



Eastern Michigan University Occupational Therapy Alumni Newsletter

Alumni News and Events

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Hello to our fellow Alumni! We hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying their favorite occupations of Fall! The OT Chapter Alumni Board has been busy this past Spring and Summer. We've been researching and writing articles for this publication, completing our Annual Chapter Report for the Alumni

Association, and planning upcoming alumni events and opportunities.

To celebrate OT Month, in April, as part of AO-TA Conference festivities, we co-hosted a social gathering with the OT Program at Pickle's Pub in Baltimore. Alumni, faculty, and current students in the OT Program enjoyed networking and socializing after a long day of perusing the city and various conference offerings (which included presentations from some of our own Alumni and future alums!). Thanks to all who came out to join us! (Photos at left).

Members of the Alumni Board, as part of our Annual Chapter Report completed an outline of goals for this upcoming year, one goal identified was to review and revise our current Chapter By-

laws. Stay tuned via email and Facebook as we will be posting information regarding this opportunity for members to help us in this process.

Finally, members of our Alumni Board are seeking other alumni who are interested in joining us and/or becoming involved; whether it is submitting articles for our newsletter, helping plan events, or simply sharing your OT story—there are plenty of opportunities! Send us an email or contact us on Facebook if you're interested in contributing!

Continue reading the newsletter for other opportunities and recent happenings amongst our Alumni. Also, be sure to stop by and see us at the Alumni Table during the Spelbring this year, we'd love to see you!



Alumni In Action: OT Grad Receives EMU Distinguished Alumni Award

On June 14, 2014, EMU OT faculty, staff, and students proudly joined Regina Michael Campbell (Reggie), her beautiful family and college roommates as she received EMU's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Reggie graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor's of Occupational Therapy in 1969. She practiced as a therapist, and earned her Master's degree in education from the University of Michigan. She taught briefly at EMU before moving to Texas where she began a distinguished career teaching in the School of Occupational Therapy at Texas Women's University. She is currently an associate professor at Texas Woman's University teaching health promotion, stroke rehabilitation, geriatric rehabilitation, and the evaluation process in occupational therapy. Reggie's wide range of scholarly interests and research topics include adult neurological disorders, motor learning and control, pain management, instructional media, patient education, community based rehabilitation, health promotion, policy-making, and leadership. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, and she has written book chapters and presented at numerous conferences throughout the country. Additionally, she has served in various positions for the American Occupational Therapy Association, volunteered to support social justice, and advocated for injury prevention and universal design. Being named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (one of the most distinguished OT awards) is just one of numerous awards Reggie has received for her exemplary service to the community, her profession, and to Eastern Michigan University.



Regina Michael Campbell



Alumna Dr. Valerie Howells (left) and EMU Faculty Dr. Gretchen Reeves (right) celebrate with Regina Michael Campbell at the 2014 EMU Alumni Award Ceremony on June 14. .

As a dedicated professional and alumna, Reggie helped design, develop, and continues to support, the annual Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship and Conference presented by EMU's Occupational Therapy Program. She has represented EMU's OT program as an exceptional role model for students and clinicians alike. Reggie is the first occupational therapist in the history of EMU to receive this award! We are delighted and proud to extend our congratulations to Regina Michael Campbell on her illustrious career of distinguished work and incredible service, and for proudly representing Eastern Michigan University's Occupational Therapy Program!

Alumni In Action (con't)

OT Alumni Story: Mildred (Millie) Ey Gittinger '51

Millie Ey Gittinger is a 1951 Graduate from EMU's OT Program. After graduating, Millie moved to New York State where she practiced for 35 years in the area of physical disabilities before "retiring" in 1988. Millie has served the profession in a variety of ways throughout her career: She served on the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA) board in a variety of positions, chaired the New York State Licensure Board, and served nationally on a committee designated to identify a definition of

OT to be used in licensure legislation. After teaching adaptive skiing in the Catskills Mountains for twenty-five years, Millie continues that role today at Paul Newman's HH Hole in the Woods Ranch.

Millie has been recognized in a variety of ways for her excellence and commitment to OT: She was named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association in 1977, is an honorary member of the NYSOTA and the Capital District of NYSOTA, and received the Distinguished Alumni Award

from EMU's Occupational Therapy Program in 2012.

In addition to her multiple OT roles, Millie is an avid traveler with her husband Clark, (both pictured above). Millie has climbed "all the high peaks in the North East", hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, visited Antarctica on four occasions, and taken a four month,



seven continent "Millennium Cruise" around the world (just to name a few of her exciting "occupations"!).

Thank you for sharing your OT Story Millie!



Tell us your Alumni Story!!!

Email us at EMUOTALUMNI@GMAIL.COM
and we may feature your story in our next newsletter
or on our Facebook Page!

Have you or an alumni you know reached a professional milestone/accomplishment or received an award or special recognition? We want to hear about it!!! Please help us recognize the great things our alumni are doing!

Upcoming Opportunities

Mentoring: A worthy pursuit!

As promised in our spring newsletter, we are revisiting opportunities for our new Mentorship Program. Thanks to those of you who contacted us with feedback about your interest in becoming involved, as our EMU OT alumni organization continues to explore the possibilities for organizing and implementing this worthy pursuit.

Whether you are the mentor or the mentee (sometimes referred to as the protégé) these relationships are mutually beneficial, personally rewarding, and contribute to strengthening our profession. In a recent web article for ADVANCE, free-lance writer Amanda Koehler talked to healthcare professionals with experience in various fields who collectively extolled the importance of mentoring as an opportunity to provide leadership and guidance. They also concurred that mentees' questions and fresh perspectives often lead to increased introspection and a rededication to the core values and principles that drew us

to our chosen profession.

NBCOT recognizes the value of mentorship roles and even offers PDUs for these activities within specifically structured frameworks. But informal opportunities abound as well. Are you a new graduate or an experienced OT who is exploring a new role? Do you want to learn more about what evaluations and



treatment approaches have worked well for others within a specific area of practice? Are you a clinician with an idea for a research project who would like to partner with, or bounce ideas off, someone in academia with research expertise? Are you anticipating moving to another state and interested in networking with

other OTs in your new locale? Maybe you've been involved in a successful mentorship relationship and are eager to share your experience for the benefit of others in order to 'pay it forward'.

Many have already discovered that our EMU OT Alumni Facebook page is a great way to reach out for and receive advice and recommendations. Using social media is a good place for beginning a dialogue about practice questions, health care issues and concerns. Organized, online "chats" or Q&A sessions with an expert can provide a forum for new teaching/learning.

We invite you to continue utilizing our EMU OT alumni chapter to help make these connections and links. We remain excited about this mentorship venture and urge you to contact us at emuotalumni@gmail.com with your information, area(s) of interest and any other ideas you may have.

The Fourth Annual Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship & Conference

September 27, 2014
8am to 5pm
Eastern Michigan University

With 2014 Endowed Lecturer
Dr. Betty Hasselkus

For conference itinerary and registration, or to make a donation toward the Endowment, visit:
<http://www.emich.edu/hs/OTindex.html>



Stop by our Alumni table at the Spelbring and enter our drawing for your chance to win great prizes!

****Be sure to "Like" the Spelbring page on Facebook!****

We Want (to hear from) You!



UPDATE US!

We are constantly updating our contact information databases and need your help.

If you haven't recently notified us, please send us your name (first, last, maiden), year of graduation, address, employer and email address so we can update your information!

Message from the OT Program:

Calling all Alumni! We are looking to expand our student placements in the following areas:

- *Hospital-based pediatrics*
- *Community-based mental health, especially with children, adolescents and older adults*
- *Primary care*

If you practice in these areas and would like to give back to your Alma Mater through student supervision, please consider contacting the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Andrea Weid at aweid@emich.edu.



Michigan Occupational Therapy Education Consortium (MOTEC) update:

Consider attending one of our free MOTEC fieldwork educator days to prepare for your next student! Our fieldwork coordinator is a part of a state-wide consortium that provides free trainings four times each year to support your development as a fieldwork educator. Beginning and advanced sessions offered. Upcoming dates and locations include:

September 12th at Macomb Community College

November 7th at Saginaw Valley State University

Email Andrea at aweid@emich.edu to sign up for your six free CEUs.

Want to get involved?!? Consider the following:

- *Mentorship Program*
- *Share your OT Story*
- *Update us on Alums you know*
- *Join us at an upcoming event*



Email us your ideas for a future newsletter feature!

CONTACT US!

emuotalumni@gmail.com

or via Facebook Group:

"EMU OT Alumni"

Officers:

Adrienna Bartnicki

Katie MacDonald

Kathleen Siler