



# OT Matters

SUMMER 2015

News for alumni and friends of the Occupational Therapy Program

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*Pickett examining new ways to help those with Parkinson's*

*Unique glass art project just one example of innovative work*

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## Pickett designing, studying unique approaches to helping those with Parkinson's disease

Ask Kristen Pickett and Helen Lee how they started an alliance that has led to a unique research project that crosses departmental boundaries on campus, and both point to a chance meeting in August 2013 during an orientation program for new UW–Madison faculty members.

“It really was dumb luck,” says Lee, an assistant professor with the Art Department who heads UW–Madison’s Glass Lab.

“Helen saw my nametag and said, ‘Kinesiology, what’s that?’” says Pickett, an assistant professor of Occupational Therapy with the Department of Kinesiology. “She has an interesting view on glass blowing; Helen is less interested in the medium itself and more interested in understanding the human motion involved with making glass art. Our discussions pretty quickly moved onto my interests in movement and exercise, and how they relate to Parkinson’s disease.”

Less than two years after that first meeting — and only a year after Pickett finished her post-doctoral work at Washington University and officially started her appointment at UW–Madison — the duo is partnering for a first-of-its-kind project that aims to closely examine and quantify the movement and motor skills associated with producing works of art from glass. After undertaking this initial task during the fall 2015 semester, they plan to use information gleaned from the study to develop a glassblowing program for individuals with Parkinson’s disease (PD).

“Our program is known as the first university glass program in the United States, founded by Harvey



Kristen Pickett

Littleton,” says Lee. “So this university played a pivotal role in the birth of the American studio glass movement. But that was 50 years ago and I’m hopeful that this project with Kristen will help us find fresh ways to make our Glass Lab innovative and increasingly relevant today and into the future.”

Pickett spent four years at Washington University’s School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, examining how the brain and body interphase during movement, particularly as this relates to PD. Although much remains unknown, over the past decade there is an increasing body of work suggesting that PD patients who exercise can move better, have less depression and sleepiness, display fewer cognitive symptoms, and have a lower risk of falling.

*“I’m looking to find new and better ways to improve the daily lives of people who live with Parkinson’s disease.”*

— Kristen Pickett

take part in more traditional exercise programs — or who simply don’t enjoy such workout regimens.

One project that’s currently being launched by Pickett brings retrofitted stationary bicycles to those with PD who live in rural areas. These stationary bikes were adapted by senior UW–Madison engineering students after Pickett reached out to faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. These one-of-a-kind machines are retrofitted with video/audio computer monitors that allow patients to interact with those outside the home while working out.

“People who are living in rural Wisconsin with PD are often isolated and can’t easily get to a center for therapy or workouts,” says Pickett, who grew up in rural Darlington, Wisconsin, and received her undergraduate degree from UW-Platteville before earning a master’s and Ph.D. in Kinesiology from the University of Minnesota. “But with



Stationary bikes adapted by UW-Madison engineering students and retrofitted with video/audio computer monitors will allow patients to interact with others while working out at home.

these retrofitted bikes, we can Skype in and talk to people while they are exercising. This social aspect can be motivating and fun.”

Pickett’s study, which will ramp up this fall with a small sample of individuals with PD, will examine the effects of three month’s worth of in-home exercise, delivered three times per week.

Pickett also is interested in examining different ways to get those with PD active — especially people who don’t particularly enjoy more traditional modes of exercise, such as walking or riding a stationary bike.

In this regard, Pickett continues to run a free Tango dancing program for those with PD. No research is currently being conducted with this program, which Pickett runs as a way to give back to the PD community. For many, this program is an engaging and enjoyable form of exercise that also includes a social aspect that many individuals find motivating and fun.

Similarly, this notion of searching for different ways to keep people active is what led to Pickett and Lee proposing their glass blowing class for those with PD — a project that was recently awarded funding via UW–Madison’s Interdisciplinary Research Competition.

“The PD interventions that appear to work best are those in which participants can find meaning and purpose in the activities,” says Pickett. “There appears to be an important psycho-social nature in successful PD interventions. Glassblowing has not been previously examined as an activity based intervention for those with PD, but the balance needed and using one’s hands and arms, and various body movements could prove beneficial. That’s what we want to study.”

Moving forward, Pickett says her top priority with her OT-related research and teaching is simple.

“I’m looking to find new and better ways to improve the daily lives of people who live with Parkinson’s disease,” she says.



To learn more or to take part in the free Tango classes for those with Parkinson’s disease, email Pickett at [kpickett2@wisc.edu](mailto:kpickett2@wisc.edu)

### Letter from the Director



A friend recently visited my home and commented on a woven table runner saying, “I’ll bet you made that in OT school.” Her observation was nearly correct as I crafted that table runner in one of four media courses required for admittance — weaving,

woodworking, leather tooling and ceramics. I shared the story with a group of prospective students, noting that times have changed but the profession’s commitment to the power of occupation for promoting health and wellness remains constant. The UW–Madison OT Program continues to generate evidence supporting the link between occupation and health, and we are committed to training therapists to do so in inter-professional contexts.

In this issue of OT Matters you will read about the innovative efforts of Professor Kristen Pickett, who is engaging persons with Parkinson’s disease in health-promoting occupations. Her expertise in biomechanics, complemented by the expertise of colleagues in the arts, resulted in the acquisition of an inter-professional grant to measure the impact of glass-blowing on health and well-being of persons with Parkinson’s.

Our Student News highlights the many ways in which students are building inter-professional relationships with their peers in physical therapy, nursing and other disciplines. You will also read about Instructor Debbie Bebeau’s awards and Professor Beth Larson’s involvement in a Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Grant for inter-professional student work in Guatemala.

UW–Madison, UW-Milwaukee and UW-La Crosse hosted an intercollegiate Alumni Party at AOTA in Nashville, Tennessee, in April. Over 90 alumni, students, faculty and friends gathered in the Music City for an enjoyable evening of Wisconsin camaraderie. Contributions of our alumni, large and small, through the mentoring of students, guest lecturing for a class, providing financial support, or just keeping in touch through Facebook ensure the success of the UW–Madison OT Program. We thank you for your ongoing support. Plan to join us at the Badger alumni event at AOTA in Chicago in 2016 or here in Madison in 2018 as we celebrate our 75th anniversary!

— Ruth Benedict

## Larson part of project receiving Wisconsin Idea Endowment backing

Elizabeth Larson, a faculty member with the Occupational Therapy program, is part of an initiative that received funding this spring through UW–Madison’s Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment competition.

Stephen Quintana, a professor with the departments of Counseling Psychology and Educational Psychology, and Larson, an associate professor with the Department of Kinesiology’s Occupational Therapy program, are leading a project titled, “Building an Engaging and Inclusive Community for Guatemalan Orphans with Disabilities.”

This program extends a long-standing partnership between UW–Madison and ANINI — an orphanage in Guatemala for residents with significant physical and developmental disabilities. A multidisciplinary team of graduate students and faculty from Counseling Psychology, Educational Psychology, Occupational Therapy, and the School of Human Ecology are designing and implementing anti-bullying and inclusion curricula to support ANINI students’ fuller participation in mainstream classrooms.

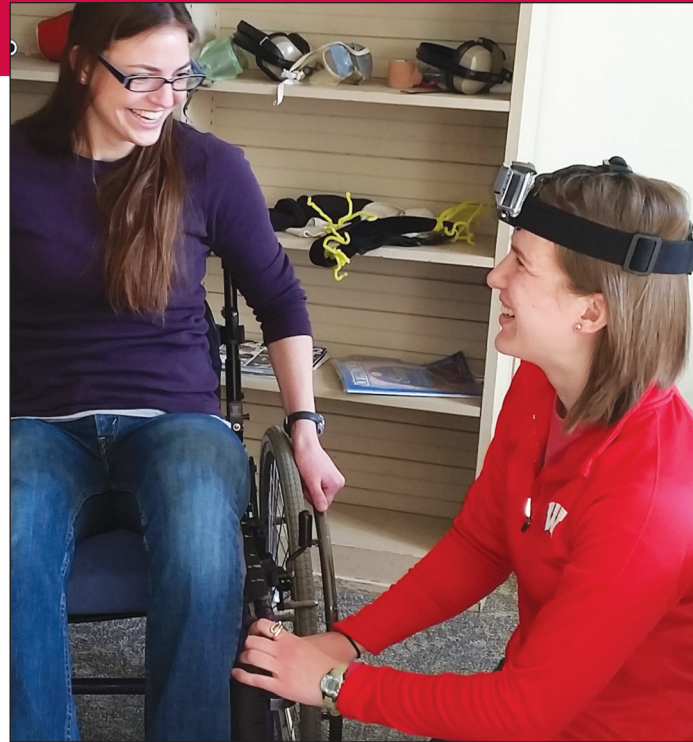
This mini-grant award through the Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment will allow UW–Madison OT students to: assess the desires of ANINI residents and caregivers for greater engagement in activity; provide low- and high-tech solutions to support engagement in daily life activities; survey the physical environment; and train staff on the Movement Opportunities Via Education (MOVE) program that enables children with moderate to severe disabilities to sit, stand and walk in order to engage more actively in their environment and to position them better to participate in daily activities.

## Pickett’s “First Person Video” project earns technology infusion grant

In an effort to help faculty and students implement innovative projects designed to bolster teaching and learning, UW–Madison’s School of Education during the 2014-15 academic year awarded a dozen Replicable Instructional Technology Infusion (RITI) grants.

And Kristen Pickett, an assistant professor with the OT program — which is housed within the School of Education’s Department of Kinesiology — took advantage of this opportunity with a proposal titled, “First Person Video to Enhance Student Learning, Knowledge Retention and Future Clinical Application.”

This project utilized the lightweight and wearable GoPro digital camera system to enhance learning of OT



UW–Madison Occupational Therapy student Kathleen Kubisiak (right) wears a GoPro digital camera while practicing an assessment with fellow student Amy Malsch.

assessment techniques. Pickett explains that the cameras were used in two main ways.

First, students and volunteers donned the camera while interview based assessments were performed. This allowed students to review their performance from the “patient’s” perspective and observe and assess their technique first hand.

Second, students used the cameras to perform environmental assessments from the first person perspective.

Future plans are in place to record experts in the field performing selected assessments with real patients. This will allow for a collection of expert examples from which the students can learn by observing examples of best practices.

Grants of up to \$2,000 per student or \$5,000 per faculty member were available, with funding for the RITI grants being made possible courtesy of philanthropists John and Tashia Morgridge, who is an alumna of the School of Education.

## Bebeau earns recognition from UW–Madison, School of Education

Debbie Bebeau, a clinical instructor, fieldwork coordinator and summer program coordinator for the Occupational Therapy program, received two significant campus honors this past spring.

During a ceremony on April 28, Bebeau received the Ann Wallace Academic Staff Distinguished Achievement Award from the School of Education. The sterling national reputation of UW–Madison’s School of Education — which is the No. 1-ranked public school of education in the nation — is due, in large part, to the talent and dedication of its faculty,

staff and students. Each year, the School recognizes some of its most outstanding contributors with Faculty and Staff Achievement Awards. The OT program is housed within the Department of Kinesiology, within the School of Education.

“Debbie is an outstanding teacher, a highly valued colleague, a natural leader and a committed employee,” says Ruth Benedict, director of UW–Madison’s OT program. “She serves as an excellent role model for our students and for other faculty and staff by virtue of her strong work ethic, commitment to learning, exceptional leadership and keen sense of humor.”

And on April 30, Bebeau was inducted into UW–Madison’s Teaching Academy, which is made up of about 300 Fellows and Future Faculty Partners from programs around the university. The Teaching Academy supports, promotes and recognizes teaching excellence across campus.

## Travers’ autism research garners Young Investigator’s Award

UW–Madison’s Brittany Travers received a 2014 NARSAD Young Investigator’s Award from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation.

Motor difficulties are common in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and have been found to be associated with core ASD symptoms. Travers will use this award to address motor difficulties in ASD.

This two-year project examines white matter brain changes in adolescents with ASD as a function of a six-week video game motor balance training. The video game training uses a combination of an in-lab “Ninja Training” game and Wii Fit balance games to see if postural stability training can affect areas of the brain that have been associated with sensorimotor function and core ASD symptoms.

Travers joined the Occupational Therapy program as an assistant professor in August 2014.

## Farrar-Edwards selected as Faculty Fellow for CIC’s Academic Leadership Program

In October 2014, UW–Madison’s Dorothy Farrar-Edwards was selected as one of five Faculty Fellows for the Committee on Institutional Cooperation’s Academic Leadership Program during the 2014-15 academic year.

Farrar-Edwards is a professor with the Occupational Therapy program and chair of the Department of Kinesiology. She also is a member of the University Committee, which is the executive committee of UW–Madison’s faculty senate.

The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) was established by the presidents of the Big Ten Conference members in 1958 as the athletic league’s academic counterpart. One of the most successful CIC leadership initiatives



Former School of Education Dean Julie Underwood presents Debbie Bebeau (left) with the Ann Wallace Academic Staff Distinguished Achievement Award.

is the Academic Leadership Program (ALP). Established in 1989, this intensive experience develops the leadership and managerial skills of faculty who have demonstrated exceptional ability and academic promise. Many of the programs’ nearly 1,000 Fellows have gone on to serve with distinction as college presidents, provosts and deans.

## Ausderau examining Healthy Communities program

Karla Ausderau, an assistant professor with the OT program, is the principal investigator for a unique and collaborative project between UW–Madison’s Waisman Center, the University of Cape Town’s Disability Studies Program, Special Olympics International and Special Olympics Wisconsin.

These entities are joining forces for a qualitative evaluation of the Healthy Communities program, which is designed to facilitate access for people with intellectual disabilities to health and well-being services, education and other support.

Ausderau is heading up the research aspects of this project due to her background in conducting qualitative research among children and young adults with disabilities, and in families with autistic children.

To evaluate Healthy Communities, three different questions will be asked to different groups of people: How has improved access to health care and treatments been achieved? How were community partnerships mobilized and maintained? And, to what extent are Healthy Community programs effective and sustainable?

“The University of Cape Town wants to get a multi-faceted view on these questions that we have and by doing that were conducting interviews and focus groups with athletes, care givers, Special Olympics Wisconsin personnel and community members who participate in Special Olympics Wisconsin,” says Ausderau. “We’re trying to get at this idea of health, promotion and healthy communities, and how it’s impacting not only the athletes but their families as well.”

## Karla Ausderau, Ph.D., OTR/L



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Those associated with UW-Madison's Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) take a look back at the 2014-15 academic year.

## Outreach and service

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) at UW-Madison engaged in a range of service and outreach opportunities throughout the 2014-15 school year. A sampling of the highlights include:

- In September 2014, students from SOTA participated in a Backpack Awareness Day at a middle school in Madison, educating young teens about how best to load and wear a backpack. SOTA also put on a collection event across the city called "Backpacks for Madison." Donated backpacks were distributed to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Students from UW-Madison's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program — under the supervision of OT clinical instructor Debbie Bebeau — provided fall assessments as part of an inter-professional experience at a senior center in nearby Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. In addition to those from the MSOT program, nursing students and people with the university's physical therapy program also took part in the event, which was run in conjunction with the Safe Communities Falls Prevention Task Force. The program, held in September 2014, also provided screenings and demonstrations in areas such as: gait, balance and strength; blood pressure; bone health; vision checks; and much more.
- The MSOT program again sponsored Community Inclusion dining events at a local Culver's restaurant in both the fall and spring. A percentage of the proceeds from the evening were donated to the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin.
- A number of students participated in a March event titled, "Collaborating for Care: Interprofessional Health Summit 2015." The summit allowed MSOT students to interact with students from other health disciplines and gave them the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops focused on professional topics of an interdisciplinary health care setting.

## AOTA Annual Conference

Faculty and students gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, in April 2015 for the annual American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) conference. Those who attended remarked that it was empowering to be around so many occupational therapists all at once, helping them experience a sense of connection to the OT profession. Student Malissa Roberts presented a poster at the AOTA Annual Conference titled "Systematic Review: Effectiveness of Tai Chi Decreasing the Incidence of Falls in Older Adults."

Students also attended and reported enjoying the 2014 Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Appleton, and the 2014 OT Student Conclave in St. Louis, Missouri.

Students and faculty are now looking forward to the 2016 AOTA conference being closer to home, in Chicago, April 7-10. And the 2015 WOTA conference will take place in nearby Fitchburg, Oct. 30-31.



In February, members of UW-Madison's Student Occupational Therapy Association helped raise more than \$2,000 for Special Olympics Wisconsin by jumping into icy waters as part of the Madison Polar Plunge.

## Student news ticker ...

- Student Pin-Kuei (Cara) Chen presented a poster at the OT Summit of Scholars titled, "Effects of Intrathecal Baclofen on Function and Technology Use among Children with Cerebral Palsy."
- Occupational and Physical Therapy Students held a rehabilitation job fair for employers from healthcare businesses. The event was a success for both OT and PT students to connect with potential future employers in different settings.
- UW-Madison master's students from Assistant Professor Kristen Pickett's research lab presented research posters at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery as part of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Research Day. Sophie Goloff, Karina Lathrop, Amy Malsch, and Rachel Massart each presented at the event.
- The class of 2015 celebrated commencement at Camp Randall Stadium on May 16, 2015, followed by a banquet organized by SOTA. The incoming class of 2017 was welcomed with an orientation on June 5, with faculty and students from the class of 2016 also attending.

## 2015-16 OT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### Mildred Averill Scholarship

Rebecca Vermilyea and Rachel Massart

### Jean Chapman Kiernat Scholarship

Abbey Eckhoff

### Elizabeth Roughton Travel Award

Malissa Roberts and Pin-Kuei (Cara) Chen

### Caroline G. Thompson Scholarship

Theresa Flynn

### Caroline G. Thompson Wisconsin

Distinguished Graduate Fellowships  
Yejin Choi and Pin-Kuei (Cara) Chen

### Lucile Schreiber & Wendel A. Witkay

Scholarship Fund  
Caitlin Dammann, Chloe Shmays, Brittany St. John, Sarah Crook, Jessica Leffring, Joe Deanovich, Sarah Ruplinger

### Linda Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Olakemi Olarinde

## AOTA President Ginny Stoffel to deliver keynote presentation

The Occupational Therapy Program's annual Caroline Goss Thompson Memorial Lecture and Reception will feature a keynote presentation from Ginny Stoffel, the president of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

The event runs from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery Building on the UW-Madison campus.

The keynote from Stoffel, who is an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Science & Technology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is titled, "Photovoice as a lens to lived experience: Discerning what matters in everyday occupations."

Photovoice is a participatory action research method that captures the lived experiences of persons and communities whose perspectives may be less visible. Stoffel was trained in this methodology 10 years ago, and she has conducted photovoice research with varied populations such as: persons in mental health recovery living in communities; members of psychosocial clubhouses; mothers of children with autism; parents living with mental health and substance abuse challenges; families living in poverty in Belize; and students in transition from military to civilian life.

Stoffel will explain the Photovoice method and offer participants the opportunity to review varied photovoice pieces to discern the messages and essence of how this method taps into a deeper understanding of what matters to those served by occupational therapy.



### Honoring Thompson's Legacy

Caroline Goss Thompson came to the University of Wisconsin in 1945 as the director of the newly formed Occupational Therapy program, and her leadership and dedication to this small undergraduate program allowed it to grow into a nationally recognized site of educational excellence in the field.

The professor emerita of the Occupational Therapy program died in Madison at the age of 95 on Dec. 4, 2004. This lecture honors the memory of Thompson — scholar, dedicated leader, collaborator and generous friend of the university — and is supported by alumni contributions.

## Preceptor of the Year

The OT Program each year traditionally recognizes and honors a person who does an outstanding job of being an instructor and supervisor of student field experiences.

But in 2015, the program's Preceptor of the Year award is going to a talented and distinguished group of professional mentors from the Hand and Upper Extremity service line at UW Hospital and Clinics. This unit is staffed entirely by occupational therapists at four locations in and around Madison.

All of this crew's therapists have continued their professional development throughout their careers and are certified hand therapists and/or certified lymphedema therapists. It's a cohort of occupational therapists that is passionately committed to bridging the gap between academic knowledge and clinical skills. This is a commitment that stems from the deeply held value of providing a patient/family experience of compassion and excellent clinical quality.

Members of this unit explain that they mentor because: they care for future patients; they care to learn from their students; they care to honor their mentors; and because mentoring fieldwork students simply makes the day more enjoyable.



2015 Preceptor of the Year award winners include, standing (left-to-right): Betsy McKenna, Carol Harm, Chris Kearns, Tiffany Cash, Krista Kienitz, Heidi Graf and Lisa Schroder-Omar. Sitting (left to right): Gail Groth, Gaye Meyer, Julie Gassen-Kronforst and Mary Ellen Drumm. Preceptor of the Year winners missing from photo include: Karen Blaschke, Lisa Dussault, Sarah Ezerins and Cindy Spetz.

## Alum, Professor Emeritus Hasselkus remains active in OT for five decades

By Houa Lee

Betty Hasselkus' ties to UW-Madison and its Occupational Therapy program reach back some 55 years, to when she earned a bachelor of science degree in OT in 1960.

From this rather unassuming beginning, Hasselkus has gone on to a truly remarkable career that includes: a decade as director of UW-Madison's Occupational Therapy program; international recognition as a leading expert in the field of occupational therapy; and the 2011 launch of a blog that she continues to update on a variety of topics related to the OT field.

"I liked working in the community," says Hasselkus, who is a professor emeritus with the Department of Kinesiology's Occupational Therapy program. "That came along for me pretty early in my career before I had a master's degree — that emphasis on real people, real lives and not so much on the pieces of the lives."

After earning her undergraduate degree, Hasselkus went on to receive two more advanced degrees from UW-Madison — a master's in physical education in 1974 and a doctorate in philosophy in 1987.

She then joined the UW-Madison faculty in 1987, and served as director of the university's OT program for 10 years, from 1989 to 1999. It was during these years that Hasselkus says she discovered her passion for research, which focused on the life experiences of everyday occupation for older people.

For Hasselkus, writing also came naturally. So after being approached by four different publishers about the possibility of authoring a book, she penned the first edition of, "The Meaning of Everyday Occupation," in 2002.

"At some point, it felt like, 'OK, I would like to do that,'" Hasselkus says of writing a book. "Every single chapter proved to be a time of discovery."

Hasselkus' book is often referred to when occupational therapy graduate students are beginning their course of study.

"The book awakens people to the significance of everyday occupation in their own lives and in the lives of their clients," says Hasselkus. "Our daily patterns of occupation are not simply something ordinary in our lives, they are important and related to our well-being. They are filled with meaning for us."



Betty Hasselkus

In addition to being a writer, Hasselkus also served as editor-in-chief from 1998 to 2003 for The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, where she further enhanced her international reputation.

Hasselkus says her career reached its pinnacle in 2005, when she was awarded the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award. This significant honor is awarded to a member of AOTA who has "creatively contributed to the development of the body of knowledge of the profession through research, education, and/or clinical practice." Hasselkus then delivered her lecture, "The World of Everyday Occupation: Real People, Real Lives," in 2006.

"There are other high awards, but not like this," Hasselkus says of the AOTA honor. "I think this is the one that really represents scholarship and contribution in the field. It meant a lot to me."

Hasselkus' successful career in occupational therapy led to a second edition of her book, published in 2011. Following a recommendation by a friend, Hasselkus then launched her Everyday Occupation Blog, which is filled with personal experiences and insight, and serves as an outlet to share and exchange ideas related to her book.

Since the launch of her blog, Hasselkus says she has connected with people from more than 60 countries.

Hasselkus, who says she enjoys writing, playing the piano and traveling, has now remained active in the profession of occupational therapy for more than five decades.

"I feel good about what I did, and I am grateful that I had opportunities to contribute in such meaningful ways to my career in occupational therapy," Hasselkus says of her work.

*"I feel good about what I did, and I am grateful that I had opportunities to contribute in such meaningful ways to my career in occupational therapy."*

— Betty Hasselkus

*To learn more about Hasselkus and her Everyday Occupation Blog, visit: [hasselkus.wordpress.com](http://hasselkus.wordpress.com)*

Thanks so much for responding to our email request for alumni updates! Since we couldn't fit them all into the printed newsletter, we invite you to view all of the entries at the newsletter website: [kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/ot/news/ot-matters](http://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/ot/news/ot-matters)

## Ethel Erickson Radmer – BS 1957

Ethel's sixth book, "Archetype to Zest: 26 Essays for the Curious," was published in March 2015.

## Cynthia Ann Rayburn Wise – BS 1959

Cynthia retired from full time OT work two years ago and will be returning to Madison for the 55th West High School reunion. She is still employed as an OT for monthly on-call weekend and vacation relief. Cynthia writes: "I can complete all daily tasks around town on my bicycle. I drive only into the city for museum, theatre and special events. My travel urge has dimmed. I love having most every day for me to schedule and plan or not. Thanks UW for providing education that continues to provide for me."

## Toni (Schuster) Walski – BS 1966

Toni has recently completed policy/procedures for optional operation of WOTA's OT Conduit by the volunteer sector years association lobbyist. Toni, classmate Karen Barney, colleague Teri Black and several other Wisconsin OTs were recently inducted into AOTF's Leaders & Legacies Society.

## Linda Berigan Schwehr – BS 1968

Linda is retired. She travels to Seattle and Madison often. Linda likes to garden, draw and enjoy her Tonkinese cat Sophie.

## Jane Bruesch – BS 1974

Jane is retiring after 40 years as an occupational therapist, mostly in pediatrics; school-based therapy, birth to age 3 and clinical private practice. She writes: "OT has been a great profession for me and I have always been proud to say that I graduated from UW-Madison!"

## Ann Marie Lindberg – BS 1974

Ann is currently self-employed in Greensboro, N.C., working in Early Intervention with a focus on feeding issues. She worked in Cork, Ireland, for a year in 2001-02. She plans to keep working until she is 70!

## Roberta Lynn Maurer Williams – BS 1974

Roberta is continuing her pediatric career in the school setting in Phoenix, Arizona, gradually decreasing her hours as she looks forward to retirement in the near future. Roberta has three sons and three granddaughters, and has always been so appreciative of the vast possibilities for employment offered by this profession that allowed her flexibility as she was raising her family. Writes Roberta: "I believe Mary Schneider lived across the hall from me in Liz Waters in 1972!"

## Jim Becker – BS 1975

Jim retired after 36 years as an occupational therapist. The last 34 years was spent working with adolescents in a day treatment program.

## Deborah Becker Galewski – BS 1975

Deborah and her husband recently made a two-and-a-half week trip that included an Alaskan Land Cruise. They share techniques and tips through their local community television channel. Deborah is slated to give a presentation at the Winona Friendship Center and has also joined the Center's Travel Committee for ongoing input. Deborah writes: "My life would not be as rich without the background I received through the UW-Madison OT Program and subsequent work experience. Add portions of creativity, curiosity, perseverance, and humor, and you have a winning mix."

## Gayle Marie Wilt – BS 1975

Gayle married her husband, Darrel, in 1994. They adopted their 15-year-old twins, Caleb and Leslie, at birth in 2000 while living in Columbus, Ohio. Gayle now lives in the Dayton, Ohio, area. She loves being a stay-at-home wife and mom.

## Wayne L. Winistorfer – BS 1977

Wayne was recently elected to a three-year term as the Chair of AOTA's Ethics Commission. He served four years as Member at Large prior to this election and has co-authored two AOTA Ethics Advisory Opinions and assisted in the 2015 revision of the AOTA Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct. Wayne is currently employed as the Director of Rehabilitation Services at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as Co-Chair of the hospital's ethics committee. He also teaches in the OTA Program at Fox Valley Technical College and Medical Ethics in the TOTA Program at Concordia University. Wayne lives with his wife of 35 years in Oshkosh.

## Joan Fischer – BS 1978

Joan is the Executive Director of Mobility Training and Independent Living Program, Inc., a non-profit company in Madison. The company offers programs, which provide services and support for adults with developmental disabilities including: supported employment, facility based day services, community integration, daily living skills training and mobility training. [www.mtilp.net](http://www.mtilp.net)

## Sari Lewis – BS 1981

Sari is the owner of Sari Hands PLC, an outpatient clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. She specializes in a variety of gentle manual therapy techniques, including Craniosacral Therapy and myofascial release. Sari has participated on an International Teaching team for advanced Craniosacral Therapy in Switzerland for the past three years. She is active in a variety of classes at her local gym, hikes, bikes, loves to cook and craft.

## Carol Pritzlaff Voss – BS 1981

Carol is the new Director of Communications and Special Projects for Creative Alliance Milwaukee as of June 1st. In April, she was also elected to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors for Milwaukee Public Schools District 8.

## Lisa Mahaffey – BS 1984

In 2014, Lisa was presented with a Roster of Fellows for her contributions as a member of the AOTA Commission on Practice that completed the Third Edition of the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. She just completed her sixth year as a member of the faculty at Midwestern University in Illinois. This past year she completed her preliminary exams and all of the course work for a Ph.D. in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and will be starting her dissertation research looking at barriers to self-determination in daily living for people with persistent psychosocial disabilities. Lisa has also started serving her first term as the President of the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association.

## Lynn Chasse – BS 1987

After almost 40 years in the field of occupational therapy, first as a COTA and then as an OTR, Lynn has decided to retire and spend more time with her children, Steve and Becky. In addition, she plans to go on adventures with her two grandchildren, Jack and Isabella. She plans to travel internationally. She writes: "A fulfilling career in occupational therapy beginning with rehab at Marianjoy and RIC and ending with pediatrics in the school system has provided the means for me to enjoy the rest of my life. That is not to say I won't be dabbling a little bit in to the realm of occupational therapy; but, for now, I will be enjoying some free time."

## Linda Hofstetter – BS 1993

Linda is a regional manager for Select Rehabilitation.

## Amber Ward – BS 1993

Amber has been practicing in North Carolina for 21 years. She works at a neurology outpatient clinic with clients with progressive disorders like ALS and is a wheelchair evaluator. Amber is rotating off of being state president for 4.5 years of the North Carolina OT Association and is a published researcher. She was just in the news for assisting a veteran with ALS to get a Jaco robotic arm for his power wheelchair and is beginning research in this area. She presents locally, nationally and internationally on ALS, progressive disorders, research for the busy therapist and power wheelchairs.

## Alissa Nilles Hirscher – BA 2001

Alissa is currently working part-time at Meriter Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital in Madison. She enjoys working with teenagers, especially teaching them emotion regulation skills through the DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) Framework. She is also the Executive Director of a non-profit, The Pregnancy Helpline, which provides material goods and support to families in our community. She writes: "I love being an OT and helping others, and these two roles are a great way to live out my passion. I'm also the mom of four young children, another role I enjoy very much!"



## Class of 1966 50-year reunion

UW-Madison alumnae Claire (Nakanishi) Seki and Toni (Schuster) Walski are planning a 50-year reunion for the weekend of Sept. 17, 2016.

This reunion coincides with the Badger football team's scheduled home game against Georgia State at Camp Randall Stadium. (These alums note this contest should be fun, but probably won't equal UW's win over No. 1-ranked Northwestern during everyone's freshman year in 1962.)

To learn more — or to relay contact information for other Class of 1966 graduates — please e-mail Toni at: [walskifamily@mailbag.com](mailto:walskifamily@mailbag.com)

## Riqiea Kitchens – MS 2009

Riqiea was selected as the Occupational Therapist of the Year for the Harris Health System in Houston, Texas.

## Elly McKenzie – MS 2010

Elly married her husband, Chad, in March and moved into a house last month. Two step-kids and a dog keep her life in Seattle extra interesting. She is still working in SCI and is currently progressing toward a seating and mobility specialty, as well as ATP credentials.

## Kristen Kehl Floberg – MS 2010

In spring of 2014 Kristen transitioned back to adult inpatient from her birth to age 3 practice after several big transitions for her family — the biggest being the birth of her son. Kristen and her family lived in Minneapolis until June, where she was OT at Courage Kenney Rehab Institute's acute care team at Abbott Northwestern hospital, and clinical researcher at the Courage Kenney Research Center. Research activity focused on the effect of OT and PT home fall risk interventions during hospitalization on the incidence of falls at home after discharge, and the development of clinical practice guidelines; work on this project is ongoing. Kristen and her family are now settling into their new home in St Louis, Missouri, for John's main residency at Washington University. No position for Kristen yet, but she looks forward to exploring clinical, research, and potential academic directions in St. Louis.

## Sarah Rose Hizon – MS 2011

Sarah works for Aurora Health Clinic in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, as an occupational therapist. She is also a primary certified lymphedema therapist. She treats 50 percent outpatient upper extremity cases (shoulder to hand) and 50 percent lymphedema and oncology cases specializing in seeing post-op breast cancer patients. Sarah is the head of her oncology rehab team. In July she took a course to become a wound care certified clinician as well. Sarah is slowly working on taking the IAOM upper extremity track courses to become a certified orthopedic manual therapist.





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**KEEP IN TOUCH!**

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*To read the online version of OT Matters go to:*  
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