



Division of Occupational Therapy

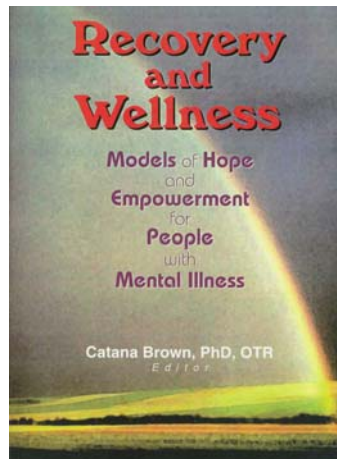
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Psychosocial Occupational Therapy

In December of 2004 the faculty of the Division of Occupational Therapy hosted a visit from Catana Brown, PhD, OTR. Tana was a colleague of Dr. Pollie Price when they were both at the University of Kansas. She spent two days with the faculty and also some time meeting the students, talking about occupational therapy in mental health.

Catana Brown edited the book *Recovery and Wellness: Models of Hope and Empowerment for People with Mental Illness (2001)*. She has extensive experience in the treatment of persons with mental illness. In collaboration with Winne Dunn, she developed the Adult Sensory Profile, and she speaks often on the Recovery Model of mental illness.

The faculty enjoyed learning from her and interacting with her as we reviewed how to infuse the curriculum with this perspective in mental health. Students enjoyed the chance to meet and speak with an author of one of our texts in an informal setting.



Special points of interest:

- Level II Fieldwork Summer Semester is 5/16/2005 through 8/5/2005.
- Job Fair April 28, 2005 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Health Professions Education Building in Research Park.

Faculty Members Participate in NBCOT

Two of the faculty members of the Division of Occupational Therapy have been accepted in official capacities with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.

Beth Cardell, OTR/L has been accepted as an item writer for the entry level certification exam. She works collaboratively with other item writers from around the country. "Creating a well-constructed

multiple choice question is a challenge, but also very interesting," Beth says.

Nancy Johns, OTR/L was selected to serve on the Board of Directors of this national organization, and attended her first Board meeting in January. "It's a wonderful way to contribute to the profession and meet with people from all over the country."

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Mark your calendar now so you can join us for this stimulating event.

November 5, 2005

Fall semester Eunice Chen was recognized by students as an outstanding fieldwork educator in the pediatric setting.

Collaborative Research

The class of 2005 hosted their Annual Research Symposium on November 6th, 2004. The students did an excellent job of professionally presenting the 20 different research projects they completed.

The class of 2006 are just beginning their graduate research project, and they will present publicly this fall as well. This year we are emphasizing the collaborative nature of research as an activity. Some students are working in pairs to develop and execute their research project. Some are contributing to a faculty member's current area of research.

We also have several community

collaborations underway. One project is a medication management study the students are investigating at the VA with Ann Marie Darstein as a co-investigator. Students are also collaborating with Greg Wootten, an alumni of the U of U OT program at the Utah State Hospital on a cognitive remediation program. Another pair of students will be investigating the current knowledge level of low vision intervention techniques in occupational therapists in the Intermountain West.

If you have an idea for a collaborative research project with your client population, please contact Dr. JoAnne Wright. 801-585-7788

Job Fair Planned April 28, 2005

As many of you are already feeling, the market for occupational therapists is shifting again. There are more openings for occupational therapists in Utah, and around the country. We are planning a job fair for programs or facilities that are recruiting for occupational therapists.

We will be sponsoring this in collaboration with the Division of Physical Therapy in the Health Professions Education Building at 520 Wakara in Research Park. The Division of Occupational Therapy plans

to graduate 20 students, and the Division of Physical Therapy is looking forward to graduating their first class of DPT students in June.

Other interested therapists from the community are welcome to attend.

If you would like to reserve a table to display materials for \$150, please contact us. Please indicate if you are recruiting for OT's, PT's or both.

Nancy Johns 801-585-3133
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Occupational Therapy Student Admissions

Spring is the time of year when the Division of Occupational Therapy processes the applicants who will be admitted to the professional program in the fall.

Admission is available annually through a competitive process based on a mix of factors including prerequisite course GPA, cumulative GPA, application portfolio, and personal interview.

Some students enroll in our Introduction to Occupational Therapy class to learn more about the profession, although this is not required.

This year we have an excellent applicant pool, with applications increased by 20% compared to previous years. These applicants have completed their onsite interviews and notification of those accepted to the program will go out the end of March.



University Neighborhood Partnership

Yda Smith, MOT, OTR/L is representing the Division of Occupational Therapy in a new University of Utah initiative. The University Neighborhood Partnership has a new program at the Hartland apartments to assist the many refugees from Africa and other nations that live in the complex adjust to our community.

Many of these refugees have spent 10-12 years in refugee camps waiting to be relocated in the United States. Many are unfamiliar with plumbing, electricity, or cooking on a stove.

The students regularly participate in this program as a part of fieldwork place-

ments, and as volunteers. They offer classes for the refugees on topics such as home maintenance, pre-driver training, or the use of public transportation. Sometimes they work with the refugee preschool children to help prepare them to attend kindergarten. Students are currently collecting referral source information so that parents of children with learning and/or physical disabilities can access appropriate therapy services in the community. New ways of assisting the refugees are developed each semester.

If you would like to volunteer to work with this rewarding population during the summer when students are less available, be sure and contact Yda Smith at 585-9589.

“We were fortunate to have occupational therapy involved with this project from the very beginning as this established our expertise in life skills training at multiple levels.”
Yda Smith

Students Rachel Motschieder and Ruth Ann Robson help out at the Hartford Apartment Fair showcasing the new services of the University Neighborhood Partnership



Educational Session Planned

Goal attainment scaling is emerging in occupational therapy practice as a method of measuring client-centered outcomes. Faculty members are in the planning phases of an educational session on this topic. If you are interested in learning more about goal attainment scaling or would like to attend a workshop on this topic, please contact Pollie Price, PhD, OTR or Louise Dunn, MS, OTR at 581-9135





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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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***Educating our future
colleagues***

Adjunct Faculty add so much!

We are fortunate to have many clinicians from the community serve as adjunct faculty here at the Division of Occupational Therapy. Nikki Conrad from LDS Hospital is teaching the Seminar IV class for the second year students this semester. Fall semester, Ann Marie Darstein from the VA taught in the Assistive Technology Class for the third year students. And Heidi Hanley taught the Pediatrics Skills class for our second year students last fall.

Noni Smith, works as a TA in our NDT class with Yda Smith as well as Adult Interventions. Debbie Ballard and Vanya Mabey offer an Early Interventions class that allows our students, in conjunction with the regular occupational therapy curriculum, to receive an additional early intervention certification. This course is available to any OT.

The clinical expertise and dedication to students that our adjunct faculty offer greatly enhances the education of our students. We value their contribution and commitment!

If you are interested in teaching, working as a teaching assistant, or lecturing on a topic within your specialty, please contact us!

Dr. JoAnne Wright

801-585-7788

