

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 FALL SEMESTER 2005

ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The graduating class of 2005 will present their research projects to the public on Saturday, November 5, 2005. There will be 11 different projects presented. Each student will present for 20 minutes and offer a question and answer period for three minutes.

The event will be held at the Health Professions Education Building at 520 Wakara Way in Research Park. A continental breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:00 am and the keynote address will begin at 9:00 with the student presentations to follow.

Please join us to hear the student's presentation and mingle with other OT's interested in evidence based practice! Professional Development Units available.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION BUILDING

The Health Professions Education Building which houses Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Anatomy, and the Body Donor Program will be named on October 20, 2005 after Ezekiel and Edna Wattis Dumke following a generous donation by their children.



FIRST ALUMNI EVENT THIS APRIL

The Division of Occupational Therapy at the University of Utah admitted its first class in 1999 and graduated its first Masters prepared class of occupational therapists in 2002.

Since that time we have graduated a total of 58 occupational therapists in the past four years. As we graduate our fifth class this Spring, we will host our first alumni event during the month of April. This will be our way of honoring Occupational Therapy month. All graduates as well as our current students and all faculty, past and present will be invited. Watch for more information in the coming months. And if you would like to help plan the event, please contact Dr. JoAnne Wright at 585-7788

DATES OF INTEREST

- *Fieldwork Educator's Conference October 14, 2005 from 2:00 until 6:00 pm*
- *Pediatric Level I Fieldwork half days September 12 through December 2, 2005.*
- *Rural and underserved Level I Fieldwork September 12 through 19, 2005.*
- *Student Research Symposium November 5, 2005 from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm*
- *Level II Fieldwork 1/9/06 through 3/31/06*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

JOB FAIR	2
SERVICE LEARNING	2
OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE	3
FW CONFERENCE	3
DR. LOUISE DUNN	3
STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY	4

JOB FAIR

Last Spring we hosted our first Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Job Fair. It was a great success with 23 employers displaying materials and talking with our graduating students. The vendors were very impressed with our graduates, and expressed a strong interest to return to meet with the next class.

Several of the students who had just finished their last affiliations already had job offers at the time of the Job Fair. Also some of the clinical sites that were in attendance were interested in talking with our students about doing their affiliations with them.

This year we will be hosting our Job

Fair December 9, 2005. And we will be inviting all three years of students, both occupational therapy and physical therapy, to attend. Students will be able to talk with potential employers and potential fieldwork sites. Employers will be able to talk with and meet third year students before they go on their last affiliation, or second and first year students before their final affiliation plans are set.

The Job Fair will once again be held in the Health Professions Education Building at 520 Wakara from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm with a lunch served. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Johns at 585-3133.

OT/PT JOB FAIR DEC 9, 2005

FROM 10:30 AM
TO 2:30 PM

520 WAKARA

Job Fair
Spring 2005



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

This semester several third year occupational therapy students will be involved in a new collaborative learning opportunity as a part of their third year Level I fieldwork.

The Interdisciplinary Service Learning Seminar is a class sponsored by Hartland Apartments Community Center, the University Neighborhood Partners, and the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center. In addition to the Occupational Therapy students, the seminar will have students from Social Work, Linguistics, Family & Consumer Studies, and Family Practice.

"This interdisciplinary seminar is providing our students with a great opportunity to experience non-traditional community-based practice while collaborating and communicating with students from other fields. Not only do they have the opportunity to learn about the roles of other professions in health care and community service, they provide others with a better understanding of the occupational therapy profession." says Yda Smith, faculty liaison for the project.



OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

Occupational Science is the research aspect of occupational therapy. In 1980 occupational therapists became interested in a more rigorous scientific exploration of occupation itself, and how improving occupational performance enhances the health and well being of individuals. In 1989 at the University of Southern California, a PhD program was created to address this area of study. There are now 5 programs offering bachelors or masters degrees and 3 programs (including USC) that offer PhDs in occupational science.

Also, the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA (SSO) was formed in 2003. This group of occupational scientists holds a conference to exchange ideas and share research findings each year. This year our Dr. Pollie Price is the chair of the conference which will be held in Potomac, MD on October 27-29, 2005.



If you would like more information about the conference or the Society for the Study of Occupation, contact Dr. Pollie Price at 587-9227.

FIELDWORK EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE

Once again, in conjunction with the Salt Lake Community College OT Assistant Program, we will be sponsoring an educational event **free of charge** for the professionals who provide fieldwork sites for our students.

Last year we had presentations on competence, reflection as a tool for learning, the struggling student, and the new student evaluation form.

Join us for an afternoon of learning and sharing! Although there is no charge an RSVP is appreciated. Please call 585-3133.

Presentations include:

- Supervisory style and effective feedback
- Incorporating the Framework into student materials
- Use of FEAT as an evaluation tool for FW sites
- Discussions about what you can expect from entry level generalists
- A round-table discussion session
- Displays and snacks!

FIELDWORK EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 14,
2005

2—6 PM

RECRUITING OT'S

Did you know that in a survey of occupational therapy students, most of the students were introduced to the discipline by a health professional (Baldwin, *Journal of Allied Health*, 2003)?

You can spread the word about occupational therapy to the students of tomorrow. If you'd like to find out more about student recruitment or would like to refer a student, please contact Kelly Brown, Academic Advisor, 585-9135.

DR. LOUISE DUNN

Louise Dunn joined our faculty in January 2004 and has been taking the lead in our pediatric curriculum. She completed her doctorate degree, a ScD in Therapeutic Science from Boston University this May. Her dissertation was Participation of Children with and without ADHD in Household Tasks. (CHORES) Dr. Dunn will continue her research in further understanding of the factors that support and limit children's participation in family occupations.



Dr. Louise Dunn



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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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EDUCATING OUR FUTURE
COLLEAGUES

STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

This spring second-year students and Dr. Louise Dunn joined with personnel and nutritionists from Utah State University in the WIC program. They designed an educational workshop to promote physical activity for young children as a way to decrease health risks associated with obesity and inactivity. The occupational therapy students offered daily participation in physical activities via videotapes and a distance format. When families are aware of opportunities for physical activities and healthy food choices within their routines, they can support and promote healthful habits for their children.

Dr. Dunn says, "We enjoyed the opportunity to associate with the professor in Nutrition Science at Utah State University through a grant awarded to Dr. Nedra Christiansen promoting healthy habits in children and their families."

The students enjoyed developing videotapes that illustrate how to incorporate physical activities within the daily routines of children and their families.

