Dr. Koenig is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at The Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. She is the principal investigator in “The effectiveness of the Get Ready to Learn (GRTL) program in children with autism spectrum disorders” at NYU and publishes widely in the fields of occupational therapy and special education. Dr. Schaaf is Professor & Vice Chairman in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and on the faculty at the Farber Institute of Neuroscience. She currently oversees a program of research studying sensory processing in autism including a NIH funded project to characterize sensory reactivity physiologically and behaviorally, and a randomized control trial to study the outcomes of occupational therapy using sensory integration funded by the Autism Speaks Foundation. We were pleased to have 115 attendees benefit from Dr. Koenig and Dr. Schaaf’s vast knowledge in the field of autism. Many thanks to the Hite Family Endowment which makes these annual symposiums possible.

OSU OT DIVISION AWARD RECIPIENTS

During the HITE celebration we also recognized two practitioners for their outstanding contributions to the field. Congratulations to Kathy Howard and Joanie Ferneding Smith!

Katherine Howard, OTR/L, was the Hite Award recipient for sustained support and education of the Division of Occupational Therapy students. Kathy Howard has provided occupational therapy services at Ohio State University psychiatric hospitals for over 30 years. She has supervised and trained hundreds of our students in mental health practice. Kathy is known for her empathy and creativity. She is always there for patients and for students. She is particularly skilled in helping students gain confidence in their skills and in learning to appreciate mental health practice. She has been a great asset and highly valued supervisor on the OSUMC campus and will be missed as she retired from Harding Hospital this spring!

Joanie Ferneding Smith, OTR/L, Distinguished Alumnus Award for outstanding leadership in and education for mental health practice with the occupational therapy profession. Joanie Ferneding Smith is a leading occupational therapist in the Kettering Hospital Behavioral Medicine program. She is highly respected in the mental health community and has had important roles in developing the mental health occupational therapy services at Kettering Hospital. Joanie teaches much of the mental health coursework for the Masters of Occupational Therapy Program, including the students’ mental health fieldwork I. The students greatly appreciate her enthusiastic teaching and her kind guidance as they learn how to work with challenging patients. The OT faculty greatly appreciate Joanie’s strong expertise and teaching skills in mental health practice.
Greetings from the Chair

We are celebrating our 70th anniversary this year, remembering our students and faculty across those decades. We have seen many changes in the landscape in the last few years as new buildings have popped up around us. Although our building has not changed, the Occupational Therapy program has gained two lab spaces and an additional office suite. Without relocating, both the name of the school and the medical center have changed: We are now a division of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the Wexner Medical Center of The Ohio State University. Our curriculum has also changed as we are completing our courses in the quarter system. Beginning in June, we will be on semesters with nice improvements to our courses. So we celebrate our 70th year with many positive changes to the Occupational Therapy program.

Some highlights of this past year:

Students: We had 119 Masters of Occupational Therapy (MOT) students enrolled in the 2011-2012 academic year. The students who took the NBCOT examination 2011 were highly successful, with a first time pass rate of 97%, in comparison to a national first time pass rate of 84%. The class of 2012 has 41 students who will be entering fieldwork II in June. These MOT students have also been highly active in research, service, and professional activities. Two students were LEND trainees, 7 students completed a rehabilitation engineering specialization, 4 completed an early intervention interdisciplinary specialization, 2 completed a research specialization in autism and 1 in hand therapy. In 2011-2012, the Division faculty have mentored 3 OT-PhD students, who have appointments in occupational therapy as graduate assistants. Two of our past graduates completed their PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in 2011, Dr. Karen Harpster is now employed as a research coordinator at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and Dr. Shawn Roll is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at the University of Southern California.

Faculty highlights include:
Dr. Dennis Cleary was promoted to Assistant Professor; Dr. Carmen DiGiovine completed a third year of his Veteran Administration project to develop polytrauma centers; Dr. Alison Lane completed her Center for Clinical and Translational Science project to study sensory process in young children with autism; and Dr. Jane Case-Smith completed her final year of the Institution for Education Sciences project in partnership with Terri Holland to develop an integrated model for occupational therapy services in the school. Dr. Meg Teaford and Dr. Sharon Flinn received a second outreach grant to continue their work on the Farming with Arthritis project.

President and Provost’s Award for Distinguished Faculty Service

Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor, Chair, Occupational Therapy Division, received an OSU 2012 President and Provost’s Award for Distinguished Faculty Service this spring. This prestigious university award recognizes up to three faculty members annually whose contributions to the development and implementation of university policies and programs through non-administrative roles have been extensive and have made a documentable impact on the quality of the University. She received the award in recognition of her effective teaching and active program of research, scholarship and creative work. President Gee dropped in unexpectedly during one of Dr. Case-Smith’s classes to congratulate her in person.
Occupational Therapy Global Day of Service

The Ohio State University MOT Students take service to heart. When called upon to participate in Occupational Therapy Global Day of Service on February 25, 2012, they overwhelmingly responded to volunteer their time for service. OT Global Day of Service was the innovative concept of Dr. Karen Jacobs, the 2012 Slagle Lecturer. Dr. Jacobs’ Slagle theme was “PromOTing Occupational Therapy through Words, Images and Actions” and to put her theme in to action, she designed and recruited occupational therapy practitioners and students around the world to participate in a day of service. The OSU SOTA Service co-chairs, Tiffany Blum and Amanda Lewis, organized numerous events throughout the day for students, faculty and Ohio OT Association members to participate in.

One activity in Columbus was at the Community Kitchen, which serves nutritious meals to the most vulnerable citizens on the east side of Columbus. Volunteers prepared vegetables and cleaned a storage area. Several students participated in BINGO at the Wexner Heritage House in Bexley. This was a wonderful opportunity to visit and have a fun afternoon of BINGO. Still others had fun volunteering in other ways at the 2012 Mid-America Wheelchair Basketball Conference tournament. Students and faculty helped with keeping the scorebook, running the shot and game clocks and clean up. This was an exciting volunteer opportunity to help the players engage in a meaningful leisure occupational activity. Several shifts of students helped with tiling, grouting, sanding, painting and other related activities at the Universal Design Living Laboratory. The Universal Design Living Laboratory in a newly constructed home which incorporate unobtrusive universal design, resource and energy efficient green building methods, advanced automation technology, and a healthy home construction approach. The students’ physical yet rewarding work contributed to the laboratory’s opening later this year.

Recognizing this was a “Global Day of Service” we reached out to our OSU Alumni, Francisco Rivera, who is stationed in Afghanistan, with the 113th Combat Stress Control Detachment. This unit’s mission is to combat stress among the soldiers in battle. Along with the generosity of our community practitioners, students sent Francisco supplies he requested to achieve the mission of combating stress through meaningful occupation. The event was a significant success; over 2,500 people participated in Occupational Therapy Global Day of Service worldwide. Over 70 OSU OT students, faculty and practitioners participated in our central Ohio activities. Dr. Jacobs made special mention of our OSU students and faculty efforts for the Global Day of Service in the Slagle lecture “PromOTing Occupational Therapy through Words, Images and Actions” this April at the AOTA Annual Conference.

Volunteering can be a learning experience too. Morgan Peak tries out the UD shower. Amanda Lewis learns a new skill, installing bathroom equipment using a power drill.
National Recognition of our Faculty

This has been an amazing year for our faculty to be recognized by their peers for their distinguished contributions to their fields of study. Please join us in congratulating them in their impressive achievements.

**Stephen Page**, PhD, MS, S/OT, FAHA, Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy Division was named a 2011 American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Distinguished Member. Established in 1988, the ACRM award honors individuals who have contributed to the advancement and performance of ACRM, demonstrated leadership skills, organizational abilities, and public service. Page received the award last fall in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Henry B. Betts Awards Gala. Page’s most recent work, funded through a grant from the National Institutes of Health, studies the retention of motor changes in stroke survivors who were administered mental practice. During the meeting, Dr. Page also presented three papers and won 3rd place in the Outstanding Poster Award Competition.

**Margaret H. Teaford**, PhD, was recognized by the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) this past November during the annual meeting in Boston. Dr. Teaford was inducted as a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. The Fellowship is “the highest class of membership within the society and is an acknowledgment of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology.”

**Amy Roundtree Darraugh**, PhD, OTR/L received the prestigious Bernice Owen Award this March at the 12th Annual Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference in Orlando, Florida. This award is due to her outstanding work in safe patient handling with collaborator Dr. Marc Campo from Mercy College. The Bernice Owen Award is awarded annually to researchers for excellence in their research in Safe Patient Handling. This is the preeminent award for researchers in the field of safe patient handling.

**Brian Bonnett**, second year MOT student, received the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Outstanding MOT Graduate Student Award. Congratulations Brian!

As the University evolves and changes so do we. Please note our new School name:

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

**OSU OT Program Ranked in the Top 20**

We are proud to announce, the U.S. News and World Report national rankings for 2013, placed The Ohio State University Occupational Therapy Program at an impressive 15th ranking!

**Good Bye Quarters…. Hello Semesters**

We are just finishing our last quarter at The Ohio State University. Beginning this summer we will make the conversion to semesters. The faculty, staff and students are all prepared and excited for this new chapter at our university.