

Eastern
Michigan
University's

Occupational Therapy Alumni Network

Summer 2016
Newsletter

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

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Special points of interest:

- 75th Anniversary Celebration September 23, 2016
- 6th Annual Spelbring Lectureship & Conference with Keynote speaker Dr. Glen Gillen September 24, 2016
- Dr. Gretchen Reeves retiring after long career of educating EMU Alums

Greetings EMU OT Alums! We hope this newsletter finds everyone well, cool, and enjoying their summer! As the calendar is quickly approaching fall, we have been busy helping **to plan the OT Program's 75th Anniversary** festivities!

In April, we kicked off the celebration at the AOTA Conference Alumni Reception in Chicago, and last month, the OT Program officially welcomed 35 new graduates into our alumni family.

We hope everyone has their calendars marked for

September 23rd and 24th, **as this will be the "official" celebration of the 75th Anniversary of EMU's OT Program.** In conjunction with the OT Program, we will co-host the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala and Silent Auction and the 6th Annual Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship & Conference, **with this year's Endowed Lecturer, Dr. Glenn Gillen.**

We encourage all Alumni to help us celebrate the rich history of OT at EMU; even if you cannot attend the festivities in

person, please consider taking part in this momentous occasion! There are numerous opportunities for your participation, such as: making a donation to the Spelbring Endowed Lectureship Fund, sharing your OT memories and photos on our social media sites, or by sending us an email and updating us on your practice and how you have continued the EMU OT legacy! We look forward to continuing this celebration with you throughout the year!

Welcome 2016 Alumni!



Our alumni network sends the warmest welcome and congratulations to the **thirty-five newest graduates of EMU's OT Program** (pictured above)! Please be sure to send us your updated contact information and join our Facebook Group; we are happy to support you on your OT journey in any way we can! TRUEMU!





75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee September 23, 2016

OT Program Events 2:00—5:00pm, Rackham Hall

- Campus Tours
Tour campus with current OT students and see how EMU has evolved over the past 75 years! See the newly renovated Rackham and Pray Harold Buildings, visit the Science & Student Centers, and Halle Library (among others).
- Program Update
Join Program Director, Dr. Jayne Yatzak and other faculty members in the Homelab for an update on EMU OT Program faculty, curriculum, and vision.
- Afternoon Tea & Refreshments
Enjoy tea and light refreshments in the Rackham reception hall, peruse student posters, and mingle with faculty, current students, and fellow alumni.

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Reception & Silent Auction

September 23, 2016 from 7—10pm

McKenney Hall Ballroom

\$25 per ticket

(includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer)

For ticket information, please visit:

<http://www.emich.edu/chhs/hs/ot/lectureship/index.php>

Space is limited, please register early
Silent Auction proceeds to benefit the
Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship Fund

The 6th Annual Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship & Conference

With 2016 Endowed Lecturer
Dr. Glen Gillen

September 24, 2016



Morning Workshops I: 8:45-9:45

You and Your Brain Never Outgrow the Need for Play
Gretchen Dahl Reeves, PhD, OTL, FAOTA, Associate Professor, Eastern Michigan University

Successful Transition to Home: A Client Centered Strategic Guide to Discharge Planning?

Marsha Neville, PhD, OT, Associate Professor, Texas Women's University

Parkinson's Disease: Examining the Evidence Related to Treatment and Intervention

Mary Beth Bisinger OTR/L, BCPR, Regional Clinical Director, Western Territory, Genesis Rehabilitation

Morning Workshops II: 10:00-11:00

Stories and Conversations About Leadership: You

Might Be a Good Leader If.....

Susan B. Young, MA, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Adjunct professor, Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee

Vocational Rehabilitation: Meaningful Occupation in a Community Setting

Angela Raleigh, MOTRL, Gallery U Manager, Therapeutic Rehabilitation & Vocational Training Centers - a UI Rehab Company

Yes- Sexuality is an Activity of Daily Living!

Patricia Zuba, BS, OTR/L, Clinical Specialist, University of Michigan Health System

Spelbring lecture and luncheon 11:30-1:45

Cutting Edge Occupational Therapy: Connecting Philosophy, Evidence and Practice

Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA, Associate Director, Professor of Regenerative and Rehabilitation Medicine (Occupational Therapy) at Columbia University Medical Center Programs in Occupational Therapy, Columbia University

Afternoon Workshops 2:00-3:00:

Open Discussion on Current Trends in OT Practice
Amy Lamb, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Assistant Professor, Eastern Michigan University

Poster Session 3:00-4:30

A poster session will follow afternoon workshops

[Click here to Follow the Spelbring on Facebook!](#)



For conference abstracts and registration visit:

<http://www.emich.edu/chhs/hs/ot/lectureship/index.php>

Alumni In Action: Recent Events

ALUMNI GATHERING @ AOTA: Chicago

We were happy to see so many familiar faces around **AOTA's Annual Conference and Expo** held in Chicago IL this year! In conjunction with the OT Program, the OT Alumni Network hosted a gathering at Café Bionda. In addition to celebrating our EMU pride, we were happy to recognize EMU Professor **Amy Lamb's inauguration as AOTA's President**. We are pleased to announce that we received a grant from the EMU Alumni Association to help us pay for the event, which was standing-room only! Many thanks to all the alumni, students, and EMU friends who joined in the festivities! We hope to see everyone again next year in Philadelphia!



Congratulations to alumna Teleyia (Brown) Channey for earning her OTD from the University of Utah this past Spring. Dr. Channey, pictured right, is a 2006 graduate of **EMU's MOT Program**.



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!

OT Alumni Story: Valerie Kiley—1994

We are delighted to feature Valerie Kiley, a 1994 graduate of the EMU OT program, in this issue of our newsletter.

Originally, Valerie envisioned a career looking through a microscope. However, after being influenced by an experience in a high school health occupations class and talking with a hospital OT, she was convinced occupational therapy was where she belonged. "After 22 years in the OT profession, I realize you don't need a microscope to be a scientist," Kiley said, "We are expert observers and task analyzers; we don't make assumptions and we validate our findings. I don't need a microscope; my experiences are my lens. I am eager, now, to give back to my profession; transitioning from full time therapy manager to business owner and fieldwork educator."

After receiving her EMU OT degree in 1994, Valerie accepted a two-year contract with a travel therapy company. She worked in 5 different states before returning to Michigan in 1998 to start an electronic medical billing

company. She also worked part time as a research assistant at UM Health Systems, looking at the effects of Reiki on painful, diabetic neuropathy. She went on to work for a state funded insurance program as part of the case management team for children with special needs. In 2002, she accepted a therapy director position in skilled nursing and management. Val was promoted to area director of operations in 2012. "I took that promotion, just 18 months after my 2-year-old son passed away, unexpectedly, from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)", she said. "I was restless and thought it was a good idea to keep my mind and body busy. However, even after my family attended grief counseling, the stress and complexity of the experience compounded. My children struggled in school and I became disenchanted with work. I needed to be more available at home and I knew there was more OT could do to impact my community."

Those experiences and insights were the genesis for establishing the daVinci's Brain organization in 2014 where Kiley hopes to provide evidence based research. "I am designing an adaptable, creative space for academically alienated children and youth using 3D-Printer technology as leverage for engagement", Kiley said. "I believe the 3D printer is OT's modern-day weaving loom, and I want to show teens how they can be empowered to redesign their futures".

Kiley is also co-designing a program with a Master's of Yoga Science student and



Anna, Max, Tatum, Valerie, and Miss Bell

local Yoga studio owner, Kim Searl, called: "An integrated treatment approach to healing families affected by PTSD". They are currently building a team of trauma-informed practitioners in their community.

Valerie attended the 2015 EMU Spelbring Lecture and Conference. Her former EMU professor, Dr. Ben Atchison presented a workshop there about CTAC; a childhood trauma assessment center. The presentation and model struck a copacetic chord with Valerie. "Since then, Ben graciously invited me to talk to his pre-OT students at Western Michigan University about the implications of 3D printing on the future of OT, and we continue to correspond about program ideas for at-risk children and youth affected by childhood, traumatic experiences."

We are proud of your accomplishments, Valerie, and we are excited to follow the innovative paths you continue to forge for our profession.



Children learning to use the 3-D printer

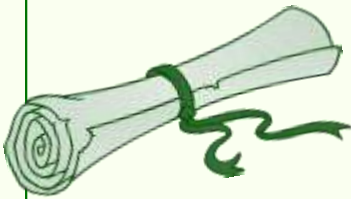
Shhhh...Keep it Secret: **A Surprise for Dr. Reeves' Retirement** Submitted by: Valerie Howells, '74



Please help us celebrate Dr. Gretchen Reeves's long and distinguished career as an educator and researcher! At the end of the Fall 2016 semester she will be retiring from EMU and we would like to surprise her with a special gift but we need your help to do this.

We want to create a basket of well wishes, memories, and stories from her former and present students, colleagues, and friends. Do you have a special memory of Gretchen? A story? Is there something you would like to tell her or say to her that perhaps you never have said, or maybe have said a million times but want to say again? If so, then please either write it down and mail it to me at my home in Ypsilanti [address below] or send it to me electronically and put your name on it so she knows it is from you.

We will fold and place all the notes in a beautiful basket for her and give it to her in December. Please take a few minutes to write a note. It will mean the world to her and the more notes and letters, the better. Having worked with Gretchen for many years, I know how important her teaching is to her and how much she values helping students to become competent professionals. She has long loved the **profession of OT and Eastern's program and we will miss her greatly.**



Thanks in advance for joining us in this big surprise. If you have any **questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.**

Contact info:

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75 Years of OT @ EMU: Did you know?

- Some of the first textbooks used by the EMU Program included: "And How to Live Again" by Betsy Barton, "Practical OT" by Louis J. Haas, and "A Key to Weaving" by Mary E. Black; prices for new textbooks ranged between one and six dollars.
- EMU grads took flight: of the six graduates of the 1945 inaugural class, only two remained in Michigan, others carried their EMU OT knowledge to Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Texas.
- Full circle: originally housed in the Rackham Building, the OT Program moved to King Hall in 1972, and then to the Marshall Building in 2000. Currently, OT students can again find themselves within the walls of a newly renovated Rackham, keeping good use of the state-of-the-art Home Health Lab.

Price, A. *Occupational Therapy Comes to Michigan State Normal College 1998*. Occupational Therapy Records. Eastern Michigan University Archives.





Pi Theta Epsilon Update

Submitted by: Katie Layman, PTE President

This year the EMU occupational therapy honor society, Pi Theta Epsilon, inducted 13 new members on June 5th. Current members and faculty advisor, Dr. Valerie Howells worked together to prepare for the induction ceremony. The afternoon was spent celebrating the accomplishments of the first year OT students. The new members participated in a candle lighting ceremony and repeated the PTE pledge to uphold their commitment to scholarship throughout their professional lives (pictured below with current PTE members and Faculty Advisor, Valerie Howells).

This fall is an exciting time for PTE at EMU because there will be 26 active members in the organization. The first and second year students will work together to fundraise and participate in community projects to contribute to the advancement of occupational therapy through scholarly activities. The elected officers will work alongside the current officers to learn their roles in the organization and how to collaborate with their colleagues to make Pi Theta Epsilon a successful organization.



CONTACT US!
 emuotalumni@gmail.com
 or via Facebook Group:
“EMU OT Alumni”



Email us your ideas for a future newsletter feature!

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!**

CHAPTER OFFICERS

- Adrienna Bartnicki—2014
- Katie MacDonald—2006
- Kathleen Siler—1991

