Happy New Year to all our OT Friends!

This has been an incredibly busy year, but we have been able to accomplish a great deal. Mentioned in last year’s newsletter, we have been working on substantial curriculum revision, in preparation for the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education’s new standards, going into effect this summer. To that end, we submitted our completed curriculum proposal for approval last April; it has been approved at the University level, by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and by ACOTE. Whew!

But our work is just beginning, really, as we prepare to admit our first class this Fall Semester of 2013. The new curriculum is designed for the mature student learner (students admitted must already possess a baccalaureate degree), with increased use of Problem-Based learning strategies, as well as service learning experiences. The program is designed to be completed in two calendar years. A major change in fieldwork will be that at least one of the Level I fieldwork assignments will be scheduled over the course of several weeks, as opposed to a two-week block. This schedule will give the students the opportunity to see a variety of clients in a single setting. For those of you who supervise fieldwork students, more detailed information will be forthcoming, through Elizabeth LeQuieu, our Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.

Also changed is the application process itself; all applications will be submitted to the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS), a nationwide agency that handles applications for a growing number of participating OT programs. It is very exciting to see the maturity and diversity of students being attracted to this new program!

We continue to require that applicants complete a volunteer experience, and are very thankful that there are so many practitioners who are willing to provide volunteer supervision and complete recommendations for potential OT students. Your input is extremely valuable in helping us select the most qualified individuals for the class! We are very excited about this new curriculum, and believe that it will efficiently prepare highly competent occupational therapists to serve the health care needs of all Arkansans.

As you view this newsletter, take note of some of the major accomplishments of our students: Robert Pippinger won the Maddak Award at this year’s AOTA Conference for his invention of a new peds swing; Kayla Jo Nabholz completed important research on how OTs select continuing education experiences, and Whitney Holloway also completed a research project on Interprofessional Education (IPE). We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and contributions to the profession! Enjoy!

Dr. Linda Musselman

Message from the Chair
Student Thesis Feature

The Effectiveness of an Interprofessional Education Experience Amongst Students in Health Professions at the University of Central Arkansas

This research was conducted with nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech language pathology students currently enrolled in courses in the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Central Arkansas. The sampling frame consisted of 211 health students.

This thesis research project was designed to evaluate the impact of an interprofessional education experience on health students’ readiness, knowledge, and perceptions of working as a team. Results revealed statistically significant differences between pre and post measures on the Readiness of Interprofessional Learning Scale (n=174, t=-5.48, p=.000) and Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale (n=164, t=-5.76, p=.000). Four participants participated in a focus group and strongly endorsed the value of interprofessional collaboration amongst health students.

As an agency rehab care associate II (RCA) at Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute since 2008, I am aware of the significance and importance of an interdisciplinary approach. My job duties as an RCA included assisting occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech language pathologists. Learning the roles of each discipline and gaining an understating of the interdisciplinary approach enhanced my awareness, knowledge and sensitivity to many of the challenges and decisions encountered, and assisted me in interacting with the informants in this study. These experiences have also led to my belief that interprofessional education experiences should be part of the pre service education in health professions.

Continuing Competence in Occupational Therapy: An Examination into Arkansas Practitioners’ Behaviors and Attitudes

The purpose of this study was to determine information about the continuing education (CE) that occupational therapists (OTs) in Arkansas were taking for licensure renewal. The instrument used to collect data was a questionnaire mailed to a random sample of licensed OTs in the state. The overarching research question asked Arkansas occupational therapy (OT) practitioners about their behavior and attitudes regarding CE. Of the 550 deliverable questionnaires, 115 subjects responded and 112 were usable, yielding a questionnaire response rate of 20 percent. Descriptive statistics and frequencies were used to analyze the data. Workshops, self-study, and seminars were identified as the most common types of CE activities of Arkansas OT practitioners. The factors that determined or influenced Arkansas OT practitioners’ choice of CE activities for renewal were identified as relevance of the CE activity to their primary practice area, location, and cost. Therapists demonstrated satisfaction with CE activities, especially facility-based activities and conferences. Therapists also identified a high perceived value of CE with statements related to increased knowledge-base and confidence in clinical abilities. The evidence from this study will allow CE entities to make informed decisions in Arkansas.

Student Awards

- Marion Q. Ross Outstanding Student Award: Liz Spence, OTS
- Outstanding Academic Award in Occupational Therapy: Kaitlyn Jones, OTS
My name is Kelley Lewis and I have the awesome privilege of serving children in my community through the field of occupational therapy. After marrying Keith Lewis from Searcy in 1989, I moved from Conway to Searcy and began my most treasured asset, my family. I graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1990 with my Physical Therapist Assistant degree and began working in the public school systems with children with various disabilities. I was blessed with a daughter, Shelby, in 1991, and a son, Zack, in 1993. I returned to UCA in 2002 to complete my Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy. I graduated in 2005 and began my own company, Kidz Kan, LLC, serving children in the public schools, clinic, and local cooperative in White and Prairie counties in Arkansas. Besides working in occupational therapy, I spend a lot of time on our farm in the Beebe area and working in my church, where my husband pastors. Kidz Kan has grown considerably over the past seven years, and we now have six occupational therapists, one occupational therapy assistant, a speech therapist, and one speech therapy assistant working in our clinic. Having students come from UCA is always a joy and a learning experience for me. I love the new research that is becoming more readily available pertaining to our field of practice. Students help me keep up with new techniques and have great input toward treatment methods with our clients. I consider it one of my greatest honors to have been selected as Educator of the Year by UCA. I hope I can continue to offer valuable learning experiences in our field, while maintaining a positive, pleasant working atmosphere that students want to come to!
National Falls Prevention Awareness Day was observed on September 22. Throughout the month of September emphasis was placed on increasing public awareness about how to prevent and reduce falls among older adults. Occupational therapy’s role in fall prevention has been widely and increasingly recognized as professionals in this field consider environmental and individual risk factors related to falls and design and implement unique fall prevention interventions accordingly. In September, occupational therapy students in the Gamma Iota Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon at the University of Central Arkansas designated community fall prevention efforts as their occupational focus for the month. Students divided into small groups and visited local businesses, senior centers, and health fairs that serve older adults and their caregivers with the intention of providing education and awareness related to falls and fall prevention techniques.

Two groups of occupational therapy students visited local hardware and home improvement stores where they were able to educate customers and staff on what causes falls and what types of adaptive equipment carried in the stores can be used to prevent falls within the homes of their customers. In addition, several groups of occupational therapy students visited local senior centers in the community and provided fall prevention services including: individual quick screen assessments of fall risk, movement/exercise groups, provision of home exercise programs addressing balance, core strength, upper and lower extremity strength and range of motion, trunk rotation, and neck mobility, and recommendations on how to assess a home for fall/safety risks.

Health fairs at the university and within the community were also included as part of the fall prevention outreach program and occupational therapy students at these locations were able to reach a diverse audience of consumers including older adults and their families/caregivers to provide them with a list of community resources for exercise and fall prevention support groups. One group of occupational therapy students even offered participants the chance to participate in a tai chi exercise group.

Overall, the occupational therapy students reported that individuals in the community were receptive to the fall prevention presentations and enjoyed participating in the quick screen assessments and exercise groups. In addition, the students found their experiences in the community to be positive and successful in uniting students, professionals, older adults, caregivers, and family members in raising awareness empowering individuals to take steps within their own lifestyles and home environments to prevent the likelihood of falls in the future.

-Caroline Barton B.S., OTS, PTE Member

The Student Caucus for the Diversity of Occupational Therapy completed its 6th year under the advising of Dr. Letha Mosley, PhD, OTR. The objectives of this group of students include facilitating and supporting recruitment, retention, and certification of underrepresented student groups in the OT program, encouraging and developing diverse leaders and role models for the OT profession at the college, local, state, and national levels, and promoting contextually relevant practice emphasizing quality and equity in health care and occupational therapy for consumers of various ethnic, racial, cultural, educational, spiritual, and social backgrounds.

This year students worked alongside the Multicultural office at UCA as well as volunteering at health fairs and a continuing education course on Kinesiotaping. Pictured right are the 2012 members and officers.
Robert Pippinger is a third year occupational therapy student from the University of Central Arkansas. As part of his coursework in Independent Living he designed and constructed a multifunctional vestibular board/platform swing for his “Whatchamacallit” assignment. Robert continued to develop and fabricate two more pieces of pediatric therapy equipment and has since received patents on all three pieces. Under the guidance of Dr. Tina Mankey, Ed.D., OTR/L, Robert conducted an independent study where he gained feedback from practicing therapists. He analyzed responses and utilized feedback in order to further develop the therapy equipment and enhance safety, functionality, and usability of the devices in practice.

The three pieces of therapeutic equipment were the Tilt-N-Swing, Spring Swing, and the Rockin’ Scooter. The Tilt-N-Swing is a vestibular board/platform swing that is hinged in the center allowing it to fold in half. It was designed to provide a more efficient, versatile and portable sensory board. The Spring Swing is a multifunctional sensory device that includes a springboard, vestibular board, rectangular platform swing and two square platform swings all in one compact design making it ideal for any setting. The Rockin’ Scooter is a 2-in-1 device that offers a functional multipurpose scooter board and an equally effective vestibular board. The scooter is safely designed and provides the “just right” challenge for children.

Robert presented all three boards in the 38th Annual Maddak Awards competition for new product design at the 2012 AOTA Conference in Indianapolis, IN. The Rockin’ Scooter was awarded first place. Robert is the first student from UCA and the state of Arkansas to ever win the award. He will continue to coordinate with manufacturers to get his products available to purchase.
Interprofessional Experience (IPE)

Faculty in the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences collaborated to provide the 3rd annual Interprofessional Experience (IPE) for students from five disciplines. Dean Hattlestad welcomed 190 health students as they came together in the student center ballroom on October 16th, 2012. Students represented the fields of Communication Science Disorders, Dietetics, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. The purpose of this experience was to allow students the opportunity to learn more about the roles of each discipline represented. Students were actively engaged in the experience through the use of a video-based case scenario. Students shared about their own disciplines and their roles with a client like the one presented in the scenario. Students also discussed ways in which they could support each other in a clinical setting to achieve optimum client outcomes.

The interprofessional faculty mentors for the experience included Chad Lairamore (Physical Therapy), Myra Grantham (Nursing), Kim McCullough (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Debbie Head (Dietetics), and Lorrie George-Paschal (Occupational Therapy). Mentors reinforced teamwork as the key to client-centered care.

The faculty is also engaging in a scholarly inquiry regarding the impact of the experience on participants’ readiness for interdisciplinary experiences and perceptions of team collaboration. To date, research results have been presented at national and international conferences.

The faculty has the support of CHBS Dean Neil Hattlestad, who opened the session by emphasizing the increasingly critical importance of working together. Dean Hattlestad shared that increasing IPE is a goal of the college. Dr. Hattlestad’s support of IPE was demonstrated through the recent establishment of an IPE committee to increase student and faculty involvement in the college.

Dr. George-Paschal accepted to present “Outcomes and Benefits of an Interprofessional Educational Forum for Preservice Health Students” at the 2013 AOTA conference.


Arkansas Children’s Hospital Surgeon Collaborates with Advanced Anatomy Course

Dr. Theresa Wyrick-Glover, M.D., is an orthopedic surgeon at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH). She is an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery in the College of Medicine at UAMS. She specializes in nerve injuries of the upper extremity including nerve compressions such as carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel syndromes. She also treats arthritic conditions of the elbow, wrist, and hand. She offers treatment of traumatic injuries to the upper extremity as well as other complex reconstructive surgeries of the arm.

Dr. Willey’s Upper Extremity Anatomy elective class in Summer 2012 was a hands-on, interactive learning experience. A cadaver and four disarticulated cadaver arms were dissected and studied by 12 students. Students had the opportunity to review in greater detail upper extremity muscle origins, insertions, and innervations. UE pathologies, common treatment methods, and best practices were reviewed and discussed extensively.

Additionally, the department was honored to have Dr. Theresa Wyrick as a guest lecturer for one class. As an orthopedic and hand surgeon at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and UAMS, she frequently refers patients to occupational therapists for post-surgical rehabilitation. Dr. Wyrick was generous enough to spend several hours explaining intricate hand anatomy and function, as well as demonstrating relatively common surgical procedures such as carpal tunnel release, trigger finger release, and tendon grafts. She also performed a complex flexor tendon transfer while explaining the important role such procedures play in restoring function to the upper extremity for patients.

Dr. Wyrick and Dr. Willey expressed the significance of the surgeon-therapist relationship - especially the importance of open communication between therapist and surgeon. This relationship is vital to the patient’s healing and recovery process and in facilitating a client’s return to participation in daily living.

Submitted by:
Anna Boone, B.S., OTS
Heather Sandry, B.S., OTS
Congratulations to the New NBCOT Certificants

- Maeve Andrews
- Meagan Austin
- Katherine Banks
- Sarah Bird
- Justin Brazeal
- Kensey Cable
- Lindsey Chronister
- Rose Davidson
- Leigh Dreher
- Mysti Drinkwater
- Caitlin Elledge
- Lauren Fagala
- Karen Ford
- Haylee Fresneda
- Kathryryn Freyaldenhoven
- Amanda Furr
- Ashleigh Green
- Sarah Henrich
- Whitney Holloway
- Natalie Johnson
- Deron Johnson, Jr.
- Kaitlin Jones
- Jenney Lesley

- Elizabeth Lott
- Mary Massery
- Kayla Nabholz
- Shala Neal
- Kristin Nutt
- Chelsea Pearcy
- Jessica Phillips
- Amanda Pippinger
- Erin Poerschke
- Rebecca Roberts
- Yvonne Sears
- John Shouse
- Shelley Shultz
- Jessica Slater
- Lauren Spencer
- Jonathan Strader
- Kassi Talbot
- Russell Tucker
- Carleigh Valentine
- Tiffany Vo
- Alexandra Webb
- Kristen Williams
Mrs. Veronica Rowe

- Started work towards her PHD in OT at Texas Woman’s University.
- She also had the following publications and presentations recently:
  

  **Clinical Application of Constraint Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT).** Rowe, V.T. In-service presented to Conway Regional Rehabilitation Center on May 23, 2012. 1 hour.

  **Clinical Application of Constraint Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT).** Rowe, V.T, Webinar presented on OccupationalTherapy.com on April 30, 2012. 1 hour.


Constraint Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT) – How much is it used? Rowe, V.T, & Banks, K. Poster presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association national conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. April 26, 2012.

Constraint Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT) – Applying Evidence Based Research in the Clinic. Rowe, V.T. Continuing education course for therapists and students. Sponsored by the Arkansas Physical Therapy Association and South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, Arkansas on March 10, 2012.

Dr. Jennifer Moore

- Wrote a grant to begin a fall prevention program with older adults with intellectual/ developmental disabilities.
- Presented at AOTA conference with Dr. Cathy Acre on a scholarship of teaching and learning topic: students perceptions of individuals with disabilities following participation in Acting Creates Therapeutic Success (ACTS).
- Presented at AOTA conference with Dr. Tina Mankey on the I.M. Brainy Curriculum. The curriculum, implemented by OT students, was used to educate preschool children, parents, and teachers about the risk and prevention of brain injuries.
- Co-directed The Arc Arkansas' play during their annual summer performance art camp.
- Co-directed Acting Creates Therapeutic Success performance in November.
2012 Graduate Assistants

Back Row (from left): Katie Pues, Kendall Jenkins, Heather Sandry, Billy Hatridge, Robert Pippinger

Front Row (from left): Moriah Clifton, Trisha Luper, Kristen Vaughan, Lauren Ault, and Amy Reynolds

Not Pictured: Maggie Griffith and Anna Boone

Many thanks are extended to the 2012 graduate assistants for all of their hard work. Good luck and best wishes from the faculty as you all begin this new chapter of your lives.

Faculty Updates (Cont.)

Mrs. Elizabeth LeQuieu
- Participated in research on fall prevention with individuals with intellectual disabilities with Dr. Moore.
- Attended the AOTA National Conference
- Attended the fall Program Directors Academic Fieldwork Coordinators Meeting

Dr. Tina Mankey
- Recently published research on Educators’ Perceived Role of Occupational Therapy in Secondary Transition in the *Journal of Occupational Therapy in Schools, and Early Intervention* in August.
- She is currently working on an article exploring funding for occupational therapy in transition services.
- Has began research on Building Evidence in Transition Services: Qualitative Inquiry of Transition Teams regarding Occupational Therapy Services that are funded through the University Research Council. She, along with three occupational therapy research assistants, Lacie Canizares, Caitlin Krehel, and Stephanie Warner, will be conducting focus groups with transition team professionals throughout the state. The outcomes of this project will help to build on previous efforts within the state on the existence of occupational therapy in transition planning.

Dr. Cathy Acre
There are a number of ways to make tax-deductible contributions to the UCA Foundation--Occupational Therapy Fund. When you do, be sure to indicate the Marion Ross Research and Scholarship Fund, or the Occupational Therapy Development Fund.

You can make checks payable to the UCA Foundation, Inc. and mail them to Office of Development, Buffalo Alumni Hall, UCA Box 4986, 2490 Bruce Street, Conway, AR 72035, or click below to be directed to the UCA Foundation, Inc. website. To explore other options for contribution call the Foundation at 1-800-981-4426. Thank you again for your support!

Donate Today!

Keep in Touch!

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

How to let us know: fill out the information below and mail it to the OT Department, DHSC Suite 100, 201 Donaghey Ave., Conway, AR 72035; Fax it to the OT Department 501-450-5568; Email Donna Ruth at druth@uca.edu

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