



School of Occupational Therapy Newsletter  
June 2014, Issue 16

# REFLECTIONS





School of Occupational  
Therapy Newsletter  
June 2014, Issue 16

REFLECTIONS

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**EDITOR:**

Hannah Kolehmainen, '02



*Program Director, John White, Ph.D.*

Greetings to you friends and alumni of Pacific's School of Occupational Therapy and welcome to another edition of *Reflections*. As you read through this edition, you will note that we continue to experience significant change and growth. The month of May brought the graduation of our final class of Master of OT students and the new grads are already making changes in the profession as they complete the NBCOT certification examination and move into their first jobs. We are preparing to bring in our largest class size ever as we welcome 34 members into the Class of 2017 Doctor of OT program.

Doctoral entry-level education was a significant topic at the national AOTA conference in Baltimore this past April following the AOTA Board of Directors' position statement recommending that the profession make this move by 2025. The Board feels that with the increasing complexity of interprofessional healthcare and the many changes occurring in health systems, the

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

profession will be better positioned to serve society with a future work force educated at the doctoral level. I encourage you to read the rationale that the AOTA Board has developed so that you can respond to their invitation to join the dialogue about this proposed transition (<http://www.aota.org/AboutAOTA/Get-Involved/BOD/OTD-Statement.aspx>). We believe strongly that this announcement adds further support to Pacific University's decision to transition to doctoral entry-level education.

Our own transition to the entry-level OTD is moving along well and we are expecting our on-site ACOTE accreditation visit in September. ACOTE stands for the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. The on-site accreditation team wants to hear from a range of stakeholders (practitioners, students, fieldwork educators, employers of our grads, and alumni) in the educational program so please be prepared to respond to our invitation to join in meetings that will occur September 22 and 23. The final report on accreditation will be provided to us in December of this year.

As I begin my twelfth year as program director at Pacific, this also will be a year of significant transition for me. Before the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year, we hope to have successfully recruited a new program director to take up the reigns of leadership for the School of OT as I transition back into a faculty role at Pacific. I have been incredibly fortunate to occupy this role and to have had the great good fortune to work with so many talented students, faculty, staff, and members of the practice community for these dozen years. This transition will come as the first OTD class graduates in August 2015, our accreditation status will be known (we expect to be accredited by then), and more elements of the School's interprofessional clinical practice will be in place. It is an excellent time to make a well-planned transition to new leadership for the School of OT to help realize our potential for a new era of doctoral-level education and School-sponsored practices. I will continue to be able to show my love for the profession and for Pacific through a renewed focus on teaching, research, and continued community service.

The University is conducting a nation-wide search and the search committee hopes to be interviewing candidates into early spring of 2015. Ideally, the new director will begin in July of 2015. This transition presents an exciting opportunity for the School of OT to re-invigorate our vision and expand our outreach into the community for new service and education programs. As I resume my full time faculty role, I look forward to continue to be a part of this exciting growth and development and hope that we will continue to be able to count on your support for excellence in education and practice.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS EVENTS



*John White thanks Roger Smith for his visit to Pacific*

### **School of OT 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Practice Symposium**

By Tiffany Boggis

This year's Keynote Speaker, Roger O. Smith, PhD, OT, FAOTA addressed the topic of:

*Technology and Occupation: Implications for Future Practice and Science.* He noted that occupational therapists (OTs) have been technologists since the beginning of the profession. Not only do OTs invent technological devices (remember when Fred Sammons began his career in adaptive equipment distribution beginning with the invention of the buttonhook?) but OTs have the knowledge and skills to determine how technology may benefit clients. This positions the profession well to work with engineers and software designers to develop and market tools designed to increase engagement and participation in occupations for individuals of all ability levels – making for a perfect partnership.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS EVENTS

During this unique year of transition, the MOT Class of 2014 and the OTD Class of 2015 co-collaborated on community and innovative practice projects. During a dedicated poster presentation session, students engaged participants in conversations about the OT contributions that they implemented with community partners. Concurrent student oral presentations filled the afternoon including the research endeavors of the MOT Class of 2014.

The 21 community projects were diverse, frequently stretching the boundaries of OT practice into new areas. For example: students developed an afterschool equine program in partnership with Miller Education Center, an alternative high-school. A staff education module was piloted to help staff increase participation and performance of the clients at Bridge to Independence, a day program for survivors of brain injury. In collaboration with clients from the HIV Day Center in Portland, a project entitled *Talking Walls* was initiated to support their goal to create artwork for the center, empower participants and enrich the environment. Older adults at Cornell Estates explored their heritage serving to strengthen their self-identity and honor their traditions and culture. In consultation with county fire officials, students addressed the increased fire risk for those with physical and mental disabilities.

Research projects were also diverse in nature. One study explored the intervention and treatment of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo in one patient in an acute care setting with regards to the role of the occupational therapist in rehabilitation. Through quantitative and qualitative questioning of occupational therapy practitioners, another study explored the current state of occupation-based intervention in medical settings and analyzed possible connections to job satisfaction.

The Pacific Student Occupational Therapy Association raised over \$2000 during the silent auction to fund student attendance at conferences and to support their professional activities.

The *Sue Nelson Award* honored Felicia Holgate for her many years of service to OT's in her capacity as Executive Director to the Oregon OT Licensing Board and commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students and practitioners. Kristy Fleming, OTR/L, Class of 2005 was honored with the *Excellence in Clinical Education Award* for her endless dedication to the field-work education of our students and contribution to the community.

A big thank you to all that contributed to the success of this event.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS EVENTS



*Kristy Fleming receives the Award of Excellence in Fieldwork Education*

### **Award of Excellence Fieldwork Education**

By Sandra Pelham Foster

The Excellence in Fieldwork Education award is given to fieldwork educators who demonstrate excellence in supervision of students completing their clinical experiences in the field. The clinicians are often providing excellence in their clinical work with clients and they find unique and innovative ways to continue to inspire students who are learning about the profession.

This year the award of Excellence goes to “Wonder Woman” Kristy Fleming. Kristy currently works as a clinician at Our House of Portland working with people experiencing the effects of HIV Aids. Her classmates and colleagues named her Wonder Woman for many reasons.

Kristy hails from Aberdeen Washington, and received her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training. She then earned her OT degree at Pacific University in 2005. Kristy’s passion for exercise is no surprise to those who know her. She is an accomplished cyclist, having ridden the San Fran-

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS EVENTS

sciso to LA race at least 4 times. Some claim Kristy is also a closet knitter and loves her athletic shoes of many colors.

I would like to tell you some of the things that students say about Kristy's mentorship style and supervision. Kristy is a collaborator, she picks up on people's strengths, she is practical, a realist and works with people to build on their attributes. She is a natural "coach" for students, colleagues and clients.

In her role as director of OT at Our house of Portland Kristy uses her skills to promote quality of life. She supports people and encourages them to engage right up to the end of life. She truly embraces living.

We are grateful for the support and commitment of all the fieldwork educators who guide the learning and growth of Pacific University Occupational Therapy Students.



*OT and OTA students discuss issues with Representative Ben Unger in the Capitol Lobby*

### **Sixth Annual Legislator's Day**

By Tiffany Boggis

The Sixth Annual Legislator's Day held at the Oregon Salem Capitol in February was our largest event to date. Over 90 participants representing OTAO, the OT Licensing Board, Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy and

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS EVENTS

Linn-Benton Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant program collaborated to educate legislators about the benefits of the profession of occupational therapy. Our OTAO lobbyist, Bill Cross, arranged visits with legislators for OTAO officials and practitioners to confer our stance on legislative bills of interest to the OT community. Students met with their legislators to discuss issues that influence the health and occupational performance of our consumers.

Students displayed poster exhibits and educational brochures in the capitol lobby to inform legislators and the public about rural OT and OTA education and OT's contribution to occupational health and wellness across the lifespan. Pacific University and Linn-Benton Community College held a joint session that allowed OT and OTA students to explore best practice for OT/OTA collaboration to meet the needs of our clients. Students' experience of this educational event is overwhelmingly positive. Students commented that participation in Legislator's Day:

- Heightened their understanding of the legislative process
- Honed their ability to explain the importance of OT (in 60 seconds or less)
- Reinforced how much health care policies and laws affect occupational therapy practice
- Gained comfort in collaboration between OTs and OTAs
- Fostered networking and relationship building with other students and community practitioners
- Contributed to their confidence to pursue the important role of OT as advocate in their future careers

### **Pacific University School of OT** **Advisory Board Report May 2014**

By Sherry Hoff, Advisory Board Chair

The School of Occupational Therapy Advisory Board consists of 12-14 individuals; practitioners, community members and students, all of who care about OT and the solid continuation of The School.

We meet at the school quarterly to learn about the program and offer communication and advice when needed. We agree that this is an amazing school and are very proud to be some small part.

One of our jobs entails connecting with other OT groups on behalf of The

## STUDENT NEWS

School. To that end, two projects have been completed this year. First is the official transference of responsibility for personal representation of the Kerseg Memorial Fund to SOTA. Thus, in addition to requests for donations being sent out by the offices of Pacific University, designated students will have Kerseg Fund information available at OT gatherings throughout the year. Equally exciting is the collaboration with board members on making a connection with the OTA board for establishment of Honored Friends as a permanent part of that organization. The end result being that the format and function of this group will serve a much broader group of OTs and our community. The Honored Friends as you recall started as a quilt piece/student/honored OT project with the Class of 2000. That quilt hangs on the South wall of the school and is a treasure and a reminder of contribution along the life span.

We are considering connecting The School with community practitioners who are taking students for fieldwork rotations by creating an online discussion board. The site would serve as a way to explore ideas for enriching the experience for students and clinicians and to solve ongoing problems. The discussion board would be open to students, faculty, and fieldwork supervisors. Stay tuned.

We look forward to more developments next year and we all send our best wishes to the graduates of the Class of 2014.

### **2014 Oregon Senior Olympics**

By Linda Hunt

Oregon hosted Senior Games (Senior Olympics) this year from June 19-22 in Bend. As most of you know, this was an Innovative Practice Project (IPP). Katy Hietala and Nicole Teixeira partnered with Pacific's Dr. Linda Hunt in conjunction with people in Eugene and Bend. "I was hoping that Pacific could host the first games" laments Dr. Hunt. Katy and Nicole attended a national Senior Games meeting then wrote the proposal and application to the national office to have Senior Games in Oregon and worked with our community partners to get this conversation going.

Dr. Hunt adds, "This is really great news for me because my aunt, Evelyn Myers started the whole Senior Olympics in St. Louis back in the 80s, which has now become Senior Games."

Events will include archery, badminton, softball and tennis, to name a few.

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Visit [http://www.visitbend.com/Bend\\_Oregon\\_Activities\\_Recreation/Oregon-Senior-Games/](http://www.visitbend.com/Bend_Oregon_Activities_Recreation/Oregon-Senior-Games/) for more information and to learn what 'Over the Line' is. Dr. Hunt signed up for shuffleboard! "I would do table tennis, but I need more practice," She says.

These IPP projects truly can become something great!

### **Student Happenings**

by Aaron Proctor, OTD2

#### **MOT 3**

The MOT 3 students have been diligently working this past semester on preparing for commencement and the NBCOT Examination. The cohort has completed level II fieldwork rotations both internationally and nationally in a wide variety of settings. While completing their last semester in the spring, students focused heavily on their Innovative Practice Projects. These were presented to the occupational therapy community during the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Practice Symposium. Many third-year students had the opportunity to collaborate with second-year students on these projects, which added a nice change to the traditional curriculum. Students are eager to begin entry-level, professional practice in the next couple of months. Other students and faculty are very proud of their efforts and dedication to the field. Congratulations class of 2014!

#### **OTD 2**

The OTD 2 students are currently completing level IIA fieldwork across the country in Hawaii, Minnesota, Montana, Washington, Oregon, and California. Students will enjoy a brief break over the summer and then either begin online coursework or level IIB fieldwork. Two students will be traveling to South Africa next January to work with individuals with physical disabilities. The cohort is hard at work on literature reviews for their prospective capstone projects and final internships. Stay tuned for more information about when and where these presentations will occur next spring/summer. We are looking forward to seeing what experiences these students bring back to the School of Occupational Therapy once capstone projects get underway. They are a passionate group of individuals and we are very excited to see how well they do while practicing during Level II fieldwork experiences.

# OT FACULTY NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## STUDENT NEWS

### OTD 1

What a semester this has been! The OTD 1 students have been rigorously working on campus this past semester on research projects, coursework, and developing their final capstone projects, which will progress more throughout the next school year. SOTA members had a very successful fund raising event at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Practice Symposium in which over \$1,300 was collected. These funds will continue to support student involvement within the professional community. Students are excited to begin level IB fieldwork this summer where they will work in community mental health settings around the Portland area. The cohort will reconvene on campus in August to welcome the new class of OTD students and start another exciting academic year.

### Audrey Kerseg Awards

By Steve Park

In May, 2014, Erin Kelly and Natalie Schaad received awards from the Audrey C. Kerseg Memorial Fund. The school awards them to OT students who excel academically and whose fieldwork service learning, or research involves diverse populations and/or extensive education-related travel. Sue and Dave Nelson established the fund in 1997, in honor of Sue's mother who encouraged her to become an occupational therapist.

I



Audrey C. Kerseg, 1955

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Audrey C. Kerseg (1910-1996) was a nurse and worked at the Muirdale Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, where over 10,000 patients received treatment between 1915 and 1935. One of Audrey's colleagues (and best friends) at the sanatorium was Miss Leenhowtz, an occupational therapist. Miss Leenhowtz occupied the patients (in the best sense of the word) during their long convalescence at the sanatorium, engaging them in arts and crafts to produce works of meaning, often to give to friends and relatives. One patient ran out of relatives to give gifts and made a little green leather-tooled purse with the initial "S" for Audrey to give to her young daughter. When Sue received it, her reaction was, "I would like to make all of these nice things and be an occupational therapist." So Sue, encouraged by her mother, embarked on her chosen career and learned to make all those beautiful things - and everything else necessary to graduate as an occupational therapist in 1953. Sue still has that green purse - one of many treasures from her childhood experience with occupational therapy.



*Sue Nelson and Erin Kelly, May, 2014*

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Throughout Sue's career, Audrey continued to champion Sue's activities in occupational therapy, including Sue's professional and political advocacy. In 1977, Audrey was present, along with Sue and other occupational therapists, when the Governor signed into law state licensing standards for occupational therapy. Audrey also supported Sue's endeavors to help establish the School at Pacific University. Audrey's commitment to her daughter's profession is an outstanding example of lifelong dedication and service, one criterion to receive a Kerseg award.

Congratulations to Erin and Natalie as they embark on their careers and service to others.



*Miss Leenhowtz (middle), Audrey Kerseg (right) and her nursing colleague*

Miss Leenhowtz deserves a special thank you for befriending Audrey and inspiring Sue to become an occupational therapist! The Kerseg endowed fund

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continues to grow through the generous support of the Nelsons, along with alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the School of OT. If you would like to support future occupational therapists with a donation, please contact Pacific University via [www.pacificu.edu/ua/development/](http://www.pacificu.edu/ua/development/)



*Class of 2014*

### **Occupational Therapy Banquet, 2014**

By Suzie Schwab

On Saturday, May 17, 2014, the Tuality Health Education Center was decorated in a frolicsome charm for the Occupational Therapy Banquet. Black and red linens with rose and lily bouquets accompanied colorful handcrafted poppy centerpieces, fidgets and candy. And, this was just the beginning of delights from the Class of 2014.

Master of ceremonies, Director John White, welcomed families and friends,

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and extended congratulatory remarks to the class of 2014 for their accomplishments, and to the success that lies ahead in their futures. To symbolize this full circle journey a light chime resonated throughout the room, reflecting where it began for the Class of 2014, ringing the bell in Old College Hall signifying their matriculation into Pacific University.

In the faculty address to students Tiffany Boggis shared humorous learning moments in a trip down memory lane; concluding with the success and influence that the Class of 2014 will have upon the future. In keeping with that theme, the students presented a “40 year in the future” skit performed by OT students Doug Varenas and Hannah Frankamp, grabbing the audience’s attention through humorous dialogue in “lessons learned” while attending OT School. One notable lesson was “. . . to be cautious about the emphasis you place on assessment tools, because, well, sometimes you just need to use your brain.”

The class slideshow presented by Sarah Dunn and Kirstin Stoker reflected inspiration, and the thoughtful inclusion that the Class of 2014 will be fondly remembered for. A variety of adventurous pictures and video captured dancing students, Pacific University housekeeping, campus public safety, and OT administrative staff and faculty, all to the toe tappin’ tune of “Happy.” With a Class of 2014 flair, the presentation of the class gift rolled to the stage. An Invacare patient sling made its maiden voyage with swinging graduate Cory Warner. After a few pirouettes the unit was then rolled to the hallway, followed by a series of crashing noises, and muffled laughter punctuating John’s presentation of student Awards.

The Director Award was presented to Hannah Frankamp. John White describes Hannah as an integrated practitioner, whose leadership skills and dedication in service opportunities have positioned her well to be the recipient of the 2014 Director’s Award. John White recites what Hannah had written in her application essay. “The more I learn about occupational therapy the more I am convinced that this is the right path for me. One of the things I appreciate most about it is the consideration of the person as a whole entity, not as individual body parts to treat in isolation. Looking at the aspirations and hopes of a client, simple as they may seem to others, and empowering them to work toward those goals is exciting for me.”

Clinical Faculty member, Tori Eaton’13 presented the Alumni Award. Students receive The Alumni award for use of creative problem-solving skills that have contributed to one’s own education and/or the educational experience of fellow students. Two students received the award this year: Johanka Staven-

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ik, for her contributions to the Student Alliance for Occupational Therapy, and for her continuous quest to learn. Kelly Greathouse is presented the Alumni award for her advocacy and support of clients at the Oregon Commission for the Blind.

Sue Nelson awarded Erin Kelly the Audrey C. Kerseg award for her scholarly work at an orphanage in Fuling, China, and her Service Learning capstone project. Sue, daughter of Audrey Kerseg, commended Erin for her accomplishments, and described how inspirational it is that OT is reaching around the world. In a quick-witted conclusion, Sue turned to Erin and says “I just have one request before you return to Fuling.... take me with you.”

In a surprise presentation on behalf of the Class of 2014, Johanka Stavenik, , recognized administrative staff, Kelly Hering and Suzie Schwab, noting appreciation for their roles in the educational process and presented gifts in the form of tangibles and intangibles that will be forever remembered and appreciated. Valedictorian Janelle Jones articulated gratitude and appreciation to families, friends, faculty, classmates, and administrative staff members who were all a part of the success in this monumental event. In looking to the future she fore-saw the variety of options that the graduates will have within the career of occupational therapy, and how their passion will make a difference in this world by instilling hope. In conclusion, Janelle commissioned her classmates to “Dream big, dream together and change the world.”

The hood draping ceremony saw the graduates of 2014 donned in their regalia, march across the stage to receive their hoods. The Class of 2014 then recited the Occupational Therapy oath along with faculty. Vice Provost and Executive Dean Ann Barr-Gillespie, congratulated the students and families on this monumental accomplishment. To complete the celebration, John White, led everyone in a toast to the Class of 2014.

The Banquet reflected the class of 2014 well - a lightheartedness with an elegance and charm that few will forget. We look forward to hearing about the class of 2014 as they take their passion, talent and skills to the profession of occupational therapy. We have little doubt that they will help change the world. Congratulations Class of 2014!

# OT NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## OT NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PUBLICATIONS

Hunt, L. A. (2013). Commentary: Who's next? Referral prioritization criteria for home care occupational therapy. *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation, 20*, 589.

### PRESENTATIONS

Hunt, L.A. From Where I Came. Reminiscence and Life Review Conference. New Orleans, LA. November 19, 2013.

Roush, Sean, February 2014. Invited Speaker: *Occupational Therapy at the Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA)*. EASA: Providing Effective Services in Early Psychosis: Introductory Training for New EASA Clinicians.

### AWARDS

Sean Roush, 2014 *Junior Faculty Award* - Pacific University  
Sean Roush, 2014 *Service Commendation* - American Occupational Therapy Association, Representative Assembly Agenda Committee

### GRANTS

Pacific University Faculty Development Grant - "Sensory Processing in First Episode Psychosis" International Network Development, 2013 (PI: Sean Roush), \$3000.00 awarded for 14-15 AY

### **Student Organization Forges Interprofessional Collaboration**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Johanka Stavenik ('14) represented Pacific University for the Student Alliance for Integrative Medicine (SAIM) Student Lecture Series. The panel was held at Oregon Health Sciences University and was part of a collaborative event coordinated by participating SAIM chapters from Portland's National College for Natural Medicine (NCNM), Oregon Health Sciences Univer-

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sity (OHSU), Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, University of Western States and most recently, Pacific University.

The SAIM student panel lecture series was designed to create dialogue amongst health science students within the Portland and greater metro area.

Each month, a participating school hosts the panel and one participant from each SAIM chapter attends as a student panel lecturer. The series intends to give participants the opportunity to explain and promote their program's curriculum, requirements, the scope of practice for their health science profession, and answer questions from other health science students.

In addition to Stavenik's representation of Pacific's OT program, other student panelists for the OHSU panel included a Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture student, a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine student and a Chiropractic student. Participants from OHSU included medical doctors and nursing students.

"Having the opportunity to be on the student panel at OHSU provided great insight into the knowledge that exists, or lacks, between conventional and non-conventional health professions," said Stavenik.

According to Stavenik, panel attendees asked questions that clarified when referrals to alternative medical providers would be appropriate for their patients. Other questions focused on when collaborations between alternative and conventional practitioners should occur, how reimbursement worked for alternative medical practitioners, and what each field's scope of practice entailed.

"Occupational therapy didn't quite fit all of these questions, but the question on scope of practice changed everyone's understanding of what OT is and does. The misconception that OT 'works with hands' and 'assists people in getting jobs' after they've been sick was corrected," Stavenik explained. "I was able to describe to them what OT is; our large scope of practice; how vital it is in mental health; when a doctor should refer patients to OT; and how important the communication and relationship is between OT and the nursing staff."

Stavenik was the second panelist participant from Pacific. Earlier in April, Erin Iwamoto represented Pacific's Psychology program at NCNM. SAIM was established four years ago by Devon Wilson, a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine student from NCNM. Pacific is the most recent school to join the organization, becoming a member in the spring of 2013. MaryAnn Leonard, an Audiology student from Pacific, attended the SAIM Spring Social and began spearhead-

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ing Pacific's chapter.

"I was so excited about the inter-professional collaborations that this organization presents," said Leonard. "It's a great networking opportunity and I've made lots of wonderful connections."

In January of 2014, OTD2 student Kasa Zipfel attended SAIM's Integrative Medicine day and became interested in establishing a student chapter at Pacific.

"Having worked as a rehab aide I am very passionate about inter-professional collaboration because understanding scope of practice within the care team provides the best and most comprehensive patient care," explained Zipfel.

Teaming with Leonard, Zipfel's work as cofounder of SAIM helped shape Pacific's local chapter and participation in the student panel series. To date, SAIM participants within the Pacific chapter include OT, Psychology, Audiology and Speech Language Pathology students. Pacific will be hosting the student panel lecture series in the fall of 2014.

### **Interprofessional International Experience: Nicaragua**

By Tiffany Boggis

Our work with abandoned older adults residing in charity funded care homes in Nicaragua continues for the eighth sequential year. Occupational therapy (OT) students, Anah Gunesch, Elizabeth Martin, Kimberly Larsen and Kirstin Stoker travelled to Nicaragua over winter break with 18 students from other health professions to provide direct service and education under the supervision of faculty members.

Prior to departure, students prepared a needs assessment, as guided by The Kawa Model (Iwama, 2006), using the metaphor of a river as a means to identify the environmental factors that influence the health, wellbeing, and engagement in meaningful occupation for this population.

Working in interprofessional teams, students provided direct care to 105 residents along with 1550 lbs of health care supplies. Education included 2 community workshops for 34 health professionals, 2 seminars for 38 caregivers, 1 community volunteer training for 18 Nicaraguan health professional students and individual consultation with direct caregivers. Topics specific to OT focused on methods to motivate residents and adaptation of leisure activity to

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

facilitate successful engagement of those of all ability levels.



*Anah Gunesch & Kirstin Stoker soothe a resident at the care home*

Upon return from Nicaragua, OT students conducted evidence-based research on the importance of social and leisure participation for older adults and effective interventions. Based on their findings, students collaborated with our partnering organization, the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation, to develop an OT training module for national use in Nicaragua. Group activity protocols to foster social and leisure participation among Nicaraguan older adults supplement the training material. The desired outcome is that Nicaraguan caregivers and staff will be able to apply learning through the educational module to actively promote health & quality of life for older adults residing in care homes.

Iwama, M.K. (2006). *The Kawa model: Culturally relevant occupational therapy*. Philadelphia: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier

### ALUMNI NEWS

Please register for the upcoming Alumni Reunion this fall at “Homecoming”:

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<http://www.pacificu.edu/events/homecoming/>.

Heather Knoeferl, Class of 1996, is a full time instructor at Brown Mackie College, Kansas City OTA Program.

Rose (Peets) Lee, Class of 2009 lives in Vernonia, is Rehab Director at Consonus in SE Portland, and her second daughter was born in early Feb of this year.



*Susan Ramirez with her new daughter Andrea*

Susan Ramirez (Zaragoza), Class of 2000, welcomed a beautiful girl, Andrea Augustina Ramirez on 4/28/14 in Culver City California.

Joanna Blanchard, OTR/L ,00 published a description of OT in the Summer 2014 issue of *Spectrums* Magazine that begins with OT's earliest days. The article, "Occupational Therapy: Skills to take outside the clinic" is designed to explain the profession to families who have members on the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Joanna is the mother of two boys on the opposite ends of the autism spectrum, she owns "Everybody Stims Occupational Therapy" in Vancouver,

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and is a regular columnist for *Spectrums*. The article can be found on page 28 of the link to the magazine: <http://spectrumsmagazine.com/the-magazine/current-issue/>



*Martha Wegner. OTD2 and Becky Rodes*

### **Unique Scholarship goes to OTD student Martha Wegner**

Thanks to the generous outpouring of support honoring the memory of Pacific OT alumnus Robert C. E. Love (Class of 1989) who passed away in December 2012, a memorial scholarship has been granted to rising third year doctor of occupational therapy student, Martha Wegner.

The R.C.E. Love Scholarship was the idea of Robert's friend and former faculty member Rebecca "Becky" Rodes. Moved to honor Robert's memory in a tangible way and realizing how much students can use tuition support, Becky made the first donation to the fund and help University representatives formalize the process into the memorial scholarship fund. There was a substantial outpouring from Robert's fellow practitioners, alumni, friends, and family and

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the funding goal was more than tripled.

Donors contributed over \$3,500.00 to this one-time scholarship offering. Eligibility criteria included those characteristics that were highlighted by Robert's life and career such as a connection to military service, service to the profession, and an interest in upper extremity rehabilitation. A number of well-written scholarship applications were submitted and Martha Wegner's (Class of 2015) application was found to meet the most criteria. Like Robert, Martha has a strong connection to military service through her family and volunteer activities, she has coped well with life challenges, and has already served the OTAO and Student OT Associations significantly. Martha used an earlier grant (\$20,000) that she won from the Veteran's Administration to establish a Paralympic Veteran Sport Club to fund equipment, training, and outings for disabled veterans. Interest generated out of this experience has prompted Martha to seek out fieldwork and employment experiences in the VA.

We are truly grateful for the generous support of the many donors to the Robert C.E. Love Memorial Scholarship Fund and know that Martha will use these funds well to further her contributions to OT and to her clients while celebrating the life and work of our friend and alumnus, Robert Love.



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