

Division of Occupational Therapy

Volume 4, Issue 1 Fall Semester 2007

Partnering for Promotion of Health

On June 20, 2007 the Division of Occupational Therapy partnered with the Ergonomics group from the U of U Mechanical Engineering Department to present at the American Express Health Fair. Nancy Johns, Lorinda Lynn, and Dr. Rich Sesek provided information and answered questions about back pack safety, visual ergonomics, seated work stations, and ergonomic projects in industry. Several hundred employees viewed the booths over the lunch hour, and the information was well received.



Research Symposium November 3, 2007

The class of 2008 will be presenting the results of their research projects the morning of Saturday, November 3, 2007. Our keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Gelya Frank. Dr. Frank is a nationally known anthropologist and occupational scientist, as well as the author of *Venus on Wheels: Two Decades of Dialogue on Disability, Biography, and being Female in America* (2000) Her presentation is "Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in

the service of indigenous goals: New approaches to working at the community level."

The keynote address will begin at 8:30 following a continental breakfast. The 12 different student presentations will occur 9:30 to

12:45, followed by a reception to honor the presenters.



Important

Dates:

- Pediatric Level I fieldwork is October 15–26, 2007
- Spring Level II fieldwork is January 7–March 28, 2007
- Research Symposium November 3, 2007
- Career Fair November 7, 2007
- Fieldwork Conference November 9, 2007

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Supporting Occupation-Based Practice

Occupation based therapy supports the individual's need for occupation and participation

Did you know that the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA is a research society that support development of knowledge of humans as occupational beings and occupation-based practice? Check out the following website when you get a chance: sso:usa.org.

Dr. Tina McNulty and Dr. Pollie Price, both professors in the Division of Occupational Therapy, University of Utah, will be attending this year's Sixth Annual Research Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference is titled "A Community of Scholars: Crossroads of Culture and Occupation."

It will take place October 25–28, 2007. Dr. Price will deliver a paper: "How Occupation Emerges in the Practices of Occupational Therapists across Settings", and will become the Chair of the Society Board for 2007–2008.

In support of your occupation-based practices, check out two articles in the August 2007 OT Practice:

Occupation-Based Intervention in Medical-Based Settings

Putting the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework in Practice.



Fall Picnic

Second and third year students, together with faculty and staff, get together at the beginning of every Fall semester to welcome the incoming class of new occupational therapy students. This year the Division of Occupational Therapy at the University of Utah admitted 28 students into the class of 2010. Although many students come from Utah, this year 18% were admitted from other states, and we have 11 men and 17 women. As the program continues to grow, we welcome the opportunity every fall to work with the new student group.

But they do seem younger every year!

Fall Semester Adjuncts

Adjuncts bring variety and help faculty manage our increasing class size. This semester Rob Marshall is a new adjunct teaching Seminar III, and our recent grad Lorinda Lynn is teaching in the anatomy class and lab. Chris Noren returns for another semester of Leadership

and Management, and Jeanette Koski is teaching the Intro class for the second year. Taira Christiansen returns as coordinator of Pediatric Evals with Andrea Minnis assisting. Noni Smith returns again for her fifth year assisting in the NDT elective class. We welcome them all!

SPA

At the Division of Occupational Therapy, when we talk about a "SPA", we are referring to a Student Performance Assessment rather than a massage session at a local health club. Officially known as the Occupational Therapy Student Performance Assessment (OTSPA), the OTSPA is one of our newer additions to the curriculum. During this type of test, students individually evaluate a simulated client (a trained actor) and develop a treatment plan within a limited amount of time.

We offered our first OTSPA last spring with 23 students from the class of 2008 participating which

served as the final examination for the adult assessment and intervention course. The case used in this process was based upon a person in the community who is living with multiple sclerosis. We offered this OTSPA at the Health Science Education Building using state of the art technology designed for the purpose of digitally taping health science students working with simulated patients played by trained actors in separate suites. Faculty were able to evaluate each student's interaction with a simulated patient in another room allowing for a realistic experience of assessment for the students. We look forward to using the OTSPA again in future classes.

***OT-PT
Career Fair
is November
7, 2007***

***\$200
registration
for vendors
585-9135***

Partners in Research

Collaboration between faculty and clinicians is a rich resource for research. Eunice Chen, Med, OTR/L was a liaison between the teacher, Julie Welch, and Dr. Dunn for a school based study on constraint induced movement therapy with a young adolescent who has cerebral

palsy and intellectual disabilities. She also assisted with splinting. In addition Gary Robinson, MOT, OTR/L assisted by being the "blinded" evaluator for the outcomes of this study. Contact us if you have an idea for collaboration!



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WE'RE ON THE WEB
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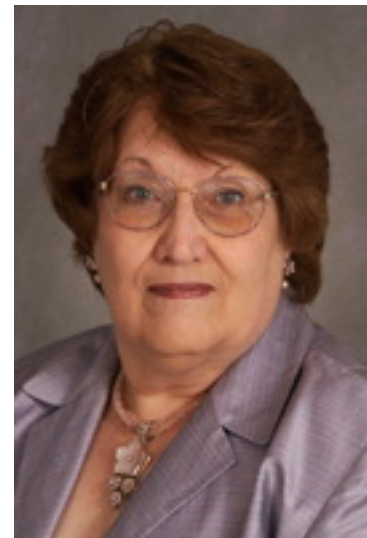
Educating our Future Colleagues

Fieldwork Conference November 9, 2007

Please join us for a day of education and networking about effective supervision in fieldwork. Donna M Costa, DHS, OTR/L is the author of *The Essential Guide to Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education: A Resource for Today's Educators and Practitioners* (2004) and *Clinical Supervision in Occupational Therapy: A Guide for Fieldwork and Practice* (2007). She is a faculty member of Stony Brook University and is completing her Doctor of Health Sciences degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Indianapolis.

This conference is offered by the Division of Occupational Therapy at the University of Utah for all therapists and other professionals who accept our students for fieldwork placement. It will be held at the University Part Marriott located at 480 Wakara Way in Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. (East of the Occupational Therapy Dumke Health Professions Education Building.) Registration starts at 8:30 and the conference will be from 9:00 to 3:00 with lunch provided.

The conference is free of charge but registration is required by Nov 5, 2007. Please contact nancy.johns@hsc.utah.edu or 801-585-3133 to register.



Donna Costa, DHS, OTR/L
Fieldwork Educator's
Conference
November 9, 2007