Kathlyn L. Reed, PhD, OT’64, OTR, FAOTA, MLIS
2016 Distinguished Health Professions Alumna

Kathlyn L. Reed, PhD, OT’64, OTR, FAOTA, MLIS casts a long shadow over the profession of occupational therapy and the Department of Occupational Therapy Education at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Since earning her Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy from KU in 1964, Dr. Reed has spent the past 50 years touching the lives of countless students through her classroom teaching, clinical supervision and mentoring of graduate students at master’s and doctoral levels. An icon at Texas Woman’s University, Dr. Reed has held several academic ranks during her tenure, the most recent being associate professor emeritus in the School of Occupational Therapy.

After graduating from KU, Dr. Reed went on to earn a master’s degree in occupational therapy from Western Michigan University, a doctorate in special education from the University of Washington, and a master’s degree in library and information studies from the University of Oklahoma.

Both of Dr. Reed’s parents graduated from KU in the early 1930s. Her mother worked as an executive secretary and bookkeeper, and her father was a research chemist and later a businessman and store owner. Dr. Reed was born in Detroit, Michigan, and the family moved frequently for her father’s career.

Dr. Reed is an accomplished author and historian. Perhaps her most important work is the Quick Reference to Occupational Therapy, which is now in its third edition and considered to be a front-line resource for occupational therapists. Her thirst for knowledge about current trends in the profession along with a deep appreciation for the foundations of occupational therapy has earned her acclaim as one of the profession’s renowned scholars.

Both Dr. Reed and her father were committed to their professions and to KU. They had an agreement to set aside money for scholarships to chemistry or occupational therapy based on which one survived. Her father died in 2004, thus the money became the genesis for the Kathlyn “Kitty” Reed Scholarship, which is given to out annually to outstanding students in the Department of Occupational Therapy Education.

For her leadership and devotion to the profession of occupational therapy and her continuing support of the University of Kansas Department of Occupational Therapy Education, the KU Health Professions Alumni Association proudly presents Kathlyn L. Reed, PhD, OT’64, OTR, FAOTA, MLIS with the 2016 Distinguished Health Professions Alumna Award.