DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The University of Utah, Division of Occupational Therapy celebrated the 10th anniversary of our program on April 2nd, 2010. We had 200 of our faculty, alumni, students and guests join us at the Health Professions Education Building for the party. There were various activities and trivia to participate in such as “History of the OT Program: How much do you know?”, a kids play area, a display of the class quilts and a slide show of pictures taken throughout the 10 years of the program. The Karen Women’s Weaving Group were also there with some of their hand-made items to sell. Alumni who could not attend were able to have messages posted to their fellow class members so that they, too, could share in the event.

We want to thank all who were able to attend and those who helped make the party a success.
**Refugee Resettlement: Emerging Practice Fieldwork Opportunity**

The Division of Occupational Therapy at the University of Utah, thanks to Yda Smith, is in the lead in the nation for creating innovative fieldwork education opportunities. Students within our program have participated in Level I and Level II fieldwork at Hartland—University Neighborhood Partners, Hser Ner Moo Community Center and the International Rescue Committee. Until this time, Level II Fieldwork has only been offered in the summer, making it difficult to have programs that once started by students could be carried over with the refugees. Therefore the Division of Occupational Therapy has recently opened this fieldwork opportunity to schools across the country.

According to the AOTA document *OT Fieldwork Education: Value and Purpose* “fieldwork placements...present the opportunity to introduce occupational therapy services to new and emerging practice environments.” Our Refugee Resettlement fieldwork placement is an opportunity for collaboration with community agencies, to promote the occupational therapy profession, and help this population develop the skills for living in the United States.

At this time, 25 schools have requested information, 8 contracts are underway, 4 students have been interviewed and our first student from another school will be joining our U of U students this summer.

**Frank Kronenberg: International Guest Speaker Visits Division of OT**

Frank Kronenberg OT, spoke to University of Utah OT students, Salt Lake Community College OTA students, and attendees of a UOTA workshop in April 2010. Mr. Kronenberg is an international lecturer and author of two books: “Occupational Therapy Without Borders, Learning From the Spirit of Survivors” and “A Political Practice of Occupational Therapy”. He encouraged occupational therapists to reach out and advocate on an international scale for the profession and for people’s rights to occupation. He reminded the participants what it means to be a survivor depending on where you are from and what events are impacting occupation in that country. Frank lives in South Africa and has a non-profit organization called “Shades of Black” which raises awareness in racial issues.

For more information, visit: www.shades-of-black.co.za.
CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2010

We want to congratulate the Occupational Therapy class of 2010 on their successful graduation from the MOT program. There were 26 graduates—30% of whom are male. This represents a 30% increase over the number of graduating males in 2009. There are 2 students who earned their specialty certification in pediatrics. We would like to honor Madelyn Champlin and Danni Bourne for their achievements in the pediatric specialty.

FACULTY PRACTICE CLINIC

The Division of Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice Clinic is moving forward. According to clinic manager, Kasey Mitchell, we are currently in property negotiations for clinic space that is close to the OT school. We are working out the various details such as billing, insurance provider enrollment, Medicare and Medicaid enrollment and policies and procedures that will allow the clinic to function. The first program the clinic will start with will be to provide low vision occupational therapy services. These services will include a low vision optometrist that will work out of our clinic to enhance the care provided to patients with low vision needs. Our clinic will also collaborate closely with the University of Utah student clinics associated with physical therapy and speech therapy. If everything continues to progress we will be opening early this Fall.

FIELDWORK EDUCATORS CERTIFICATE WORKSHOP

This one goes out to all our fantastic fieldwork educators: those who currently train our students and those who are considering this professional activity in the future. Educating students in professional settings can be rewarding in so many ways including professional development and service, but it can also be a bit daunting. There are student programs to set up, feedback to give and evaluations to complete. During our training to become OT practitioners, we learn many theories and skills, but there is little to no time spent to prepare us for our role as a fieldwork educators.

Donna Costa and Jeanette Koski have now become certified trainers for the “Fieldwork Educator Certificate Program”. They will be presenting a workshop in the fall for people who would like to learn new skills or hone their skills in this area. The 2-day workshop will cover administration concepts, supervision styles, education and evaluation. These subject areas include techniques for giving feedback, information about setting up or improving your student program and scoring the AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation, and much more. Please feel free to contact Jeanette by email or phone if you have any questions: jeanette.koski@hsc.utah.edu, 801-585-3133. As soon as dates and locations are solidified, you will be notified.
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