

Division of Occupational Therapy

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OTR/COTA Partnership

Second year occupational therapy students partnered with experienced COTA's to practice collaboration skills on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Noni Smith and Kelly Lineras joined the students for a discussion of roles and experiences. In small groups the

students and COTA worked through case studies to collaboratively plan treatments and discuss choices. The students reported they enjoyed the opportunity to interact with "real" COTA's. This is the fourth year an OTR/COTA partnership activity has been held.



Career Fair a success!

The Division of Occupational Therapy and the Division of Physical Therapy hosted a Career Fair for OT and PT students November 8, 2006. It was held at the Marriott Park Hotel next door to the school to accommodate the grow-

ing need of vendors. Twenty three agencies participated and approximately 150 students. Feedback from both students and exhibitors was positive. Watch for our career fair again next fall!

Fieldwork Dates:

- Adult Level I fieldwork is March 26—April 6, 2007
- Summer Level I fieldwork is June 11-15, 2007
- Summer Level II fieldwork is May 14—August 3, 2007
- Graduation Class of 2007 is May 3, 2007

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Adjunct Faculty News



Brooke Mullin, graduate of the Class of 2005, is a TA in Yda's Adult Skills Class this semester. She also works full time at the University of Utah Hospital on the inpatient rehab stroke team.

Brooke reports she likes working with students because they are excited, enthusiastic, and passionate about OT! "They are anxious to learn whatever they can to become great OT's, and they have fresh ideas

about how I can be a better OT. "

This semester Vanya Mabey and Debbie Ballard also return to teach the Early Intervention Elective, and Nikki Conrad is teaching half of Seminar IV.

If you are interested in being a TA or adjunct faculty, please contact Dr. JoAnne Wright at 585-7788. We have some positions available for Summer 2007 and the 2007-2008 school year.

Student Performance Assessment—SPA

Beth Cardell and three of our third year occupational therapy students participated in a trans-disciplinary student assessment program with patient actors last fall. The goal was to increase transdisciplinary communication and understanding of each discipline's approach to the evaluation of a patient.

This spring the Division of Occupational Therapy will implement a discipline specific experience that also uses actors to play clients. Dr. Tina McNulty is leading the project which will involve all faculty and our second year students. Dr. McNulty says, " Only a few OT schools in the country use this innovative assessment technique."

Occupation-based practice study group forming. Contact pollie.price@hsc.utah.edu

Faculty News



Beth Cardell and Nancy Johns have completed their Master of Science in Health Promotion and Education. Beth's research is about resilience as a component of adjustment to disability with persons who have had a stroke. Nancy's research involved a visual ergonomics intervention to decrease eyestrain in frequent computer users.

Yda Smith has been named Director of Graduate Studies for the Division of Occupational Therapy.

Pollie Price, PhD, OTR/L and Cathy Chambless, PhD (College of Behavioral and Social Science) are developing a core course in Disability Studies. They were awarded the U of U Office of the VP Interdisciplinary Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Continued involvement with Refugees

Yda Smith has been re-appointed as the University Neighborhood Partners Hartland Partnership Director for the coming year. This involves supervising OT students; facilitating an interdisciplinary seminar with students from OT, social work, and nursing; acting as chair of the Hartland Research Com-

mittee; and as co-chair of the Hartland Steering Committee. This project is designed to create University and West side community partnerships to create capacity building opportunities with residents of Hartland apartments who are primarily recently arrived immigrants and refugees.



Looking for URLEND trainee for 07-08

URLEND stands for the Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Training Program. The LEND grant, funded by the Maternal Child Health Bureau, is designed to ensure that physicians, nurses, therapists, and other allied health professionals are qualified to address the complex needs of children with special health care needs and their families. This trainee program provides opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in providing services and supports to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

Occupational Therapy is a part of that grant and we are currently looking for an OT trainee for the 2007-2008 school year starting this fall. We have historically had pediatric practitioners, experienced or new grads, who are interested in an enrichment experience. There is a stipend and the trainee is involved in a series of didactic seminars, clinical and research experiences. If you are interested you can go to www.urlend.org for more information or you can contact Dr JoAnne Wright at 801-585-7788 or joanne.wright@hsc.utah.edu. This is a great opportunity!

Twenty Eight occupational therapy students will be admitted this fall as the Class of 2010!

NDT therapists to participate in research

Second year students are looking for occupational and physical therapists to participate in their study examining therapist's perceptions on NDT treatments with adults. Researchers will video tape 1 hour treatment session of the thera-

pist treating a patient using NDT and conduct a follow-up interview regarding the session. If you might be interested in participating, please contact Jim Lindow at 801-809-3467 or email at jlindow@juno.com.





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Educating our Future Colleagues

Work-Able Center Opens with Support of OT

Dr. Tina McNulty is collaborating with Clare Coonan, LCSW, to support the beginning of a new community-based return to work program, the Work-Able Center. The Work-Able Center opened on March 7, 2007 and is designed to assist persons who have mental health issues who must return to work because they are running out of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. The whole philosophy of the program focuses on the importance of "doing", focusing on strengths versus pathology, and allowing participants to develop their own goals and plan of activities (with support of staff) that will lead to employment of at least 30 hours a week.

This spring semester a second-year student, Marie MacRae, MOTS, is completing an independent study at the center with Dr.

McNulty's supervision. Occupational therapy's role at the center has been in collaborating with the director, Ms. Coonan, and two full-time staff to develop assessments that adequately evaluate participant's strengths for and barriers to meaningful employment. Another goal for Ms. MacRae's independent study at the site is to develop a criteria for when an occupational therapy assessment should be requested.

Dr. McNulty and Ms. MacRae met with Michelle Derr, PhD, from Mathematic Policy Research, Inc. from Washington, DC, who is writing a descriptive article about innovative programs in the country that focus on return to work persons losing their TANF benefits and have mental health concerns. We were to glad to elaborate on occupational therapy's developing role with this new program.