

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The school of OT proudly sponsors a wide range of opportunities for continuing education. These include Practitioner's Day in April, and the Alumni Reunion with topics such as Assistive Technology and School Functional Assessment. This fall, topics will include OT's Role in Sexuality. The school is now offering a certification exam prep course as well.

Coming Soon!

CERTIFICATION EXAM PREP COURSE

Keep your ear on the tracks for information on this great opportunity for new grads and practitioners returning after a career hiatus.

ARE YOU A RETURNING THERAPIST?

If you have been out of practice for a while, you do not have to sit for the certification exam to renew your license. Pacific School of OT can be your bridge back into the working world. You can complete our Re-entry program which entails 2 graduate credits in a combined, on-line, fieldwork, and in-person course. This course is developed and coordinated by Berta Wimmer. Please call (503) 352-2203 for more information

OT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

is published by the School of Occupational Therapy, College of Health Professions
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CONFERENCE CONTINUED...

There were several highlights of the conference this year. Certainly one of them was a presentation on "Daring to do OT Differently" by Frank Kronenberg, an OT from the Netherlands who has written a book titled "OT Without Borders" about his and others' OT work in international settings. Frank inspired the audience to think about where OT is needed most in the world and to consider how therapy could be delivered to provide "occupational justice" to help solve problems for groups such as street children in Guatemala (where he worked), or people with blindness in developing nations. The School of OT sponsored Frank's visit to Oregon, one of several stops on his national tour in which he is promoting interest in occupation-based and person-centered OT in innovative programs and locations.

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Christiansen, vice-president of AOTA, was the keynote speaker who challenged the participants to consider what our profession will look like in 2017 by sharing information from the AOTA project called "Centennial Vision" in which our profession's 100th anniversary will be celebrated and planned for. One of the most striking points of his talk was a description of the ever-accelerating rate of change in our society, demographics, and culture, and what opportunities will arise for OT in that future. Dr. Christiansen and Dr. Kathleen Matuska also delivered a fascinating presentation on health promotion and lifestyle balance that reinforced the conference theme of "Live Well". Visit www.aota.com to learn more about the Centennial Vision.

There were several opportunities to socialize and network, most notably in the meals, auction, and alumni reception. A number of alumni and a large contingent of students and faculty joined to celebrate the alumni reunion, paying special tribute to the Class of 1995 for their 10th graduation anniversary. Alumni left with door prizes of Pacific logo items and Maggie Heyman Hotch (2001) won the live auction of a bright Boxer red Pacific stadium blanket, with auction proceeds going to the Audrey Kerseg OT Scholarship Fund. Phil Cusack (1992) and John White livened up the OTAO live auction that followed the silent auction on Saturday night. More money was raised for the OTAO Scholarship Fund through that auction.

The funds raised in last year's auctions went to scholarships that OTAO President Robert Love (1989) presented to two of our current students Sheila Starr (2007) and Katie Hoelzer (2006) and an alumnus who is working on his OTD degree from Creighton University, Sean Roush (1997). John White, the School's Program Director was given the President's Award for his support and advocacy for the restoration of OT services in the Oregon Health Plan for 0-6 year olds. Numerous School of OT alumni and faculty, along with other OTAO members were recognized for their service to the Association over the past year. It was clear as the conference closed on Sunday, that there continues to be a wonderful and productive collaborative relationship between the OTAO and Pacific's School of Occupational Therapy. We are looking forward to next year's conference in Eugene where we will gather to share knowledge, expertise, and networking, and to our alumni reunion in which we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the graduation of the charter Class of 1986! We hope to see lots of you there!

Health Professions Campus

Tuality and Pacific to strengthen healthcare services for residents of western Washington County well into the future." As the new library's construction clamor comes to an end the cacophony will commence at a new job site. Pacific University's Health Professions Campus, projected to open in Fall 2006, will be located in Hillsboro by Tuality Community Hospital. The 225,000-square foot campus will be built in two phases over the next five years. According to Dick Stenson, president & CEO, Tuality Healthcare, "The expansion ... will allow Tuality and Pacific to strengthen healthcare services for residents of western Washington County well into the future."

It will include a multidisciplinary clinic and instructional spaces for Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant and Physical Therapy programs, part of the School of Professional Psychology, Dental Health Science and Pharmacy. The Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center plans to move their Hillsboro facility into a 15,500-square foot space at the Pacific Health Professions Campus.

Pacific's president Dr. Phil Creighton, envisions the Health Professions Campus as the Northwest's choice for applied education in the medical professions, complementing Oregon Health & Science University, a research-based institution.

This article is an abridged rendition of the university web-site information on the College of Health Professions. To read the entire article visit www.pacificu.edu/chp.



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REFLECTIONS

A word from the Director

What would you like to see the Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy look like in five, ten, or even 20 years from now? That is a question that we often have in the back of our minds, but recently, the faculty members have been giving that question center stage and we are hoping that you will help us by sending in your thoughts on your vision for the School so that we can incorporate your ideas with the evolving plan for the future. To stimulate your thinking, I'll share just a few of the exciting ideas that we are considering for that future as we prepare to move into a new building, revise the Masters of Occupational Therapy curriculum, offer a post-professional graduate degree, build collaborative bridges with community stakeholders and other University programs, expand our student body, and implement our five year strategic plan.

Within a year, we expect to be housed in a beautiful new Pacific University Health Professions Building in Hillsboro, sharing over 100,000 square feet with the other Pacific health professions schools and colleges. Yes, we will finally be bidding farewell to our quarters here in Walter Hall and with this move we open the doors to many wonderful new possibilities! With the formation of the College of Health Professions (Schools of Occupational and Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, Professional Psychology, and the new Schools of Dental Health Science and Pharmacy), we have already increased our cross-disciplinary collaborations between faculty and students, and we see our new campus as providing many new opportunities for interdisciplinary work on clinical practice, research, and educational methods.

As the second phase of the Hillsboro campus is constructed, hopefully within three years, the School of OT will help develop an interdisciplinary health clinic and wellness center designed to serve the University community and underserved members of western Washington County. We expect that the clinic will also provide administrative support for community-based OT services that will be developed through our Emerging Practice projects (developed by our third year students). These programs allow us to expand educational opportunities for students and provide valuable services to the community as we demonstrate occupational therapy's most basic and unique therapeutic premise, that a person's health is directly related to how he or she occupies time and finds meaning through those occupations of everyday life. Though our work will continue to focus on individual health needs, we believe that when this philosophy is applied to community groups, it can address social ills that limit citizens from equitable opportunities to participate in healthful occupations. That is, occupational therapy can enhance community health and well-being, not only the health of individuals.

To assure that students continue to be well-prepared to address these challenges and opportunities, the School of OT faculty continues our work to revise the curriculum. We are now in the planning and development stage for a curriculum that will educate what Dr. Elizabeth Yerxa (Professor Emerita-University of Southern California and Eleanor Clark Slagle Lecturer) described in her recent consultation with us, as integral practitioners.

Directory

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Adjunct Faculty
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That is, occupational therapists who integrate knowledge of the basic sciences (e.g., neurophysiology of immunity and health) with that of the social and human sciences (the value of hearing and interpreting the client's story of his or her life and condition) to deliver the best evidence-based care, balanced with deep concern of the client's personal experience and meaning of the therapeutic encounter. In this way, the therapist integrates a complete picture of the person for the most effective therapy that facilitates participation in life through engagement in meaningful and gratifying occupation. We believe that such integral occupational therapists can help bring balance and greater caring to our health care systems. It is obvious that there is certainly a growing need for occupational therapists in both current health systems and emerging practice areas.

We are certainly aware of the current shortage of occupational therapists in several practice areas, therefore we hope to steadily increase enrollment in our program to address that need. This growth will be easier to achieve when we move to the Health Professions Building where we will have larger class and lab facilities. We will also achieve that goal faster as you help spread the word about occupational therapy to those interested in the field and encourage them to learn more about it through observing practitioners and visiting Pacific's campus or our website (www.ot.pacificu.edu) for more information.

We in the School of Occupational Therapy greatly appreciate the support that we receive from you, our alumni, fieldwork community members, and friends. It is clear that we would not be able to fulfill our educational mission without you, and so want to heartily thank you for that support. It is with this sense of appreciation that we share this newsletter with you to keep you informed about just some of the many activities of our students, staff, and faculty, and hope that you will consider sharing your perspectives with us by sending comments or suggestions to ot@pacificu.edu. We would love to hear from you if you have ideas that we can consider to enhance our program in our goal to educate occupational therapists to fill tomorrow's needs.

OT STUDENT & FACULTY UPDATES

FACULTY PROFILE: SANDRA PELHAM-FOSTER

Sandra Pelham-Foster, MPA/HA, BScOT, OTR/L, BCP, started teaching at Pacific University in the fall of 2002. She has taught Professional Development, Evaluation and Intervention Skills, Occupational Explorations, and Child Development.

She studied OT in South Africa. "I came here for a vacation and never went home." She was the first OT to work for PT on Call which was a great way to introduce her to the OT community and to help establish her roots here. She has worked for the Providence Health System, the Beaverton School District, and at the Pediatric Developmental Clinic. "I own a private practice, Performance Therapeutics which serves the pediatric population and offers consultation services to organizations addressing systemic issues."

In 1998 she achieved the Board Certification in Pediatrics from AOTA Specialty programs. "I focused on feeding issues and specialized in a systematic oral sensory program." Sandra attained a master's degree in Public and Health Administration in 2000, completing it in two years while working full time. "It took me a while to balance myself again. I am proud of bouncing back after burnout. Having a caring support system was critical." Her work on the OTA board in multiple positions over the past 15 years is a boon to our profession. (continued...)

FACULTY PROFILE, Continued...

Her "fun list" is much like her "achievement list". She and her husband are remodeling a new fixer. They both enjoy white-water rafting "in the winter, when the snow is falling, and it is really cold;" skiing, biking, taking their dog and cat for a walk, "yes we all walk together, it is quite a sight," Pilates and Body Flow exercise programs, knitting, and pot painting.

Her goal for the students is to understand that knowledge is a process. "It takes TIME. Our society is very pressed for time and yet the processes of life and growth only come about over time. So while we may establish timelines to get projects done and say "you need to learn this by next week," it is tempered with the understanding that time too will teach."

Her personal goal is to learn the same lesson.

SCHOOL OF OT'S FIRST STUDENT

INTERN- WELCOME LEAH:

Leah is an occupational therapy student who has joined us from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She is currently working alongside our academic fieldwork coordinator, Berta Wimmer, as well as other professors in the OT department. This professional rotation is the final component of the entry-level occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) program at Creighton University. Her focus for her professional rotation is on learning the process of fieldwork coordination, as well as learning about life as in occupational therapist from the academic arena. She is currently working with our first, second, and third year students in courses that pertain to the clinical and professional realms of occupational therapy.

Leah is originally from Kearney, Nebraska. She has a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Her hobbies include athletics, reading, dancing, shopping, and painting. She looks forward to becoming a practicing occupational therapist upon completion of her OTD in mid-December. Her plan is to work full-time in an acute care setting. She looks forward to working with students in the clinical setting.

THIRD YEAR STUDENTS:

Here is the latest news from the 3rd year OT students. We have just come from a summer full of fascinating experiences in our Level IIB Fieldwork endeavors. Some of us traveled out of state, while others stayed close to home, all of us soaking up the rich experiences of our physical disability, psychosocial, and pediatric rotations. Our fieldwork sites were made up from an array of skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, community mental health facilities, and pediatric clinics. Currently in the throes of our second week of classes, our eagerness and trepidation is definitely brewing as we look toward the mountains of work ahead of us. Yet beyond those mountains, we can definitely see the light at the end of this year's tunnel. We are packing a semester's worth of work into the next 5 weeks as we focus on securing our emerging practice sites while developing our skills in research, system analysis, and program planning & management. Individually, we are also creating independent study projects to implement in our final fieldwork rotation, Level IIC, which will begin in late October. These projects will help us fine-tune the skills we each want & need to become the best entry-level occupational therapists we can be. Our Level IIC Fieldwork will take us throughout Oregon to sites such as Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center in Portland; Abacus's community mental health program in McMinnville; Easter Seals Children's Guild in Salem; and a number of school districts in the Willamette Valley. When we return in the spring, we will be using Evidence Based Practice research to implement our emerging practice projects. In the meantime, we're going to enjoy each other's company as we work hard, sleep hard, and hopefully play hard, too.

Independent study

(Lucy '05 Graduate)

Last year, students participated in independent study providing OT in the community. A Research project done at Washington County Community Corrections (WCCC) consisted of evaluating 14 residents of the facility using three assessment tools- the Allen Cognitive Screening Tool (ACLS), the Occupational Self Assessment (OSA), and the Sensory Profile for Adolescents and Adults. After collecting the data, I wrote a synthesis on one individual-providing the results, the interpretation, and suggestions for the individual. The data was compiled by two of my classmates (Kristy and Julie) and I for further analysis. WCCC will use the analysis and recommendations for further program development.

This independent study addressed my desire to increase my assessment skills and abilities within a mental health setting. It also increased my clinical reasoning skills of interpreting and synthesizing results of the assessments.

2005 OTA O CONFERENCE REPORT:

The Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTA O) annual state conference was held 10/21-23/05 at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Inn and was packed with intriguing and informative programs as well as lots of opportunities to socialize and network with fellow OTs. The School of Occupational Therapy faculty, students, and alumni played a prominent role in the success of the conference. Faculty members presented seven of the 26 programs, while alumni were involved in at least five of the CE programs, and a whole host of Pacific OT students helped the conference run smoothly through their volunteer work with the conference committee. (Continued pg. 4)