

# OT FIELDWORK CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

## UNIVERSITY OF MARY

### Fieldwork News

Welcome to the first edition of the UMary Fieldwork Connection. This newsletter will contain information pertaining to fieldwork education, our curriculum, and special topics of interest written by various faculty. I hope you find the newsletter informative and useful. If you have any suggestions about the newsletter, please feel free to contact me at [canderson@umary.edu](mailto:canderson@umary.edu).

**FW Education:** I am pleased to report that the University of Mary will be hosting an AOTA Fieldwork Certificate Workshop in 2010. This is an exciting opportunity for participants to integrate learning theories with supervision models and develop strategies to support best practice in fieldwork education. Tentative dates for this workshop are **September 24 & 25, 2010**. To learn more about this exciting new certificate program, register for the event, and find other Fieldwork Certificate Workshops in your area, visit AOTA's website at

<http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/ProfDev/CE/Aota/Fieldwork.aspx>.

I've also provided some additional online resources for learning more about clinical supervision. They include: 1) learning modules at [www.preceptor.ca](http://www.preceptor.ca), 2) Queensland OT Clinical Education at <http://www.qotfc.edu.au/clinical/index.html?action=sitemap>, and 3) E-Tips for Practice Education at [www.practiceeducation.ca](http://www.practiceeducation.ca).

**FW Forms:** The 2008 revisions to the AOTA FW Data Form have been completed and have been posted online at: <http://www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/Fieldwork/Supervisor/Forms/38270.aspx>. The form is available in MS word and can be downloaded and saved. If you have not already done so, please download and complete this form. It can then be emailed to me, as well as any other OT programs you work with.

**FW Dates:** Our Level I FW dates are set for **March 8-12, 2010**. Thanks to

all of you who have offered to supervise students for this important learning experience.

Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, the clinical community, for your continued support of the UMary OT program. Your dedication to student education is greatly appreciated!

Cindy Anderson, OTD, OTR/L

Academic FW Coordinator

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### Letter from the Program Director

Greetings from the University of Mary! There are many exciting changes occurring within the Occupational Therapy Program as well as the University. I am sure many of you are aware that Sr. Thomas Welder retired after serving the University for 33 years as President. We are very excited to welcome Father James Shea as our new President.

The Occupational Therapy Program has record numbers of students and is now within the top 10 majors on campus. Thank you for all you do in recruiting students to this wonderful and rewarding profession. Many students come to campus sharing stories of the occupational therapists they have met and how they have influenced their career choices.

There have been changes to the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy Exam. The exam now includes

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### Letter from PD (cont'd)

a section of clinical simulation, which involves a brief case scenario and students must determine which screenings, assessments, interventions and discharge plans are most appropriate. The exam has 3 clinical simulation sections, as well as multiple choice questions. To help graduating students better prepare for the exam, Therapy Ed will provide a 2 day educational workshop in December at the University of Mary.

I am very pleased to share that in December of 2009, all faculty in the OT program will have doctorate degrees. Some faculty have PhD degrees, while others have OT Doctorates. This creates a nice balance within the teaching faculty and also models for students the importance of life-long learning.

I would like to extend an invitation to contact me if you ever have any questions about the OT program or curriculum at the University of Mary. My email address is [jsibla@umary.edu](mailto:jsibla@umary.edu). Thank you very much for providing our students with quality fieldwork experiences. You truly are the link that ties it all together.

Blessings!

Janeene Sibla, OTD, OTR/L

Associate Professor and OT Program Director

[jsibla@umary.edu](mailto:jsibla@umary.edu)

## Year 2 Curriculum

Fall semester is well underway with the second year OT students learning all about working with individuals in the early lifespan. This semester's courses include OT Issues II, Occupational Engagement: Infant through Preschool, and Human Health. In OT Issues, we cover several topics, including health promotion, laws and agencies impacting services to children, documentation and writing goals, reimbursement, ethics, and OT/OTA collaboration. Some special activities that take place with this class are the Families as Mentors program and a health promotion. Families as Mentors is where each student spends approximately 8 hours with a family that has a child who has a disability to get a parent's perspective on navigating the system and receiving services. Backpack safety was the health promotion topic for this year. Student groups presented how to correctly pack and carry a backpack

to sixth graders in the Bismarck Public Schools. In Occupational Engagement, we talk about evaluations and interventions with children birth to five years old. We also cover normal development in depth, assessment tools, oral motor/feeding, NDT, and sensory integration/sensory processing disorders this semester. Hands-on experiences in this class include our baby lab, where OT and PT students collaborate to evaluate movement, reflex, vision and hearing development of infants from 2 weeks to one year old, then write a report on their findings; and a preschool lab where students observe 2, 3, 4, and 5 year old children at United Tribes Technical College preschool to compare normal development of children of the different ages. In the Human Health class, students learn about different conditions and disorders typically affecting children and adoles-

**"Education is not the filling of the pail, but the lighting of a fire."**

**William Butler Yeats**

cents, such as genetic conditions, neurological disorders, musculoskeletal disorders, Autism, ADHD, TBI, mental health disorders, and learning disabilities to name a few. They should be ready to get out there for Level I FW experiences in March.

Submitted by

Carol H. Olson, PhD, OTR/L

Associate Professor

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## Year 1 Update

A detailed analysis of the first year curriculum, resulted in a revision of the sequence of first year topics. To increase student learning, the Practice Framework is now taught within the first month of the program. This helps students see the big picture of the scope of practice and provides an understanding of how each section of the curriculum is relevant to occupational therapy practice. As a result,

students have a better understanding of theory and recognize the importance of topics addressed in the first semester. Activity analysis is now taught within the first few weeks in the program. This provides students with a foundation to evaluate a variety of activities in detail throughout the first year and improves their clinical reasoning.

Submitted by

Terrance Anderson, OTD, OTR/L

Associate Professor

## *Occupational Therapy: Living Life to Its Fullest*

## Year 3 Curriculum

The graduate (3<sup>rd</sup>) year students are very busy this semester! They are studying the adult populations in their classes, learning about disease processes, assessments and interventions used with adult populations. In neuroscience, students learn about how the brain works and what daily function or occupations are impacted when stroke or brain injury occurs. We focus on the biomechanical and rehabilitation frames of reference in this semester. These include information about assessment and intervention related to dressing, transfers, wheelchairs, driving, work programs, and home assessments. Students were involved with CARFIT, a program sponsored by AOTA, AARP, and AAA designed to help older drivers to "fit" well in

their vehicles. CARFIT's goal is to "address red flag concerns...to offer basic suggestions and demonstrate readily available devices, to offer education, and provide information about specialized resources available in our state, such as Driver Rehabilitation Programs" (AOTA, 2009). Seventeen 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are certified CARFIT technicians, and they participated in a CARFIT event in Jamestown in October. Students did a great job providing older drivers with information about adjusting seatbelts, headrests, seat heights, and mirrors to help them "fit" in their vehicles and keep them on the road longer and safely. Sixteen more students will be certified CARFIT technicians in the spring. Third year

students are also busy learning physical agent modalities and splinting this semester. We are excited to have Annie Crary, a certified hand therapist / practitioner from our community teaching this course.

Submitted by

Wanda Berg, PhD, OTR/L

Assistant Professor



## New Anatomy/Kinesiology Course

As we started a new academic year, we introduced a new course for the fall semester, Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology I. The course is being co-taught by Dr. Cindy Anderson, OTR/L and Jennifer Schroeder, MS, OTR/L. This is the first course of a two-part sequence in Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology. The course provides a detailed study of the science of human movement in the context of activity from biomechanical, neuromuscular, and anatomical perspec-

tives. Students will learn bony landmarks and the musculoskeletal system of the human body underlying occupational therapy assessment and intervention with a focus on the abdomen, back and shoulder. The course includes principles and methodology of posture, movement analysis, muscle strength testing, and joint range of motion testing. Students will learn muscle palpation, manual muscle testing, range of motion, and motion analysis. Students

are also provided with case stories to further apply their knowledge to clinical scenarios. Next semester the course continues as Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology II, focusing on the forearm/hand, lower extremity and head/neck.

Submitted by Jennifer Schroeder,  
MS, OTR/L

OT Program Instructor