Greetings Colleagues!

We are undergoing so many changes within the Occupational Therapy Department, I am at a loss as to where to begin!

Of course, the news with the most impact is the anticipated change in the curriculum, which is scheduled to begin with the class entering in Fall, 2013. At that time, we will transition from the combined BS/MS program that has been in place for over 10 years, to a fully-delivered MS program. This will mean that all applicants will be required to have completed a baccalaureate degree upon entry. This change is consistent with national trends, where fewer than 20 accredited programs now offer only the combined BS/MS program, while over 80 accredited programs offer the professional entry level master’s degree.

A significant change in the curriculum itself is the integration of more problem-based and case-based learning experiences. These are designed to prepare students to become practitioners who are adept in critical- and clinical-reasoning, and better prepared for the simulation-based NBCOT certification examination. Moreover, graduates will be ready for independent practice upon graduation.

We are also very pleased with the formation of the Fieldwork Educator Advisory Council, which is described on more detail on p. 5 of this newsletter. As we prepare to meet new Accreditation Standards (effective 2013), input from this group will be invaluable in improving the quality of fieldwork experiences and student readiness for those experiences. Sincere thanks to those who have agreed to serve on this council!

Major changes have also occurred in our physical space within the Doyne Health Sciences Center. Among these changes is a complete update of the ADL area and kitchen, as well as the addition of over 1200 square feet of research space. Moreover, the student lounge on the first floor of Doyne has been renovated, providing a very pleasant location for gatherings and lunches.

On the last page of this newsletter is an opportunity for you to fill us in on what you have been doing! Please take a moment to fill out the form and email/ send it to us. Thank you!
Community Spotlight: Arkansas Boating Club Adaptive Rowing Program Developed by Jessica Bisbee

Jessica Bisbee is a third year occupational therapy student from the University of Central Arkansas. As a part of her coursework in OT in the Community, Independent Living, Clinical Reasoning, and an Independent Study, Jessica developed an adapted rowing program for adults and adolescents with disabilities. As a member of the Arkansas Boathouse Club (ABC), a rowing organization, Jessica had access to resources, funding, and support for her program that would be implemented as a part of the ABC. This past summer Jessica and volunteers from ABC held coaching sessions for adaptive rowing, and they spent a week and a half in October coaching high school students from Arkansas School for the Blind (ASB), ending with an exhibition scrimmage. The program included an assessment of positioning and equipment needs, tour of the facility, education on boating/terminology, dock rowing, and on the water rowing. There were 37 total participants, including 24 ABC volunteers. Administrators from ASB have expressed interest in starting a school rowing team, and they are planning a follow-up meeting with Jessica to plan for the upcoming season. Jessica will help coordinate plans for another clinic for the summer of 2012. She has also been invited by the United States Olympic Committee to submit an application for ABC to become a U.S. Paralympic Sport Club, which is currently in progress.
The Occupational Therapy Department at the University of Central Arkansas is proud to present the Cynthia B. Cole Outstanding Fieldwork Educator Award for 2010 to **Morgan Maxwell Bennett**, MS, OTR/L. This award is presented during the month of April to honor Occupational Therapy Awareness given in recognition of outstanding performance as an occupational therapist and fieldwork educator. Nominations by occupational therapy students and faculty members are based on the individual’s ability to use occupation as the core of their practice.

Morgan is a pediatric occupational therapist at Kidsource Therapy located in Benton, and she is a member of the AOTA and AROTA. Recently, she partnered with the Arkansas Tennis Association in developing a clinic for children with special needs. In addition to her work in the clinic, Morgan assists in Special Olympics events and fundraising for Freedom Reins, Kidsource’s new hippotherapy program.

The following is some information from Morgan concerning her journey as a fieldwork educator:

“As a fairly recent graduate, it was not long ago that I was a student working under a fieldwork educator. I used these experiences to make me the therapist I am today. I ask questions constantly to my students to ensure that they know why they are performing a certain activity and how to do it a different way. I show them creative ways to accomplish the same goals and then ask them to come up with another way, as well. I absolutely love gaining new ideas from their fresh and innovative ways.

I take pleasure in being a motivator by incorporating true occupations and teaching them to love occupational therapy as much as I do. I love the idea that I am helping mold the future therapists that will help maintain this wonderful profession by teaching evidenced based and occupation based practice while being ethical. I like that they are learning the skills that I am teaching them so that they turn into a confident therapist that I will proudly call my colleague because they will represent the profession of occupational therapy in a positive way.”

Congratulations to Morgan Bennett, an exemplary fieldwork educator!

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**2013 Curriculum Changes**

By 2013 it is planned that the occupational therapy program will transition from the present combined Bachelor and Masters of Science degree track to the Master of Science only. Applicants will therefore be required to have a Bachelors degree for admission into the program. Visit the uca.edu/ot website in May 2012 for details.
Pi Theta Epsilon, occupational therapy’s honor society, continues to hold occupational activities each month to promote awareness of the field of occupational therapy across the campus. Most recently, they held a flash mob and invited the campus to participate. OT students choreographed a dance and got together at to perform it in front of the Student Center. Many students from campus jumped in for the free dance at the end.

Some faculty came by to participate!

A pretty big crowd formed!

2012 PTE Officers

Jeff Cooper
President

Caroline Barton
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Heather Sandry
Vice President

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Treasurer
As a measure to better integrate the curriculum design and fieldwork experiences, the occupational therapy department is seeking a much closer relationship with fieldwork educators. In order to assure this integration, we are establishing a Fieldwork Educator Advisory Council. The Council will consist of 10 fieldwork educators from across the state who demonstrate exemplary support of UCA’s occupational therapy program and active involvement in providing fieldwork opportunities. The primary responsibility of the Advisory Council will be to provide input into, and feedback regarding, the curriculum and student performance. We anticipate two meetings per year: one face to face meeting, and one in a virtual format. Initially, we are asking members of the committee to serve 1-3 years (using a 3 year rotation schedule).

Congratulations to the members of the inaugural University of Central Arkansas Department of Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Advisory Council: Preston Peter, Benji Benson, Diane Hanley, Laticha Beasley, Whitney Garrison, Katrina Bomar, Margaret Standridge, Chris Whaley, Christina Arjona, & Rita Qualls. Faculty members include Ms. Elizabeth LeQuieu, Dr. Tina A. Mankey (Fieldwork Committee Chairperson), Dr. Linda Musselman, & Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal.

We are very excited to announce that many changes have been going on in the 3rd floor of Doyne Health Science Center (DHSC). The Independent Living labs have been completely renovated and remodeled with brand new appliances including refrigerator, oven, washer, and dryer. The floor, cabinets, and walls have been completely updated. In addition, the adjoining classroom has been turned into a research lab.

Also, we now hold offices in Suite 100 of DHSC. The office of the chair, advisor, and other faculty members are now located in this suite as well as offices in Suite 300, and the third floor of DHSC.
To the UCA Alumnae & Friends…First, thanks for your support of the UCA OT program these past few years. I am writing to share with you tidbits about my experience as Chair of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). I started as a volunteer on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) around 1996. At the time I didn’t realize what I was getting myself into, but I followed the recommendation of my mentor to become involved in professional activities at the national level….BEST DECISION EVER! I started out reviewing written information from various schools about their occupational therapy and/or occupational therapy assistant educational programs (called Self Study Reports). I then physically visited the campus to determine if they were meeting the Standards for an Educational Program and if they were doing what they said they were doing in the Self Study Report (called On-site Visits). Within a year I was invited to join the Council, which is the decision making body for accreditation of OT and OTA programs in the United States. I was elated and scared at the same time. It was a big responsibility and commitment to the profession.

I served on the Council for six years. Afterwards, I volunteered in other capacities within the profession, but nothing was as rewarding as being part of ACOTE. The opportunity was available to run for Chair of the Council in 2008, after talking to several people I chose to put my name in the hat. I had not been on the Council for a while and didn’t know many of the people who were responsible for voting so I didn’t think I would be elected. Well, I was elected, served as Chair-elect for a year and then as Chair from 2009 -2012. As my term draws to an end (August 2012), I reflect on the joy of being able to contribute to enhancing the quality of education within the profession. I also encourage each of you to consider becoming more intricately involved with the education process at UCA and within the profession.

Practitioners, educators, administrators, and researchers can be involved in the accreditation process. It is time intensive, but the rewards far outweigh the work. I had the opportunity to meet unique individuals across the U.S., network and bond with colleagues I would never otherwise have met, and did I mention travel? I have been to the rural areas of the Dakotas, the metros of New York, the northern parts of Michigan, the hectic areas of Chicago, the snowy and beautiful parts of Rhode Island, and the ocean beaches of Puerto Rico. I learned about the many different educational ways in which OTs and OTAs creatively implement teaching and learning processes to meet the unique needs of their students within their educational context. As part of this process, I met with Senators and Representatives in Washington D.C., worked with the AOTA Officers and Board of Directors, met with Program Directors, facilitated Council meetings in which we took as many as 300 actions on program related issues, and worked with a marvelous and supportive staff at the AOTA Accreditation Department. Much has been done (revision of the Standards, initiation of transitioning to an electronic accreditation system for documents and reporting) and there is still much to do before my term ends on August 5, 2012. (e.g. renewing ACOTE’s recognition by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation). I encourage you to join in on the fun and give back to the profession! You can get more information by going to: http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/Announcements.aspx, the next deadline for applications is June 15, 2012. Practitioners are especially encouraged to apply!
Dr. Jennifer Moore is currently developing a fall prevention program for older adults with developmental disabilities. The program is based on the evidenced-based fall prevention program for well elders, Stepping On (Clemson, L. & Swann, M.). She plans to conduct research on the efficacy of this program.

This year she will be presenting at the AOTA conference in Indianapolis on the outcomes of the I.M. Brainy Curriculum designed to educate preschool children about the risks of brain injuries along with Dr. Mankey. Her work with Dr. Acre on the outcomes of research conducted with occupational therapy students who participated in the Acting Creates Therapeutic Success program will also be presented there. The study sought to determine the effects on opinions about persons with disabilities after participating in this community-based program.

Dr. Moore was invited to present to the American Society on Aging for her work on Perceptions of Aging among Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

In 2011 Dr. Moore received a grant to fund occupational therapy students’ opportunity to educate pre-school children in central Arkansas about brain injury prevention from the I.M. Brainy Curriculum.

Her data collection regarding Successful Aging for Adults with Developmental Disabilities was funded to assist Dr. Moore in developing programming to assist adults with developmental disabilities remain independent and healthy as they age.

As Co-Director of the ARC Arkansas Performing Arts Camp held at Hendrix College, Dr. Moore assists forty-five individuals with disabilities from all over the country attend the week long performing arts camp. Performing artists and occupational therapy students lead dance, drama, costume, set design and video classes. Performers rehearsed all week for the Friday night performance of How Santa Got His Groove Back on July 22, 2011.

Dr. Moore continues to Co-Direct Acting Creates Therapeutic Success. Acting Creates Therapeutic Success is a program that provides opportunities for adults with disabilities to participate in the performing arts. Sixty performers along with occupational therapy student volunteers prepare yearlong for performance. Over 400 members of the community attended this year’s performance, Wolfman Jack: Walking you through the Decades, at Reynolds’s Hall – University of Central Arkansas.

Dr. Tina Mankey recently published a research article entitled, Occupational Therapists’ Beliefs and Involvement with Secondary Transition Planning in Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics. This article examined the involvement of occupational therapy with secondary transition services in Arkansas. In addition, Dr. Mankey was invited to share her research on educator’s perceived role of occupational therapy in secondary transition in the Journal of Occupational Therapy in Schools, and Early Intervention. The article will be published in 2012. This research has been accepted for presentation at the AOTA annual conference in 2012.

Dr. Mankey plans to expand her research efforts in secondary transition to contribute to the national and state efforts of the profession to build the capacity of occupational therapy in the area. She plans to conduct a research project, Building Evidence in Transition Services: Qualitative Inquiry of Transition Teams regarding Occupational Therapy Services. These results will provide substantial descriptions of how other transition team professionals in Arkansas view the importance and role of occupational therapy.

In addition to Dr. Mankey’s state level efforts, she was invited to serve as an expert panel member of a grant program, Exploring Development of Occupational Therapy Transition Outcomes (OTTO), notification of funding is pending.

Dr. Mankey, along with Dr. Moore, concluded a grant project, Implementing I.M. Brainy Curriculum: Community Experiences for Occupational Therapy Students and will be presenting at the AOTA Conference in Indianapolis. Occupational therapy students incorporated the IM Brainy curriculum with approximately 300 children in preschools, public schools, and private schools in central Arkansas. Results indicated the children learned basic information about the brain, causes of brain injuries, and ways to prevent injuries to the brain.

Dr. Mankey’s work in the grant program, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND), will continue in conjunction with faculty at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The grant was recently funded for an additional five years through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She will supervise the work of the occupational therapy students will participate in the program and mentor trainees from other disciplines.
Mrs. Veronica Rowe attended the AOTA national conference in Philadelphia, PA in April 2011. She presented 2 posters entitled, “The Functional Test for the Hemiplegic Upper Extremity: A Pilot Normative Database” and “Mapquesting Students’ Understanding of Occupational Therapy Theories with the Use of Concept Maps”. Carrie Willey-Frederking and Noah Hansen were co-authors. Mrs. Rowe continued to explore the arena of scholarship of teaching and learning by publishing an article in The Teaching Professor entitled, “Teaching Something You Don't Like: A Model That Works”.

Other research endeavors continue with Mrs. Rowe as she is continuing to collect normative data on the Functional Test for the Hemiplegic Upper Extremity (FTHUE). She is also collaborating with the OTs at Conway Regional Rehabilitation Center to test the responsiveness and clinical utility of the FTHUE. She greatly appreciates all their hard work and effort in pursuing this endeavor! In addition, a survey was completed on the regional use of constraint induced movement therapy.

Mrs. Rowe continues to enjoy collaboration with researchers at Emory University and at the University of Southern California. She is assisting with a current multi-center research trial helping to standardize evaluators. In addition, she is able to rate video tapes of specific assessments for data collection. She is also fortunate to be able to give continuing education courses at various locations regarding past research studies that she was involved with at Emory.

Congratulations to the New NBCOT Certificants!

- Joanna Appleget
- Davinia Archer
- Amy Bailey
- Amber Bell
- Chad Benson
- Kelli Boyer
- Meghan Bretz
- Katherine Brown
- Caitlyn Brune
- Alicia Burgener
- Ashton Burton
- Alyssa Casey
- Latitia Chamberlain
- Anna Davis
- Meghan Dayer
- Melody Dundee
- Andrea Duvall
- Kristy England
- Tara Finch
- Kimberly Fisher
- Jessie Green
- Noah Hansen
- Emily Harvell
- Natalie Hatfield
- Callie Hendriks
- Kylie Hinton
- Rachel Huddleston
- Danielle Hudspeth
- Rachel Kamarunas
- Abbra Longer
- Elizabeth McClelland
- Britney McRae
- Kristen Miers
- Natalie Miller
- Chelsie Mock
- Trisha Palmer
- Sara Scalia
- Ashton Schmidt
- Nicole Sinele
- Anna Stephens
- Kathrynne Suttle
- Lauren Tracy
- Keeli Warford
- Brittany Weiher
- Christopher Wilkerson
- Sarah Winn
- Nathan Winter
Please let us know what is happening in your personal and professional life so that we can provide an update for future editions of the OT Alumni Newsletter. Just fill in the blanks and send it to us by mail to OT Department, DHSC Suite 100; 201 Donaghey Ave., Conway, AR 72035; or email to Moriah Tindall at mtindall1@cub.uca.edu

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We need your support!
For tax-deductible contributions to the UCA Foundation—Occupational Therapy Fund, make checks payable to the UCA Foundation, Inc., and indicate Marian Ross Research and Scholarship Fund, or the Occupational Therapy Development Fund. or call the Foundation at 1-800-981-4426 to explore other options for contribution. Thank you!

Save the Date: 2012 AOTA Conference

We hope you make plans to attend the 92nd annual conference and expo.

https://www.expotracsshows.com/aota/2012/