Hello to all of our alumni and academic/professional colleagues. In the past decade the curriculum has transitioned to the new undergraduate major in occupational science and the new occupational therapy master’s degree in occupational therapy. Thanks to all of you who have helped.

The programs have been revised to provide an excellent educational experience and meet accreditation standards. The entry-level to the profession M.S. program offers two routes of entry: completion of the occupational science major or another major upon completion of prerequisite coursework during a transition year. The two-year M.S. program enrolls about 55 new graduate students each fall.

The occupational science major is one of only four in the nation. Students complete foundational coursework in social, behavioral, and physical sciences. You are our best recruiters. Please continue to send interested and qualified applicants to our website for more information. The neighbor who visited your clinic might become a colleague. See Curriculum page 3

**Occupational Therapy Curriculum—The Decade of Change**

**PREPaRE for Rural Employment**

PREPaRE: Preparing related services personnel for rural employment was funded for $738,559. Dr. Christine Myers (OT-EKU) and Drs. Susan Effgen (PT) and Jane Kleinert (SLP) at the University of Kentucky serve as principal investigators.

Regional stewardship and providing exceptional educational opportunities for providers to serve in rural areas of the Commonwealth are included.

Internal grants to support service learning ($9,600 and $3,000) were awarded to Dr. Shirley O’Brien. An internal grant to support collaborative work for state agency See Grants page 3
The EKU Occupational Therapy department offers the only public university programs in the Commonwealth. Founded in 1976, the department offers a B.S. in occupational science and M.S. in occupational therapy. In collaboration with the University of Kentucky, a Ph.D. in rehabilitation sciences is offered.

Named to the Top 25 Graduate Programs in occupational therapy in 2008 (2008-2012) by U.S. News & World Report, the faculty emphasize excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

Please visit the EKU occupational therapy website for more information.
Did you know that 10 department faculty serve as editorial board members and reviewers for 14 professional journals?

Faculty in Print—continued from page 2


Chapters in Case-Smith, J. & O’Brien, J. (Eds.), Occupational Therapy for Children (6th ed.), St. Louis: Elsevier:


Presentations by EKU OT faculty totaled 41 in 2009.

Grants—continued from page 1

Faculty completing grant-funded projects to support educational opportunities for graduate students and model treatment delivery programs include: Amy Marshall, Elaine Fehringer, Drs. Lynda Emery, Dory Marken, Shirley O’Brien, and Doris Pierce. Project completion supports the EKU special initiatives: (1) student success—teaching and learning as the primary mission of the institution, (2) teaching that emphasizes critical and creative thinking, and (3) regional stewardship — service to the people of the Commonwealth in the region.

Curriculum—continued from page 1

The last decade also saw the EKU OT department collaborate to start a Rehabilitation Science Ph.D. program at the University of Kentucky. The program welcomes occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, and athletic trainers.

The EKU OT Department and Dr. Colleen Schneck have been given service awards.

EKU OT faculty represent the department at UK and participate in teaching and doctoral committees.

Alumni interested in advancing their careers in teaching, research, or specialized clinical services are encouraged to explore this program. Interdisciplinary collaboration is valued. Graduate student interests can be developed at this research university.

As a regional comprehensive university, EKU offers the only public occupational therapy program in the Commonwealth. Service-learning, web-enhanced instruction, and advocacy in research support traditional teaching.
Graduate Education: Raising the Bar

The EKU OT faculty are jumping higher. EKU, a SACS accredited institution, can now offer doctoral degrees. The Graduate School has raised the bar to credential faculty. Full graduate faculty with lifetime appointments include:

- Drs. Lynnda Emery, Doris Pierce, Colleen Schneck, and Peggy Wittman.
- Dr. Doris Pierce, Endowed Chair in Occupational Therapy, has stimulated scholarship development across campus via the GEARS program offered by the Graduate School.

New promotions to professor include Drs. Dana Howell, Shirley O’Brien, and Anne Shordike. New promotion to associate professor is Dr. Christine Myers. Faculty now “ABD” who are completing dissertations at UK include Julie Baltisberger, Melba Custer, Amy Marshall.

Presentations at Conferences

Conference presentations completed by department faculty in 2009 totaled 41. In addition to specialty conferences, faculty contributed to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, American Occupational Therapy Association, and Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association meetings. EKU faculty presenters include: Julie Baltisberger, Melba Custer, Lynnda Emery, Elaine Fehringer, Dana Howell, Amy Marshall, Christine Myers, Shirley O’Brien, Doris Pierce, Colleen Schneck, Anne Shordike, Kathy Splinter-Watkins, Julya Westfall, and Peggy Wittman.

Please visit the EKU occupational therapy website for 2008 and 2009 scholarship and service highlights.

Clinical Services

 Provision of clinical services to clients is an important part of occupational therapy education. In addition to fieldwork experiences, undergraduate and graduate students enroll in service delivery courses.

An undergraduate elective in equine-assisted therapy introduced students to the therapeutic option of hippotherapy. Kathy Splinter-Watkins offers on-farm sessions.

The Place To Be has moved to the Dizney Building. Offering clinical services to persons with dementia, Katherine Nicholas provides clinical supervision for students.

Services for students in alternative schools and handwriting programs are included. Contact the department for information.

Students evaluate access for persons with disability.