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Occupational Therapy Graduate Program

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OTras Perspectivas

O T H E R P E R S P E C T I V E S

UNM OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

 UNM SCHOOL of MEDICINE



Janet Poole, PhD,
OTR/L, FAOTA

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am honored to be the 4th director of the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program at UNM. As many of you know, I have been a part of the program since the beginning of the program in 1993 and have had the privilege of teaching every student who has graduated from the program. I even remember all your names, even if the year you graduated escapes me!

My goals as Program Director are to carry on the UNM tradition of a high quality, successful, and energetic program as well as to encourage growth of the program in strategic areas of faculty development, curriculum, and student opportunities. We have gradually increased the size of our classes as capacity has developed and we now accept 30 students each year.

A big THANK YOU is merited to all the clinical sites and fieldwork educators who are accepting our students for fieldwork as we know the increase in number puts additional demands on our practice community.

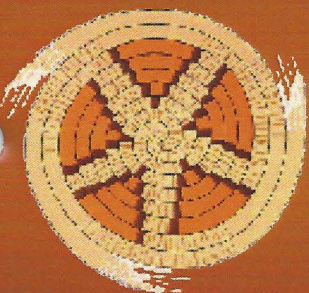
The past year has also been a time of change for the OTPG, with the retirements of Betsy VanLeit and Belinda Ortiz (see related stories on page 2). We also want to welcome back Janet Werner as Program Advisor Coordinator (see related story on page 2). If you have come by the office recently, you may have noticed construction in the east side of the M parking lot. This is the new Health Education Building and the OTGP will have a brand new lab and classroom. Estimated completion date is 2018 and we are looking forward to using the new space with

integrated 21st teaching technology. Please see page 19 for news about the UNM Foundation to help us financially achieve our goal of acquiring the necessary technology for teaching.

Our faculty continue to be very active in state and national professional organizations by presenting and serving on committees. Our students are always amazing and are currently participating in fund raising events to attend the AOTA Centennial celebration in Philadelphia in 2017.

Please enjoy reading all the news of our exciting activities with students, faculty, alumni and community colleagues!

I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come.





OTras Perspectivas

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Content Editors:

Terry K. Crowe, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA
Carla Wilhite, OTD, OTR/L

And many thanks to all of you who contributed articles and photographs!

OTras Perspectivas is an annual newsletter of the University of New Mexico Occupational Therapy Graduate Program.

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OT Program Website

<http://hsc.unm.edu.som.ot>



Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/UNMOTGP

¡BEINVENIDO!

A welcome to our new OTGP Director, Dr. Janet Poole

By Terry K. Crowe, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

We are thrilled that Dr. Janet Poole, School of Medicine Professor was appointed to be our 4th OTGP Director as of July 1st. Dr. Poole was the third faculty member hired in 1993 after serving on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh for nine years. She received her Occupational Therapy undergraduate degree from Colorado State University, her master's degree in Educational Psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and her PhD in Motor Learning from the University of Pittsburgh.

Over the past 22 years, Dr. Poole has dedicated her professional life to help build our internationally known educational program.

Now under her competent leadership, she will take our program to the next level. Dr. Poole is a skilled occupational therapist who has given so much in the areas of practice, research and education. Her students know her as a caring, responsive, and intelligent instructor who strives to push them to perform at their highest levels. Dr. Poole's clinical expertise is in physical disabilities with a specialization in arthritis and neurological conditions. Besides being an exceptional teacher, Dr. Poole is a world renowned researcher. Her most recent achievement was obtaining a PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) grant of \$1.7 million to develop and examine the

effectiveness of an internet self-management program for people with systemic sclerosis (scleroderma).

We could not think of a more qualified person to take over the leadership of our program. The continuity of exemplary leadership at UNM is very important during a time of decreasing state funds and increasing enrollment in the program. We know Dr. Poole will be a visionary and action oriented leader. In just a few months, she has rallied our academic team to think of creative ways to diversify our funding. As faculty and staff members, we look forward to working together to continue to build our excellent program. Welcome to our new Director, Dr. Janet Poole!

Welcome back!



The Occupational Therapy Program is pleased to welcome Janet Werner back to our program. Ms. Werner will return as Program Advisor following a two

year appointment as Program Manager in the College of Nursing. She has worked in academia for over 13 years, both at the University of New Mexico and Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Ms. Werner earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Kansas State University. We are excited to once again have her working with our students and faculty, focusing on fieldwork coordination, recruitment and program coordination.

Good-bye Belinda



Belinda Ortiz, our office administrator retired in July 2016. Belinda was a part of our team for 7 years and effectively managed our budget, mentored numerous work study

students, and kept the office running smoothly. She had terrific organizational skills and was instrumental in planning some of our major events including the retirement party for Dr. Pat Burtner, the 20th reunion and many OT graduation ceremonies. Belinda had many additional roles including wife, mother and grandmother, all of which she is enjoying more in her retirement. Thank you, Belinda for your time, wisdom and dedication to the OTGP.

FOUND! Future OT Scientist Discovered at UNM UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate Student Awarded Two AOTA/AOTF Scholarship Awards

Mylinh Nguyen, a UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate student, has been awarded two scholarships from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF). Mylinh received a full scholarship from AOTA/AOTF to attend the first annual Summer Institute for Future Scientists in occupational therapy and the associated two day Annual OT Research Summit. The purposes of the institute were:

- a) to identify potential scientists in entry level education programs,
- b) connect potential

entry level scientists with mentors in the Occupational Therapy scientific community, and c) to develop a peer network.

“The OT Scientific Summit was an amazing experience,” said Mylinh, “and I really enjoyed networking with OT researchers.” The opportunity has definitely inspired Nguyen to pursue a clinical doctorate or PhD degree and be a future contributor to OT research literature. “Having amazing mentors share their personal experiences and elaborate on their journey in becoming a researcher was very valuable and the summit pushed me

to think more about my research interests and to be open to other methodologies and research topics,” she said.

The next award Mylinh received was the AOTF Robert and Sharon Ryan Endowed Scholarship. The purpose of the scholarship is to help a student afford tuition, course fees, and books while obtaining an Occupational Therapy degree. AOTF notes that Robert and Sharon Ryan have had a lifelong dedication to the field of occupational therapy and the education of future OTs. The Ryans are committed to supporting future



Mylinh Nguyen at the AOTA/AOTF Summer Institute

generations of professionals and leaders in OT.

Mylinh is certainly feeling grateful for the wonderful opportunities afforded by the scholarships and for the pivotal impact the awards have made in her education, her journey toward becoming an occupational therapy professional, and her future as a scholar.

Adiós to Dr. Betsy VanLeit

By Terry K. Crowe, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA



The founding four faculty members (from L to R: Janet Poole, Pat Burtner, Betsy VanLeit, and Terry Crowe)

Sadly, we said good-bye to our wonderful Program Director, Dr. Betsy VanLeit in July. Betsy decided to retire and move to California to be closer to her parents. We are excited about Betsy’s new chapter in life and we know she will create lots of valued and meaningful occupations to fill her time.

Dr. VanLeit was the second faculty member to be hired

when the Occupational Therapy educational program started at UNM in 1992. She received her undergraduate degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Washington, her Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco, and her PhD in Community Health Education from the University of New Mexico. Over the past 23 years, Betsy worked very hard with the UNM OTGP educational team to build our very strong program. She took occasional breaks to pursue other activities such as traveling, caring for loved ones, and working in Cambodia doing

rural health research. However throughout the history of our program, Betsy has been a dedicated faculty member helping develop the initial undergraduate curriculum and later transitioning the program to a Masters’ Program. Dr. VanLeit stepped up to the director position in 2012 giving us five years of discerning, thoughtful and resourceful leadership. Dr. VanLeit was a gifted teacher in the areas of community health and practice, psychosocial practice and problem-based learning.

In May, we had a small retirement party at Dr. Patricia Siegel’s beautiful north valley home. The event was a festive evening of food, drink, and

remembrance with the four founding faculty members (Betsy, Terry, Janet and Pat) having a wonderful reunion with one another. Dr. VanLeit will be dearly missed by all as an exceptional educational leader who always put the students first, and a visionary leader who facilitated innovative occupational therapy in many community settings in New Mexico. Dr. VanLeit’s legacy will be the students she influenced, her colleagues that she nurtured in professional growth, and her many scholarly contributions to our profession. Adiós, hasta que volvamos a vernos! Goodbye, until we meet again!

A Scholar Goes Continental

Dr. Crowe Works with Occupational Therapists in Croatia

During her third sabbatical last Spring, Dr. Terry K. Crowe spent six days working in Zagreb, Croatia. This was an exciting opportunity to work with the Croatian occupational therapists to continue to enhance Occupational Therapy. Dr. Crowe worked with the Occupational Therapy Department at the University of Applied Health Sciences (Department of Occupational Therapy) and practicing occupational therapists. Saša Radic, President of the Croatian Association of Occupational Therapists (acronym HURT) and Vice President of the Croatian Chamber for Health Professionals was Terry's primary collaborator for this project.

Dr. Crowe spent two days teaching at the University of Applied Health Sciences, presenting sessions on *Family Centered Care*, *Practicing Occupational Therapy in the Community* and *Empowering Your Occupational Therapy with Evidence-Based Practice*. Occupational Therapy is a three year undergraduate degree so session participants included all three years of students. The students were very enthusiastic about hearing Occupational Therapy views of practice in the United States. Terry also facilitated a discussion with the Occupational Therapy faculty members and Saša Radic to brainstorm ideas to move Occupational Therapy

education and the profession in Croatia. This included discussion about implementing a Masters OT educational program and obtaining WFOT approval for the current Occupational Therapy undergraduate program.

Working with Saša, Dr. Crowe collaborated with the Croatian Association of Occupational Therapists and the professional occupational therapists and gave seven workshops over the course of the visit to professional occupational therapists. The workshops focused on the above topics plus *Articulating the Distinct Value of Occupational Therapy*, *Scholarship from Idea to Publication*, *Developing Leaders for Occupational Therapy* and *Using the COPM*. The talks were well received with more than 60 OTs participating either in person or via a webcast (Croatia has a little more than 500 registered and licensed OTs). It was wonderful to work with the dynamic and

hard-working OTs who work with people with disabilities in Croatia. Terry also visited a wonderful Day Care Center for Rehabilitation of Children and Young Adults (www.malidom.hr/default.aspx?id=58) and the Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association, an NGO which trains guide dogs and service dogs (www.psvivodici.hr/en).

Besides making some good friends, Terry and her husband were able to travel through Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia and northern Italy. This area is a beautiful part of the world and a must-visit destination for all of you! Terry wishes to thank the wonderful occupational therapists she worked with in Croatia.

Update! One 3rd year OT student from the University of Applied Health Sciences, Florentina Peric visited New Mexico in August where she was hosted by the wonderful OTGP 2nd year students. Florentina had an opportunity to visit seven local facilities (a big thanks to the staff at the Veterans Administration Hospital, KidPower, Explorabilites, Inspirations, Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital, UNM Psychiatric Center and Skyline) during her visit.



The University of Applied Health Sciences faculty and Saša Radic, President of the Croatian Association of Occupational Therapists (acronym HURT) and Vice President of the Croatian Chamber for Health Professionals



Saša and Terry having coffee

Felicidades! en Fieldwork!

By Sue Iliff, MA, OTR/L

Felicidades! or Congratulations are in order for the many fieldwork accomplishments achieved this year! In April, we hosted our *2nd Annual Fieldwork Appreciation* event for fieldwork educators/supervisors and sites. It was a time for reconnecting, networking, and recognizing everyone's amazing efforts. During the event, the UNM OTGP awarded the Fieldwork Educators of the Year to **Stephanie Singleton, OTD, OTR/L**, an accomplished outpatient OT who serves people of the Jemez Pueblo through the Lovelace Medical System and **Anne Crosser, OTR/L**, a talented OT clinician at Presbyterian's Healthplex location. Both clinicians have taken numerous students during their careers and continue to enjoy teaching the future generation of OT practitioners. In addition, *The Fieldwork Sites of the Year* awards were given to the University of New Mexico Hospital and CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center in Santa Fe. All were honored with southwest

design baskets and certificates of appreciation for their hard work and dedication to student learning.

In addition, the Fieldwork Advisory Board (FAB) continued their efforts to enhance the fieldwork programming in the New Mexico communities. This year the FAB and community fieldwork educators created and presented two workshops locally on *Developing Site-Specific Objectives to Effectively Evaluate a FWII Student* and *Developing Therapeutic Relationships & Enhancing Effective Communication in Fieldwork*. Our latest initiative, Partnership in Education & Fieldwork, has been quite a success. These framed certificates are awarded to the Occupational Therapy departments during site visits in recognition of their valuable partnership with the UNM OTGP and the education of future OTs.

Finally, ¡FELICIDADES! to the graduating Class of 2016. This is only made possible by the expert supervision from the amazing fieldwork

educators and sites that willingly volunteer each year to provide valuable learning experiences for our students.

Thank you to all the wonderful fieldwork educators and sites in our New Mexico community that contributed to fieldwork education in 2016. The sites included UNMH, UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, UNM Carrie Tingley Hospital, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, Presbyterian Healthcare System, Veterans of America Healthcare System, Lovelace Health System, The Medical Resort at Balloon Fiesta Park, The Rio at Cabezón, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, San Juan Regional Medical Center, Inspirations, The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, ExplorAbilities, Inc., KidPower, Aprendamos, La Vida Felicidad, Chama Valley ISD, KidsBridge, Center for Development and Disability Early Childhood Evaluation Program, UNM FOCUS Program, and New Mexico Orthopedics.



Stephanie Singleton, OTD, OTR/L and Anne Crosser, OTR/L Fieldwork Educators of the Year



2016 Fieldwork Appreciation Awards



University of New Mexico Hospital and CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center.—Fieldwork Sites of the Year

Are you interested in becoming a fieldwork educator?



Occupational Therapists can earn 12 Contact hours for supervising an OT student and voluntary faculty status through UNM that gives access to the library databases and other discounts. Give back to your profession and stay current! Please contact **Sue Iliff,**

MA, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at 505-272-3455 or siliff@salud.unm.edu.

OT Class of 2017



Class Photo: Back row l to r: Jessica Surrock, Joshua Bradford, Ramona Yazzie, Shelby Weir, Jeff Bazanele, Joe Flores, Cassandra Valdez, Jay Burnham, Carmelita Trujillo. Middle row l to r: Amber Tracy, Julie Diaz, Melayne Yacos, Chardae Durden, Erika Velasco, Heather Marts, Sarah Sutherlin, Katherine Michalske, Cara Owen, Rose White. Front row l to r: Margarita Ortega y Gomez, Elisa Dry, Khizer Ashraf, Melissa Cummings, Bebe Makena, Prudence Simon, Alyssa Williams, Katie Bos, Paula Walker, Terrena Vigil Brady. Not pictured: Aubrey Alexander and Tracy Wilkey.

Sparkle and Shine: — Class of 2017

By Margarita Ortega y Gomez, MOTS

The Class of 2017 is an inspired group of students who are committed to professionalism and compassionate work. Our interests are varied and unique to our personalities. We continue to bring diverse perspectives to this second year as we approach new and exciting fieldwork experiences.

To sum us up is not a simple thing to do. We all enter this dance of occupational therapy to a deeply dwelling rhythm that is personal to each one of us. And each one of us is destined to continue on to do profound things. Part of our uniqueness is that we find our own interesting ways

to support people, sharing knowledge that will become someone's wisdom toward their own healing.

As we deepen our understanding of our role as Occupational Therapists, we set our sights on our goals to explore endless opportunities and adventures available within a person's community. As well, we are creators of these opportunities: organizing a patient garden and participating in a gardening club at the UNM Psychiatric Center; exploring how OT can support individuals experiencing incarceration and how to help reduce recidivism; exploring OT's role in reducing health

disparities among the LGBTQ community; investigating the health needs of the migrant worker population; representing OT at Salud y Sabor- a monthly event that connects health education with food and language; volunteering with residents at Maya's Place and Crossroads For Women; exploring OT's role in supporting neonates; supporting people who have experienced trauma on local and global levels; supporting driving and aging in place for a thriving geriatric population; learning how to work with pediatric populations; and deepening our passion to support individuals who have experienced Spinal Cord Injury.

We share a sense of amazement with how the last year has flown by and how much we have learned. Together, we are deepening our collective craft of using evidence and data collection methods as we continue making progress in research projects.

As we look ahead, our excitement builds in anticipation for advocating in deeper ways for our community through fast-approaching fieldwork opportunities. Day by day, we discover more of ourselves, more of our strengths in the rhythm of this forward motion.

OT Class of 2018



Top row l to r: Carmen McClelland, Tianna Redstrom, Heather Gustafson, Eileen Foster, Lyra Helms, Kelsey Garcia, Lauren Nicholas, Jake Rehfeld, Sydney Marable, Emily Cumler. Middle row l to r: Kathryn Sorroche, Jillian Martinez, Maia Wynn, Brittany Gallegos, Oksana Tretiak, Terri Nelson-Dickinson, Cole Burns, Lindsay Sarracino, Anna Wilder. Bottom row l to r: Gaylene Tool, Scott Meier, Leighann Collins, Rachel Seiber, Megan Synk, Emily Stark, Alexander Thomas, James Whiton, QiaoQiao Bi, Regina Duran

A Diversity of Experience Finds a Common Goal — Class of 2018

By James Whiton, MOTS

We are first-year occupational therapy students. As we begin this new endeavor, we bring with us an astonishing diversity of experience, knowledge, and identity. Here is the Class of 2018 in our own words, collected through written and verbal survey responses.

A few of our favorite life experiences: coaching gymnastics, waking up every morning to a new day, backpacking through Scandinavia for two weeks on a complete whim, being on a fireworks crew, working at my family bakery, surfing in Mexico (by myself), working on a field biology crew, traveling Scotland and Ireland with my best friend, having children, working as a COTA/L, having meaningful conversations with friends and family, downhill mountain biking, immigrating

to the US from China, working with a 13-year-old non-verbal adolescent at Camp Rising Sun, becoming a Lobo and being involved at UNM, experiencing life with my son, traveling the world as a musician and playing with my heroes, studying abroad in Istanbul, and really connecting with who I am.

What makes us happy: raking wild blueberries in Downeast Maine as a migrant farmworker, swimming with a manatee off the coast of Belize, working as a medical lab scientist, performing poetry in front of my entire high school, working at Boeing building airplanes, marrying my best friend in a beautiful Colorado ghost town with our families and my dogs, helping puppies grow into solid service dogs, owning a dog and taking him for walks and hikes, anything that involves being outside, traveling to Europe

with my spouse, being a mom, living out of my backpack for a year and traveling the US, being a kindergarten teacher, teaching adaptive dance classes, working at Mandy's Farm as residential support staff for ladies with physical and developmental disabilities, traveling to New York City twice a year, going to Brazil to facilitate medical assistance and learn about their health care systems, and traveling to Camden, NJ as a community service worker to help those in need.

Our favorite things about the OTGP thus far are: this faculty is special - they portray passion and excitement for the field that is infectious, a curriculum that is challenging but intimately pertinent, how interactive the program is, learning more about the philosophy of OT, hearing about the instructors' real life clients, meeting and

learning from all my peers and mentors, having 29 classmates all of whom I truly like and respect, the nurturing learning environment, having the chance to meet people that have similar goals, how much involvement there is in class and with other activities outside of class, my super talented and very different classmates, the personal connections with the professors and the students, having the chance to learn from a faculty widely known throughout the occupational therapy world, in every situation there's always someone who has a perspective or idea that I hadn't considered, the OTGP has a really positive atmosphere that promotes learning and excitement about the field, and I love how the professors are already referencing "our" profession and treating us as colleagues even though we all know we have a lot to learn.

POSTERPALOOZA: Student Posters Highlight Months of Work

Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Research Day

The OTGP Research Day was held April 20th, to showcase the scholarly work of occupational therapy graduate students in poster format. Student posters were judged by School of Medicine faculty from across health professions on campus. The poster presenters had 15 minutes to tell the judges about the content of their poster. Posters described research, community, and program projects ranging from agriculture to veterans, including: loose parts playgrounds, feeding, children's issues, use of splinting following arthroplasty, and service dogs.

The top honor (Sheila Mun Bryce Research Award) was

awarded to Beverly Apodaca and Melissa Watson (advisor: Dr. Janet Poole) for the poster *Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy Interventions for Adults with Rheumatoid Arthritis: An Evidence-based Review*. Beverly and Melissa received a one year paid membership to AOTA as their poster prize.

Second prize was given to Julianna Nacion (advisor: Dr. Carla Wilhite) for her poster *Comparison of Tractor Seating Under Dynamic Conditions for Farmers with Ergonomics of Difference*. Third prize was awarded to Alyse Howard and Brenna Western (advisors: Dr. Terry Crowe, Victoria Sanchez,

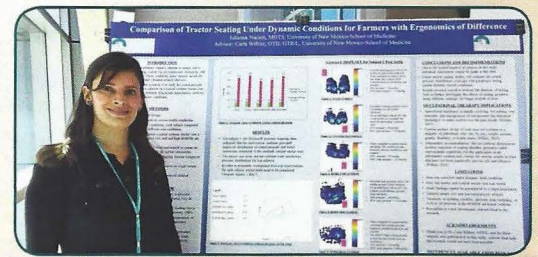
and Stephanie Barge), for the poster *Veterans Transitioning from Isolation to Integration: A Look at Veteran/service Dog Partnerships*. Second and third

prize winners received a one year paid membership to the New Mexico Occupational Therapy Association.

First place winners:
Melissa Watson
and Beverly Apodaca
and Dr. Janet Poole



Second Place Winner:
Julianna Nacion



Ivyrose Gonzales,
MOT, OTR/L, ATP

Alum is Committed to Excellence in Serving People Ivyrose Gonzales (Class of 2008) Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Gonzales MOT, OTR/L, ATP says that being an Occupational Therapist has provided her with a profound appreciation for life and also an appreciation for “the doing” as well. She graduated from the OTGP in 2008 and has since created a dynamic service that increases awareness and access to occupational therapy. In 2009, she created Independent Living Therapy Services in which she specializes in bringing a strong OT presence to the clinical setting as well

as the home and community settings. Ivyrose’s methods of making this happen is by providing skilled OT for individuals with orthopedic injury, neurological conditions, as well as individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ivyrose is committed to enhancing people’s skills and independence through evidence-based, meaningful occupation and interdisciplinary care. As a new graduate, she saw a need for a more wide-spread understanding of what OT has to offer. She often hears people say about their healing process,

“I didn’t know there was a therapy to help me with this.” Ivyrose’s mission is to educate and empower people she meets through this work to live more full and independent lives.

dis-tin-guished

/də'stiNGwiSHt/

“marked by eminence, distinction, or excellence”

In addition to being a talented business owner, Ivyrose also maintains an inspiring level of involvement with NMOTA as Marketing Committee

Chair. Since 2013, she has partnered with other members of the OT community to create radio advertisements that are designed to educate and promote how this profession is integral to rehabilitation.

Another area of importance for Ivyrose is by directly educating the next generation of therapists. Through lecturing in the UNM OTGP, she helps students learn the application of assistive technology to increase occupational performance with clients. Her objective is to decrease the gap in understanding between academic knowledge and clinical practice. Ivyrose says she truly enjoys helping students learn and is energized by their desire for learning.

Ivyrose is grateful to the UNM OTGP and says this award helps her look forward to continuing this journey toward increased awareness for OT across the lifespan. **Congratulations Ivyrose!**

In Memoria: New Mexico OT Pioneer Passes Away

Shirley J. Hicks, Age 88

By Carla Wilbite OTD, OTR/L



Shirley Hicks

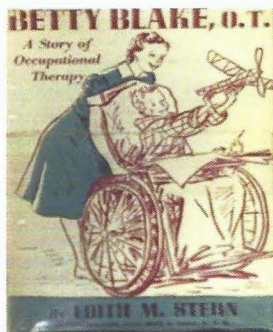


Photo of Book Cover:
Betty Blake, OT

The OTGP is saddened to report that New Mexico Occupational Therapist Shirley J. Hicks passed away on September 5, 2016.

Shirley was instrumental in the struggle for Occupational Therapy to become a licensed health profession in New Mexico in the 1980's and had the distinguished honor of being one of the first licensed occupational therapist in the state, according to sources.

Also, in the late 1980's, Shirley and a group of occupational therapists in New Mexico

successfully lobbied the legislature for funding for an in-state baccalaureate level occupational therapy program. Shirley was on the founding UNM Advisory Council for several years assisting with many aspects of developing our nationally recognized educational program.

In her obituary, it was noted that Shirley was inspired to become an occupational therapist after reading the book "Betty Blake, OT" in the 1940s (see photo). Her career started as an

occupational therapist on staff at Presbyterian Hospital, and later at the Veteran's Hospital. New Mexico was fortunate indeed to have such a dedicated professional and pioneer in developing the culture of OT professionalism in New Mexico. She was surrounded and comforted by her loving family in death, who will remember her roles as mother, grandmother, retiree, and volunteer. Her achievements in occupational therapy will also be remembered.

Patio Time, Sunshine, and Great Food. What's Not to Like?

Class of 2016 Graduation Celebration

The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2016 was held on May 13, 2016 at El Pinto. The following Occupational Therapy students received scholarship awards: Vanessa Trujillo. Melissa Watson, Sue Shelly, Anjuli Sears, Alyse Howard, Brenna Western, and Dailey Jackson. The Carolyn Thurman-Rustvold Community Spirit Award was presented this year to Vanessa Trujillo. Melissa Watson and Sue Shelly received The Department of Pediatrics Occupational Therapy Scholarship Award which is presented to the graduating students with highest academic excellence. Anjuli Sears received the HealthSouth Leadership Award and Alyse Howard and Brenna Western received the HealthSouth Research and Scholarship Award. Dailey Jackson received the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Excellence in Teaching and Research Award. We are very proud of all of the Class of 2016 graduates. We know all of them will make many contributions to Occupational Therapy!



Scholarship Awards: L to R: Anjuli Sears, Melissa Watson, Brenna Western, Dailey Jackson, Alyse Howard, Susan Shelley, Beverly Apodaca, and Vanessa Trujillo



Graduates and Faculty Class of 2016 Graduation: L to R: Patricia Siegel, Ingrid Hendrix (seated), Sue Iliff, Diane Parham, Janet Poole, Sandra Clough, Mary Thelander-Hill, Melissa Watson, Betsy VanLeit and Vanessa Trujillo (bending), Kristiana Dion, Terry Crowe, Mylinh Nguyen and Mark Jaramillo (middle), Michael Veilleux, Anjuli Sears, Jackolyn Apodaca, Mari Perez, Susan Shelley, Colin Baugh (kneeling), Brenda Tryon, Brenna Western, Beverly Apodaca, Megan McConnell, Dailey Jackson and Timothy Neugebauer (behind), Alyse Howard, RoseLynn Otero, Carla Wilbite. Not pictured: Jacqueline Levinson, Kelly Ledingham, Maureen Chavez, Macaela Gomez, and Pete Ben-Attar

Indigenous Languages and Cultures Thrive in Oaxaca Mexico

Traditional Mexican Healing is the of the Focus of Course

By Fabiola Contreras

The Oaxaca course was unlike any class I had taken before. This course offered a lot more than just an academic aspect. You get to travel to a wonderful land, filled with culture and learn about their ancient sacred traditions. For instance, when I visited the village of Lachatao, I got to see the revered Hill of the Jaguar and participate in a beautiful ceremony, which not many people can say they have done. When I embarked on this journey, I did not expect

to dive as deep as this course took me, but it was definitely worth it. Overall, there is a lot that you will learn not only about Traditional Mexican Medicine, but also about yourself by the end of this amazing course.

The Introduction to Traditional Mexican Medicine course will be offered once again from June 4 -13, 2017 with 3 additional days for travel. If you are

interested contact Dr. Terry Crowe (tcrowe@salud.unm.edu)



Oaxaca Course 2016

... and You've Got to Have Friends!

Friends of OT Awards Presented at Class of 2016 Graduation

David Hansen

David Hansen is the Clinical Education Program Coordinator for the UNM Physical Therapy Department. It is his job to match PT students with over 300 clinical sites and handles student compliance with the requirements for each rotation. He has been instrumental in revolutionizing the process used to track requirements for students doing clinical rotations in both the PT and OT Programs. Thanks to David, life just became easier for everyone in the OTGP to be up to date and organized with fieldwork paperwork!

David is a solution-seeker. He began working with the PT Program 2 years ago when the system was still relying on paper files and a homemade electronic file system in

Microsoft Access- a Database Management System. This system was problematic, according to David, for a number of reasons: it was not easy to audit files; it was on a shared drive which did not protect HIPAA or FERPA information; and any changes made to files were live which required back-up copies for their records.

Research into a better solution brought David and his fellow administrators to use the Acadaware software. This portal allows David to track requirements faster and easier and is accessible to students remotely to provide documentation at any time from any location. This is especially helpful for students who are placed out of state. It is also compliant with federal HIPAA and FERPA mandates.

David also demonstrated how the system allows administrators to build and store large contracts with multi-site companies such as Lovelace or Presbyterian Hospitals.

So how did David become a hit with the OTGP administrators? Our program was also searching for the same solutions after experiencing trouble with an older system of tracking fieldwork placement agreements and requirements for each site. David graciously stepped in as the remote IT administrator to support the OTGP in this process of implementing this within the School of Medicine. He supported and guided Christina and Sue through the process of approval with UNM IT to adopt this tracking system. Acadaware will be available to us before OT17 begins

Fieldwork II. Congratulations and many thanks for your support, David!

Dr. Deana Mercer

Dr. Deana Mercer is one of the OTGP's most valued advocates for Occupational Therapy at UNMH. As a medical doctor who performs complex shoulder, elbow, and hand repairs, she finds the utmost value in a strong relationship with the OTs who continue and help maintain the process of post-surgical healing. She believes OTs are one of the main reasons surgeons can be successful in their work.

Dr. Mercer takes this relationship very seriously. She feels that comradery and good communication with the therapists on the post-surgical team is vital to

Love Red. Live Green. NMOTA News.

Lobo Alumni and Faculty Continue to Set the Bar for State Leadership

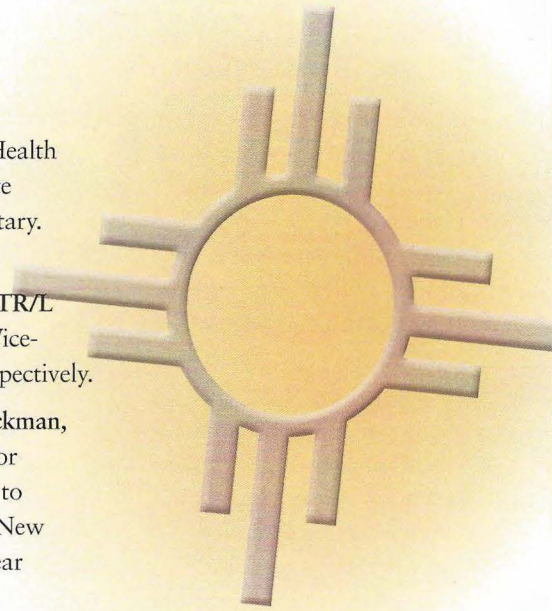
Marina Moestretti, MOT, OTR/L (Class of 2014) was elected to the post of NMOTA President at the annual business meeting on September 3, 2016. Marina has been in practice as an occupational therapist since 2014, and is looking forward to continuing the trajectory of achievements and growth experienced by the association over the last decade.

Laura Carlisle, MOT, OTR/L (Class of 2011) has been elected to serve as Secretary of NMOTA after the vacancy of the office by **Julie Brunson** (Class of 2014). Julie and her family were transferred to Houston, Texas. Laura is the

Chair of the NMOTA Ad Hoc Mental Health Committee, and also serves on other state nonprofit boards in the capacity of secretary.

Rachel Nelson, MOT, OTR/L (Class of 2013) and **Prisca Werbelow**, MOT, OTR/L continue to complete terms of office as Vice-President and Treasurer of NMOTA, respectively.

Former UNM Faculty Member **Gail Stockman, M.S., OTR/L**, received a special award for her outstanding service to NMOTA and to the occupational therapy community in New Mexico. The award comes with a one-year membership to NMOTA and certificate.



Continued from page 10

successful patient healing. Not cultivating this can have major consequences for a patient's understanding of the healing process which can affect how hard they work. Dr. Mercer acknowledges that surgery is about 30% of the process and an equally large part depends on the therapy to cheer on patients through the day-to-day recovery process. She says, "if you have a good relationship, your patients will do better."

Her work with OTs began when she was a Fellow and has been strong ever since. Dr. Mercer is so appreciative of OT in the orthopedic clinic- she says this has been a life-changing partnership. She stresses the importance of the patients having plastic orthoses made by OTs that are easier for the patients to use and are more attractive and lighter weight than the plaster casts the surgeons apply.

Dr. Mercer also appreciates the spark of willingness and interest of OT students to be part of the intricate phases of post-surgical care. She extends invitations to any and all students in the program to come see what types of repairs they do and to experience hand surgery team meetings to gain insight into how OTs and surgeons think and work together.

Dr. Mercer says that being recognized for the strength and high quality relationships with OTs is like receiving an A+ in school. She lovingly expresses her gratitude for the recognition with an enthusiastic smile. The OTGP is fortunate to have a stellar advocate like Dr. Mercer.

Fenn

The Occupational Therapy Program most definitely feels the loss of Fenn the service dog. His presence was sweet and uplifting to students, faculty, and passersby.

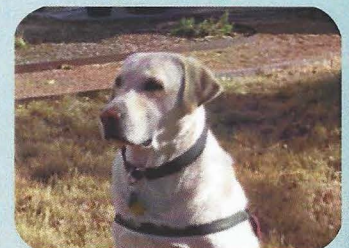
The story of Fenn is told by his human, Ingrid Hendrix, who describes their love as "first sight." They had an incredibly tight and trusting bond that lasted for over 12 years. Ingrid says even though they took a while to get in sync with one another at the beginning, they reached a point where speaking wasn't even necessary for him to know what she needed. Fenn far surpassed Ingrid's expectations for a dog.

Throughout his life, Fenn was a true friend to OT professionals and OT graduate students alike. He was a founding participant in the development of Dogwood Therapy owner Melissa Winkle's process of successfully matching the right service dog with the right person.

Ingrid says Fenn was also "intimately involved" in research projects and PBL groups for years thereafter. She reminisces that Fenn being in

attendance meant that he was an educator and representative for service dogs. Thanks to Fenn, students got a real life example of a service dog in action and what it means to handle a dog.

He was a therapeutic presence for students all across North Campus whether he was enjoying a sniff of some fresh air out on the lawn or accompanying Ingrid in her daily activities. His presence invited positive attention and safe, friendly interactions for his human. Fenn's passing is felt throughout the Health Sciences community and most definitely by Ingrid. Fenn was a natural and true friend of OT.



Feeding Program for Children with Autism Getting Results

By Joanna Cosby, PhD, OTR/L

It is widely recognized that individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are likely to also have difficulty during mealtimes, including picky eating, food refusal, and challenging behaviors. These challenges put significant strain on individuals and their families. Although there are a few places around the state where these families can get help, many families find themselves without the support they need to address these issues. Therapists report a lack of knowledge of the best ways to help the children and their families, and parents indicate frustration that they can't feed their child and fear that their attempts will make things worse instead of better.

Research projects through the UNM OTGP are working to change that. Deirdre Muldoon, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCBA, and I have developed a family-centered intervention program to support children with ASD and their families during mealtimes. This approach, called *Easing Anxiety Together through Understanding and Perseverance (EAT-UP™)* promotes individualization of the approach to meet the needs of each family and relies on the child's parents as the primary interventionists. Rather than using a clinic-centered approach that involves a therapist working directly with a child to increase food acceptance, virtually all of the EAT-UP™ interventions are provided by the parent, with the therapist



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providing coaching and support. Our philosophy is that mealtimes are a critical part of family life and that meaningful progress is most likely to occur when parents are empowered to participate in decision making and the delivery of intervention.

The first research project on EAT-UP™ involved us going into the homes of children with ASD and coaching their parents through mastery of strategies that included paying attention to the foods being presented, promoting social communication, providing environmental accommodations, and using behavioral strategies to support change. The four children who participated in this project all demonstrated increases in the number and types of foods they would eat, including accepting more fruits, vegetables, and family “main dish” foods. A

manuscript reporting the results of this study are currently under review for publication.

The second research project, which is winding down, used a train-the-trainer model. For this study, we worked with clinics in New Mexico and New Jersey to train clinicians to support parents through the EAT-UP™ intervention program. Local sites included KidPower and Explorabilities, with a total of seven families and seven therapists supported through those clinics. Although data analysis is still underway, preliminary reports indicate that the program was effective in supporting these families as well. Families who have participated in the project are reporting a greater understanding of how to manage their child's challenging behaviors and how to provide structure to mealtimes without

“Things aren't perfect during meals at home, but now I know what to do with him and how to help him.”

- mother of a child with autism spectrum disorder

them becoming a “battle.”

We are currently developing our third project in this area, with the goal of developing a larger-scale training program to provide assistance to therapists who are interested in learning strategies to coach parents in their development of mealtime skills and to broaden the target population beyond children with ASD to other children with mealtime challenges. We look forward to expanding this program and developing ways to reach out to families and therapists across the state.

2016 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



394
Graduates Since First
Graduating Class of 1995

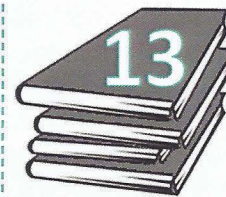
9

Countries Faculty/Students Made
Contributions to in the Past Year:
United Kingdom, Portugal, Finland, Peru,
Brazil, USA, Croatia, Mexico, and Nicaragua



Scholarships
Awarded to Students
Over the Last Two
Years

51



13
Articles Published in
the Past Year

59

Faculty
Presentations
Done in the Past
Year

100%

NBCOT Pass Rate for
the Last Two Classes

Students Placed in
Fieldwork II Sites

46



17

Community - Based Service
Learning
Partnered with in the Past Year

Productive Year of Writing Makes the Grade

Recent Faculty Research Publications

(Bold = Faculty, *Italics* = UNM OT Students or alumni)

Laverdure, P., Seruya, F. M., Stephenson, P., & Cosby, J. (2016). Paradigm transitions in pediatric practice: Tools to guide practice. *SIS Quarterly Practice Connections*, 1(2), 5-7.

Crowe, T. K., Durval, S. & Gutierrez, J. (2016). Occupational performance goals of mothers of adolescents with and without disabilities. *Journal of Occupational Science*, 23, 370-381. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14427591.2016.1172494>

Crowe, T. K., Freeze B., Provost, E., B., King, L. & Sanders, M. (2016). Maternal perceptions of nutrition, stress, time and assistance during mealtimes: Differences between parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and parents of children with typical development. *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools and Early Intervention*, 9, 242-257. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19411243.2016.1212681>

Crowe, T. K., Sedillo, J.S., Picchiarini-Porte, M.R. & Provost, E. (In Press). Mealtime strategies for mothers of young children with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Crowe, T. K., Sanchez, V. Weber, A., & Murtagh, A. (In Press). The influence of a Mexican cultural immersion experience on personal and professional healthcare practices. *Occupational Therapy International*.

Poole, J. L., & Hands, L.M. (2016). Validity of the Community Integration Questionnaires as a measure of participation in persons with diabetes mellitus. *Journal of Diabetes & Metabolism*, 7, 687. doi: 10.4172/2155-6156.1000687

Poole, J. L., & Brandenstein, J. (2016). Difficulty with daily activities involving the lower extremities in people with systemic sclerosis. *Clinical Rheumatology*, 35, 483-488. DOI: 10.1007/s10067-015-3137-1

Poole, J. L., Gasbhtewa, C., & Sullivan, A. (2016). Quality of life in American Indians with and without diabetes. *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 30, 58-68. doi: 10.3109/07380577.2015.1036193

Poole, J. L. & Siegel, P. (In Press). Effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions for adults with fibromyalgia: A systematic review. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, MS ID#: AJOT/2016/023192

Siegel, P., Watson, M., Apodaca, B. & Poole, J. L. (In Press). Effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions for adults with rheumatoid arthritis: A systematic review. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, MS ID#: AJOT/2016/023176

VanLeit, B., Chavez, C., & Goldman, R. (2016, March 7). Snack & Chat Sessions Helping Men Experiencing Homelessness. *OT Practice*, 23-24.

Wilhite, C. S., Field, W.E., & Jaramillo, M. (In press). Comparison of agricultural seating interventions for a group of seated tractor operators with paraplegia. *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*.

Wilhite, C. S., Field, W.E., Sullivan, K., & Jaramillo, M. (2016). Tractor seating for operators with paraplegia. *Assistive Technology*, 23, 1-11. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10400435.2016.1201171>

Cosby, J. & Muldon, D. (2016). EAT-UP™ Family-centered feeding intervention to promote food acceptance and decrease challenging behaviors: A single-case experimental design replicated across three families of children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 1-15, doi: 10.1007/s10803-016-2977-0

Crossing Oceans :

Dr. Diane Parham Shares Her Knowledge with OTs Internationally

This year Dr. Diane Parham made five work trips to different locations in Europe and South America to teach or work on projects related to OT practice in Sensory Integration. Diane started out the year with a trip to London, England in January, where an international group of OT educators met near Heathrow Airport to discuss post-professional education in Sensory Integration during a two-day meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to draft a document that may lead to the establishment of international benchmarks for levels of expertise in sensory integration for occupational, physical, and speech therapists.

In March, Dr. Parham taught a 3-day course on assessment of Sensory Integration in Oporto, Portugal, that focused on evaluating assessment instruments, observing children's spontaneous behavior, interviewing caregivers, interpreting Sensory Processing Measure (SPM) scores, and integrating all these sources of assessment data with

standardized performance test scores. Students were occupational therapists who had already completed a course on administering and interpreting standardized performance tests.

At the end of May, Diane was a keynote speaker at IV Congreso Latinoamericano de Integración Sensorial, in Lima, Perú, where the audience was primarily occupational therapists. The title of her talk was *Sensory Interventions: Are They Effective?* Additionally, she taught a short workshop on the Sensory Processing Measure (SPM) for participants, which included a discussion of how to use the publisher's carefully back-translated Spanish version of these questionnaires.

Late summer brought Dr. Parham to Kuopio, Finland, where she taught a 5-day course to occupational therapists on using performance test scores and SPM scores, along with other assessment data, to make recommendations and, if



Diane Parham (center) meeting with faculty members (from left) Ana Amelia Cardoso (Department of Occupational Therapy) and Livia Magalhães (Occupational Therapy and Post-Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Sciences) at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil



From left, Diane Parham, Batya Engel-Yeger (occupational therapy professor at University of Haifa in Israel), and Rosalind Rogers (speech therapist and meeting facilitator, SI Network UK & Ireland), at International Coalition for Education in Ayres Sensory Integration meeting in the UK

appropriate, plan intervention for children. This included two days of participant case presentations, with extensive discussion of writing goals for therapy that linked sensory integration issues identified in assessment with desired outcomes in everyday life. Additionally, Diane taught a 5-hour workshop on using the *Fidelity Measure for Ayres Sensory Integration Intervention* as a learning tool for reflecting on one's own practice strategies when providing sensory integration-focused occupational or physical therapy, and for designing and evaluating the clinical environment for providing this intervention.

Finally, in October, Dr. Parham

traveled to Belo Horizonte, a large city in the Minas Gerais state of Brazil, to be the featured speaker at a special meeting supported by a Brazilian government agency with the purpose of updating the knowledge of occupational therapy practitioners. The title of her talk was *Sensory Integration Research and Practice: The Current State of the Field*. She stayed for an additional two days to teach two separate workshops: a full-day workshop entitled *Children with Autism: Sensory Integration and Play Interventions*, and a half-day workshop on the SPM, including use of a nearly-completed Brazilian Portuguese back-translation.





In 2013, Carla Wilhite, OTD, MOT, OTR/L (Class of 1996) was elected as the NMOTA President-Elect, serving her orientation year under the mentorship of President Sarah Picchiarinni Porte, MOT, OTR/L, (Class of 2004). From then until the present, Wilhite's presidential priorities have been to staff the organization with exceptional volunteers from the occupational therapy practice community, commit the organization to strategic planning, and energize committee efforts with financial resources. Many firsts for the Association occurred during her time of service, including developing an organizational budget, obtaining directors and officers insurance, putting out weekly news, expanding continuing education programming, developing a KUNM radio campaign highlighting the distinct value of occupational therapy, and especially developing efforts to attract and retain members through marketing, appreciation events, and membership reminders.

The results of the Association's efforts show: membership in NMOTA has grown from

NMOTA positioned for success Term as President Ends for Professor Wilhite

about 180 memberships in 2013 to almost 500 in 2016. "And the trajectory for growth clearly started in about 2010, it's just been amplified since I've been in office," Wilhite added. "All of our efforts have been targeted at building value for members of NMOTA," says Wilhite. "Our association has seen incredible growth over the last couple of years, and I think it is because all the NMOTA Board volunteers are focused on the right things like being a place of connection for all occupational therapy practitioners and especially the advocacy activities protecting the profession."

The Association is also nationally recognized for the quality of its conferences, in large part due to the dedication of a Conference Committee and past-presidents who worked to literally get the conference out of church basements, and into a top tier hotelier in New Mexico. "We all owe a debt of gratitude to those volunteers and officers who recognized how important it is to have a professional conference," says Wilhite, "and we've continued this trajectory under my term of office."

The biggest threat Wilhite faced during office occurred last spring when the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) changed their interpretation of funding for ancillary services for children with disabilities in public

schools. Ancillary services are provided by professionals such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, and social workers. "At first the NMPED seemed to be threatening to force public school systems to pay back millions of dollars related to ancillary provider services; services that had already been provided." This definitely would have resulted in hundreds of job losses for the ancillaries. The second thing was the NMPED attempted to narrowly define the scope of services provided to students with individualized education plans as constituting only face to face time. "But we rallied with our allies (social workers, physical therapists, and teachers unions) to get vocal and loud in protest and won concessions on both parts of the problem. Still, I have regrets, because some occupational therapy professionals lost contracts around the state, lost jobs, and the loss feels very real to me," says Wilhite, "I have a better appreciation of how quickly a situation can develop and create unintended consequences. We can't take advocacy by NMOTA for granted. Our ability to make a living might depend on it."

All the occupational therapists in New Mexico owe a big THANK YOU to Carla for outstanding leadership and service to NMOTA.



UNM Shines Again at AOTA Conference in 2016

UNM OTGP faculty, alumni, and students once again were prominent at the annual AOTA Conference, which this year was the largest ever, with over 10,000 attendees in Chicago, Illinois on April 7-10, 2016. Their activities are summarized below.

Scientific Research Panels:

Professor Janet Poole presented a talk as part of a Scientific Research Panel. Her presentation, entitled *Engagement of Persons with Scleroderma and Stakeholders to Revise a Self-Management Program*, reported the latest work from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) grant for which Dr. Poole is Principal Investigator.

Professor Diane Parham and Rachel Goldman (class of '15) presented a research paper, *Effectiveness of Somatosensory-Based Interventions for Children with Autism*, based on Rachel's research project for her MOT degree.

Short Course:

Professor Diane Parham and Alyssa Williams (class of '17) co-presented a paper which was part of a larger project sponsored by AOTA, *Systematic Review on OT for Children and Adolescents with Challenges related to Sensory Processing and Integration*.

Workshop:

Professor Diane Parham co-presented, along with 6 other authors from across the U.S., a 3-hour workshop, *Introducing the Evaluation in Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI): A New, Comprehensive Sensory Integration Measure*.

Research Posters:

Professor Joanna Cosbey, along with Susan Shelly & Kelly Ledingham (both of the Class of '16), presented a research poster entitled *Train-the-Trainers: A Parent-Coaching Model for Increasing Food Acceptance in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. This poster reported data that Susan and Kelly helped to gather as part of their research project for the MOT degree.



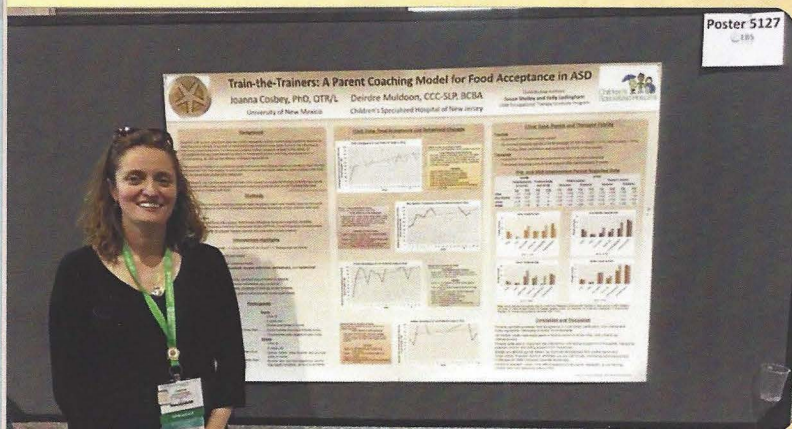
Diane Parham and Alyssa Williams at AOTA 2016

Professor Carla Willhite, along with Geneva Nolan and Myra Peel (both of the Class of '15), presented a research poster, *Quality of Life Perceptions of Farmers and Ranchers with Health Conditions*, a study in which they participated as their research project for the MOT degree.

Student Engagement:

Khizer Ashraf (class of '17), Mylinh Nguyen (Class of '16), and Alyssa Williams (Class of '17) actively networked while at conference. Ms. Nguyen was publicly recognized as a member of the first cohort of the AOTA-AOTF *Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy*, and Ms. Williams co-presented a research paper to a large audience. Mr. Ashraf officially represented UNM at the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) all-day leadership meeting, attended by over 200 student delegates. At this meeting, he

participated in workshops on leadership development and heard speakers who are current leaders in the field, including Ginny Stoffel and Amy Lamb, the respective outgoing and incoming Presidents of AOTA.



Dr. Joanna Cosbey exhibiting her poster at the AOTA Conference



Community Health Inspires This Student OT Student Profile: Khizer Ashraf, 2nd Year OTFP Student

By Margarita Ortega y Gomez, MOTS

Khizer Ashraf is OT17's cheerleader for student advocacy. He is built for this work and is passionate about addressing health issues that have historically been ignored. As an officer in SOTA, he has the honor of representing UNM OTGP as an Association Student Delegate for AOTA—a duty he happily fulfilled this past April! For AOTA's centennial year conference in 2017, Khizer is helping gather an enthusiastic squad of OT students to make the journey to Philadelphia.

Being an advocate is a major

role in Khizer's life, specifically advocacy for the LGBT community. In fact, he'd much rather this article feature the organizations he is working with to further the awareness of OT's role in LGBT health than it be about him. The reality is, his involvement is a perfect reflection of who he truly is.

In addition to being in SOTA, Khizer is also an officer in the LGBTQ Students and Allies in Health Care at UNM. This group does outreach to health students who identify as LGBTQIA and allies on campus and at Albuquerque Pride.

Through Allies in Health Care, Khizer recently coordinated a lunchtime talk that identifies the importance of voice feminization for transgender women. Khizer has been part of other efforts that went beyond UNM into the community to show solidarity with other LGBT groups for the tragic shootings in Orlando, Florida.

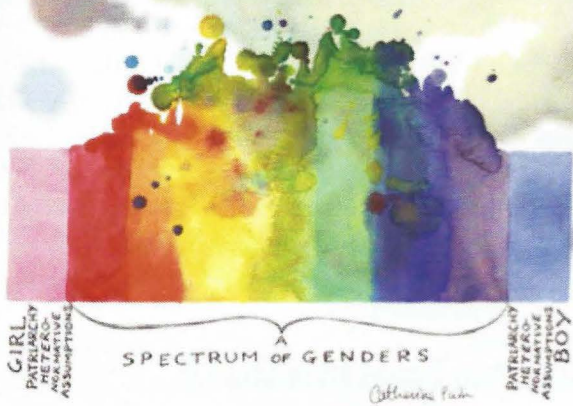
Khizer's other major focus is The Network for LGBT Concerns in Occupational Therapy, or, The Network for short. This is the only organization in the U.S. for OT's role in supporting the LGBT community. Khizer is working on resource tip sheets for their website so that patients, students, and practitioners can access educational materials on the unique needs of the LGBT population. Topics will include: homelessness, substance abuse

disorder, mental health, and the LGBT aging population to name a few.

When a need exists, it is people like Khizer who are willing to help fill empty roles. What drives him to be so proactive is the existence of major health disparities that continue to not improve. He knows that information is power for his fellow members of the LGBT community. It is truly at the heart of OT to make information accessible to create change in health and well-being for underserved populations. Khizer has the heart of an OT and no doubt has a brilliant future in this profession.



Khizer (standing) at the LGBTQ Students and Allies in Healthcare helped families at the National Hispanic Cultural Center's "Salud y Sabor" event decorate cards for victims of the shootings at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Resources on how to cope after tragic events and counseling were also distributed.



Applause, Applause! Give Them a Hand UNM OTGP Represented at ASHT Meeting

In September, the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) held their annual meeting in Washington D.C and we were there! Colin Baugh (class of 2016), Dailey Jackson (class of 2016) and Trish Siegel, OTD, OTR/L presented a poster Practice Patterns Following Carpometacarpal (CMC) Arthroplasty. The poster was the summation of a national survey of occupational therapists and physical therapists who provide interventions to people who have had surgery for CMC arthritis.

This is the first time the UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate Program has had a presentation at the ASHT annual meeting. We're sure it won't be the last time!



l to r: Dailey Jackson, Trish Siegel, OTD, OTR/L and Colin Baugh at ASHT

UNM OTs in the NEWS!

Sara Metheny, MOTR/L (Class of 2007) is the Inpatient Rehabilitation Manager at Presbyterian Hospital. She participated in an AOTA Leadership Development Program titled, *Cultivating Your Power & Influence: The AOTA Leadership Development Program*. This is a very competitive national program with under 15 participants selected annually. The three day training held at the AOTA Office in Bethesda Maryland focused on the Centennial Vision strategic objective of "building the profession's capacity to influence and lead". Course topics included reinforcing leadership practices, skills for Executive Leadership and the importance of role of managers in creating a culture of evidence based practice.

Heidi Sanders, MA, OTR/L (Class of 1997) was promoted to Senior Lecturer in the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

Brandi Jones, OTD, OTR/L (Class of 2009) who is an Instructor in the OTA Brown-Mackie Program was elected to be

the New Mexico Representative for the AOTA RA.

Suzanne Burns, Ph.D, OTR/L (Class of 2011) received her Ph.D. this fall from Texas Woman's University. Her dissertation focused on the development and initial psychometric analysis of the Multiple Errands Test Home Version (MET-Home) designed to assess the impact of executive dysfunction on everyday tasks in the home environment in adults with stroke. Suzanne will be working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the American Heart Association (AHA) funded WISSDOM Center exploring health disparities in stroke recovery in *the buckle of the stroke belt* at the Medical University of South Carolina starting November, 2016. She also recently published the following papers in 2016:

Burns, S.P. & Pickens, N.D. (2016). Embedding technology into inter-professional best practices in home safety evaluation. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 1-7. doi:

10.1080/17483107.2016.1189000

Burns, S. C., & Neville, M. (2016). Cognitive assessment trends in home health care for adults with mild stroke. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 70, 7002290020. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2016.016543>

Melissa Winkle, OTR/L, FAOTA (Class of 2001) Melissa Winkle, OTR/L, FAOTA, President was elected President of Animal Assisted Intervention International (AAII). Melissa is one of the founders of the European based non-profit organization AAII supporting Animal Assisted Intervention within professional healthcare and human service settings. AAII is an organization that has a strong foundation of positive interactions with people and animals, at all stages in the AAII continuum (training, handling, treating, educating, etc.). It is built to have a solid foundation in standards of practice and embraces sharing of quality professional level information.

Several of our graduates held leadership positions in NMOTA. We would like to thank them for their leadership

NMOTA Officers:

Elected President starting July 2016:

Marina Moestretti (Class of 2014)

Recent President: Carla Wilhite (Class of 1996)

Vice President: Rachel Nelson (Class of 2014)

Secretary: Julia Brunson (Class of 2014)

Secretary (2016-2018): Laura Carlisle (Class of 2010)

Treasurer: Prisca Werbelow (Class of 2012)

NMOTA Chairs of NMOTA Committees:

Marketing AdHoc Committee: Ivyrose Gonzales (Class of 2008) and Geneva Nolan (Class of 2015)

Evidence-Based Practice AdHoc Committee:
Joan Henriksen (Class of 2015)

Legislative Committee: Trina Garringer (Class of 1997)

Conference Committee: Ginny Stearns Rossberg (Class of 2006) and Jennifer Hill (Class of 2014)

Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee:
Laura Carlisle (Class of 2011)

Membership Committee: Myra Peel McGuire (Class of 2015)