.


