Reflections from the Chairperson — Judy Beck Ericksen, Ph.D., OTR/L

This past October the OT Program quietly marked its 40th anniversary. I regret that we missed the opportunity to celebrate at Homecoming. Etown alumni are a remarkable group of individuals who regularly make substantive contributions to the field and to their communities. We can’t celebrate that enough.

Many of you will remember that the program was developed in the early 1970s with a grant from the Veteran’s Administration. Doris Gordon, M.S., OTR, was named as the first Department Chairperson. In 1973 the program became operational with a total of 40 students at the freshman and sophomore years. At the time there were four full-time faculty members who were occupational therapists, including the program director. Faculty shared the responsibility of visiting fieldwork sites. The first class graduated in 1976 with 12 students earning a B.S. in Occupational Therapy.

Over the past 40 years the program has doubled in size, from approximately 100 students in four cohorts, to over 200 students in five cohorts. We currently have nine OT faculty members plus an academic fieldwork coordinator. Our list of fieldwork sites has grown from 26 to over 300. The college has conferred entry-level degrees in occupational therapy to 779 students at the Bachelor’s level and 218 students at the Master’s level. This May we will graduate our 1,000th student. That is an accomplishment to celebrate!

I am able to forgive our anniversary oversight given the energy and activity level in Esbenshade which seems to increase every year. The contents of this newsletter highlight some of these events. This year is particularly busy as we are immersed in a self-study for ACOTE re-accreditation. The program was last accredited in December 2003 and although we are constantly evaluating our program outcomes, the self-study process creates an opportunity to systematically and critically examine what we do and how we do it. Those of you who have experienced external accreditation will know that the process is simultaneously daunting, overwhelming, invigorating, and totally engaging. Our self-study document is due in June, and we are planning for a site visit in late September. As part of that site visit we will be inviting alumni, employers, and fieldwork supervisors to campus to meet with the review team. Hopefully some of you will be able to join us.

As always, you can contact me at ericksenjl@etown.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Welcome to Jean Dietrich, administrative assistant

Jean Dietrich joined the OT Department as the Administrative Assistant this past fall. Jean has been an Elizabethtown College employee since 2006 when she started working part-time in the Event Scheduling Office. She also worked in the college’s Mail Services from 2010 – 2012. Jean lives in Elizabethtown with her husband and two daughters.

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FACULTY & STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Achenbach, C., Baumer†, C., Davis†, N., & Musyt†, S. (2012, September 28). Survey research on SPD and attachment issues. [Short session]. Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Lancaster, PA.


† Graduates from the master’s class of 2012. ‡ Current senior students. *Alumni

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS


† Graduates from the master’s class of 2012.

PUBLICATIONS


*Alumni

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

For the past two years, senior Jenna Niedermayer was named the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Field Athlete of the Year. In June of 2012, Jenna competed in the NCAA DIII Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the Triple Jump. She placed 15th in this national competition. In addition, Jenna holds indoor and outdoor Etown College records in the long and triple jumps. Jenna has been contending in track and field events since 6th grade and says that sports provide a sense of discipline and focus that permeates her academic work. She acknowledges that her dedication and determination to the sport is hard work but that it pays off. The struggles and challenges prepare her to engage in future inspiring experiences. Jenna is also one of the Captains of the Women’s Track and Field team where she provides support and mentoring to the other athletes. Congratulations, Jenna, on your outstanding achievements both in and out of the classroom.
Please join us for the
Occupational Therapy Graduate Research Symposium 2013
April 22, 2013

Exploring Clinical Approaches for Children with Attachment Issues and Sensory Dysregulation
Jessica Impellizzeri, B.S., MOTS, & Ashton Morgan, B.S., MOTS

Exploring Perspectives of Adolescents with Asperger’s about the Occupation of Dating
Natalie Jensen, B.S. MOTS, Ruth Wentz, B.S., MOTS, & Lauren Young, B.S., MOTS

Developing the Electronic-Movement Analysis Tool (E-MAT):
Assessing Clinical Utility through Case Study
Chelsie Miller, B.S., MOTS

Outcomes of a Fall Prevention Program for Community-Dwelling Elders
Amanda F. Martin, B.S., MOTS, Heather M. Slifko, B.S., MOTS, &
Andrea L. Weaver, B.S., MOTS

Women’s Retrospective Perspectives of their Mother-Child Relationship
during Recovery from Intimate Partner Violence
Caitlin Grimes, B.S., MOTS, Catherine Merk, B.S., MOTS, &
Andrea Raffensperger, B.S., MOTS

A Systematic Review of Interventions in Families’ Routines and Rituals:
An Occupational Therapy Perspective
Chelsea A. Gibson, B.S., MOTS, & Sarah R. Hardy, B.S., MOTS

Metastatic Breast Cancer and the Impact on Activities and Participation
Rachel Hensberger, B.S., MOTS, Kacey McGuire, B.S., MOTS, & Cassie Savitz, B.S., MOTS

Exploring How Constraint-induced Movement Therapy (CIMT) Affects Family Routines:
One Family’s Perspective
Kristen Berzonsky, B.S., MOTS, Brittani M. Nelson, B.S., MOTS, & Emily Ulrich, B.S., MOTS

Development of the Electronic Hand Assessment Tool (E-HAT):
Further Analysis of Reliability and Validity Measures
Holly Naradko, B.S., MOTS

Play and Social Participation: Children with Congenital Heart Defects
Compared to Typically Developing Peers
Kristen Chaney, B.S., MOTS, Elisabeth Sharpe, B.S., MOTS, & Lauren Watt, B.S., MOTS

Real-time Motion Capture Technology: Developing a Tool for Motor Control Rehabilitation
Dana Michelle Richmond, B.S., MOTS

In addition, several presentations will be provided by senior students.
2012 ALUMNI AWARDS

The department recognized distinguished alumna, **Mark J. Dreibelbis**, OTR/L, CHT ('76), with the *Doris Gordon Alumni Award*. Mark was a member of the Spinal Cord team while working at the Reading Rehabilitation Hospital from 1976 to 1978. From 1978 – 1987, Mark worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Reading in general rehabilitation. Mark was also employed as the Department Head while at St. Joseph Hospital. In 1987, Mark opened his own private practice, Berks Hand Therapy Center, located in Wyomissing, PA. This practice employs OTs and PTs who provide a full range of upper extremity rehabilitation. Mark received certification in hand therapy (CHT) in 2001.

**Susan Martin Touchinsky** ('00) received the *Distinguished Young Alumni Award*. Susie is a master clinician at Genesis Rehabilitation Services in practice areas of Dementia as well as in Driving. She demonstrates leadership through her expertise as a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist and a volunteer and trainer for the CarFit program. Most recently, Susie co-authored a chapter in the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Self-Paced Clinical Course, “Driving & Community Mobility: Occupational Therapy Strategies Across the Lifespan.” Susie and her husband own the Healthy Habits Natural Market (Orwigsburg, PA), a store that encourages healthy lifestyles and features various educational and support activities, including a monthly support group for those living with Dementia & Alzheimer’s and/or their families & caregivers.

Fieldwork Corner

By Chris Achenbach, M.Ed, OTR/L

We are grateful for all of you who support the future of occupational therapy by mentoring and supervising fieldwork students. You are helping to ensure that the job vacancies you have today will be filled soon! **You can also claim 1 Professional Development Unit per level I student and up to 12 for a level II student** — great news for those of you needing hours for your NBCOT recertification or possibly for renewing a state license. In this spring (2013) alone, our clinical educators are providing 6800 hours of level I fieldwork to 85 students.

Our level II fieldwork numbers are:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percentage Increase</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>+ 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>+ 63%</td>
</tr>
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Wow – do you see any trends here?!?

Due to increasingly larger cohorts of students, the next few years present some new opportunities for us. At the AOTA annual program directors/fieldwork coordinators’ meeting this past October, the other 350 OT and OTA staff reported similar increases. We appreciate that this puts pressure on all fieldwork sites around the country. Please consider how we can serve these students creatively, whether splitting a student with a new fieldwork educator, taking 2 students at a time, or other ideas you may have. I will be happy to help facilitate new approaches to fieldwork supervision. Most of Etown’s level II fieldworks occur in the summer, but a small handful occur in the fall.

If you are considering supervising, please visit AOTA’s website at [http://www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/Fieldwork/Supervisor/Forms/38251.aspx?FT=.pdf](http://www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/Fieldwork/Supervisor/Forms/38251.aspx?FT=.pdf) to complete a self-assessment of your fieldwork educator competency and set some goals for yourself. You can also attend one of AOTA’s Fieldwork Educator Certificate Programs, for which I am a trainer. The next locally offered course is planned for **April 5-6, 2013 at Lancaster General Hospital**. Go to [http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/ProfDev/CE/Aota/Fieldwork.aspx](http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/ProfDev/CE/Aota/Fieldwork.aspx) to search for this and other available courses.

Please contact me if you want to support Etown’s OT program and the OT profession by providing fieldwork experiences for a future occupational therapist, or if you want information about hosting a Fieldwork Educator Certificate course. You can reach me at 717-361-1146 or achenbachc@etown.edu.
Over the past year, Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), Elizabethtown's Occupational Therapy Honor Society, has been involved in various projects both on and off campus. Two of PTE’s members presented a lecture relative to the impact of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on occupational functioning to the campus community, and four PTE members presented at the 2012 POTA conference in Lancaster. PTE students have also been active in AOTA’s National Student Conclave, as two of our members attended this conference in Columbus, OH the fall. As a whole, PTE’s membership has grown over the past year. We inducted 20 new members last spring, and are set to induct 13 more new members this coming March. The Elizabethtown chapter of PTE is excited to continue on and off campus activities to promote the understanding of occupational therapy throughout the community!
By Chris Achenbach & Kerri Hample

On September 28 & 29, 2012, the 35th annual Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association conference was held in Lancaster. We give a huge shout out of thanks to the following Elizabethtown College faculty and alumni for their awesome work!

**Local Conference Co-Chairs:** Chris Achenbach, M.Ed, OTR/L, ‘86 & Kerri Hample, OTD, OTR/L  
**Program:** Angela Salvadia, DEd, OTR/L, ‘79 & Tamara Humbert, DEd, OTR/L  
**Special Events:** Traci Bruno, MS, OTR/L, ‘11 & Meredith (Wisz) Judge, MS, OTR/L, ‘11  
**Exhibit Hall:** Chelsea Miles, MS, OTR/L, ‘11 & Alyssa Paranto, MS, OTR/L, ‘12  
**Registration:** Shauna (Witmer) Buchmoyer, MS, OTR/L, ‘11 & Lindsay (Kerlin) McNaughton, MS, OTR/L, ‘11

In addition, various Etown faculty and students gave presentations. The opening night social featured Elizabethtown College’s female a cappella group Melica. The Lancaster location proved irresistible, and the conference saw record numbers of attendees and exhibitors.

See you in Pittsburgh - November 8-9, 2013. For more information, go to [www.pota.org](http://www.pota.org). Start planning ahead - we’ll be looking for local conference volunteers again in a few years.

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**ELIZABETHTOWN ROCKED THE POTA CONFERENCE!**

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**Save the Date**

**Homecoming Weekend—October 18-20, 2013**