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Occupational Therapy Graduate Program

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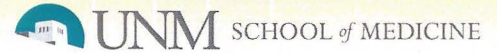
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OTras Perspectivas

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

UNM OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



*Betsy VanLeit, PhD, OTR/L
Associate Professor and Director
Occupational Therapy Program
Department of Pediatrics*

What an honor it is to serve as Director of the UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate Program! I want to start by thanking Dr. Diane Parham for her leadership from 2007 through 2011. Much has transpired in 2012, and many of the articles in this newsletter speak to our continued development made possible because of the tremendous talents of our faculty, staff and students. I'll highlight a few areas of growth that I'm particularly excited about.

First and foremost, we're in the process of hiring two additional faculty members. Carla Wilhite OTD, OTR/L was a graduate of our second class of students many years ago, and she will start in January 2013. We're also in the midst of a second national search and hope to hire a faculty member to start in July or even earlier. With eight full-time faculty members on-board, as well as several stellar part-time teaching faculty, we will be in a good position

to expand our efforts in all of our mission areas including education, scholarship and service.

One initiative that many of you may be interested in is the development of a post-professional OTD. Dr. Janet Poole is taking the lead in writing a proposal that we hope will become reality in perhaps two years. We envision a program of studies that encourages occupational therapists around the state and beyond to advance their education and strengthen their leadership in the field. A central feature will be a year-long residency that allows our OTD students to engage in significant scholarship that occurs in their practice workplace and community. Our proposed starting date is Fall 2014.

Another initiative that I'm excited about is our developing Practice Scholar Program designed to strengthen collaboration between the UNM OTGP, the New Mexico Occupational Therapy

Association (NMOTA), and practitioners who wish to become involved in practice outcomes measurement. The first step involved getting input at NMOTA conference roundtables, and next UNM and NMOTA are partnering to offer continuing education focused on evidence-based skills and outcomes measurement.

We hope that this will lead to better integration of academia and practitioners as well as development of a cadre of practitioners actively engaging in meaningful workplace scholarship. If you are interested in any of these initiatives, or have other ideas or interests, please feel free to contact me at: bvanleit@salud.unm.edu. My intent as Program Director is to support our fabulous faculty, staff and students, and to reach out to practitioners as well. And please read the entire newsletter from cover to cover to get a better feel for everything we have been doing!



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OT Program Website

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Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/UNMOTGP

WELCOME

NEW FACULTY & STAFF MEMBERS

◆ Carla Wilhite, OTD, OTR/L



I'm one of only a few occupational therapists who work with agricultural health and disability issues, and even though it looks like a niche practice, it has really demanded

generalist skills along with nonprofit management "know-how". In the course of my practice with farmers I've been a fieldwork II supervisor for numerous students, written grants, developed new programs, consulted on farm assistive technology across the nation, worked in home modifications, committed acts of advocacy, persuasion, and lobbying and had rudimentary lessons in handling livestock and driving tractors and combines....and through it all, my main lens has been through psychosocial,

phenomenological, and disability criticism perspectives. I'm very eclectic in my use of models of practice and frameworks, but my primary guide is neuro-occupation; a "concept in occupational therapy that focuses on the interdependent, dynamic and reciprocal relationship between the nervous system and occupational performance" (Walloch, 1998, p.238).

I am also an artist working in multi-media; currently in photography, documenting themes I find in rural locations ranging from landscape to the vernacular residue of past cultural activity (re: junk). My life partner is Julie, who is a sign language interpreter for the deaf. I have two companion critters Panda and Dot, both toy fox terriers. Lastly, I am trying to build a chuckwagon and have been gathering junk for restoring it for about ten years; from harness to cooking implements; thus, perfecting my Dutch oven cooking is always a concurrent play activity. I make a great peach cobbler in the Dutch especially when cooked on wood coals.

◆ Janet Werner



I moved to New Mexico in March, 2011 after having lived in Kansas since birth. (Yes, I do occasionally get asked about Dorothy and Toto). I grew up in a small town located just north of Salina with a

population of 650. Upon graduating from high school, I moved to Manhattan where I graduated from KSU with a BS in Business Administration. I graduated on a Friday afternoon, moved to Topeka over the weekend and started my first "grown up" job that Monday.

I have three sons, two live in Kansas and one in Arizona and in July of last year, I was blessed

with my first grandchild, yes.. you guessed it.. a grandson. He is a delight..Some of my interests include: taking the jeep on mountain trails, hiking, biking (although this was much easier in Kansas), horseback riding, and jigsaw puzzles. Besides being a "people" person, I am also an animal lover. When my oldest son was in first grade, I remember him coming home with an assignment to bring back footprints of the family pets on a sheet of paper. Well, we ended up with footprints of 13 different pets and believe me it really wasn't easy getting a footprint of mama hamster.

When my husband Dave and I moved here, we were "pet less" so a year ago we decided to add two golden retriever puppies to our family, a male and a female. The male he named Dapoquitomas (Dap for short) and I named the female Ellee. I finally have my little girl.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

GAIL STOCKMAN

Spotlight on Occupational Therapist Extraordinaire!!

Those who know Gail Stockman, MS, OTR/L, know that inpatient rehabilitation is her favorite area of practice. Gail has found a new passion in her current job as an occupational therapist for InnovAge Greater New Mexico PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly).

The PACE program provides services for older adults who require assistance to stay independent and continue to live at home. Therapy services are provided at an adult care health center and in the home. Gail says the average age of the participants is 86 years, but she recently worked with a participant who had recently celebrated their 105th birthday! To be eligible for the program, participants must be 55, able to live in the community safely, have specific long term care needs and qualify for Medicaid and Medicare. Gail enjoys the team approach of PACE as participants receive comprehensive care from occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, pharmacists, physicians and/or nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists and speech therapists. Equipment is provided to participants as needed and PACE employs an

individual to build, install and maintain permanent equipment, such as ramps and grab bars. Transportation is provided to the adult day center and to outside appointment such as appointments with a specialist. Social and medical respite care is also available for the participants and their caregivers.

Gail conducts Pre-PACE evaluations in peoples' homes to evaluate equipment needs and determine family and social support. Gail shares her great sense of humor with the clients she serves. One day, she sat down at an empty spot at a table in the dining room thinking that she would blend in with the other residents (you do not fit in Gail, even with your salt and pepper colored hair, your face is much too young). She was expecting someone to serve her lunch, however the server caught on to her much to the delight of her table mates but to her chagrin.

Gail says the clients she works with are the best aspect of her job. The challenge is remembering the names of 200 people, their living situation, equip-



Gail Stockman, MS, OTR/L

ment and family members. She enjoys the direct service and the home care aspect. She says she can "do home care and not have to drive all day."

At present, PACE does not have a student program but Gail is hoping to develop one. We hope she does, as Gail is a fantastic clinical educator and role model. She was a faculty member and the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the University of New Mexico Occupational therapy Graduate Program for 7 years!! Thank you Gail for all your contribution to the OTGP and we look forward to continued collaborations.

OT 20th YEAR REUNION SAVE THIS DATE

In 1993 our first class of Occupational Therapy students started at UNM. On **September 28, 2013** we will be recognizing our 20th reunion. To celebrate we are throwing a fun evening party at the Marriot Pyramid North. All alumni, current students and a significant other, current and other faculty members and significant contributors to our program will be invited. Please mark this event on your calendars and look for more information!



Occupational Therapy Graduate Program

CLASS OF 2013

RESEARCH/SCHOLARLY PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

Title of Project	Faculty Researcher (s)	Students
Developing and Evaluating a Falls Risk Assessment and Intervention Program in the UNM Senior Health Center	Betsy VanLeit	Kaycee Hinckley Denille Storey
A Comparison of Keital Functional Test Scores in Persons with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Systemic Sclerosis	Janet Poole	Amy New Christina Garcia
Impact of an Intensive Cultural Experience: A Qualitative Study	Terry Crowe	Amy Murtagh Allison Weber
Efficacy of Service Dogs with Children with Developmental Disabilities	Terry Crowe Melissa Winkle	Elizabeth Brobst Linda Sloan
Efficacy of Service Dogs with People with Mobility Challenges	Terry Crowe Melissa Winkle, & Ingrid Hendrix	Jessica Sedillo

Title of Project	Faculty Researcher (s)	Students
Autonomic and Behavioral Responses of Children with Autism	Diane Parham	Chinatsu Cook Sarah Dumas Michelle Gutierrez
Sensory Characteristics of Adolescents in New Mexico Who Are At High Risk for Psychosis	Diane Parham	Erin Cook Ellen Cousineau Rachael England
Educational Needs of Children with Scleroderma and Their Parents	Janet Poole	Annie Huerta Jane Kastning Bernadette Vargas
The Effect of Charcot-Marie Tooth on Hand Function	Janet Poole	Matt Huffman Anaclaire Hunter Clare Mares
Constraint Induced Movement Therapy in Adults Post Stroke (single case studies)	Janet Poole, Stephanie Singleton	Jesse Quinlan Miranda Wynne

Innovative Projects in Occupational Therapy Sensory Regulation and Attachment

By Heidi Sanders, MA, OTR/L

The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program at the University of New Mexico is launching its second year of a collaborative project with La Familia Treatment Foster Care. Faculty member, Heidi Sanders, working in conjunction with Leah J. Brouwers, Family Therapist at La Familia, has created curricula for groups based on sensory play, attachment, and the principles of the ALERT Program®. Graduate students have facilitated the groups, alongside staff from La

Familia, during fieldwork I and II experiences. The target age range for groups has ranged from preschoolers to pre-teens.

In addition, each cadre of graduate students has completed a case study with one to two children receiving services from La Familia. This has entailed completion of observations in the clinic and home environments, standardized testing, and interview with the foster families and treatment teams, as well as completion of sensory

checklists. The students have then prepared interventions targeting sensory play needs, creation of sensory diets, and recommendations for increased performance at school and at home as part of the Community Health course.

During the Spring of 2012, two graduate students, Bryanna King and Charlene St. Germain, organized two workshops for La Familia staff and treatment foster parents. The workshops provided an overview

of sensory regulation and the relation to development of attachment. Families discussed their similarities and differences in sensory preferences and routines compared to the children in their care and how this may affect relationships. In addition, the families and treatment team members began creating treatment goals related to sensory needs, as well as sensory diets for use at home. More workshops are being planned for this fall.

Recent Faculty Research Publications

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

- Baker N.A., Aufman, E., Poole, J.L. (2012). Computer use problems at work and home for people with systemic sclerosis. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 66, 368-375.
- Bassel, M., Hudson, M., Baron, M., Taillefer, S.S., Mouthon, L., Poiraudau, S., Poole, J.L., & Thombs, B.D. (2012). Physical and Occupational Therapy Referral and Use among Systemic Sclerosis Patients with Impaired Hand Function: Results from a Canadian National Survey. *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology*, 30, 574-577.
- Chang, M-C., Parham, L.D., Blanche, E.I., Schell, A., Chou, C.-C., Dawson, M., & Clark, F. (2012). Autonomic and behavioral responses of children with autism to auditory stimuli. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.
- Crowe, T. K. & Michael, H. (2011). Time use of mothers of adolescents: The impact of having a child with disabilities. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 31, 118-126.
- Crowe, T. K., & Michael, H. (2011). Time use of women of adolescents: A lasting impact of having a child's disabilities. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation & Health*, 31, 118-126.
- Legendre, V., Burtner, P., Martinez, K. & Crowe, T.K. (2011). The evolving practice of developmental care in the neonatal unit: A systematic review. *Pediatric Occupational and Physical Therapy*, 22, 23-36.
- Legendre, V., Burtner, P., Martinez, K. & Crowe, T.K., (2011). The evolving practice of developmental care in the neonatal unit: A systematic review. *Occupational and Physical Therapy in Pediatrics*, 31, 315-338.
- Parham, L.D., Roley, S.S., May-Benson, T., Koomar, J., Brett-Green, B., Burke, J.P., Cohn, E.S., Mailloux, Z., Miller, L.J., & Schaaf, R.C. (2011). Development of a fidelity measure for research on Ayres Sensory Integration intervention. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 65, 133-142. doi:10.5014/ajot.2011.000745
- Park, H & VanLeit, B (March 2012). The meaning of gardening for adults with developmental disabilities. *American Occupational Therapy Developmental Special Interest Section Quarterly*.
- Poole, J.L., Willer, K., Mendelson, C., Sanders, M., & Skipper, B. (2011). Perceived parenting ability and systemic sclerosis. *Musculoskeletal Care*, 9, 32-40.
- Poole, J.L., Heeter Walenta, M., Alonzo, V., Coe, A., & Moineim, M. (2011) Comparison of two rehabilitation regimens following basal joint arthroplasty: A pilot study. *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*, 29, 327-336.
- Poole, J.L. (2011). Measures of adult hand function. *Arthritis Care and Research*, 63, S189-S199.
- Poole, J.L., Willer, K., Mendelson, C., Sanders, M., & Skipper, B. (2011). Perceived parenting ability and systemic sclerosis. *Musculoskeletal Care*, 9, 32-40.
- Poole, J.L. Rymek-Gmytrasiewicz, M., Mendelson, C., Sanders, M., & Skipper, B. (2012). Parenting: the forgotten role of women living with systemic lupus erythematosus. *Clinical Rheumatology*, 31, 995-1000.
- Winkle, M., Crowe, T. K., & Hendrix, I. (2012). Service dogs and people with physical disabilities: An evidence-based literature review. *OT International* 19, 54-66

Save the Date!

The Fieldwork Educator Workshop is back!

Friday, March 22, 2013.

Gail Stockman, MS, OTR/L and Renee Soderlund, MA, OTR/L will be presenting on various topics.

The location is still to be determined and CEUs will be awarded to all participants.

Come join us for a fun-filled day of learning more about fieldwork!

OT Class of 2013

It's amazing to say that our first full year as graduate students at the UNM Occupational Therapy Program has already come and gone! We are eagerly looking forward to the second year of our education to continue building our knowledge, as well as applying our skills learned thus far. This fall is sure to keep us busy through weekly field-work placements in varying community settings, as well as a full class load to continue

our development as proficient and competent future practitioners. We are also so fortunate to have exceptional guest speakers this fall who have shared their incredible stories with us. These experiences will be put to use throughout our week-long neurological based field work in October, where we will serve in facilities in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Texas, Washington, Utah, Colorado, and Florida.

Our class took advantage of

a lighter load this summer and pursued involvement in international and community work over the break. Several students participated in the multi-cultural educational experience in Oaxaca, Mexico, while other students volunteered to work with children with autism at Camp Rising Sun. With no formal classes required, we continued investigating clinical questions, perusing the literature, and analyzing data as our research

projects carried on.

Our class truly has developed into a cohesive family, each one of us ready to spur each other on to be the best advocates, leaders, and practitioners in the field of occupational therapy. With so much more to learn throughout this year we aim to stay focused on the goal, and enter this honored profession in just a short year and half.



From Left to Right:

Back Row: Anaclaire Green, Miranda Rouw, Christina Garcia, Matt Huffman, Rachael England. Middle Row: Amy Murtagh, Kaycee Hinckley, Doris Haller, Clare Mares, Amy New, Ellen Cousineau, Erin Cook, Annie Huerta, Chinatsu Cook, Elizabeth Brobst, Allie Weber, Michelle Gutierrez, Sarah Dumas, Linda Sloan. Front Row: Bernadette Vargas, Denille Storey, Jessica Salazar Sedillo, Jesse Quinlan, Jane Kastning



From Left to Right:

Back Row: Stephanie Martinez, Consuelo Salazar, Angela Roberts. 3rd Row: Marina Weisert, Teresa Lifvergren, Nicole Aurand-Andes, Kristin Johnson, Maureen Mahoney-Barracough, Melissa Daniels, Lorna Smith, Jennifer Woolf. 2nd Row: Effie Pulford, Ashley Prokopiak, Patricia Huband, Jennifer Hill, Rachel Goldman, Vanessa Anaya. Front Row: Sarita Streng, Anona Whitley, Amanda Pena, Julia Painter, Rachel Gillespie, Sofia Herrera, Roxanna Momeni, Mary Moran

OT Class of 2014

As we approach the end of the first month of school, we are honored to be part of such a prestigious program with amazing faculty, staff and second year students. The class of 2014 is a creative and dedicated group of females with hearts for service and eyes that are looking into the future. We begin the first year of this amazing journey with clear 20/20 vision, as the 20th graduate class of the UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate Program.

As visionaries, we look ahead to our futures as OTs with excitement and conviction. Our class combines a variety of ages, backgrounds and degrees that allow each and every one of us to contribute something new to the group as well as the field of OT. We aspire to be continually involved in and advocate for our profession. As a class, we have begun to make our presence known as future OTs in the state of New Mexico. Our entire class attended the 2012 NMOTA conference in

order to begin networking and contributing to the profession of occupational therapy. From this experience we realized the crucial importance of collaboration and innovation in OT. Within our class, this spirit of collaboration has decidedly taken root. We are excited to move through this program together, and to be a part of such a creative and evidence-based profession.

The class of 2014 would like to thank the wonderful faculty and staff of the UNM OTGP, our future colleagues, mentors

in the class of 2013, and the occupational therapy community. The encouragement and passion we have encountered so far has helped us understand the importance of our profession on a local, national, and global scale. We are beginning to see ourselves not just as students, but as movers and shakers within the field of OT. With eyes and hearts wide open, we look forward to the rest of our academic journey, and hope to give back to our profession in our future careers.

Occupational Therapy Graduate Students Helping the Community

By Terry Crowe, PhD, OTR/L

Each spring in the Community Health class each of our 2nd year graduate students participate in a 40 hour service learning experience with a community agency. Each year this equates to over 1,000 of community service. Last year 28 of our students worked with NMOTA, YWCA, Dogwood Inc., Carolyn's Causes, the International School, EAT (Everyone's At the Table), La Familia, East Central Ministries, Crossroads, Maya's Place, Veteran's Administration, Bilingual Multicultural Services, CDD Just for Kicks and CDD Autism Programs. Our students assist with many activities including program development and implementation, product

development, program evaluation, fund raising and grant writing.

Over the past 3 years with the assistance of Dr. Terry K. Crowe six students have successfully written and obtained grants to assist community development activities. In 2010 Hannah Bloom received a grant from the Wells Fargo Bank Foundation to assist CASA (Court Appointed Specialty Advocates) to partner with the YMCA. This grant provided funding for children and adolescents in the CYFD system to participate in healthy activities at YMCA including swimming and sports. In 2011 Erin Schellinger received a

grant from the PNM Resources Foundation to fund a wellness program which included healthy eating and exercise at Maya's Place. Maya's Place is a residential facility that supports women transitioning from incarceration to independence. And last spring Sena Hare and Livinia Silva wrote another grant to the PNM Resources Foundation to expand the wellness program to include gardening. This grant supported the building of a garden to provide access to healthy food and establish a new meaningful occupation in the form of gardening for some of the women. And lastly, Teresa Ziomek and Kristal Hildebrand received a grant from the Bernalillo

County Fund to finance the 2012 Carolyn's Causes summer camp. These 4 grants provided over \$10,000 to our community and assisted numerous children, adolescents and women to live healthier lives through meaningful occupations.

We are very proud of all of our outstanding students for giving their service to the people in our community. We are also thankful to the individuals who work with our students to achieve their impressive outcomes including obtaining grants. This spring more of our students will be reaching out to our community to share their expertise.



Livinia Silva, Terry Crowe, Sena Hare, and Annandhi Chandrasekara Celebrate the Maya's Place Garden

Sensory Space Lab Study is Open

By Diane Parham

A new Sensory Space Lab is enrolling children with and without autism in a research project that examines the relationship between physiological responses to sensory stimuli in the lab and child behavioral responses to sensory experiences in daily life, as reported by parents. The lab is located in a room at the UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD). Research data collection procedures use the Sensory Challenge Protocol developed by Lucy J. Miller. Physiological responses are measured using electrodermal measures (also known as the Galvanic skin response), and behavioral responses are measured using the Sensory Processing Measure – Home Form. The Principal Investigator of the study, Dr. Diane Parham, is grateful to the UNM OT students who contributed to development of the lab: Kendra Reynolds Meyer, Judy Banet, Mike Kneafsey, Rhonda Barth, Bethany Luke, Erin Schellinger, Angie Shackford, Sabina Baxter, Eva Dillard, Paul Higdon, and Rachel Milanez. Current students who are participating in data collection are Chinatsu Cook, Sarah Dumas, and Michelle Gutierrez.

This project builds on a study that was published in the September/October 2012 issue



OT Student Sarah Dumas and child model Mina Cook demonstrate procedures in the Sensory Space Lab.

of AJOT, titled Autonomic and Behavioral Responses of Children with Autism to Auditory Stimuli. In that study, we found that strong sympathetic responses to auditory stimuli in the lab were significantly correlated with parent reports of difficult behaviors in response to sounds in everyday environments, for children with autism.

Better understanding of how children with autism physiologically respond to sensory events in everyday life will help us to plan learning and living environments, as well as intervention approaches, that are optimal for them.

We are studying children who are 5 through 12 years old, and we are including typically developing children with no

learning or behavioral problems, as well as children diagnosed with autistic disorder. If you would like more information about the study, or if you and your child would like to participate, please contact Diane at 505-272-8454, or e-mail her at DiParham@salud.unm.edu.

Get Involved in Our State and National Associations

By Terry K. Crowe, PhD, OTR/L

NMOTA and AOTA are our associations that support our profession. Many changes in health care and education may be happening in the near future. It is critical that we have representation at both the state and national levels. Your NMOTA and AOTA dues pay for many OT functions including advocacy. Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) will dictate the level of coverage for Occupational Therapy services for millions of people insured starting in 2014. Will Occupational Therapy be one of them? Our state is in the process of making major decisions about Medicaid funding. One of the primary responsibilities of NMOTA is to fund our lobbyist, Linda Siegle so she can be in Santa Fe when critical decisions are being made that can impact our profession. As our license sunset is in the near future (2015) this becomes even more important. AOTA staff are in Washington DC repre-



Students Kaycee Hinkley and Miranda Wynne selling t-shirts to support the Student Occupational Therapy Association at UNM

sending our profession as laws and policies are being made.

According to the New Mexico State License Board, there are 699 OTs and OTAs in New Mexico. We have 306 graduates of the University of New Mexico Occupational Therapy Program since 1995. Recently a new MOT Program started at Western New Mexico University. We also have several OTA

schools in our state. Eastern NMU and Western NMU started their educational programs around the same time. Now we have Brown Mackie College soon ready to graduate OTA students.

NMOTA has 222 members, 101 are students. Approximately 80% of our UNM graduates stay in our state. Of those 240 in-state gradu-

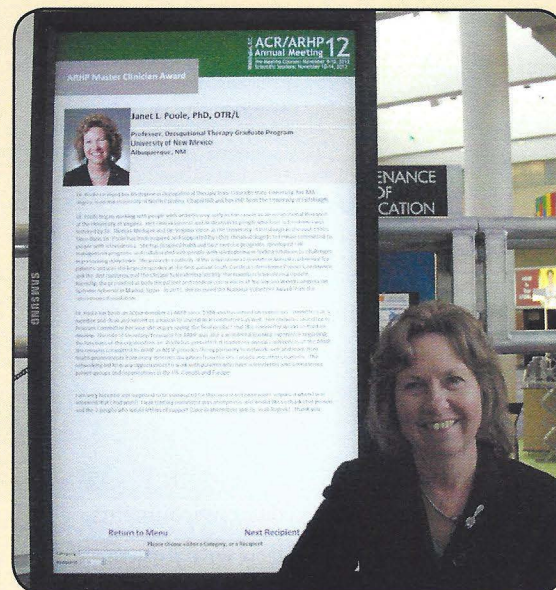
ates ONLY 21 individuals are NMOTA Members. This equates to a shocking 9%. Of the 699 licensed OT practitioners in our State, ONLY 17% (121) support NMOTA by joining.

The good news is the growing numbers of students that supports NMOTA. This includes 38 or 79 UNM students (49%). There are 23 student members from ENMU and 16 student members from WNMU. AOTA has documented that if students contribute to our Associations' memberships, they are more likely to continue supporting professional associations in the future.

I am encouraging ALL occupational therapists and students in our state to join NMOTA. Yearly dues are only \$50 for OTs, \$40 for OTAs, and \$10 for students. How many lattes is this for you?? Please step up and join NMOTA. And while you are at it please join AOTA!

2012 ARHP Master Clinician Award

Dr. Janet Poole received the 2012 Master Clinician Award from the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals Association. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates outstanding clinical expertise in arthritis and the rheumatic diseases.



What's Happening in Fieldwork

By Sue Chrisman, MA, OTR/L

On the Fieldwork Front ...

Many new exciting things are happening on the fieldwork front. For starters, we have a new fieldwork website <http://hsc.unm.edu/som/ot/fieldwork.shtml>. This site is full of useful resources for fieldwork educators and students and has allowed us to use less paper and save a few trees along the way! In the spring of 2013, we will also reinstate the Fieldwork Educator Workshop and will begin giving awards for the Best Fieldwork Educator and Best Fieldwork Site at that event—details coming soon!

Janet Werner has also joined our team this year as the Academic Advisement Coordinator. Janet has extensive background in stu-

dent advisement and her duties include working with students during the admission process all the way through their Level II fieldwork experiences, assisting me with fieldwork contracts/placements, and coordinating workshops. Janet will also play a major role in creating an on-line student database of our fieldwork sites so that our students can research and access information about sites from anywhere. We are so pleased to have Janet on our team!

Congratulations are in order for the students from the Class of 2011 who graduated in December 2011 and the spring of 2012. Most of these students have already passed the NBCOT exam and are currently working in the community. Students in the class of 2012 began their

Level II Fieldwork this July and the majority of the students will complete their placements and graduate in December 2012. This is only made possible through the supervision of the wonderful fieldwork educators and sites that willingly volunteer each year to provide valuable learning experiences for our students.

Thank you to all the fieldwork educators and sites in our community that contributed to fieldwork education in 2011-12. The sites included UNMH & Carrie Tingley Hospital, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, Veterans of America Healthcare System, Lovelace Health System, Albuquerque & Bernalillo Public Schools, ExplorAbilities, Inc., La Vida Felicidad, Hallmark

Rehabilitation, RehabCare, 3 H Integrated, LLC., Four Point Therapy, LLC., Christus St Vincent Regional Medical Center, NMSBVI Preschool, Indigo Therapy Services, Kristen Red-Horse, OTR/L, The International School at Mesa del Sol, Theraplay, Center for Development and Disability, Advanced Health Care of . Albuquerque, and Victoria VanDame, & Me Therapy. Are you interested in becoming a fieldwork educator? Do you enjoy providing occupational therapy graduate students with clinical experiences? Are you curious about the benefits of being a fieldwork educator? To answer your questions, please contact Sue Chrisman, MA OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at 505-272-3455 or schrisman@salud.unm.edu.

Building a Cadre of Practice Scholars

Betsy VanLeit, PhD, OTR/L

We at the UNM OTGP believe that we have a responsibility that extends beyond our current work of educating entry-level practitioners. That is why we are writing a proposal to create a post-professional OTD course of studies, and that is why we are also interested in creating a system to collaborate with practitioners who are interested in engaging in scholarship. Practice scholarship can support efforts to determine the effectiveness of, and expand the evidence base for practice. By creating a cadre of scholarly practitioners

we can accomplish the following important objectives:

- Broadening the pool of people who can mentor student master's projects
- Strengthening the link between the academic program and community therapists
- Building capacity for faculty and therapists to engage in scholarship together
- Bridging the divide between scholarship and practice

To do this, we need to identify therapists interested in becoming practice-scholars and then develop a collaborative that works for both the UNM

OTGP and occupational therapy practitioners. This will require attention to numerous logistical and systems issues. Our first step was to float the idea with the UNM OTGP Advisory Council Members, and they were quite enthusiastic. Next, Dr. VanLeit held well attended roundtables at the NMOTA Conference in September 2012, and again there seemed to be much interest in the concept. Now, NMOTA and the UNM OTGP are partnering to offer continuing education to practitioners interested in becoming involved in practice scholarship. In addition, we assume

that the practice scholars will require additional mentoring to help prepare them to engage in research in their work setting, and to work with OTGP students.

If you are interested in potentially participating in the Practice Scholar initiative, please contact Dr. VanLeit at bvanleit@salud.unm.edu. We hope that this initiative will provide an exciting and productive way to better link the academy and the practice setting and ultimately improve the services and outcomes that we are able to provide our clients and communities.

Adventures in Oaxaca, Mexico

By Kristin Johnson, MOTS

Dr. Terry Crowe's Introduction to Traditional Mexican Medicine course in Oaxaca Mexico was an intriguing course on so many levels. Starting with the diverse group of students who embarked on this Mexican adventure. The class attracted professionals in the workforce, UNM undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, a Fullbright scholarship recipient, and many more fascinating individuals. Whatever the reason was that compelled each of us to enroll in the course, we all shared a rare two weeks together in the depths of Mexico.

We kicked off our journey at Solexico, the Spanish Language School where we were greeted with hospitality and placed into Spanish classes based on our level of fluency. The Spanish teachers were fun, and created an enjoyable atmosphere for learning. In addition to the Solexico staff, a few other instrumental individuals provided students with an authentic

view of Traditional Mexican Medicine. Healer Lopez Nuñez (Laurencio) stole our hearts as knowledge poured from him almost everyday of the course. He filled our minds with knowledge and our hearts with compassion. As we hiked through the mountains of Cuajimoloyas, Laurencio walked along side of us pointing out unique plants every couple of feet. He spoke of the medicinal purposes each plant provided, and opened our eyes to the fact that there is an entire pharmacy right out our front door.

Laurencio was, also, the key facilitator of the class *limpias*. A *limpia* is a spiritual ritual cleansing that can evoke a strong emotional release. It was fitting that our *limpias* took place on the side of a mountain with breathtaking panoramic views spanning all around us. It was truly a surreal experience. Later that evening a few other students and I partook in another cleansing ceremony that took place in a *Temazcal*. A *Temazcal* is a steam bath enhanced by aromatic native plants. The health benefits from a *Temazcal* ceremony are profound; sweating causes toxins to be released, the respiratory system is cleansed, and circulation is improved just to name few.

Nestled in Mexico's southern territory, Oaxaca is an intoxicating city to learn about the

Mexican culture. The grandeur of the Basilica and ex-convent of the Virgin of Solitude left me speechless; it was hard to take my eyes off the detailed architecture. The Basilica stands as a prominent piece of history in the middle of the lively plaza square. Street vendors, delicious restaurants, and live music are just a few attractions the plaza square has to offer. The plaza was a popular meeting place in and out of our class. It was obvious that the plaza was not only a central meeting place for our class, but also the city of Oaxaca! Oaxaca had a sublime characteristic to it that made it hard to say good-bye, but because I ate a *chapolina* (grasshopper) I know I'll return... as the saying goes.

The course also provided us with the opportunity to visit a special coffee plantation "El Mamey". Again, the location of the coffee plantation was amazing. A beautiful creek filled with crystal clear water ran in front of the plantation where a couple of water *limpias* took place. At the coffee plantation, an exceptional *curandera*, Doña Elizabeth, met

with our class. She spoke about her journey leading up to her life as a healer, and her quest to provide preparation to children who have been blessed with the don of light.

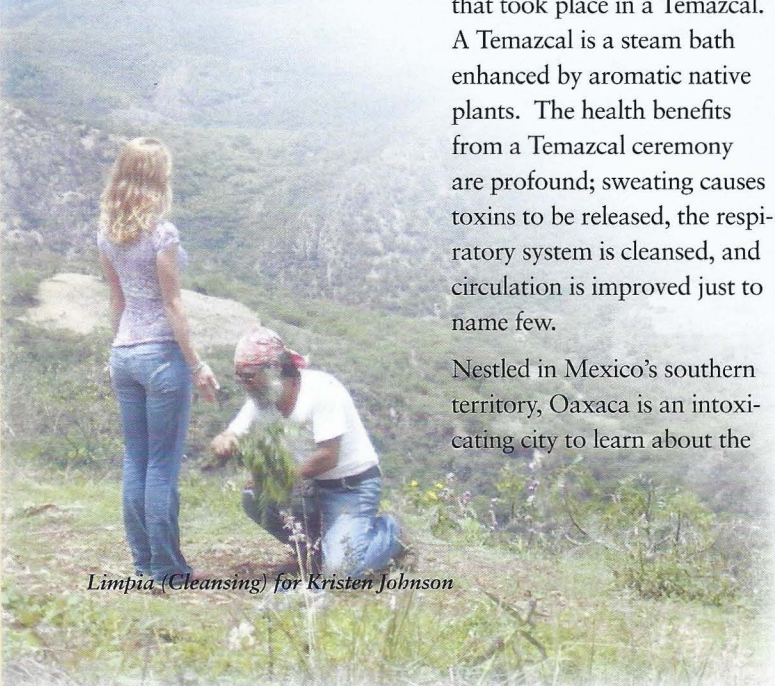
Dr. Crowe's Traditional Mexican Medicine course provided me with a different perspective on healthcare. Not only did I learn about holistic healing techniques, I witnessed healing occur throughout the duration of the course. This course provided me with a richness that I will always remember, and will call upon in my future practice as an Occupational Therapist.



Massage demonstration at the Coffee Plantation



Carmen eating a grasshopper



Limpia (Cleansing) for Kristen Johnson

Annette Schaefer SPEAKS AT 2012 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

Good morning Dr. Roth, Dr. Simpson, UNM faculty, honored guests, family members and friends, and especially the (almost) graduates of UNM's Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences class of 2012!! Congratulations on all that you have accomplished thus far. This is only the beginning.....

As we take those first few giant steps down the professional pathway, let us take a few moments to reflect on how far we have come, and how far we have yet to travel.

We all arrived from varied backgrounds; we all shared different narratives, we learned volumes from one another. This made us strong in our diversity and bonded in our cohesiveness. We gained book knowledge and practical experience, but the most impressive learning impact came from the perspectives and insights that we garnered from one another. We are not the same people we were when we began this journey; we are changed for the better. Take a moment to recognize and appreciate the change and growth in yourself and your colleagues around you.

Many of us will be asking our patients and clients to examine and modify their own lifestyles; acknowledging those changes and the many small steps it requires to accomplish goals



will go miles to maintain their trust and boost their confidence in themselves, and in you.

As health care professionals, we incur some inherent obligations to our patients. Obligations to maintain honesty, integrity, and trust and fidelity in foundations of practice; obligations to provide client- and family-centered care; obligations to offer and provide the best possible treatment options available for each and every patient. We MUST take these obligations seriously.

As each of you continue down your new career path, I challenge you to give back to others in the form of mentorship. Find a mentor to help guide and steer you initially and embrace all that they share with you. Each of us can identify a teacher and a professor that has motivated us, challenged us, opened our eyes to new possibilities, encouraged us to think outside the box, and enabled us to look at situations through a different lens. Let their encour-

We are honored that one of our graduates was chosen to give the student speech at their Public Health and Health Professions Programs 2012 Commencement. Here is Annette's talk.

agement flow through YOU to touch OTHERS. Take time and get to know your colleagues, and be ready to offer advice and mentorship if asked. Those providers that took the time to share their wisdom and knowledge with us taught us much more than we could have learned by simply reading a chapter in a book.

In this dynamic field of health care, it is crucial to adapt to changes in rules, modifications, and possibly new restrictions. But it is also an opportunity to examine new fields of practice, open new areas of community involvement, and discover under-served populations that could benefit from assistance. I encourage you to approach these potential obstacles with flexibility and an open mind. You never know where it might lead you...

Our profession, and life, in general, is about relationships; your relationships with your patients, clients, family

members, and colleagues. Take the time to forge strong ties. Listen without judgment, listen with your heart, and suspend your desire to jump to conclusions without all the facts. The rapport that you develop with those around you will allow you to build bridges of mutual trust and commitment – two invaluable tools necessary to practice in our respective fields.

And finally, let us take a moment to thank those advisors, family members, fellow students, and friends that supported and encouraged us, cared for us, tolerated our crabby moods, and kept us laughing along the way. I know I wouldn't be here without the continued support of my husband, children, and each of my fellow classmates. This is as much THEIR accomplishment as it is OURS.

Congratulations again, graduates! Our hard work and dedication has ensured each of us a bright future in a noble field. Our education has provided us the stable foundation to begin our careers with confidence and pride. The rest is up to us! We will be fearless, we will be flexible, we will be open-minded, we will acknowledge accomplishment, we will be grateful and WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Thank you.

Occupational Therapy Graduate Awards



Prisca Gruner, Annandhi Chandrasekaran, Sabrina Montez, Annette Schaefer, Sabina Baxter



Sena Hare, Kristal Hildebrand, Rachel Milanez, Dacia Davison, Teresa Ziomek

The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2012 was held on May 11, 2012 at the Tanoan Country Club. The following Occupational Therapy Students and Community Members Received Awards:

The Carolyn Thurman-Rustvold Community Spirit Award was presented this award to Kristen Sena Hare. Rachel Milanez received The Department of Pediatrics Occupational Therapy Scholarship

Award which is presented to the graduating student with highest academic excellence. Annette Schaefer received the HealthSouth Leadership Award and Prisca Gruner received the HealthSouth Research and Scholarship Award. At the Graduation ceremony, three community member were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the UNM Occupational Therapy Program and received the Friend of Occupational Therapy Award: Nancie Furgang, MA, OTR/L

from the UNM Center for Development and Disability, Betty Skipper, PhD from the UNM Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Linda Siegle, Lobbyist for NMOTA. Heidi M. Sanders, MA, OTR (class of 199) received the Distinguished Alumni. Additional students honored at Graduation were the winners of the Sheila Mun-Bryce Research Award for excellence in their presentations at the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Research Day: Kristen Sena

Hare and Sabrina Montez. Two of our graduating students received scholarships from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation: Annandhi Chandrasekaran received the North Coast Medical Scholarship and Kristal Hildebrand received the Alice Jantzen Memorial Scholarship. The following LEND fellows were recognized: Kristy Anderson, Sabina Baxter, Dacia Davison, and Teresa Ziomek.

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 1995

Debbie Bryan

(Owner of DBOTS)

Debbie is happily living two lives, one in Puerto Vallarta Mexico and the other here in Albuquerque where she continues to administer her DD Waiver business. She enjoys her 3 year old grandson and spending time in Mexico with new friends from all over the world. Great life!

Colleen (Biggins) Turner

(Colleen Turner Therapy Services Inc.)

Colleen's children are now 11 and 14. She has been self-employed for over 11 years of the DD Waiver and became CAPS Certified (Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist) in August 2011.

Dee (Dinham) Hettinger

(Employed at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital and Novant Health)

Dee states that it is hard to believe that it has been 20 years! Especially since this was her second career choice, after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Psychology and business. She says that it was by far the best decision she could have made. She has moved around a lot for her husband's career and is now settled in North Carolina and loves it! She currently works PRN at their two local hospitals and enjoys it when she is able to wear her "OT Hat". She still primarily finds

her interest is in the Neuro/Ortho population but has been taking extra courses in drivers re-ed, CARFIT certification, as well as the area of low vision. She is very busy with her two girls and all their school, church and extracurricular activities. While she has not earned that MOT, or OTD, or PhD just yet, it may still be in her future. She attends the AOTA conference nearly every year and enjoys being able to catch up with former professors, mentors and co-workers she has been blessed to have had in her life.

Class of 1996

Stuart Kay

(Employed at Innovage)

Stuart's practice area is gerontology.

Robert Hobbs *(Co-owner of A Center for Function and Creativity)*

Robert plans to complete his MPH next spring. He is busy with his program serving adults with I/DD and parenting his two daughters.

Class of 1997

Barbara Amstadt

(Employed at Rio Rancho Public Schools)

Barbara keeps super busy and enjoys being a grandma of 5 (ages 4 - 15)! John and her continue with camping, hiking and lots of home projects. She is working close to home now;

just a 5 minute commute! She continues to love her job as a school based therapist where learning never stops.

Marcia E. Congdon

(Retired since 2011)

Marcia helped a young man with spina bifida get his own apartment where he has lived independently for 17 months. She has traveled to Africa and has toured the North and Western United States. She spends 2-3 months in Minnesota every year with her 95 year old mother. Life is good!

Claudia (Gundlack) Gallegos

(Employed at HealthSouth and Lovelace Hospital downtown)

This is Claudia's fourth year that she has home-schooled her son. She is working PRN at two different places and is really enjoying working in the acute care setting.

Trina Garringer

(Self-Employed at Altura Homecare and Rehab)

Trina considers her lucky as she has two grown boys, one in the DPTP program and the other one is in a graphic arts program. She is in a beautiful new relationship with a gorgeous Aussie and just came back from a visit "down under" to meet his family and had a fantastic time. She is involved in Homecare and recently sold their company to a corporation and continues working in the company. She loves working with patients in their own environment and

keeping the successfully at home!

Janet Molina

(Employed at Carter Healthcare, Inc.)

Janet plans to retire at home in New Mexico - 5 years

Class of 1998

Michelle DeCanditis

(Employed at 3H Integrated, LLC and also self-employed)

Michelle is currently completing her final two courses for a Master's degree in Human Movement through A.T. Still University.

Melody Gallegos

(Employed at APS)

Class of 1999

Lynette (Back) Ben

(Employed at APS)

Andrea Cirks Gahan

(Employed at APS)

Cirks got married in June 2000 and has two beautiful daughters, ages 6 & 7 and has been working at APS since graduating.

Nicki Love

Nikki tried working as a traveler for a while and went to Carlsbad, but ended up getting sick and being airlifted to Albuquerque last May. She then worked for Heritage Home Health for 6 months and then went to Zuni Pueblo Schools

ALUMNI NEWS

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for 6 months. Nikki and Lee are still together (almost 28 years) and Ian is now 33 and about to move back in with them for 1-2 years.

Class of 2000

Jennifer (Schuker) Cordova
(Employed part time at APS and is also self-employed)

Jen married Dan Cordova (2001 graduate) and has two daughters, Haley (9 yrs) and Trista (7 yrs). She has been working in Autism specific classrooms in APS and has her own business providing OT services for individuals on the DD Waiver. She has seven contractors who work for her, and loves her life as an OT!

Rokeya (Clauss) Jaramillo
(Employed at APS)

Mary (McMain)
Peschka (Employed at *Encompass Home Health*)

Mary is enjoying her full time Home Health OT setting. She says that Las Cruces is a great place to live and life is beautiful every day.

Class of 2001

Dan Cordova
(Self Employed – Co-Owner of *A Center for Function and Creativity (CFC)*, and Part time at *Presbyterian Outpatient Rehabilitation*)

Dan married Jennifer Schuker from the Class of 2000 and they have two little girls. They

had started working with the DD waiver population and decided that they should open a dayhab based on OT principles. It is the fastest growing dayhab in Albuquerque (Robert Hobbs is his business partner). He loves orthopedic outpatient so will probably work at Presbyterian to finish off his OT career.

Amy (Cole) Markham
(Employed at APS and *Debbie Bryan Occupational Therapy Services*)

Amy has been working in the public schools since she graduated and continues to love working in the field of pediatrics. She does work with a few clients who are on the DD waiver whom she has worked with for six years now and really enjoys teaching them life skills. She just celebrated her 13 wedding anniversary. She has two children of her own, Zachary who is 6 and Emily who is 4. Her family of four continues to be very busy and all are happy and healthy.

Melissa Y. Winkle
(Owner of *Dogwood Therapy Services*)

Melissa owns a practice and also runs the Albuquerque location of a non-profit organization (Assistance Dogs of the West) and travels and teaches a variety of topics all over the world. She is President, Board of Directors for a new international non-profit organization "Animal Assisted Intervention International". Melissa is self-publishing animal as-

sisted therapy activity cards for healthcare providers in 7 different countries, and has accepted a request from AOTA to write a book on animal assisted interventions. In 2011 she was awarded Humanitarian of the Year for the Jewish Community. She is also involved in ongoing research on Assistance Dogs as Assistive Technology Options and Animal Assisted Interventions.

Class of 2002

Stephanie Fanning
(Employed at APS)

Class of 2003

Lisa Brower
(Employed at *Health South Rehab Hospital*)

Lisa started her new role as Director of Therapy Operations at HealthSouth in November 2010. She has an 8 month old little boy named Asher who was born on New Year's Day in 2012.

Elizabeth Gosden Philips
(Employed at *Disability Services Inc. (DSI)* and *Early Learning For Success (ELFS)*)

After graduating, Elizabeth had the privilege of working with the committed staff of the Behavior Intervention Program at Jimmy Carter Middle School for 2 years. She then returned to Gallup, NM and has enjoyed taking care of her three young children while working part

time in an early childhood intervention program. She immensely enjoys her work with diverse families with young children both in town and on the reservation and looks forward to developing her skills as an occupational therapist as she continues to work with families in this unique rural setting.

Class of 2004

Claudia Bergsohn
(Employed at APS and *ExplorAbilities*)

Johanna Cubra
(Self-employed/contracting therapist)

Johanna is practicing in the area of Early Intervention with families and their children with special needs and is involved with UNM OT Program serving as a facilitator for the Problem Based Learning classes. She also teaches fitness classes at Body Language and currently serves as VP on the NMOTA board and assisting with development of community programs.

Margaret Sarah
(*Picchiarini*) *Porte* (Employed at *Therapy Solutions of New Mexico, LLC*)

It has been an exciting year for Sarah. She was married on New Year's Eve and is now expecting her first child. After serving one term as President of NMOTA, she was honored to be elected to serve a second term.

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Nancy Rawcliffe

(Employed at Skyline Therapy Services and Deb Dlabal, PT)

Last summer Nancy was invited to join the American Hippotherapy Certification Board. This board writes and does periodic item reviews of the new Hippotherapy Certification Exam and the Hippotherapy Professional Clinical Specialist Exam. She is both thrilled and honored to serve on the AHCBS!

Felipe Rivera

(Employed at Debbie Bryan OT Services, La Vida Felicidad (EI), and Cooperative Educational Services)

Felipe loves his job and is still working hard. He is also creating traditional New Mexican artwork which he displays at various art shows around the state.

Carol Spizman

(Employed at Health South Rehab (PRN))

Carol's son Micah is now 3 years old. She continues to volunteer with the homeless and performs at Grower's Markets as a busker.

Angela (Lindeman) Beplat

(Employed at Central Peninsula General Hospital and Self employed)

Angela married Klaus Beplat who was a 2007 PT graduate of UNM. Together they have a 2 ½ year old son and are currently in the process of trying to adopt. Her daughter is now 13 years old and is in the 8th grade.

Class of 2005

Teresa Garland

(Employed at MEDS-PDN (CEU Training) and Building Bridges Therapy Center)

Teresa's area of practice is Pediatrics in clinic and school and she is the CEU Trainer on the topic of "Self-Regulation in Children". She is certified in SIPT, Interactive Metronome, Beckman's Oral Protocol, and iLs Sound Therapy and is currently writing a workbook on self-regulation. Teresa will be presenting her CEU "Self-regulation in Children" this coming December—dates and locations are as follows: Cheyenne, WY (12/3/12); Denver, CO (12/4/12); Live video Webcast (12/4/12); and Albuquerque, NM (12/5/12).

Michael Hughes

(Owner of Climbing Tree Therapy, Inc. and UNM Carrie Tingley Hospital (Friday Hand Clinic))

Michael is married with two little girls who are ages 5 years and 15 months. He has started private practice in the Albuquerque Metro area and Valencia City focused in Pediatrics and DD Waiver

Andrea Maddaleni

(Employed at ExplorAbilities, Inc)

Andrea works with pediatric outpatient and is in an OT Team Leader position.

Fran McGlothlin

(Frances Dineyazhe) was married in September 2006 to Travis McGlothlin and hasn't worked since having two children, a 5 year old son and a 7 month old daughter. They have been living in Gallup since 2009 as her husband works on his work/school payback.

Roxanne (Clark) Parker

(Self employed)

Roxanne is married with two children, a son (3 yrs) and a daughter (5 months). She stays busy with self-employment and parenthood.

Leah Anthony

(Employed at Rehab Care @ Las Palomas and Bagada Home Health)

Leah recently relocated back to New Mexico with her family and continues to work in SNF setting but has also expanded to home health. She continues to embody the holistic approach to life, and makes sure that her leisure time equals her work time.

Class of 2006

Emily Furgang

(Employed at UNC at Chapel Hill, - Doctoral Student in Occupational Science, TA)

Emily will be graduating with her PhD in Occupational Science from UNC Chapel Hill in Spring 2013! Her research area is college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Kristina (Gurule) Keenan

(Employed at Kidpower Therapy Association and self-employed)

Kristina now has two children, daughter Lily who is almost 5 yrs and a son, Atticus, who just turned 1. She is also self-employed as a DDW provider.

Cara Shannon King Pimentel

(Employed at HealthSouth, The Medical Resort at Fiesta Park, Advanced Healthcare of Albuquerque, Kindred Hospital, Lovelace Rehabilitation Hospital)

Cara is married and has two daughters—4 and ½ years and 17 mos. She is practicing in the acute rehab, long term acute care, and skilled nursing areas and very much enjoys her career. She received special training regarding spinal cord injury and OT and has taught 2 CEU courses focusing on this subject.

Class of 2007

Suzanne Peschier

(Employed at Bartlett Regional Hospital, Juneau, Alaska)

Kelly Shannon (Employed at Calvary of Albuquerque (Missionary) and Carrie Tingley Hospital (Casual Pool))

Kelly is serving as a missionary in Costa Rica with Calvary Chapel San Pedro.

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Class of 2008

Alisha Blackburn

(Employed at Innovative Senior Care/Brookdale Senior Living)

After living in New Mexico for 13 years, Alisha and her family moved to Colorado in July 2012. She loves it there and is now working in Home Health which is a new practice area for her.

John Garrett

(Employed at CES and Health-South)

John is traveling and still loves working with kids.

Ivyrose Gonzales

(Employed at Independent Living Therapy Services, LLC)

In 2009, Ivyrose completed Assistive Technology Professional Certification, created Independent Living Therapy Services to provide specialty services such as wheelchair evaluations, home safety assessments and functional balance training in a person's home and purchased a home with Dominic Chavez. She is also a co-instructor for the Applied Occupations II course for the UNM Occupational Therapy Program.

Class of 2009

Mike Kneafsey

(Employed at UNM Hospital)

Kendra (Reynolds) Myers

(Employed at ExplorAbilities)

Kendra was married in 2009 and obtained her NDT Certification in 2012.

Kellie (Mitchell) Primm

(Employed at NMVAHCS)

Kellie is currently working in the mental health realm serving primarily OIF/OEF veterans.

Class of 2010

Denise Osiel-Duran

Denise worked PRN for a year in outpatient and acute care at Lovelace Women's Hospital. She is currently looking for PRN work at a rehab or short-term care facility.

Nicole Nighbert

(Employed at Lovelace Rehabilitation Hospital & The Medical Resort)

Aubrie (Stavig) Powell

(Employed at Creative Therapy Services from 2/2011 – 7/2011)

Aubrie is currently living in sunny southern Spain (near Cadiz), where her husband is serving a 3-year tour in the Navy. Unfortunately, she is not able to formally practice OT on the naval base or in the community, but continues to work with people and engage in occupations through providing personal training/wellness coaching for active duty and their families as well as through gymnastics classes for children ages 2-18.

Sarah Scott

(Employed at 3H Integrated, LLC and Hallmark Rehabilitation)

Sarah is currently working on her Level II Hippotherapy Certification.

Mary Thelander-Hill

(Employed at Lovelace Rehab)

Hannah Bloom Leaving Lovelace Rehab to move to Nicaragua to work as an OT with Planting Hope and will be affiliated.

Class of 2011

Jessica Greaves

(Employed at Lovelace Medical Center and 3H Integrated)

Clara Holguin

(Employed at Lovelace Medical Center)

Erin Schellinger

(Employed at UNMH)

Autumn Latham

(Employed at UNMH)

Heather Park

(Employed at Presbyterian-Kaseman and ExplorAbilities)
Expecting a child

Bethany Luke

(Employed at UNMH)