In this newsletter we are excited to share how productive we have been in 2014. The faculty, students, fieldwork program, and alumni have made it to the mountains and continue their travels to some wonderful places!

Highlighted in this year’s newsletter are illustrations of students’ achievements, faculty accomplishments, faculty and student scholarship endeavors, our involvement in the community, enhancements made to the fieldwork program, and class activities imbedded in our new innovative curriculum design. The year-long self-study process in preparation for the accreditation site visit scheduled for late February 2015 has also taken the program to great places as we saw our strengths and potential for further growth.

Of particular interest this year are faculty achievements. Our faculty received several awards at the university level as well as nationally, recognizing their efforts and contributions to the profession through education, scholarship, and service. The scholarly contributions the faculty made to the advancement of occupational therapy was outstanding in 2014 as evidenced by the number of published peer-reviewed articles and presentations at national and international professional venues.

The students in the program made their presence known as they traveled to the AOTA Student Conclave in St. Louis and the AOTA Annual Conference in Baltimore, where several students presented research alongside faculty. Four students were invited to submit products they invented to the Maddak awards. Through classroom assignments, collaboration with faculty, and participation in professional organizations, students were busy making their mark on the profession, university, and the community. Students created an exercise video for individuals with decreased mobility, became Matter of Balance Coaches (fall prevention program), passed the Provisional Certified Brain Injury Specialist Exam, assisted victims following the aftermath of the April 29th tornados, participated in Backpack Awareness Day, and shared information during Fall Prevention Month to improve the health of Arkansans of all ages. In addition, students were recognized for their achievements as several were awarded local and national scholarships.

Our Fieldwork Program has been enhanced in numerous ways. For example, we are increasing the accessibility of resources for students and fieldwork educators on the department’s website. In addition, Mrs. LeQuieu and students enrolled in level II fieldwork now participate in on-line discussions that provide an avenue for sharing learning experiences, thereby enriching the fieldwork process for all. The faculty and students would like to thank all of the wonderful fieldwork educators who supervised students in 2014 and have pledged to do so in 2015. We recognize and appreciate the additional demands made upon our fieldwork educators in our time of transition.

The department is the proud owner of a new home! While we still have our classrooms and lab spaces in Doyne Health Science Center and Prince, we acquired a house down the street on Western Avenue where students can participate in learning activities in a real-life setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath older home presents many opportunities for the students to learn about evaluation, identification of
barriers, and ways to modify the environment to enhance independence. In addition, the house has generated interest among colleagues in our college leading to excellent interprofessional learning activities.

Finally, our program is excited to announce that we are developing an Alumni chapter. Our founding members and Ms. Stephanie San (Graduate Assistant) are currently working to get our chapter off the ground. While we have had an annual newsletter for a number of years, this newsletter is the first to be delivered through the alumni office in hopes that it will reach more of our alumni. We hope to gain support for our program through our alumni chapter, enhancing the education of our students.

As you can see our program has been traveling to some great places! With the help of our alumni, faculty, fieldwork educators, students, and staff we will continue to “get on our way!” Enjoy the newsletter!

Jennifer Moore

Faculty Updates

Mrs. Elizabeth LeQuieu

Mrs. Elizabeth LeQuieu has been very busy this semester as the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, researcher, and student. She worked closely with fieldwork educators and various community organizations to refine and inaugurate two new level I fieldwork experiences. She asserts the success of the fieldwork program is due to the excellent support of fieldwork sites and outstanding fieldwork educators.

Mrs. LeQuieu has also worked on several projects and presentations. She and her husband, Toney, assisted two occupational therapy students, Ms. Haley Henderson and Ms. Dawn Holmes on a project to create an exercise video for individuals with disabilities. As a result, a grant was obtained and the video called Working Out for Recreation Training and Health W.O.R.T.H was developed. The group presented information about the research and development of the video at the Arkansas Spinal Cord 24th Conference and Expo in Benton, Arkansas last fall where they were able to share copies of the video with attendees. They have been accepted to present at the 2015 Annual AOTA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee this April. While in Nashville, Mrs. LeQuieu and Ms. Henderson will present their research findings on communication in fieldwork titled Creating Consistent Communication in Level II Fieldwork: A Comprehensive Review.

Mrs. LeQuieu is also busy working to obtain her PhD in Interdisciplinary Leadership. As part of her education, she was afforded the opportunity to research literacy and develop a plan for the local literacy council. From this, she presented with a cohort of students at the International Leadership Conference in San Diego: Community Sponsors Enhancing Skills and Open Doors to Higher Education. She acknowledges that this accomplishment was due to the collaboration of students from across sectors, the project leader, and the support from the chair of the PhD program. Her work on this project has sparked her interest in studying health literacy which is an important area for occupational therapy.

Dr. Tina Mankey

Dr. Tina A. Mankey, EdD, OTR/L (2014) published several articles this year, one being:

Exploring Funding for Occupational Therapy in Transition Services, Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, & Early Intervention, 7:3-4, 194-203, DOI: 10.1080/19411243.2014.966015
Dr. Mankey also conducted a research project, *Building Evidence in Transition Services: Qualitative Inquiry of Transition Teams regarding Occupational Therapy Services*, along with three graduate research assistants, Mrs. Lacie Canizares, Mrs. Caitlin Krehel, and Ms. Stephanie Warner. The study explored the perceptions of the transition team members about the role and involvement of occupational therapy in transition services within Arkansas. The research project was supported by the University Research Council at UCA and conducted along with the assistance of the Arkansas Transition Services.

**Dr. Letha Mosley**

Dr. Letha Mosley was presented with the 2014 University of Central Arkansas Faculty Excellence Public Service Award. Dr. Mosley was recognized for her years of work and her contributions within the community. She has worked extensively with faith-based organizations in the region to facilitate health and wellness awareness and programming in underserved communities. In addition, she has represented UCA at the national level as a founding faculty advisor for two student organizations. She also chairs the OT Department Curriculum Committee, works on the College and University diversity committees, and represents the College on the Graduate Council.

Dr. Letha J. Mosley presented at the Teaching Professor Technology Conference in Denver, Colorado on October 11, 2014. Her topic, *Problem-based Learning and Hypermedia: Lessons Learned for Enhancing Effectiveness*, was based on her personal experiences in teaching a course that included problem-based learning tutorials. The 75-minute session was engaging and allowed approximately 80 participants to experience some components of the PBL process as well as utilize various technologies and social media as a means of data gathering and communication during the process.

**Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal**

Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal’s current research focus is instrument development for the Theory of Occupational Adaptation. The Relative Mastery Measurement Scale (RRMMS), developed by Dr. George-Paschal is designed to measure the construct of relative mastery. This research is important because it will allow testing of assumptions of OT relative to the construct of relative mastery. Her work builds on former research on the RRMMS (George, Schkade, & Ishee, 2001). She received a $2,500 grant in 2014 to fund statistical consultation to conduct Rasch Analysis. Rasch analysis will assess whether the 12 items fit together to form one unified construct.

Dr. George-Paschal has also conducted research related to Interprofessional Education and Intraprofessional Education (OTR/OTA). She presented on each of these research studies at AOTA in Baltimore, MD in 2014.

In 2014, Dr. George-Paschal, along with other leaders of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning program, provided a 6 hour Pre-Institute Session at AOTA in Baltimore, MD. The institute was designed to provide information and mentoring to educators across the US in conducting research on their teaching effectiveness. As part of this team, she is the leading author on a research study of the efficacy of the Pre-Institute Session at AOTA.

She has been active in implementing and teaching other faculty on using service-learning as a pedagogy. Dr. Paschal received the UCA Faculty of the Year Academic Service Award in 2014. She presented at two sessions at the 2015 UCA Instructional Development Center: *Direct Service Learning with Sophie Dix (UCA Writing Center) and Navigating the Service-Learning Process with Kim Little (History) and Jia Zhu (Writing).*

Upcoming Research Presentations

Peter Mehl, Amy Hawkins, Kristy Carter, Hunter Phillips-Goodman, and Dr. George-Paschal were competitively accepted to present *Cultivating a Service-Learning Culture at UCA*, March 11-13, 2015 at the Gulf South Summit Regional Conference in Little Rock, AR.

Dr. George-Paschal will be presenting *Interprofessional Academic Initiatives: Creating the Evidence* at the 2015 AOTA conference with OT faculty from three other universities. She will also be presenting with UCA.
student Jeremiah Fleeman at the 2015 Tech Lab on their project *Switching Things UP!: Creating a Switch Adapted Toy*.

**Mrs. Veronica Rowe**

Veronica T. Rowe, MS, OTR/L published the following article in *Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*:


Based on her dissertation, she presented the following:

*Task Oriented Training and Evaluation at Home (TOTE Home)*. Rowe, V. Oral presentation at the Texas Woman’s University, School of Occupational Therapy, PhD Research Symposium in Dallas, Texas on September 13, 2014.

Mrs. Rowe has completed all of her coursework towards her dissertation at TWU. In the fall of 2014, she passed her qualifying examinations and successfully defended her dissertation proposal. She will begin collecting data for her dissertation this spring.

**Mrs. Brittany Saviers**

The Department of Occupational Therapy is pleased to welcome Mrs. Brittany Saviers as a full-time faculty member, following her service as an adjunct instructor. She joined the department in the fall of 2014.

Mrs. Saviers attended the AOTA National Conference in Baltimore, MD in April 2014 where she and Dr. Moore presented a poster entitled, *Facilitating Adaptation: The Effects of an Occupation-Based Program*. This study sought to determine the efficacy of an occupation-based performing arts program among adults with developmental/ intellectual disabilities utilizing the Theory of Occupational Adaptation.

This past fall semester, Mrs. Saviers represented the occupational therapy profession when presenting at the University of Central Arkansas’ Student Caucus for Diversity in Occupational Therapy’s continuing education conference, titled *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Autism Spectrum Disorder*. In addition, Mrs. Saviers collaborated with the University of Central Arkansas Interior Design department as a guest lecturer on the topic of inclusive/universal design as a way to promote engagement of all children in the occupation of play. This interdisciplinary approach proved beneficial to the design students as they created an “inclusive playhouse” for a child with sensory processing disorder.

Mrs. Saviers continues to co-direct Acting Creates Therapeutic Success (ACTS) in Little Rock. This program is preparing to begin its third year of providing adults with disabilities the opportunity to participate in the performing arts. Last spring, the group of 30 performers, occupational therapy students, and volunteers, performed their New Orleans inspired skit of “Minnie the Moocher” at Argenta Community Theatre in North Little Rock. As co-coordinator for the ARC Arkansas Performing Arts Camp, Mrs. Saviers along with performing artists, volunteers, and occupational therapy students, facilitated the participation of 40 individuals with disabilities through a week long camp in July involving drama, dance, music, costuming, and set design. This experience culminated in an end performance where there was not an empty seat in the house!

In addition to her involvement in numerous community and professional organizations, Mrs. Saviers was selected to serve on the Arkansas Down Syndrome Board of Directors.

**Dr. Marc Willey**

In December of 2014, Dr. Willey developed a 3D model of the brachial plexus as an interactive method of teaching the brachial plexus. The model will be further developed this year to incorporate a step-by-step guide that provides detailed assembly instructions. The kit utilizes plastic pipe, pipe cleaners, cable ties, and a thermoplastic pre-molded scapula, clavicle, and humerus that stand on a base. Each finished model clearly illustrates the roots, trunks, divisions, cords, and nerves of the brachial plexus. The proposed guidebook will illustrate related pathological conditions associated with nerve compression points. Origins and insertions from selected muscles acting on the scapula and humerus will be identified and labeled in the completed project.
Welcome Students: Class of 2016

John Andreson  
Veronica Bausom  
Brittany Beamon  
Anna Beck  
Larry Beckett  
Brooke Bennett  
Lauren Bolding  
Caitlyn Brinegar  
Meredith Buford  
Lydia Cody  
Shelbi Cottingham  
Kelsy Dement  
Foram Desai  
Wendy Dozier  
Katherine Drew  
Jenna Durio  
Jade Edwards  
Jordyn Ferrell  
Dusty Ford  
Rebecca Gottsponer  
Kristen Grammas  
Madison Guist  
Hilarie Hallman  
Jenna Henson  
Alyssa Hill  
Craig Hladun  
Chelsea Howard  
Shelbi Jenkins  
Molly Johnson  
Markii Landry  
Alex Lee  
Sarah Ligon  
Lacey Lockwood  
Sara Lo  
Joshua McDowell  
Megan McGaha  
Katy McGee  
Elizabeth Melcher  
Chelsea Morehead  
Emily Nehus  
Kate Pfeiffer  
Kelsey Postel  
Scott Rasmussen  
Catie Ross  
Madeline Schmidt  
Tiffany Simpson  
Joshua Smith  
Cody Stoops  
Keegan Sutton  
Shelby Walker  
Katrina Williams  
Mary Young

Student Awards

Tammy Dallari – Outstanding Academic Award in Occupational Therapy at UCA

Chandler Graham – Invited to participate in the Maddak Awards; 3rd place recipient

Haley Harris – Florence Wood Scholarship of Arkansas Occupational Therapy Association

Jenna Henson - Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges

Mikka Jaggers – Marian Q Ross Outstanding Student Award

Caitlin Krehel – Marian Ross Scholarship Fund

Angel Poon – Global Citizen Scholarship

Stephanie San – Charles and Nadine Baum Scholarship

Emily Smithson - Conway Regional Medical Staff Scholarship

Stephanie Warner – Marian Ross Scholarship Fund

Kristyn White – Marian Q Ross Outstanding Student Award
Community Engagement

Arts Fest

This fall, the UCA Occupational Therapy Department had the opportunity to participate in a unique experience during the 2014 Conway Arts Fest. A dance group from Atlanta, Georgia, known as CORE, came to UCA to hold a dance clinic throughout the week leading up to an extraordinary visual performance on Friday, October 3. In order to commemorate and celebrate Disability History and Awareness month, the CORE dancers were joined by consumers from Independent Living Services in Conway facilitated by OT student volunteers. During the clinic sessions, participants were encouraged to experiment with different forms of movement and expressive dance both individually and as a collaborative group. The dancers and participants worked to create a dance that showcased a unique integration of movements symbolizing what “home” meant to each person. The performance took place in, around, and through the artist Patrick Dougherty’s unique handiwork: sculptures made from twigs, saplings, and sticks. The Arkansas Saxophone Quartet was also present adding another vibrant aspect to the performance. The performance was attended by family and friends, members of the UCA community, and curious onlookers.

Many of the performers expressed, throughout the week, that participating in the experience made them feel happy, excited, and confident in their abilities. Although the performance was a huge success, some of the most enriching experiences happened behind the scenes. Friendships were formed, ideas created, abilities discovered, smiles and laughter shared, and light shone from the faces of all involved. We thank Dr. Gayle Seymour, Associate Dean from the College of Fine Arts and Communication, CORE, and the Mid-America Arts Alliance for making this experience possible and for believing, along with us, that every individual has the right to participate in meaningful activities regardless of ability.

Producing Roots

Ms. Haley Harris and Dr. Tina Mankey were accepted for a poster presentation, Producing Roots: A Therapeutic Gardening Experience in a Rural Community Environment, at the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Association annual conference in Nashville, TN. Producing Roots was developed as a course requirement where graduate students designed and implemented community programs involving occupational therapy. It was an intergenerational gardening program designed to bring a rural community together to increase socialization and opportunities for leisure exploration and participation among its members.

The initial stages of development included literature reviews, recruitment of members within the community, speaking with city officials, and obtaining resources such as land and water. Once resources were obtained, the program began. Recruitment efforts and needs assessment began in the community through publications, local festivals, and community agencies. The UCA OT students met with the community participants (approximately 25, varying in age and abilities) and developed the plan for the garden. The program was carried out one day a week throughout the summer. In the beginning participation was minimal but as the program progressed, the excitement of the program grew. Participants brought new people with them each time. Participants were responsible for planting, plowing weeding and general care of the plants.

During each week, a discussion topic on gardening was used as a way to promote socialization between members of the garden. At the conclusion of the program, the participants shared insight into the
The OT students and Dr. Letha J. Mosley continue to work collaboratively with community partners to emphasize health promotion among traditionally underserved populations. At the 2014 Community Fest held annually at the Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, the UCA Department of OT helped to organize and implement a Health Fair. Several students helped to manage the exhibits, explain occupational therapy, complete screenings, answer questions about adaptations and home safety, and coordinate the services of other health care providers who participated in the health fair. Students worked with individuals across the lifespan and provided valuable information to participants. The next community health fair will be in September of 2015.

OT Students Travel to LR for Hands on Experiences!
Students from the UCA 2015T occupational therapy class, as part of the Holistic Adult Interventions Course, participated in a community experience in Little Rock on January 30th, 2015. As part of the experience the students visited Arkansas’ Tech Act Agency, Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN) where they interacted with Sean McIntosh and experienced the cool world of technology. Lynn Franquemont with the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) also shared the procedures and technologies that Arkansans can obtain through their program. During the ICAN experience, students participated in a fun photo scavenger hunt where they posted pictures of themselves interacting with assistive technology on ICAN’s Facebook page. Become a friend of ICAN and check out these fun photos.

Another educational activity of the day was the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services’ (ARS) “Deaf, Deaf, World Experience” (DDW) located at the Central Arkansas Library System in the Rivermarket. During the DDW experience led by Holly Ketchum, our students remained silent (really!!) for about 1 1/2 hours. ARS employees and volunteers educated the students on sign language and required them to communicate only using gestures, Pigeon Sign, American Sign Language, lip reading, and Tactile Sign (for deaf/blind individuals). Students rotated through stations simulating real life communication challenges where they were required to role play using designated scenarios at banks, movie theaters, hotels, and physician offices. It was a fun day!!

Scholarship and Education Service Learning
The occupational therapy program has always incorporated service in the educational course work. In 2013, UCA adopted service-learning (SL) as a pedagogy of the university. As part of this adoption, UCA has initiated an interprofessional Service-Learning Faculty Fellows program where faculty can apply to be part of a summer seminar to learn more about the pedagogy and to integrate service-learning into their coursework. The university
and our program designate specific courses as service learning. Students who participate in service-learning log their hours and may print a Service-Learning transcript at graduation to present to potential employers. This transcript will show the range of settings in which the student has provided service during their educational career. Dr. Lorrie Georg-Paschal was in the first cohort of the UCA Service Learning Fellows in 2014 and has implemented service learning in the Arts & Sciences of Occupation course in 2014 and 2015. Since incorporating SL, she has placed 100 students with 12 non-profit community partners.

In addition to providing services to consumers, students are asked to reflect on course objectives by responding weekly writing prompts. The experience is exciting for the students, community partners, and recipients of our service! The UCA OT program currently partners with Arc Arkansas, Boys & Girls Club, ABC Learning Program at Conway Public Schools, Conway Cradle Care, Chenal Memory Center, Faulkner County Senior Wellness Center, Equestrian Zone, Independent Living Services, & World Services for the Blind.

**Provisional Certified Brain Injury Specialist Certification (PCBIS)**

The following students passed the Provisional Certified Brain Injury Specialist (PCBIS) exam on November 19, 2014: Mrs. Mikayla Tomaszewski, Mrs. Kirby Kirkland, Ms. Donnafae Turner, Ms. Lou Ross, Mrs. Megan Bradley, Ms. Haley Henderson, and Ms. Sarah Pfitzinger.

This program is governed by the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS) and is administered by the Brain Injury Association of America. The training and certification exam are intended for paraprofessionals and professionals at all levels who want a strong foundation in the best practices in brain injury rehabilitation. ACBIS has opened the certification process as a provisional certification to graduate students who are enrolled in an accredited university degree program. The intent is to provide in-depth training for those pre-professionals who intend to develop a career working with individuals who have an acquired or traumatic brain injury. To attain full certification, candidates must complete 500-hours of verified clinical employment and/or supervised academic internship experience working with individuals who have a brain injury within a 3-year period from the date of original PCBIS certification. These students completed training to prepare them to take the certification examination. The test was proctored by Veronica T. Rowe, MS, OTR/L, CBIST, and all students passed on their first trial. To attain full CBIS certification, the students must complete the required work experience and training. As provisionally certified brain injury specialists, they are associated with the Brain Injury Association of America, have demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge in the field of brain injury rehabilitation, and will be an integral member of an expanding group of professionals seeking to offer optimal care for individuals with a brain injury. This is an excellent foundation of knowledge to support an exciting clinical and/or academic career! Congratulations Mikayla, Kirby, Fey, Lou, Megan, Haley, and Sarah!

**OT Department Enhancing Community Mobility Content With New Driving Simulator**

The OT Department has increased their emphasis and technology related to community mobility by purchasing a Virage VS500 driving simulator to complement existing approaches to teaching and learning. During the summer of 2014, Dr. Jennifer Moore, Dr. Letha Mosley, Mrs. Veronica Rowe, Mrs. Brittany Saviers, Dr. David Stearns, and graduate student Jessica Sheffield were trained on the operation and use of the simulator. All students in the Class of 2015 participated in a teleconference...
The evidence-based fall awareness and prevention program, “A Matter of Balance” (MOB), has come to the University of Central Arkansas! Dr. Letha Mosley attended a Master Training course in Portland, Maine, and came back to implement the program in Central Arkansas. The first coaches trained in 2013 for MOB included graduate students Mrs. Lauren New Matter of Balance Coaches - Front row: Haley Henderson, Andrea Collins, Rebecca Lincoln; Back row: Zach Fendley, Sara Madron, Lauren Boyles, and Lasea Been. Not pictured Sara Barnett, Kaitlin McFarland, and Fey Turner

For OT…It’s "A Matter of Balance"

The evidence-based fall awareness and prevention program, “A Matter of Balance” (MOB), has come to the University of Central Arkansas! Dr. Letha Mosley attended a Master Training course in Portland, Maine, and came back to implement the program in Central Arkansas. The first coaches trained in 2013 for MOB included graduate students Mrs. Lauren

Interprofessional Education in the College of Health & Applied Sciences at UCA
Approximately 430 undergraduate and graduate students from eight disciplines within the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) attended a half-day professional session on October 14th 2014 to increase readiness for interprofessional practice. The Student Occupational Therapy Association sponsored the event. Students from Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Education, Nursing, Kinesiology, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Physical Therapy, and Communication Sciences and Disorders spent part of the day working on two case study scenarios. In addition, approximately 20 participants from the Pharmacy Program at UAMS joined our team. Students shared their professional roles and collaborated to plan team-based interventions. Students also discussed specific ways each profession could contribute to screening and community programming to improve balance and safety for older adults.

Since 2010, over 1,000 students have participated in the IPE Forum held by CHBS. Through research, participating faculty within the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences have found the forum to be effective in increasing students’ readiness for interprofessional practice. Results related to the efficacy of this approach to teaching interprofessional education has been disseminated through six national presentations and two referred publications. Results are consistent with the Interprofessional Education Commission’s Collaborative Expert Panel’s (IPEC) guidelines for interprofessional practice.
Ashley, Ms. Tammy Dallari, and Mrs. Lacey Canizares along with the staff at Emeritus at Pleasant Hills, an assisted living facility in Little Rock. The program was successfully coordinated and led by Mrs. Ashley with assistance from Ms. Dallari, Mrs. Canizares, and the Emeritus staff as part of an independent study course. Since that time, Dr. Mosley has trained others from various departments within the UCA College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. The newest coaches received their training during the Falls Awareness and Prevention elective course taught in the summer of 2014. To further enhance the graduates’ knowledge, skills, and judgment in working with balance and vestibular challenges from an occupational therapy perspective, some students also participated in an elective course on vestibular rehabilitation (see picture). Students in the OT Practice in Geriatrics course also provided fall awareness and prevention programming for Arkansans in the Central Arkansas region. Additional MOB courses will be held in the Central Arkansas area. These courses are intended for individuals with a fear of falling or who need to improve their strength, flexibility, balance, and/or environments to prevent falls. If you are interested in attending a MOB course, hosting a MOB course at your facility, or know an older adult who would benefit from participation in one of our courses please contact Dr. Mosley at letham@uca.edu.

Research

W.O.R.T.H. Video (Working Out for Recreation, Training and Health)

Mrs. Elizabeth LeQuieu collaborated with her husband, Mr. Toney LeQuieu, case manager with the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission, to develop a comprehensive up-to-date exercise DVD for individuals with disabilities. They mentored two occupational therapy students, Ms. Haley Henderson and Mrs. Dawn Holmes who identified the need, designed the program, located participants, and wrote a grant to secure funding for the W.O.R.T.H. DVD. Mrs. LeQuieu and her team were recently awarded $1840.00 from the Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Program of Arkansas to fund the W.O.R.T.H (Working Out for Recreation, Training, and Health) DVD service project. Their goal is to provide the DVD to organizations such as the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission so individuals with disabilities can increase their independence by improving cardiovascular and muscle fitness, improving mental health and increasing their ability to complete activities of daily living.

A Look into Our Student Associations

Pi Theta Epsilon

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) is a specialized honor society for occupational therapy students and alumni. The society recognizes and encourages superior scholarship among students enrolled in professional entry-level programs at accredited educational programs across the United States.

The objective of the society is to contribute to the advancement of occupational therapy through special projects of its members; to provide a basis for relationship among accredited programs of occupational therapy; and to work in cooperation with the aims and ideals of other student occupational therapy organizations. The mission of...
Pi Theta Epsilon is to promote research and scholarship among occupational therapy students. Pi Theta Epsilon supports the development of occupational science and the practice of authentic occupational therapy by promoting research and other scholarly activities of its members. In this way, the organization serves not only the profession but also helps to ensure quality health care services for the general public. This chapter raises funds that support scholarships for research through The American Occupational Therapy Foundation.

On January 27th, 2015, chapter advisors, Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. LeQuieu, and the chapter officers organized a ceremony to officially induct 18 new members from the class of 2016. The current organization has a total of 60+ members. Faculty members of the UCA Department of Occupational Therapy were present for the ceremony, along with many of the inductees’ family and friends.

The organization currently holds an “Occupation of the Month” activity where members of PTE participate in various occupations as a social and educational experience. Some of the activities in the past include OT Field Day, tips for relaxation, pumpkin painting at a local nursing home, bowling night, and many more.

SCDOT

The UCA student organization called the Student Caucus for Diversity in Occupational Therapy (SCDOT) has a unique mission in the occupational therapy department. SCDOT is committed to increasing the cultural awareness of students to create more professional, competent, and effective healthcare providers. This is accomplished through helping students attend national conferences, "Open Mic" discussions featuring a representative from various cultural groups, and partnering with UCA international students.

In April, seven SCDOT members attended the 2014 AOTA National Convention in Baltimore, MD. Additionally, five students attended the 2014 AOTA
Student Conclave in St. Louis, MO this past November. Attending these conferences helped SCDOT members deepen their understanding of occupational therapy practice, create professional networking connections, and increase their confidence in their future as an occupational therapy practitioner. Consequently, fundraising efforts have been ongoing to get at least fifteen SCDOT members to the 2015 AOTA National Convention in Nashville, TN.

One of the most successful fundraising opportunities that SCDOT created was a continuing education event called "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Autism Spectrum Disorder" which occurred this past fall semester on Saturday, October 4th. The event featured autism spectrum disorder specialists from various professions who presented topics from their fields: neuroscience research, clinical psychology, occupational therapy, and the diagnostic process for autism spectrum disorder. These professionals were from UAMS, Children's Hospital, the UCA psychology department, and the UCA occupational therapy department. Additional, the event featured an "Open Mic" discussion. The guest speaker was a young adult who was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at the age of nineteen. His personal insight was invaluable for those in attendance and a great way to finish the continuing education event. This successful continuing education event was attended by students, family members of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and healthcare practitioners from central Arkansas. All registration fees were put toward SCDOT fundraising efforts, and the feedback forms were overwhelmingly positive.

SCDOT also strengthens our students' professional development through the "Open Mic" discussion series. These events are open to everyone and have been attended by occupational therapy students, nursing students, health sciences students, and community. Through open, respectful discussion, all who attend gain a deeper understanding of under-represented cultural groups. This understanding helps our students become more respectful and culturally-competent healthcare providers. These events feature representatives from various cultural backgrounds and/or physical disabilities.

SCDOT hosted a potluck as a means to introduce international students to occupational therapy students. As the semester progressed, the occupational therapy students mentored international students and helped them adjust to life at UCA. Additionally, this project allowed both occupational therapy students and international students learn about each other’s cultures, thereby gaining more cultural awareness. The UCA Department of Occupational Therapy is composed of many talented, intelligent, and compassionate individuals. SCDOT is only one of three valuable student organizations. Its focus on diverse, under-represented populations complements the

*SCDOT Officers: Leila Lipham, President/ Josh Krolikowski, VP/ Monica Beard-Raymond, Treasurer/ Kristin Hare, Historian/ Melodie Mauney, Secretary*
The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) have been hard at work this past year: electing new officers, welcoming the class of 2016 students, and advocating for the occupational therapy profession. This year as an organization, SOTA was determined to make their mark locally as well as nationally.

Throughout the summer, the officers prepared for the newly admitted students to arrive in August. To help with the transition into graduate school, each first year student was assigned a second year student as a mentor. The second year students were able to share their encounters and experiences with the incoming students. As a student coordinated luncheon was held during orientation so that everyone could get to know each other.

SOTA’s main goal is to advocate for the profession and the UCA OT program. Along with many other events, the group celebrated Backpack Awareness Day by teaming up with Conway Junior High School to teach over 100 career orientation students proper backpack use and the impact of the OT profession in the community.

During the fall of 2014, the SOTA organization started a new tradition of tailgating at UCA home football games. The SOTA officers believed that this would be a great avenue to network among our peers and other professionals not only at UCA, but in our community as well. SOTA partnered with Students of Pre-Occupational Therapy (SPOT) to start what will hopefully become a new tradition for our program. The tailgates were a success allowing us to bond with our peers, faculty, and staff, as well as advocate for the occupational therapy program and profession.

This semester SOTA has been working diligently raising funds to help over 40 UCA OT students attend the 95th Annual AOTA Conference in Nashville, TN. This opportunity allows students to bring back valuable knowledge that will be shared with the rest of the department. SOTA is proud to announce its continual milestone of achieving Gold Level status with AOTA. As a Gold Level Recognized organization (100% AOTA Student Membership), SOTA will be featured in the OT Practice magazine, acknowledged in the AOTA Alerts e-newsletter, and recognized on the AOTA website.

The SOTA Executive Board has stepped up and dedicated so much of their time to the UCA Occupational Therapy Department. Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, the SOTA advisor, has been an excellent resource and leader for this organization. Without all of her hard work and commitment, it would not have been easy for this organization to execute all of the new ideas. SOTA thanks all faculty, students, and community members for their participation and continued support.
Graduate Assistants

2014 Graduate Assistants

Many thanks are extended to the 2014 graduate assistants for all of their hard work. Good luck and best wishes as you all begin this new chapter of your lives.

2015 Graduate Assistants

Welcome Mrs. Donita Hurley

Donita joined the Department of Occupational Therapy as an Administrative Specialist II in May 2014. She brings fourteen years of college experience having previously worked at the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville for eleven years as an Administrative Assistant/Events Coordinator in addition to three years at Sam Houston State University’s Criminal Justice Department. “I really enjoy working with both faculty and students and am so happy to be at UCA.”

Mrs. Hurley currently resides in Heber Springs. She has been married to Gene for three years. She also has two grown sons and one beautiful and precious granddaughter. Donita is a member of the Heber Springs Christian Church, and loves to sing on the Praise Team. A beach lover, she has been to both Cancun and Cozumel several times and can’t wait to travel again.

The OT department is pleased to welcome Donita to the staff.
Congratulations to the New NBCOT Certificants!

Lauren Ashley       Tammy Dallari       Lauren Jones       Caroline Nipper
Brittney Bailey     Sax Engel          Sara Jones        Cassie Nolan
Amanda Bain         Alyssa Files       Allison Kemp      Mitch Reynolds
Aziah Batson        Lola Fleming        Laura Kordsmeier  Chelsea Roach
Craig Batterton     Lorrie Fleming      Caitlin Krehel    Laney Scarlett
Zoe Boles           Kristen Furlow      Gracie Phillips   Stephanie Schaaf
Shelby Brazeal      Anna Goble          Ally Massey       Emily Wallace
Ashley Brown        Justin Harrell      Samantha McNulty  Kristyn White
Laurel Campbell     Stephanie Hartle    Rebecca Mellenthin JoLee Wilson
Lacie Canizares     Chelsea Hartman    Bailee Miller     Cameran Young
Mariah Clifton      Ellen Hester       Kelli Miller      
Shelby Colvin       Rebecca Hicks       Jessica Moore     
Cortney Dailey      Patricia Irish     Kori Moore

Alumni Charter Chapter

During the course of 2014, the Department of OT strived to set new goals for reaching our alumni. With the help of the OT faculty, current UCA OT Alumni, and graduate students, the group began the process with the Buffalo Alumni Services to initiate a UCA Occupational Therapy Alumni Chapter. The vision is to create a chapter that is truly connected with our alumni, encourage active participation in university and community projects, and provide mutual benefits for the university, alumni, and its current students. During the fall of 2014, the current chapter members met with Dr. Jimmy Ishee, Professor and Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. The group discussed aspirations for the chapter and gained insight on opportunities available to alumni. With alumni support, the alumni chapter aims to provide continuing education opportunities, social events, class reunions, community building workshops, and the development of a lectureship.

With the approaching 50th anniversary of the UCA OT program, the alumni chapter invites you to help us commemorate this momentous occasion. The alumni chapter is proud of the graduates from the UCA program and would encourage all to assist with the building of the group. Our challenge for each of you is to join our OT Alumni Chapter and invite one person to join the alumni association also. With your support, we can grow the Marian Ross Scholarship Fund. Spouses, friends, and family are also welcome to join our chapter; when signing up, indicate “OT Chapter” in the comments box as “OT” is not an
option in the Chapters section of the membership form. Please visit UCA Alumni Website at http://uca.edu/alumni/membership/ for more information.

If you are interested in actively participating in the alumni charter chapter as an officer or as a member, please contact the UCA Department of Occupational Therapy at otinfo@uca.edu.

Thank you to the charter members currently assisting with the growth of this alumni organization: Dr. Jennifer Moore, Mrs. Elizabeth LeQuieu, Mrs. Brittany Saviers, Ms. Karen James, Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, Dr. Tina Mankey, Ms. Mikka Jaggars, Mr. Justin Brazeal, Ms. Carlie Tapley, Ms. Jocelyn Pedergist, and Mrs. Kristyn Davis.

**Keeping In Touch**

Won an award? Started a business? Had an adventure? Let us know!

Please let us know what is happening in your personal and professional life so that we can provide an update in the future editions of the OT Alumni Newsletter. Just send the following information by mail to OT Department, DHSC Suite 100, 201 Donaghey Ave., Conway, AR 72035; or email the OT department at otinfo@uca.edu.

Name (first, last maiden):
Program/Degree:
Graduation Year:
Phone:
Email:
Address:
News:
Date:

**AOTA Conference**

The AOTA Annual Conference & Expo is the most vibrant and dynamic gathering for occupational therapy professionals each year. Inspiring Presidential and keynote addresses, over 900 educational sessions, exceptional speakers, valuable connections, and an Expo filled with the latest products and opportunities all under one roof—only in Nashville! - See more on the AOTA site.