

The Link



FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SUMMER/FALL 2008



***Dr. Liane Hewitt, DrPH, OTR/L
Chair of Occupational Therapy***

It has definitely been a remarkable year for the Department of Occupational Therapy. As you read through the OT Link you will see what I mean. So much is going on that we couldn't include everything in this edition, so be sure to watch for the Allied Health Connection magazine this Fall!

We have seen enrollment increase, new practice opportunities developed, and the recognition of Occupational Therapy as a viable health care service. We have started our first OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) class and have seen so many opportunities form, as well as some challenges in teaching with virtual technology. What I have found most exciting is the growth experienced by the students who have to look at their roles as leaders, researchers and advocates.

We have added a part time faculty member, Arezou Salamat, MOT, OTR/L. She is assisting with teaching in pediatrics and working mainly with the START clinics in Ontario and San Bernardino. Praveen Injeti (Class of

1998) is a contract teacher for our Group Dynamics class, and Maria Cruz (Class of 1985) is teaching the Current Trends I class. Several of you are also teaching throughout the year on specialized practice areas and we greatly appreciate your expertise.

We are excited to announce that the OTA Class of 2007 was very successful on their certification exam – 100% passing rate on their first attempt!

We also celebrated alumni weekend in April where Miss Edwinna Marshall was awarded the SAHP Trailblazer Award at the Saturday evening Alumni Recognition Banquet. The Trailblazer award is given to an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership that has greatly affected SAHP, service and sacrifice, as well as wisdom in dreaming and imagining ideas or projects that benefit the School of Allied Health Professions and mankind in general. We are all certain that she deserves this award! It was great to see Miss Marshall and recognize all the contributions she has made to our profession and to our school.

The Department Alumnus of the Year was awarded to Danielle Meglio and the Rising Star Awards went to Nicole Lussier (MOT class of 2008) and Carly Thorn (OTA class of 2008). The Homecoming Recognition Banquet welcomed many alumni, even from as far away as Hawaii, and we all enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with our alumni and recognize our current students.

The American Occupational Therapy Association's Centennial Vision states, "We envision that occupational therapy is a powerful, widely recognized, science-driven and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society's occupational needs." We certainly are 'on the move' as a profession!

Sincerely,

2008 CALENDAR

AUGUST:
CE Cruise to Mexico.....10-17
OCTOBER
OTAC Conference at Ontario,
CA Conf. Center.....10-12
NOVEMBER:
National Allied Health
Week.....2-8

AWARDS

APRIL 19 ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

Trailblazer: Edwinna Marshall
Distinguished Alum: Danielle Meglio '93
Rising Star: Carly Thorn (OTA) '08
& Nicole Lussier (MOT) '08

MAY 21 AWARDS CHAPEL

OT ASSISTANTS
Alumni Award: Jennifer Dollins
& Michelle Lara
Faculty Award: Michael Paden

MASTERS OF OT
Alumni Awards: Aaron Farley
& Chantel Harper
Faculty Award: Laura Gibson
& Kristin Hohensee

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OTA Students Participate in Community Activity



Several OTA students were involved in a community integration project on April 16, 2008 at Jasmin Terrace, a senior housing facility that offers assisted living in San Bernardino, CA. The purpose of their project was to gain experience and understanding of the aging population. In order to do this, the students developed an activity with the seniors centered on gardening. The students assisted their senior clients in transplanting several

types of plants into decorated pots. Each client was able to keep the plant they made as a memento of their day.

In addition to the hands-on occupational therapy, the students wanted to extend their activity to promote cognition. For this reason they developed different activities such as Guess this Plant/Flower. The winner of this game was rewarded with the plant. There was a discussion of famous gardens and landscapes, as well as effort to promote memory through reminiscing and general conversation. At the end of the activity, the clients were given four puzzles that they could keep at the center to use at any time.

The students enjoyed their time at Jasmin Terrace and left with feelings of accomplishment, camaraderie and pride. Their teamwork was such a hit with the seniors that they were asked to return with another activity.

Dr. Preethy Samuel Awarded Switzer Research Fellowship

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) has selected DDI's (Developmental Disabilities Institute) Dr. Preethy Samuel as one of a select group of Researchers nationwide to be the recipient of a 2008-2009 Switzer Research Fellowship. Dr. Samuel is a 2003 graduate of the Post Professional Master's in OT program from Loma Linda University's School of Allied Health Professions.

The Mary E. Switzer Research Fellowship Program was established to build rehabilitation capacity by providing support to qualified individuals to engage in scientific research relating to problems encountered by individuals with disabilities, or studies to improve the delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities. The fellowship program honors the memory of the late Mary E. Swit-

zer, whose extraordinary leadership, drive and dedication were the catalyst for legislation, programs and services that changed attitudes, enhanced employment opportunities, facilitated independence, and improved the quality of life for millions of people with disabilities and their families in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Samuel's research will explore the utility of the Family Quality of Life Survey (FQOLS) in assessing the impact of a family support and navigation one-stop program upon the quality of life of families of children with developmental disabilities.

*Taken from DDI's website
Wayne State University*



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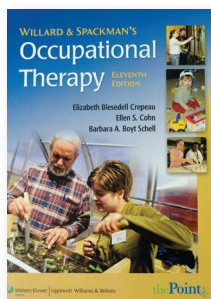


LA Leadership Forum Elects New Chair

Heather Thomas, MA, OTR/L, assistant professor in the OT department was elected Chair of the Los Angeles Occupational Therapy Leadership Forum for 2008-2009. This forum, which has been in existence for about 15 years, discusses and works to address pertinent issues that affect occupational therapy in the LA area and Southern California. About 20 members strong, this group is made up of leaders and directors of OT programs at healthcare facilities. They gather quarterly to hear presentations from other professionals and discuss any legislation that may change the way OTs practice.

OT Faculty Authors Chapter in Text

Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy, 11th Edition will include a new chapter authored by our very own Christy Billock, Ph.D., OTR/L, associate professor in the Occupational Therapy department.

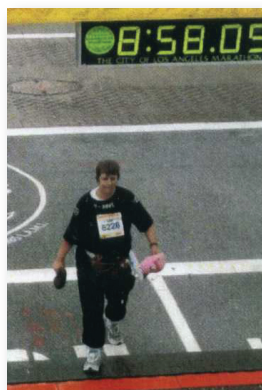


This market-leading text provides the most comprehensive and current presentation of occupational therapy concepts and practices. The Eleventh Edition reflects a greater emphasis on evidence and the growing focus on occupation as the basis for practice. Plus, this edition has greatly expanded its first-person narratives, offering unique insights into the experience of living with disease or disability. A new unit, Occupation and Health in Society, addresses social and health policy, health promotion, community integration, and occupational justice. Dr. Billock's chapter entitled "Spirituality, Occupation, and Occupational Therapy" is a perfect fit to the author's inclusion of chapters on spirituality, neuromuscular intervention techniques, the environment as a component of self, research and practice, facility-based practice, and more.

Esther Huecker, PhD, OTR also served on the editorial review board for this issue.

OTA Alum Finishes LA Marathon

The Los Angeles Marathon (LA Marathon) is run through the streets of the City of Angels every year on the first Sunday of March. For Kim Shaffer, OTA Class of 2004, the magic date was March 2, 2008. Kim successfully finished the marathon with a time of eight hours, 58 minutes and five seconds. Among the 17,348 participants, Kim placed 16,940.



PROFESS

OT Reunion in Long Beach

On April 10, 2008, an alumni reunion was held at Stefano's Pizza in the Shoreline Village in Long Beach, CA. Due to the large number of OT alumni in the area for the 88th Annual American Occupational Therapy Conference and Expo, the SAHP alumni office decided to provide lunch at the quaint outdoor restaurant. Alums who were in attendance enjoyed pizza, salad, exciting SAHP prizes, an update from the Dean, and the fellowship of their fellow OT graduates.



AOTA Honors SAHP Faculty & Alumni

The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) honored two SAHP faculty and one alumna at their 2008 Annual Conference and Expo in Long Beach, CA on April 12, 2008.

Esther Huecker, PhD, OTR/L, associate professor of Occupational Therapy, was chosen to receive the American Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Fellows. The Roster of Fellows recognizes members of AOTA who have made a significant contribution to the continuing education and professional development of members of the Association. In recognition of her contributions, the following statement appeared on her award: Innovation in Teaching, Research and Pediatric Practice.

Alumna, Major Sharon Newton, SP, MHS, OTR/L, '88, was given the Recognition of Achievement Award. Major Newton was recognized by her peers for the exemplary service she provides to our service men and women and their families. Currently, Major Newton is stationed at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA.

Heather Javaharian, OTD, OTR/L, associate professor in the OT department, was given a Service Award for her authorship of the position paper on domestic violence. This service award was given to Dr. Javaharian on the recommendation of her peers for the value of her paper entitled, "Domestic Violence Statement: Occupational Services for Individuals Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence."

"Such awards and honors only reinforce the pride I have in our alumni and faculty from the School of Allied Health Professions," says Dr. Craig Jackson, JD, MSW, Dean of the School of Allied Health. "I was honored to be in attendance of this special event and give my personal congratulations to our SAHP family."



Pictured left to right:
Esther Huecker, Maj. Sharon
Newton, Dr. Craig Jackson
(Heather Javaharian not pictured)

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We would love to hear about what's happening in your life.
Email photos and information to jpruehs@llu.edu.

Update your personal information online
by visiting the alumni website and clicking on
Stay Connected. To get there quickly, here's your link:
www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/stayconnected

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SAHP updates and so much more! You will find the sign up form on the Stay Connected page.*



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