

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NEWS

April 2018

[Jefferson.edu/OT](http://Jefferson.edu/OT)

## Merger, New College Usher in New Era for OT



Left: Alumnus Mikael Avery ('16) and center: Gina Cooke ('01) interview Lariq Byrd, a young man partnering in the Design for Disability course at the Comcast Collaboration Studio with SKMC students.

Already ranked No. 6 in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, Jefferson's Occupational Therapy (OT) program will only grow stronger as it realizes the full potential of the integration of Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University) and the July 1 opening of the new College of Rehabilitation Sciences which will initially include the departments of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, with a plan for growth.

With the integration, Jefferson now offers a complete menu of programs from the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program to our newly accredited Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program and Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate. "Combine that with the educational and collaborative opportunities emerging within the fields of OT and Design, and the possibilities are practically limitless", says Steven R. Williams, MD, Dean of the new College.

"We're looking to further the occupational therapy and design work that has been started on both campuses," Dr. Williams says, referencing some of the work done by Bon Ku, MD, MPP, Assistant Dean for Health and Design, an Associate Professor at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and the founder and director of JeffDESIGN.

It is becoming more commonplace in educational and professional settings to see collaborative problem-solving that incorporates individuals within the health care, design and engineering fields and uses design thinking to address current health care issues. "It's growing in leaps and bounds," says Kimberly S. Mollo, OTD, OTR/L, an assistant professor in Jefferson's Occupational Therapy Department. The department's vision is to continue to build on our collaborative efforts with design faculty and students.

Indeed, the integration of Jefferson appears to have ushered in a new era filled with opportunities for OT and the new College of Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Williams, who came to Jefferson in December 2016, sees numerous possibilities. With a new building scheduled to break ground in East Falls this spring, he foresees developing a faculty practice allowing for interprofessional collaboration between occupational therapy and physical therapy, as well as a program in rehabilitation engineering in conjunction with the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce.

"All of this coming together creates potential that is only limited by the imagination," Dr. Williams says.

"Which, when put into practice, can only mean even better outcomes for our clients and their families."

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# Alumni Spotlight – Katrina Flade



Zoey Fishman, nicknamed Zefer, is the daughter of Brandi Fishman, the President of the Zefer Foundation. The signs have just gone up for the shop in Mount Holly, NJ.

A South Jersey coffee shop is generating a real buzz, not just for coffee drinkers, but for the opportunities it's providing adults with developmental disabilities.

Breaking Grounds Coffee & Café, which opened this fall in Mount Holly, NJ, is the first business opened by the Zefer Foundation, a South Jersey advocacy group seeking to shift society's perception of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Plans are for Breaking Grounds to have no less than 30 percent of its employees be individuals with disabilities, says Katrina Flade, a member of Zefer Foundation's board of trustees and a 1994 graduate of Jefferson's Occupational Therapy program.

"My goal is to have them involved in every aspect of our growth," Katrina says, adding that employees will assist with program planning, community outreach, environmental assessment and community based instruction. "They will play an important role."

For Flade, who in 2015 received Jefferson's Advanced Practice Certificate (APC) in "Emerging as Leaders in Autism Practice and Research", it's an opportunity to put many of the lessons she learned in the classroom to use in the real world.

For the past 20 years, Katrina has worked as an occupational therapist at Burlington County Special Services School District (BCSSSD), focusing the last 15 years on working with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She is currently pursuing her post-professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy at Jefferson.

To help prepare OT students for their future role as evidence-based clinicians, Katrina collaborates with Jefferson's OT faculty in the development of a PrEMO® (Promoting Environments that Measure Outcomes) fieldwork site. During their PrEMO fieldwork placement at the Pioneer Autism Sensory Center program of BCSSSD, occupational therapy interns advance their knowledge

and skills in the areas of autism, sensory integration and school-based interventions.

It was during her APC coursework that she learned how underserved students with autism are once they transition to and graduate from pre-vocational programs. "Quality programs and support systems do not exist for our students with autism," she says. "This was alarming to me and I knew then I wanted to be part of the solution."

The plan is for Breaking Grounds Coffee & Café to serve as a model for similar businesses to sprout in other communities. From there, the Zefer Foundation hopes to open a recreation center to provide appropriate day habilitation respite and summer camps for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Katrina sees a day when Zefer locations are used as community-based instruction labs, research opportunities and fieldwork sites for level I and level II OT students. "I truly believe the Zefer-Jefferson partnership is limitless," she says.

*Breaking Grounds Coffee Shop & Café is located at 14 White Street, Mount Holly, NJ. For further information visit [breakgroundscoffee.com](http://breakgroundscoffee.com)*

## Alumni Highlights

**Samantha Kampmeier, MS, OTR/L, (BSMS '17)** is completing a 6-month Evelyn J. Mackin Fellowship in hand therapy at the Philadelphia Hand to Shoulder Center. The fellowship provides clinical training in hand management and patient care, including pre- and post-operative assessment, treatment planning, splinting, return-to-work programs and outcomes. Samantha works with a variety of people, from adolescents to older adults, who have a variety of needs resulting from injuries, wounds, fractures, age-related conditions and nerve/muscle/tendon/ligamentous injuries.

"I thoroughly enjoy the patient interaction as well as the interactions with the doctors and surgeons," Samantha says. "I have a passion and strong interest [in treating] very complex cases and helping provide patients with information and answers to questions that impact their autonomy and overall

success in their course of therapy. Of course I cannot forget about the strong occupational and meaningful roots in our profession to arts and crafts. I was always mesmerized by orthotic fabrication and the creativity and talent it takes to create such an important component to hand/upper extremity function."

Samantha accepted a full-time position as an occupational therapist at the Philadelphia Hand to Shoulder Center when her fellowship ended in December.

Last summer, alumnus **Emily Meltzer, MS, OTR, (MS'17)**, participated in advocacy to repeal the Therapy Cap bill. The opportunity came out of a Leadership Development course that she took as she finished her degree. She says: "My advocacy group and I spoke with Congressman Dwight Evan's staff person, Darrell Doss, about the Therapy Cap bill and a few other pertinent

bills when we travelled to Washington, DC in August." She explains that the Therapy Cap bill refers to a cap on Medicare Part B reimbursement for OT and other therapy services. Though the bill is a law, it has not been implemented due to "small fixes" that continue to be passed. Emily and her colleagues were asking for the cap to be repealed so that patients have access to the care they need. Their efforts to persuade Congressman Evans were successful! He co-sponsored H.R.807 - Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2017 in September. AOTA reports that, in late October the three Congressional Committees that oversee the Medicare Outpatient Therapy Cap announced that they had reached a bi-partisan bicameral (both House and Senate) agreement on a policy framework that would permanently repeal the therapy cap.

Please visit [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org) for more information.

# Faculty Spotlight

## Stephen B. Kern, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA: Introduces Students to the Nationalities Service Center



Some of Dr. Kern's fieldwork students present about their fieldwork at POTA Annual Conference in State College.

A fieldwork program established to help refugees find their footing in their new home of Philadelphia is attracting occupational therapy students who want to make a difference in the humanitarian crisis.

"When I interview applicants and I talk about the innovative work we do here in the department, they're really enthusiastic," says Stephen B. Kern, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, director of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program. "They've never heard of occupational therapy with refugees. They can't imagine what we're doing and that's very intriguing to them."

Partnering with the Nationalities Service Center (NSC), a Philadelphia-based refugee resettlement organization, Dr. Kern started the Level II fieldwork program in January 2017. For twelve weeks, OT students spend eight hours a day working with refugees in their new homes, acclimating them with the day-to-day tasks of American life, from finding employment to paying bills to grocery shopping.

The refugees come to Philadelphia predominantly from Syria, the Congo, Eritrea, Myanmar and Bhutan. They're often overwhelmed by their new surroundings after years of displacement from their home countries. Many have lived in tents their entire lives.

"The systems and organizations within our society make it so difficult for people to negotiate," Dr. Kern says. "Nothing about this is easy, and when you don't speak English, it's even harder."

From an OT perspective, the goal for the students is to design treatments that enable their clients to learn the skills needed to become successful and independent. Financial management, for example, isn't just about learning monetary values, but how to budget money. Weekly trips to the supermarket teach clients how to value and select items to fulfill their grocery lists.

The fieldwork program is a return to the origins of occupational therapy, Dr. Kern says, when "settlement houses" were established in the late 19th century in poor urban areas to provide services such as daycare, education, and health care.

"I think that is a huge draw – contributing to the health and wellness of new people in the country, and serving a humanitarian need."

## To Our Adjunct Instructors for 2016-2017

*Thank you for contributing to the high quality education we offer our students.*

**Mike Avery ('16 EMOT)**

**Emily Balog ('07 BS/MS)**

**Michele Baum ('97 BS)**

**Susan Connor ('86 BS, '16 OTD)**

**Lauren Detullio ('02 MS)**

**Elizabeth Edmonds ('12 EMOT)**

**Jon Forkin ('16 BS/MS)**

**Mark Goren**

**Jenifer Haines ('95 BS)**

**Brett Herman ('11 EMOT)**

**Brittany Jemmoua ('14 EMOT)**

**Sarah Kauper ('15 EMOT)**

**Jason Melnyk ('01 BS)**

**Sharon Montgomery**

**Joseph Muniak ('04 BS)**

**Rina Patel ('11 EMOT)**

**David Rajczyk ('07 MS)**

**Stephanie Riggins ('11 EMOT)**

**Andrea Vourtsis**

**Robert Walsh ('11 EMOT)**

**David Wolfe**

*If you are interested in becoming a lab instructor or a guest lecturer please contact [Audrey.Zapletal@jefferson.edu](mailto:Audrey.Zapletal@jefferson.edu) for more details.*



# International Experiences Increase Diversity

Diversity is important to the practice of occupational therapy. We live and practice in a global society. Our department is always looking for opportunities for students to experience occupational therapy in different countries and cultures. International travel offers one way for students to gain this type of rewarding experience. We asked some of our students and alumni to share insights from their travels.



Photo from Chaeli Campaign

Second-year OTD student **Josephine (Jo) Beker** volunteered for the Chaeli Campaign in Cape Town, South Africa this past summer. Founded 13 years ago when a group of friends joined together to raise money for a motorized wheelchair for their friend Chaeli, the

Chaeli Campaign focuses on inclusivity of all, regardless of background or disability. Today the Chaeli Campaign includes a pre-school, outreach programs in local communities, workshops for caregivers, an adaptive sports program and more, and its impact can be felt throughout the community. Jo reports on her experience: "The work that they do is phenomenal, quashing stereotypes and enabling individuals of all ages, and all abilities, to participate together in life. As I embark on my career as an occupational therapist, I am even more driven to support the Chaeli Campaign as it embodies the core principles of the profession: it is hope in motion... facilitating participation for all... [Spending time with the Chaeli Campaign] has further opened my eyes to the need for therapists to empower their patients, and encourage them to advocate for themselves." <http://chaelicampaign.co.za>.

Second-year MSOT student **Abigail Jacob** spent a day observing Prayatna Centre for Child Development in the city of Cochin in the state of Kerala, India, while she and her family visited friends and family this summer. Prayatna is a multidisciplinary outpatient clinic offering OT, PT, speech therapy, special education and counseling for children with developmental delays. Abigail's first language is Malayalam, the

language spoken at Prayatna, and she noted how extraordinary it was for her to hear OT being delivered in her native tongue. She shares, "As a Honickman Learning Center Graduate Assistant, I have developed a concrete concept of culture after being familiarized with specific cultural literacy curricula. Therefore, observing OT in this context allowed me to experience cultural competency and sensitivity at the next dimension through direct immersion. For instance, the therapists did not wear shoes in the building, most children and adults eat with their hands and many come to work dressed in traditional Indian clothing. Therefore, I was able to explicitly examine the importance of how values, beliefs and practices can directly impact ADLs and IADLs specific to one culture."

The visit was a first step in a possible career path for Abigail. While learning about OT practice in India she noticed a stigma on disability and lack of awareness of occupational therapy in the region. "This visit helped to further instill a passion for advocacy," she said. "I believe there is potential for program development and funding for further technology in India that I can see in my career trajectory... I expressed my interest in assistive technology with the director there as well and he stated that this is something India is lacking in." <http://prayatna.co.in>

**Jonette Ishmael** is another second-year MSOT student who had an international OT experience over the summer. While in Nevis, West Indies, Jonette spent a day shadowing Anya, the only occupational therapist on the island. Anya works in an outpatient setting

in Alexandra Hospital three days a week and with children in a special education school two days a week for 45-minute sessions. Jonette shared about her experience: "It was very interesting learning about OT practice in Nevis compared to in the US. The OT in Nevis practices a lot of art and crafts-related OT treatment such as crocheting, knitting and weaving. This differs to the U.S. where the OTs do more standard treatments veering away from arts and crafts." She added, "It was a great learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to advocate for OT since some of the nurses in the hospital still were not aware what OT was."

August, alumnus **Monique Chabot (EMOT '10)**, assistant professor of occupational therapy at the Jefferson - East Falls Campus, led a group to Morocco for the inaugural OT Student Ambassador Experience. The group included five third-year and 10 second-year students from the East Falls campus. They visited a nursing home and a community center for children with disabilities in Kenitra; a neuro-rehabilitation clinic in Marrakech; a vocational training facility for people with developmental disabilities in Rabat; and the home of a patient who had a stroke to deliver a hemi-walker and provide training to the patient and his family on its use during functional activities. "The entire experience was an incredible opportunity to share our knowledge and skills with people who would not have ready access to this information," Chabot said. "People were extremely grateful for what we had to offer. I also feel the interactions with the locals gave our students a different perspective on the world and the great diversity in how we live."



# Advanced Practice Certificate Highlight: Teaching in the Digital Age

Count Jefferson's Occupational Therapy Program among those turning out visionary educators who are revolutionizing the way students learn by incorporating the use of powerful technologies.

The Advanced Practice Certificate "Teaching in the Digital Age" trains students to design innovative OT curricula, using the latest distance learning tools, to prepare the future OT workforce. "The technology used for teaching is constantly changing," says Susan Toth-Cohen, PhD, OTR/L, the Certificate's developer and coordinator. "There are always new learning tools becoming available, including those accessed through our learning management system--the main shell that universities use for their coursework."

A course offering since 2010, the certificate program boasts 40 graduates. To date, 21 graduates work full time as faculty in occupational therapy educational programs, with approximately 5-7 additional graduates working as adjunct faculty.

Dr. Toth-Cohen adds that 10 students have published education-focused articles in peer-reviewed journals and many have presented at national and international conferences. Six alumni who completed the Teaching Certificate shared their work in OT education at AOTA's Education Summit in Fort Worth, Texas, in October.

The certificate program consists of four graduate level courses (a total of 12 credits) that can be completed in 18 months.

Key features include courses that are:

- designed to interface with the post-professional OTD (PP-OTD) program at Jefferson and may be used as graduate credit toward a doctoral degree in that program.
- delivered 100% online and structured for busy professionals.

Students use the latest distance learning tools, including synchronous online presentations, live web conferences, wikis, and Voice Thread to participate in a community of learners. They also have access to experts on specific topic areas and a variety of professional journals and other learning resources through Jefferson's Scott Memorial Library.

The program, Dr. Toth-Cohen says, is another example of how Jefferson is meeting the needs of today's learners. "Students enrolling in universities today grew up with technology, so they certainly expect their instructors to know how to use and make the most of it for professional development."

*Learn more about the program [online](#).*



*In June Susan Toth-Cohen received an award for excellence in interprofessional education at Jefferson.*



*Dr. Deborah Dougherty, alumnus of the program, presented "Assessing and Developing Graduate OT Students' Critical Thinking Skills Across Their First Year of Study" at the AOTA Education Summit in October.*

## New Faculty Spotlight



**Mary Beth Thomas, DOT, MS, OTR/L** joins the faculty as Assistant Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator in the MS in Occupational Therapy Program at the East Falls Campus. Prior to joining the faculty at Jefferson East Falls, she was an occupational therapist for 17 years, specializing in working with children with autism and emotional/behavioral challenges.

She most recently worked with elementary students in a high-need school district and was the primary OT at a camp that provides programming for children living with special needs. Previously, she served as the OT for the autism evaluation team at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She has expertise with aquatics, sensory integration, assistive technology, and intervention with children with complex medical issues. During her doctoral studies, Dr. Thomas designed a model to track outcomes for hippotherapy (use of horses in therapy) programs.



**Namrata Grampurohit, PhD, OTR/L** joined the faculty as Assistant Professor at the Center City Campus. She comes to Jefferson from the University of the Sciences, where she was Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Grampurohit's research interests include development and validation of assessment tools and innovative rehabilitation interventions. She has developed a new measure of upper limb function for people with neurological conditions and has also collaborated with a team of engineers on virtual rehabilitation and robotics research to bring innovative rehabilitation interventions to the clinic after in-depth research.

Dr. Grampurohit earned her PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Washington in Seattle. She earned both her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Mumbai, India.

# Research Highlights

## Roseann Schaaf

Between six and nine of 10 children and adults with autism have sensory difficulties that can interfere with everyday activities. They may be hyper-sensitive to sounds, sights, the feel of fabric or other sensations, or unaware of their body, for example. This can contribute to trouble playing, learning, socializing and even eating, getting dressed and bathing.

Occupational therapy using the principles of sensory integration (OT/SI) may help, but until recently, there has been a dearth of rigorous research – so medical groups and insurance companies have not fully endorsed it.

Roseann Schaaf, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, occupational therapy professor and director of the university's Autism and Sensory Integration Lab, is currently the Co-Principal Investigator on a cutting-edge randomized, controlled trial gauging the effectiveness of the therapy and investigating its effects within the brain. The study is funded by the National Institutes of Health; the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

This comparative effectiveness study, which will enroll 200 children over the five-year grant, examines OT/SI and discrete trial training to determine how these approaches impact functional skills.

After the study is completed, Schaaf and the team will examine the brain functioning of the participants. Based on the sensory integration approach, their theory is that through working on these

underlying sensory-motor factors, they will enhance neuroplasticity in the brain; thus changing the way the brain functions based on the experiences it has had.

## MJ Mulcahey

While children and adults with spinal cord injury (SCI) make up a relatively small segment of persons living with chronic conditions, the impact of paralysis and its co-occurring conditions can result in significant physical limitations, poor mental health and adversity in everyday living.

MJ Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L, occupational therapy professor, has research funding from the National Institutes of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, The Rick Hansen Institute and the Shriners Hospitals for Children to develop, validate and disseminate meaningful outcome instruments of physical function, daily routines and participation, and to use these instruments to evaluate outcomes and build evidence in support of rehabilitation interventions on everyday living by children and adults with spinal cord injury (SCI).

Based on an emerging body of literature on the adverse impact of informal caregiving of youth with SCI, Dr. Mulcahey also has a grant pending that evaluates the feasibility of Occupational Performance Coaching with parents of youth with SCI. Dr. Mulcahey's research is built upon strong collaboration among leaders in SCI rehabilitation research and a passion for improving the lives of those affected by SCI.

# Students Volunteer at Burn Camp



When Marcia Levinson volunteered in the summer of 1995 as a counselor at Camp Susquehanna in Poyntelle, PA – a retreat for children who have survived severe

burns – she started a tradition that faculty and students from Jefferson's Department of Occupational Therapy continue to this day.

Dr. Levinson, who recently retired from Jefferson's Department of Physical Therapy, still serves on the camp's leadership team. This past summer, three students from Jefferson's Occupational Therapy program – Shelby Webb, Carleigh Dabritz and Jessica Dunn – spent five days volunteering at the camp, where youngsters from Pennsylvania and neighboring states come to enjoy the outdoors with campers with whom they share an inseparable bond.

The camp provides children who have suffered with burns opportunities to face social and physical challenges, develop self-esteem and promote a positive attitude while encouraging healthy independence.

"Going into the camp we were under the impression that we were going to provide a life-changing experience for the campers," Carleigh says. "When we left we realized it was the campers who changed our lives."

Tina DeAngelis, EdD, OTR/L, an associate professor and director of the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program, says that OT students have decided to focus on burn care after volunteering at the camp. "It's such a specialized area of practice and most students are really afraid of it," says Dr. DeAngelis, who has volunteered at the camp many times. "After they go to burn camp they'll ask to have one of their clinical rotations in burn care. That doesn't usually happen unless they volunteer at burn camp."

Occupational therapists, Dr. DeAngelis says, are trained to reintroduce patients to social participation as an important step in the healing process. Interacting with others and returning to the flow of everyday life can be impactful.

"Which is what they do at Camp Susquehanna. They lead groups around coping skills and socialization and it's kind of a natural fit for our occupational therapy students."

# CREATE Day August 2017

Students in the Master's in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program presented their final capstone projects on Wednesday, August 16, better known as CREATE Day. Over 80 OT's, many of whom are alumni, attended the August CREATE Day, where they chowed down on pizza, caught up with former classmates and obtained free professional development units needed for state licensure and NBCOT certification.

Collaborative Research and Evidence Among Therapists and Educators (CREATE) Day is a clinical education program presented by occupational therapy graduate students in partial fulfillment of their MSOT. Students conduct a comprehensive review of the literature using systematic review methods on key topic areas that reflect current occupational therapy practice trends. The presentations include an introduction of the topic, literature review methods, and thematic results of the evidence. Implications for practice and research are discussed.

This year, 11 groups representing 55 students presented their capstones. All are available free on Jefferson Digital Commons at <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/createday/>. Following is a list of the presentations:

- Restoring Roles: Improving Participation in Meaningful Life Roles Following Cord Injury, Jennifer Arnold, OTS; Kayla Cilento, OTS; Colleen Flynn, OTS; Jennifer Hock, OTS; Carina Occhiuzzo, OTS; and Brenna Whalen, OTS
- Aging in Place and Dignity and Grace: A Review of Interventions for Instrumental ADL Independence among Community-Dwelling Older Adults, Cordelia Biddle, OTS; Stephanie Foo, OTS; Deborah Greenwald, OTS; Diane Heil, OTS; Marissa Heller, OTS; and Emily Kukuruda, OTS
- Lines and Tubes and Barriers, Oh My!: A Review of Occupational Therapy's Role in ADL Participation for the Hospitalized Child, Chelsey Boronski, OTS; Juliet Braun, OTS; Lindsay Good, OTS; Meredith Kilduff, MS, OTS; and Jenna Zwiebel, MEd, OTS

- Substance Abuse Recovery: What are you Coping For?, Christopher Burba, OTS; Talya Fidellaga, OTS; Meghan Sharkey, OTS; Laura Slotkoff, OTS; and Allison Ziff, OTS
- Brain Play: Identifying Diverse Interventions to Improve the Ability to Participate in Play Among Children with Brain Injuries, Samantha Crosby, OTS; Stephanie Johler, OTS; Rebecca Krysiak, OTS; Emily Lowry, OTS; and Kristin Pohlman, OTS
- Use of Robotics to Improve Upper Extremity Function in Adults with Neurological Conditions, Erika Dobson, OTS; Lindsay Johnson, OTS; Chastity Traxler, OTS; Kathryn Tuazon, OTS; and Hannah Werblin, OTS
- Oh the Places You'll Go: Assessing the Effectiveness of Community Interventions for Adults with Physical Disabilities, Alison Fell, OTS; Mandy Gilkey, OTS; Bess Lender, OTS; and Nicole Morales, OTS
- Building the Foundation: Community Integration through Life Skills Interventions for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, Libby Gephart, OTS; Jovilin Joe, OTS; Janina Lamb, OTS; Phebe Lockyer, OTS; and Michaela Scotten, OTS
- You Can't Spell Obesity Without O and T: Occupational Therapy in the Treatment of Childhood Obesity, Karissa Gretkowski, OTS; Siobhaun Manion; Cristina Morganheira; and Jillian Permar
- Occupational Therapy's Role in Reducing Length of Stay in Inpatient Care, Matthew Lardieri, OTS; Wesley Young, OTS; and Timothy Veltre, OTS
- Let's Make Moves: An Exploration of Occupational Therapy Interventions for Sedentary Workers, Deanna Veasay, OTS; Emily Meltzer, OTS; Tanisha Monte, OTS; Caitlin Chapla, OTS; and Kelly Lapp, OTS

*The next CREATE day is May 1, 2018. It is free to all alumni and our clinical community. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.*

## Honoring a Legacy & Supporting Diversity Raising Funds for Janice P. Burke Scholarship

### Please Join Us:

The OT Class of 2018 is raising money to support an OT student who is the first in their family to be enrolled in higher education, has financial need and demonstrates success in confronting adversity to assist them with fulfilling their goal of becoming an Occupational Therapist.

We would like to recognize Dr. Burke as the former Dean of the Jefferson College of Health Professions and Chair of the Department of OT. Dr. Burke is a trailblazer in the profession and has made significant contributions in education and clinical practice, and co-authored and developed the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO). Her leadership has been an inspiration to us all and will continue to shape our future careers.

Donations can be made to:

**Janice P Burke Scholarship Fund**

Please send to:

**Nuriya Neumann**  
c/o Thomas Jefferson University –  
Dept. of Occupational Therapy  
901 Walnut Street, 6th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107



# Department Chair Update

Former Department Chair Roseann C. Schaaf, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, stepped down from the department leadership role in the fall semester to pursue her autism research and to lead the autism initiative at Jefferson. Catherine Verrier Piersol, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, is serving as the Interim Chair of the department, and a search for a permanent department Chair is underway.

## OT Student Scholarship Overview

**126** scholarships have been awarded to



→ **95** current students this year – that is a total of almost

→ **\$525k** in scholarship dollars!



→ In addition **160** students have received financial aid.

# Faculty News

Faculty member Tina DeAngelis, EdD, OTR/L, Program Director of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate, Entry Level program, has been named as Chair of the Commission on Education for AOTA. Congratulations, Tina!

## JCHP Department of Occupational Therapy Faculty are Researchers and Scholars

Faculty published **46**  
Journal articles and abstracts



**5** faculty members participated in **15**  
grants worth more than **\$15 million**

Funders include NIH; NINDS; HHS; HRSA; National Institute of Child Health and Development; PCORI; The Pew Fund; Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services; Rick Hansen Foundation; Craig H. Neilsen Foundation; Shriners Hospitals for Children

**2** faculty members wrote books

(Tracey Vause Earland: Investigating Organizational Supports and Outcomes of Interprofessional Team Training Initiatives in a Medical Teaching Hospital and Catherine Verrier Piersol (co-author): Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults with Alzheimer's Disease and Major Neurocognitive Disorders.)



**1** faculty member wrote  
**2** chapters for a book

(MJ Mulchahey: ISCoS Textbook on Comprehensive Management of Spinal Cord Injury)