University of Utah Occupational Therapy Graduate Accepted into the Peace Corp

Natalie will leave for Morocco in approximately 10 months and “Once in Morocco, I will live with a host family for 3-6 months while I learn the language and culture. Then the volunteer work really begins. It can be a specific job, like working in a classroom, or something very vague such as working on disability awareness, but with no guidelines or knowledge of community resources, etc.”

The Division of Occupational Therapy would like to congratulate Natalie on her persistence and tenacity in achieving this honor.

WFOT is hosting its international congress in Santiago, Chile May 4-7. WFOT is an organization that promotes occupational therapy as an art and science internationally. The Federation supports the development, use and practice of occupational therapy worldwide, demonstrating its relevance and contribution to society”, according to the mission statement on their website.

Two faculty members of the University of Utah Division of Occupational Therapy have been chosen to present to this gathering of international OT’s. Yda Smith, MOT, OTR/L, will be doing an oral presentation: Restoration of the Occupation of Weaving for Karen Refugee Women in the U.S. Her presentation is based on her work and the work of OT students Shane Warner, Vanessa Bangerter and Rachelle Boyce with the Karen Women’s Weaving group.

Dr. Tina McNulty, PhD, OTR/L, will be presenting a poster based on current research she is conducting. The title of her presentation is: Fulfilling occupational therapy’s full promise of occupation to persons with Parkinson’s disease: Integrating time geography strategies into traditional home-based occupational therapy services.
CAR FIT

"CarFit is an educational program created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with AAA (American Automobile Association), AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association. CarFit offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles “fit” them. The CarFit program also provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers, and/or increase their mobility in the community.” (CarFit website)

The University of Utah held the BeWell Family Health Fair in September and 3rd year OT students performed CarFit evaluations for 20 participants. At the Sunday Anderson Senior Citizen Center Health Fair (also in SLC), Dr. JoAnne Wright, Dr. Donna Costa and student Brian Gilles evaluated 10 adults. Additional students have done one on one evaluations with family members/neighbors as a part of their coursework.

ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The Division of Occupational Therapy is very grateful for our diverse and dedicated adjunct and auxiliary faculty. The clinicians who dedicate their time to their clients and also to their future colleagues are invaluable to our Division. The adjuncts and auxiliary teaching with us this spring, along with the classes they are teaching include the following:

- Kristi Ward, OT, Intro to Occupational Therapy
- Sam Delong, OT, Adult evaluations
- Kristanne Lewis, OT, Pediatric evaluations
- Lorinda Lynn, OT, Neuroanatomy
- Lee Dibble, PT, Neuroanatomy
- Bo Foreman, PT, Neuroanatomy

Thank you all for your contributions to the education of our students and future colleagues.

TIPS FOR EVALUATING EVIDENCE

Are you searching for evidence to support your practice but don’t know how to evaluate the quality of the study? There are many resources available to obtain this evidence, but it may be a challenge to determine the quality of a study. The American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACDPDM) developed levels of evidence used to categorize research:

Level I - Systematic review of randomized control trials where the n>100.
Level II - Smaller randomized control trials where the n<100 or Systematic review of cohort studies.
Level III - Cohort studies (must have concurrent control group), Systematic reviews of case control studies.
Level IV - Case series, Cohort study without concurrent control group (e.g. historical control group)
Level V - Expert opinion, Case study or report, Bench research, Expert opinion based on theory or physiologic research

Below is a conduct rating for Research with a Group Study Design

1. Were inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study population well described and followed?
2. Was the intervention well described and was there adherence to the intervention assignment?
3. Were the measures used clearly described, valid and reliable for measuring the outcome of interest?
4. Was the outcome assessor unaware of the intervention status of the participants (blind assessment)?
5. Did the authors conduct and report appropriate statistical evaluation including power calculations?
6. Were drop-out/loss to follow-up reported and less than 20%?
7. Considering the potential within the study design, were appropriate methods for controlling confounding variables and limiting potential biases used?

Strong = >6 yes to above questions, Moderate = 5 yes, Weak = 4 or less