Dr. JoAnne Wright announced this fall that she is stepping down to assume a faculty, research, and clinical position at the end of the 2011 spring semester. Hired in 1997 to develop the Occupational Therapy program, Dr. Wright has since served as the Division Chair. She was instrumental in obtaining approval from the university administration and board of regents in addition to legislative funding for the Division. Dr. Wright set a precedent of innovation in the field of Occupational Therapy and inspired her faculty, students, and the alumni to expand the profession of Occupational Therapy in Utah.

The Division recently initiated a national and international search for a new chair. The successful candidate must hold a research doctorate; have clinical, managerial and teaching experience; and specific experience supervising masters and doctoral level research. Dr. Wright and the faculty of the Division look forward to the opportunities presented by this change.

The Division of Occupational Therapy Seeks Chair

This fall the Division of Occupational Therapy sponsored the “AOTA Fieldwork Educator’s Certificate Workshop”. The Division contracted with AOTA’s presenters, Dr. Donna Costa and Jeanette Koski, who also serve as faculty members, to provide this workshop free of charge. This two-day training course covered topics including administration, supervision, and education as they relate to fieldwork in occupational therapy. The attendance proved large and participants reported learning a great deal whether they were new to fieldwork education or had years of experience. This skill based workshop used “hands-on” learning activities to facilitate deeper learning by participants.

Dr. Costa and Ms. Koski will continue to offer the AOTA Workshop upon request of OT FW educators in the region. If you are interested in hosting this workshop, contact Jeanette.Koski@hsc.utah.edu to obtain further information.

During the workshop the Division took the opportunity to recognize three outstanding fieldwork educators and are pictured with Ms. Koski above: Leanne Seckinger of the University of Utah, Nichole Bernhard of Intermountain Neurological Rehabilitation, and Paul Daybell of Kids on the Move in Provo Utah. This award is presented annually at the Fieldwork Educator’s Conference. Please watch for nomination forms in the fall, and nominate a colleague, your former fieldwork educator, or even yourself!
**Student Research Project Focus**

The students of the University of Utah Division of Occupational Therapy complete research projects that are presented in the capstone semester of their third year. The students, under the direction of a faculty sponsor, develop projects that range from single case studies to intervention studies using quantitative and/or qualitative designs. The Division is always interested in project ideas from therapists practicing in the community. Also, many practicing occupational therapists participate as committee members on these projects. Below are projects from the Class of 2011.

**David Gray & Neil Scott**
A Study of the Effects of Blast Explosions on Visual Functioning Related to Academic Performance: A Pilot Study

**Phillip Boyer & Rachael Frakes**
Collaborating with Peer Mentors in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation: A Disability Studies Perspective

**Brett Christensen & Amy Gneiting**
Development of an Occupation-Based Assessment of Executive Function, Utilizing Web-Based Technology

**Cindy Davis & Katharine Robinson**
Supporting Nutrition and Active Play for Preschool Youngsters (SNAPPY), A Community-Based Program

**Ros Stone & Erin Williams**
Comparison of Household Task Participation Patterns Among Children With and Without Physical Disabilities

**Tina Frye & Michelle Lee**
Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy: Activity Participation for Frail Elders with Depressive Symptoms

**Andriana Doulis & Steve Hansen**
The Relationship Between Participation in Household Tasks and Community Participation for Young Adolescents With and Without Asperger’s Syndrome or High Functioning Autism

**Stephanie Stephenson, Michelle Gibson, & Vanessa Watson**
The Evolution of a Traditional Occupation: Contextual Impact on Weaving for Karen Refugee Women

**Sarah Long, Lindsay Thrall, & Charles Toone**
The Philosophical Professional: Embracing Underground Practice

**Daniel Aldama, Ashkii Allen, & Chelsea Richardson**
The Relationship between Time Geography Patterns and Resilience In People with Parkinson’s Disease

**Crystal Roderick & Danielle Stocking**
Perceptions of Caregivers of People with Dementia

**Mike Ewell & Bryan Gillies**
An Analysis of CarFit Data: 2007-2009

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**University of Utah Pre-OT Club**

Pre-OT students started an active club that provides service projects to the community and meets regularly to provide support to each other as they work to prepare their application to the Occupational Therapy program.

[www.health.utah.edu/ot/PreOT](http://www.health.utah.edu/ot/PreOT)

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**New Online Resource for FW Educators**

- Fieldwork manual assistance
- Links to Medicare and Medicaid student guidelines
- Links to ACOTE Standards
- Fieldwork forms
- Level I and Level II Fieldwork objectives

[www.health.utah.edu/ot/FieldworkEducators.html](http://www.health.utah.edu/ot/FieldworkEducators.html)
THAILAND-BURMA STUDY ABROAD

The University of Utah International Education/Study Abroad now offers a program entitled “Bridging Borders: Burma, Thailand, & the United States.” In this program, Dr. Yda Smith and Trinh Mai take a group of students to the “tropical, mountainous border of Thailand and Burma” to work in refugee camps. The group will share resources and provide workshops while learning about the history, politics, and culture of the region. Please see the website for additional information:

www.health.utah.edu/ot/InternationalOpportunities/ThailandBurma.html

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY OPENING NEW LIFE SKILLS CLINIC

With Kasey Mitchell MS, OTR/L as Clinic Manager, the Division of Occupational Therapy Faculty and Staff are working to open the “Life Skills Clinic” at 540 Arapeen Drive, directly across the street from the Division’s current location. This clinic is slated to open early 2011. The model for this clinic is community-based and will provide opportunities for clients to explore and develop life skills to assist them in participating in life more fully. In conjunction with treatments to a variety of client populations, many of them currently underserved, the clinic will also add to students’ hands-on and research experiences.

One of the three practice areas that will open the clinic is low-vision/aging-in-place. The clinic hired Dr. Bradley Freestone, one of the few low vision optometrists in the state, to provide low vision evaluations and work closely with the clinic’s low-vision trained therapists, JoAnne Wright, PhD., OTR/L, CLVT and Kasey Mitchell, MS, OTR/L. Dr. Freestone is also trained in vision therapy for children and will develop that area of practice at the clinic.

Mastering Meaningful Movement will move from 520 Wakara Way to the Life Skills Clinic and expand its services under the direction of Dr. Yda Smith and therapists trained in her method.

Beth Cardell, MS, OTR/L will head a community-based program for people with developmental delays and/or traumatic brain injury to improve participation in home and community occupations.

The Division is very excited to support occupational therapy practice in Utah and looks forward to developing additional programs in the near future. We also enjoy discovering new collaborations with therapists already working in a variety of practice areas. The Life Skills Clinic will reflect the wide range of practice that occupational therapy as a profession embraces while helping others gain skills in participation and find quality-of-life.

For further information, please contact the clinic at 801-585-6837 or Kasey Mitchell at Kasey.Mitchell@hsc.utah.edu.
Why an OTD?
- Develop leadership skills
- Implement evidence-based practice
- Conduct clinical research
- Improve writing skills
- Update body of knowledge
- Establish expertise in practice
- Gain expertise in teaching
- Contribute to the profession
- Learn with colleagues

Why the University of Utah?
- Well-known OT program
- Completely on-line
- Occupation-based curriculum
- Knowledgeable faculty
- Affordable Tuition

The University of Utah offers a Post-Professional distance education OTD program. There are two tracks for Occupational Therapists trained at both the baccalaureate and master’s degree levels. Applications must be received by March 15, 2011 for Summer enrollment. For more information, visit: [http://www.health.utah.edu/ot/OTD](http://www.health.utah.edu/ot/OTD) or contact Donna Costa: 801-581-4248 ~ donna.costa@hsc.utah.edu