

Milligan College Occupational Therapy

NEWSLETTER

helping others. help themselves.



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



The classes of 2009 and 2010 pose for a photo during the fall semester.

I would like to share with you a few notable accomplishments of our program since it's beginning in 1998. There have been 124 graduates from the program. We currently have a record 78 students enrolled. Alumni provide critical occupational therapy services to undeserved populations across the country from California to Texas to Maine to Florida and of course Tennessee. Our graduates are found in approximately 17 states. The OT faculty have been active in the community with private practices and leading student projects. They have published textbooks and original research in peer-reviewed journals and presented numerous papers and workshops at the local, state and national levels. Faculty have assumed leadership roles at the state and national levels working on a variety of projects and within several different professional organizations.

I am honored and humbled to be a small part of this vibrant and growing program. I can't wait to see what happens over the next 10 years!

Sincerely,

Jeff Snodgrass, PhD
Program Director and Associate Professor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Program Update**
 - 2 **Faculty and Staff Update**
 - 3 **Alumni Accomplishments**
 - 3 **MSOT in the News**
 - 3 **SOTA News**
 - 4 **OT Scholarship Update**
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Ten years. Wow! This year marks the 10 year anniversary for the Milligan College MSOT program. Since the program's inception, we have strived to become a program of distinction. And I believe the distinction of this program is measured in three primary ways: 1) The work produced by our alumni. 2) The quality of students that are enrolled in our program. 3) The efforts of our amazing faculty and staff that make it all happen.

“I am honored and humbled to be a small part of this vibrant and growing program. I can’t wait to see what happens over the next 10 years!”

— Jeff Snodgrass, PhD, director and associate professor of occupational therapy

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATE

Dr. John Paul Abner (associate professor) gave a presentation at the 7th Annual National Parent Child Interaction Therapy Conference entitled “Implementing PCIT in Private Practice: Profiting From Evidenced Based Care” in Oklahoma City. He also presented “Basic Pedagogy 101: Using Educational Psychology to Enhance Your Classroom Experience” at the Appalachian College Association Summit, Abingdon, Virginia. He was a key note speaker in the Mental Health Matters Conference in Johnson City. His favorite accomplishment was teaming up with OT graduate student Kristen McCaw and other community members to win the Elizabethton A League Volleyball Championship.

Karyn Garland joined our staff in May as our new admissions coordinator and office manager. She is a 2004 Milligan grad and comes to us from The Capital Group in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Christy Isbell (associate professor) gave three national presentations and several keynote addresses on the topic of Sensory Integration and Autism over the past year. Dr. Isbell’s book, “Sensory Integration: A Guide for Preschool Teachers” received the 2008 Early Childhood News Directors Choice Award. This fall she is on sabbatical writing her fourth book, tentatively titled “The Fine Motor Activities Book for Preschoolers.” She is also getting to spend some extra “mommy time” with Caroline (age 8) and Elizabeth (age 4).

Dr. Don Lewis (adjunct instructor) completed his doctor of occupational therapy (OTD) degree from the University of St. Augustine in August 2008. He completed the MSOT program at Milligan in 2006 and currently serves as an adjunct instructor teaching the kinesiology lab during the spring and the adult orthopedic physical dysfunction lab in the fall. He was recently elected to serve as an executive board member and the chair of Northeast District of the Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association.

Dr. Jeff Snodgrass (chairperson and associate professor) was recently appointed to the editorial boards of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy in Health Care. He was also appointed to serve a three year term as a committee member and quarterly editor for AOTA’s Work and Industry Special Interest Section.

Dr. Snodgrass’ research, which was based on his dissertation examining leadership styles and outcomes of leadership, was accepted for publication in the Journal of Allied Health, tentatively scheduled for print in Winter 2008. Dr. Mickey Shachar, assistant professor at TUI International, is the second author.

HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS™ WORKSHOP



Friday, March 13, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Milligan College

Dr. Denise Donica will present the workshop. She is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at Eastern Carolina University. She is certified as a level one handwriting specialist through Handwriting Without Tears. The workshop registration is open to the public. Therapists and educators are encouraged to attend. The workshop will target pre-K through 5th grade.

.7 CEU credits, 7 contact hours, will be awarded to occupational therapists

MILLIGAN MSOT GRADS ACHIEVE 100% PASS RATE ON NBCOT EXAM

The December 2007 graduates of the Master of Science of Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program at Milligan College achieved a 100 percent pass rate for first time test-takers on the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.

"We certainly are proud of our students for achieving a 100 percent first-time pass rate," said Dr. Jeff Snodgrass, director of Milligan's MSOT program. "Our goal is to not only prepare students to successfully pass the national exam, but also to enter the occupational therapy profession fully prepared to provide quality client care to underserved populations."

Milligan's occupational therapy program, which is one of only a few such programs in the state of Tennessee and surrounding region, began in 1998. One of the fastest growing healthcare professions, occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation service that uses activity, or "occupation," to enable individuals with illnesses, injuries or disabilities to overcome their challenges and lead full lives. Milligan's two-and-a-half-year program prepares students for leadership roles in clinical practice, administration, research and education.

Milligan's academic dean, Dr. Mark Matson, said he is very pleased with the success of the occupational therapy program and its contribution to the college's mission.

"Clearly colleges that claim to prepare graduates for critical aspects of society — or as Milligan has framed its vision 'to change lives and shape culture — must take seriously the health care industry," said Matson. "Preparing servant leaders in the health care field is an essential part of Milligan's commitment to the society that we serve."

STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Rachel N. Peterson, OTS

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) at Milligan College is off to a great start this year! The second year class has elected its officers as follows: Rachel Peterson, president; Lauran Suggs, vice president; Sarah Price, treasurer; and Amy Marckel, secretary. Erica Howard and Jesse House have been chosen to serve as representatives from the first year class on the SOTA committee. We are especially excited to announce 100% participation from the second year class as SOTA members this year. This increase in participation is very encouraging and we hope to see it only continue to rise.

We currently have bins throughout the department for the collection of aluminum cans which will be given to Valley Forge United Methodist Church in Boones Creek. The money received from the recycling of those cans will furnish local children with warm, winter clothing when their families otherwise could not afford it. The tabs from the cans are also being collected for Ronald McDonald House. We have plans to host a blood drive later in the semester.

SOTA seeks to spread the word about the benefits of occupational therapy throughout the community and we are currently working on the best ways to accomplish this task. This year we hope to become connected at the national level with other SOTA groups across the country and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Soon SOTA will also have a Facebook account available with more information about upcoming events and activities.

SOTA also recognizes the need for play and leisure as part of a balanced life. The first year class is busy coordinating an intramural team to participate in various sports throughout the year. We are also planning movie nights throughout the semester and a relaxation session to be held before the week of final exams.

SOTA is very excited about this year and what we hope to accomplish. If you have any questions or seek more information about SOTA, do not hesitate to send us an email at RNPeterson@milligan.edu.

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kristen (Speak) Booth ('05) gave birth to her daughter, Eliza Mae, on September 10, 2008. Eliza was 8lbs and 19.5 inches.

Jeri Danielle (McRae) Ethridge ('03) has been working for Cape Fear Valley Health System in Fayetteville, North Carolina, since 2004. She received certification in Manual Lymph Drainage/Lymphedema. She married Jarrel Ethridge April 16, 2005, and is expecting her first child Morgan Alexandria in October.

Erin Gaby ('06) started teaching an online A&P course for Walters State Community College.

Sheri Gibson ('05) gave birth to Trace Harrison Gibson on March 21, 2008, weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 19 inches. He is a very happy and healthy baby!

Norelle (Hale) Giles ('07) was married on March 15, 2008. She loves her job at Norton Community Hospital where she has been working since December '07. Norton was rated in the top 10% of rehab hospitals in the United States.

Sarah (Huginin) ('05) married Kurt Reineck in April of this year. She was recently promoted to rehab manager at a 106 bed facility where she has worked for the past two years.

Holly Hutchens ('06) is a full-time OT with East Tennessee Children's Hospital Outpatient Rehab and Home Health. She is pursuing Infant Massage Parent Educator Certification.

Patty (Robb) Pound ('06) was married on June 14, 2008, to Rodney Pound.

Steve Sexton ('01) has been working for Covenant Homecare in Sevierville, TN, for six years. He is married to Carla and they have a 4-year-old son named Austin.

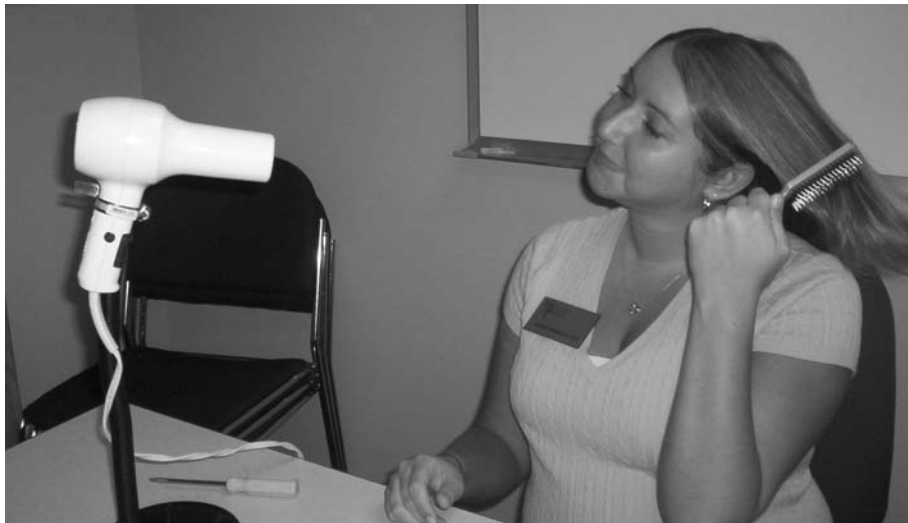
Ellen Stoots ('06) married Jason Morrison on June 8, 2008. Their children are Shelby-8, and Cade-5.

Tiffany Stoots ('06) and her husband, Andy, celebrated the birth of their son Ethan Everett, on December 9, 2007. She has been working at Quillen Rehab Hospital in inpatient rehab since June 2008.

Nicholas Tudor ('07) is currently working full-time as a staff therapist in an inpatient rehab facility. He is also working two PRN jobs in two SNFs in Middle Tennessee.

Leila Waycaster ('06) married Cesar Cabrera and has returned to Johnson City, TN. She is working at Physical Therapy Services.

Julie (Freemon) Wood ('05) was married in October and resides in Nashville, TN. She works at Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehab Hospital.



Third year student Susan Brobeck poses with her project during the OT Expo last spring



Second year students explore having a slight impairment during class

OT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Want to give back? The OT Department established the Milligan College Occupational Therapy Scholarship Fund in 2006. This endowed fund will eventually provide financial support to MSOT students based on academic potential and financial need. Designate your gift to the fund by writing "Occupational Therapy Student Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of the check (please make the check out to Milligan College) and place in the attached envelope or mail to:

Milligan College
P.O. Box 750
Milligan College TN 37682
Phone: 423.461.8955,
Fax: 423.461.8954



First year students Brandon Hale, Brandon Walker and Jason Baumgardner kick back during our SOTA Back to Books BBQ

MILLIGAN COLLEGE MSOT PROGRAM VALUES

Vision

To honor God by becoming a model of excellence in occupational therapy education, service and scholarship.

Mission

To prepare occupational therapists as servant-leaders who engage in scholarship, contribute to the profession and offer clinical expertise to the underserved communities.

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Raise **YOUR** World