STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
NIKOLAI WEDEKIND, OTS
RANDOM DEPLOYMENT SEGWAYS, vol. 1

Looks like we’re getting closer to coming home. The air is cooling off a little. The infamous Afghan wind is dying down periodically. The dust remains in copious amounts. This trip to Afghanistan has most definitely been a character building experience. Because the day-to-day of what we do is either classified or highly repetitive, I have prepared a collection of random observations that I would like to share for your ridicule/enjoyment.

Sandeep, who works at the AAFES barber, actually enjoys cutting hair. He really appreciates it when his customers ask for something other than the “high and tight” (much to the chagrin of my leadership). Hence, we got to talking as he styled my preference with the texturizing scissors; as you can imagine, they don’t get a lot of use. Top it off with some styling product with a name that I can’t read or pronounce. Whatever. Look, I have a modeling career to get back to back home, okay? I’ve been working on a new look while holding exceedingly heavy weapons. Hope you enjoy the picture. After that’s all said and done, we’ll catch a shuttle bus to “eat out” on the Italian side of the base (yeah, sans date). Saturday nights are typically the busiest, but it’s also the night that you want to go out that way for the “premium fare”. Most of us would say the food is pretty good, but we ARE on deployment. At least it’s a break from the stuff that we usually get, such as “chicken ranch bites”. More chicken ranch bites, anyone? What the h*ll are chicken ranch bites, anyway? The name is misleading. None of us have been able to positively identify any of the ingredients.

(Continued on next page)
At the start of the rainy season with its high humidity and high temps, Dr. JoAnne Wright along with Kathy Mills, a wheelchair technician with LDS Charities, provided a week-long training in Vientiane, the capital city of the People’s Democratic Republic of Lao. The invitation was extended by the Deseret International Charities, the National Rehabilitation Centre in Lao PDR, World Education, and Grapes for Humanity US Inc. Participants were from the National Wheelchair Center and four provincial health centers located in the rural areas of Lao PDR.

The course enhanced the skills of the trainees in wheelchair construction, assessment of clients, and wheelchair provision systems. A key component of the training related to the importance of educating the person who receives the wheelchair in the care and use of the new chair. The center builds custom fit wheelchairs and trikes and now has the expertise to provide two other styles of wheelchairs, as well as more appropriate recipient evaluation and training. Theory with practical hands-on training is provided an important component of education that will be used throughout this small country.

Lao PDR is a small land-locked country bordered by Thailand, China, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Burma that still bears the impact of the war in Viet Nam and other regional unrest. The people are resourceful and looking for ways to positively impact their country and their destiny. There is a research project related to wheelchair provision currently being conducted by a visiting Luce Scholar with World Education. It was a productive week with cultural, as well as educational sharing.

Dr. Wright is a member of the LDS Humanitarian Wheelchair Initiative Advisory Board and has provided wheelchair provision training in two locations in Ukraine. She was one of 25 worldwide delegates selected to attend the World Health Organization (WHO) and USAID’s Training of Experts for the new Wheelchair Service Training Package (WSTP) in Washington, DC this past summer. She will travel to Turkey this fall with another member of the advisory committee to teach the WHO WSTP provision model to faculty from various physical therapy schools in that country.
CREATIVE OCCUPATIONS
ADAM PERKINS, Class of 2014

The creative occupations course (OCTH 6040), taken summer semester first year, is NOT a craft class! Class activities may include:

- Kite-, Quilt-, Coaster-, and Jewelry-Making
- Solar Baking
- Salsa Dancing
- Knitting
- Cupcake Decorating
- Four Square
- Jumproping
- Marbles
- Hopscotch
- Relay Race
- Shadow Puppetry
- Origami

So, you might be saying to yourself, “Sounds like a craft class to me!” Well, it’s not. This class is carefully designed to hone in on and improve activity analysis skills of class members. As occupational therapists, we have a special niche in the field of healthcare to analyze a client’s ability to successfully perform occupational tasks and activities. Other professionals will look to us to break down the components of an activity, discover which components the client is struggling with and which they are successful in, and make recommendations on how to adapt the activity to meet the client’s needs and abilities. It is through this process of activity analysis that we exercise the creative aspects of our minds and profession.

The creative occupations course achieves this goal by requiring student groups to instruct classmates on an activity that they have never done before. This requires them to learn how to do the activity before teaching others about it, (a common requirement for practicing occupational therapists). After doing most activities, students do in-class assignments that require them to discover how to grade the activity up or down, discover what physical and cognitive skills are necessary to complete it, give explicit, detailed instructions on how to complete it, and design an activity to be used in a clinical setting.

The class is well-instructed by none other than our very own Dr. Beth Cardell. She does an excellent job of making the class instructive, fun, and challenging, and applicable to our profession. Not only is it a great way to learn about how to be a successful occupational therapist, the class is also fun!

LIFE SKILLS CLINIC
by JoANNE WRIGHT, PhD, OTR/L, CLVT

Outreach seems to be the descriptor for events as of late for the Life Skills Clinic. In September the Clinic, in conjunction with Rocky Mountain Low Vision, hosted a Vision Awareness Open House with interactive displays and information. Serendipitously in October, our own Dr. Brad Freestone was featured on a KSL news piece (at 1:53) by John Hollenhorst. This exposure added to the number of people that were invited to the first meeting of the Utah Low Vision Consortium. The meeting was standing room only with low vision providers and clients. The goal of this consortium is to better showcase the services available to clients with low vision throughout the state. With more and more people experiencing low vision and the current difficulty of finding services to access for independence, functionality, and quality of life, it was thought that a consortium might be the perfect way to start the process of getting the word out. If you are interested in being part of this consortium or would like more information, contact the group at utahlowvisionconsortium@gmail.com.

Through these events and direct marketing, as well as presentations to groups, we are getting the word out about the low vision of the Life Skills Clinic. Stay tuned for more exciting events and program coming soon!

Life Skills Clinic
540 Arapeen Drive, Suite 200
SLC, UT 84108
www.health.utah.edu/ot/LifeSkillsClinic
TO ANATOMY AND BEYOND!

I started teaching as a TA in the gross anatomy lab when I was a student in the University of Utah's MOT program. After graduating in 2007, I continued as an Adjunct Instructor while working as a home health contractor. About three years later I returned to studenthood at the U to work on my PhD. Over the last few years I have had the opportunity to teach anatomy and/or neuroanatomy in some capacity for OT, PT, Biological and Mechanical Engineering, and the School of Medicine and have completed a certification as a Higher Education Teaching Specialist. With the help of OT (Dr. Beth Cardell), PT (Dr. Bo Foreman), and the School of Medicine (Dr. David Morton) faculty, I have developed a challenging anatomy course specific to the needs of OTs. Because I am in the relatively unique position of being both an anatomist and an OT, I often have the opportunity to act as a consultant to anatomists throughout the country on the topic of anatomy education for OTs.

I currently am a full time PhD student in Rehabilitation Science on the neuromuscular adaptations track. My research is in postural control and fall prevention in Parkinson disease, and I am currently involved in a project that will help develop virtual reality training to potentially improve balance and reduce falls in people with PD. I love OT, and I am excited about being involved in research projects that scientifically back rehab interventions. Outside of work I am mother to a young teenager and am active in my church.

FIELDWORK EDUCATOR CORNER by JEANETTE KOSKI, MS, OTR/L

Each year the Division of Occupational Therapy recognizes select Utah OTs based on their contributions to the education of future OT practitioners. Academic Fieldwork Coordinators Jeanette Koski MS, OTR/L from the U and Lorian Helgeson MS, OTD from Salt Lake Community College's OTA program selected and announced the recipients at the recent FW Educators Conference entitled Serving the Profession through Fieldwork Education. The 2012 awards went to Jamie Phillips of OT Solutions, Amy Holtz of St. Marks, and a joint award for Lesa Stone, Michelle Montague, and Jean Askvig. Congratulations to these OT practitioners. Their dedication to our future colleagues is greatly appreciated.