

# Division of Occupational Therapy

Volume 4, Issue 2 Spring Semester 2008

## AOTA Conference in Long Beach



With the AOTA conference in Long Beach this year, twenty five of our students from the first, second and the third year were able to attend conference and participate in the many educational opportunities. At the opening ceremony, University of Utah was one of the schools recognized as a gold level participant for having a 100% student membership rate.

Many of the faculty offered presentations at this year's conference as well. Dr. JoAnne Wright presented a poster session on *Student Professional Development: A Report on what Schools are Doing* and Dr. Louise Dunn had a poster

session on *Assessment of Reflective Thinking for Entry Level OT and PT students* and presented a research paper on *Patterns of Household Task Participation for Children with and without Attentional Problems*.

Dr. Tina McNulty and her students Jason Urry and John Anderson presented their research finding on *Quality of Life and Time use of Persons with Parkinson's Disease*. Dr. McNulty was pleased with the interaction and discussion of the students and their colleagues during the poster session. "I was proud of them," she said.

### Important

#### Dates:

- Level II summer semester FW May 15—August 1, 2008
- Seminar V Level I FW for rural and underserved areas September 15—26, 2008
- Pediatric Level I FW October 20—31, 2008
- Fieldwork Conference October 10, 2008
- Research Symposium November 1, 2008

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## Health Sciences SPA

***30 new OT students will start our program in Fall 2008***

For the second year in a row, the students of the Occupational Therapy program have been able to participate in an interdisciplinary educational opportunity with students from the School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Nursing, and Pharmacy.

Professor Beth Cardell worked on the committee organizing the event. Actors are trained to be patients and offer the students the opportunity to gather a history and form a treatment plan. The different students watch the interviews through a video connection, and then have a chance to learn from each other what

the different professions have to offer. Professor Cardell states, "It is a great opportunity for the occupational therapy students to learn, but also to promote our profession as a whole to practitioners of the future."



## New Clinical Education Coordinator



Nancy Johns, MS, OTR/L is leaving as Clinical Education Coordinator after 4 years to move to Port Angeles, WA. Jeanette Koski, MS, OTR/L is taking over the position.

Fieldwork is an integral portion of the education of a new occupational therapist. At the University of Utah the five different Level I fieldwork assignments are integrated into the curriculum to augment the learning of the classroom situation. Our students complete 2 twelve week Level II fieldwork experiences in both a traditional health care and a community setting. The Clinical Education Coordinator is responsible for developing new sites and assisting new fieldwork supervisors, working with both students and OT's to make fieldwork as valuable as possible, and bringing back to the faculty information from the fieldwork sites to keep the program in touch with the community.

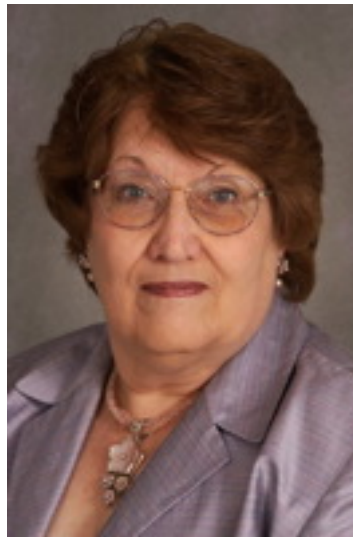
## Ten year ACOTE Accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education has awarded the University of Utah a ten year accreditation, the highest level of recognition. The program director and faculty were acknowledged for

their enthusiasm and dedication, and innovation in comprehensive curriculum planning and implementation. Dr. Wright commented, "I am proud ACOTE was able to see the great work our faculty does."

## New Faculty Member

The faculty at the Division of Occupational Therapy are pleased to welcome Donna Costa, DHS, OTR/L to our group. She comes to us from Stonybrook University in New York. Donna is the author of *Clinical Supervision in Occupational Therapy: A Guide for Fieldwork and Practice*. Her practice area has been mental health, and she will begin teaching Fall Semester, 2008.



## Fellow Passengers

I see it on the bus, or the University Trax line. All different kinds of passengers on the journey. Some are chatty, some are sleeping, some are reading or doing their needlework. I watch how they acknowledge their fellow passengers.

Some are space takers. They take up the space they think they need for a comfortable personal journey. You can't sit with them because their coat, or back pack, or even their body position is taking up both halves of the seat they occupy.

Some are space makers. They leave room for another, or they make space if you look their direction. Sometimes they will even help you manage your bag if it is a full day for your travel.

OT's are space makers. They watch what others need and welcome another passenger to share the journey with them. I am pleased to have been a part of your journey.

*Nancy Johns, MS, OTR/L*

***OT-PT  
Career Fair  
in November***

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



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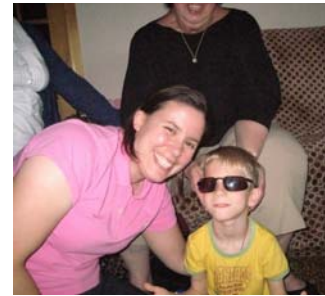
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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.HEALTH.UTAH.EDU/OT

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*Educating our Future Colleagues*



## OT's Travel to the Ukraine

Armed with wash mitts and universal cuffs made by the Occupational Therapy Students at the U, soap and all sorts of adaptive equipment, Dr. JoAnne Wright and Kristi Ward (alumni '06) as well as Dr. Donna Costa (new faculty, Fall 2008) headed for Ukraine in May for two weeks. They were part of a group of 20 OT's (students, professors, and clinicians) participating in a program that has been in place for four years. In Kiev, the group visited historical sites to learn about the culture of the area, then took a 15 hour train ride west to SLC's sister city of Chernivtsi. The OT's worked with Chernobyl survivors and their families, other adults, and children with a variety of disabilities. There were lectures and demonstrations given to social services workers, and native doctors. The different teams and their translators visited people in their homes as well as visiting a long term care facility and an orphanage.



Jo Wright says, "It was a gift to be able to work with people who because of the effects of radiation had all sorts of disabilities." Her team saw primarily adults who had strokes, severe intention tremors, or spinal cord related diseases. In some respects it was heartbreaking but the overall sense that one comes away with is that of respect for the human spirit and the tenacity and adaptability of people faced with few resources and multiple problems. "Although we couldn't provide the level of intense therapy that most of these people needed, we were able to help them achieve a higher level of functional ability. The people were so warm and receptive and grateful for what little we could do for them." There are plans to offer this opportunity to students and therapists in Utah next year.