

3-1-1998

Otras Perspectivas (Other Perspectives), Volume 01, Issue 02, March 1998

Occupational Therapy Graduate Program

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/otras_perspectivas

Recommended Citation

Occupational Therapy Graduate Program. "Otras Perspectivas (Other Perspectives), Volume 01, Issue 02, March 1998." (1998).
https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/otras_perspectivas/21

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Occupational Therapy at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in OTras Perspectivas: UNM Occupational Therapy Program Newsletter by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.



OTras Perspectivas

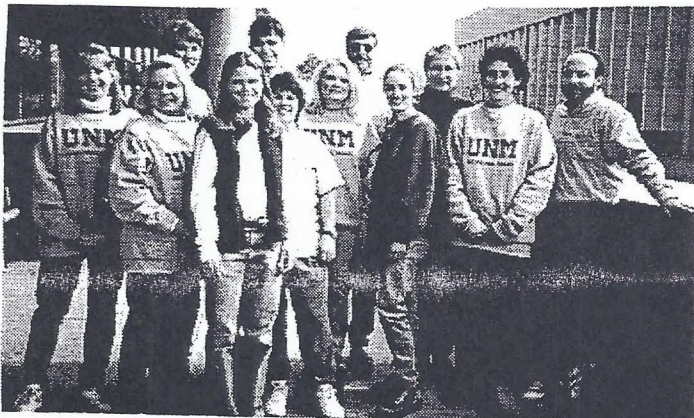
(Other Perspectives)

UNM Occupational Therapy Program Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

March 1998

HATS OFF TO SOTA
for a job well done!



The officers, representatives and chairs, shown above, are as follows: (back row, left to right) Stephanie Looney – Senior Student Rep., Neil Marion – Co-Treasurer, R.C. Francis – Co-Secretary, Kateri Osburn – Co-Secretary, (front row, left to right) Aya Kozak – Co-Treasurer, Donna Rigano – Graduation Committee Chair, Kim Wilson – Co-President, Elisa Salazar-MacKenzie – Junior Student Rep., April Kuehne – ASCOTA Rep., Joanna Evans – Vice President, Tracy Balk – Co-President, and Mark Balak – Co-Treasurer.

The UNM Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) is alive and well!

UNM SOTA's mission is as follows:

- To meet the needs of its members through identification, coordinated action, communication, and fellowship.

- To develop and maintain standards of OT practice and education within UNM and the community.
- To represent occupational therapy before professional and voluntary groups, agencies and the community.
- To provide academic support to all OT students through mentoring and tutoring.
- To raise funds to support attendance at professional conferences and to provide for extracurricular activities which are not part of the present OT curriculum.
- To contribute funds toward community projects that will be implemented by this association.

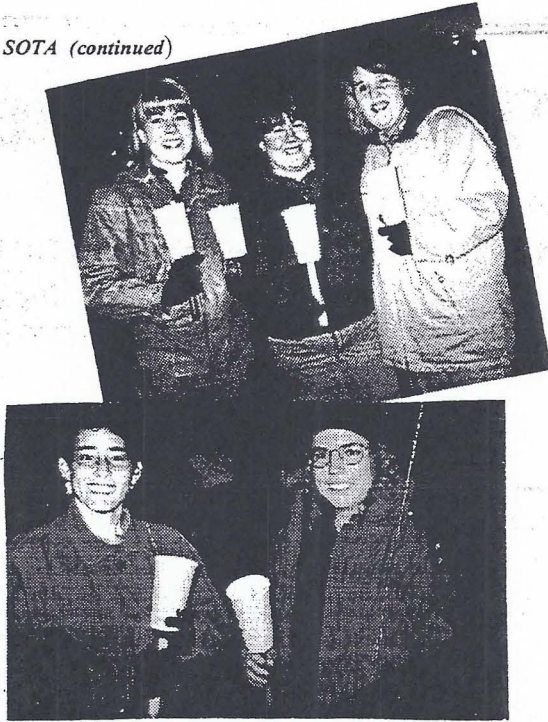
SOTA has been busy! Last fall, OT students showed their support for the Albuquerque community by taking part in events sponsored by UNM SOTA and other community organizations. In early October, students and faculty helped raised money for eight non-profit organizations (based in Albuquerque) by participating in the "AIDS Walk." Also, students participated in the "OTR/COTA Partnerships Day," which gave the OT students the chance to collaborate with OTA students in real life case studies.

Toward the latter part of October, OT students showed their support for people who have been sexually abused by participating in a "Take Back the Night" candlelight vigil where people who have been sexually abused are invited to share their stories, songs, poems and/or art.

OT students set up the art display for this year's event and assembled and passed out candles to those attending the event.

- continued on page 2



SOTA (continued)

Tracy Balk, Kirsten Berghmans, Andrea Kirks, Jill Nelson and Kim Eaton at the "Take Back the Night" candlelight vigil.

In November, UNM SOTA sponsored an "Essentials Drive" for the La Luz and Refugee Resettlement programs, St. Michael's Hospitality Center and for women and children who were homeless. Boxes for donations were placed around the north and south campuses. SOTA was able to donate soap, chapstick, shampoo, books in English and other essentials to all of the aforementioned organizations. The drive proved to be successful.

In December, OT students and Dr. Janet Poole donated money and walked or ran in the "Jingle Bell Walk for Arthritis." Also in December, SOTA sponsored two Albuquerque families in need. The junior and senior classes collected food and presents for both families.

In January, UNM SOTA and the PT Club sponsored the "1998 Allied Therapies Annual Career Fair." The career fair benefits the centers that establishes recruitment booths by providing an informal forum for meeting a large number of potential applicants. The students have an opportunity to chat with a wide range of potential employers.

We are grateful to the organizations, students and other individuals that helped us organize and take part in these events. UNM SOTA will

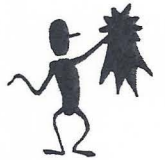
continue to show support by taking part in community events and other activities this spring. A special thanks to Francie Hill with the Catholic Social Services for helping us find families in need to sponsor.

Future events SOTA is planning include: 1) an ice cream booth on main campus where individuals will get a chance to experience what it is like to have a disability and be introduced to occupational therapy, 2) visiting "Career Fairs" in the high schools to represent the profession of OT, 3) KUNM "Women's Focus" interviewing Betsy VanLeit, MPA, OTR/L, a senior student, and a junior student (planned in April), 4) UNM SOTA Awards and Faculty Appreciation, and 5) a memorable graduation ceremony.

Submitted by
Carolyn Thurman, SOTA Community Chair
Tracy Balk, SOTA Co-President

UNM OT Program Practices What it Teaches

-A Student's Perspective-



The guiding principal of occupational therapy is that meaningful activities can be used to increase independent functioning, enhance development, and prevent disability. The Occupational Therapy Program at the University of New Mexico embraces this principal by integrating meaningful activities into its curricula to enhance student development. From the beginning, the curriculum incorporates activity based (hands-on) learning in its classes. For example, to develop interviewing skills, UNM OT students interview public school students and a variety of people in the community.

As a student in the UNM Occupational Therapy Program, I have participated in the assessment of children to detect developmental delays. During the "Introduction to Research" class, my group administered a visual perception test to children at an elementary school. We examined the reliability of the test using the test-retest method and then summarized our findings in a research article.

- continued on page 3

A Student's Perspective (continued)

This activity gave us experience interacting with children, teachers and parents, as well as conducting research under controlled conditions.

Throughout the program, students participate in small group Problem-based Learning classes which simulates real-life clinical situations and develop clinical reasoning skills.

Meaningful activities in the UNM OT program are enhancing my education and I am anxious to apply this knowledge and help others use meaningful activities to enhance their lives.

Submitted by
Lois Micheletti, Class of '99 OT student

Pet Therapy

"A Person's best friend"



The Animal Humane Association coordinates a program with Albuquerque nursing homes, hospitals, and mental health facilities. I began participating in pet therapy last October and was immediately impressed with the results. In November, the coordinator for the program abruptly left and I took over her position. This semester I have some greatly appreciated help from my classmates - Stephanie Looney, Carolyn Siebert, and Lisa Mick.

Residents of the facilities look forward to scheduled visits, which are usually included in the activity calendar. Initially, my daughter and I would take our Great Pyrenees to Manzano del Sol Nursing Home. Many of the residents have Alzheimer's disease, dementia, arthritis, etc. During one of the visits, I was showing my dog to a woman who hadn't spoken in years. She had experienced a stroke and was aphasic. After the nurse left us, this woman looked directly into my eyes and said, "You have a beautiful dog." I almost fell off my chair! I told the nurses about it and they have since begun working on speech communication with this woman.

Other benefits of pet therapy (other than promoting a feeling of wellbeing) are providing unconditional love to those who lack it, improving focus, interaction for those who have difficulty with communication, and stimulation of memory functions. Pet therapy also provides stimulation to increase ROM in various extremities. This form of therapy may also be used as a medium for specific occupational therapy activities such as throwing a ball or offering a snack.

Most importantly, pet therapy makes most people very happy!

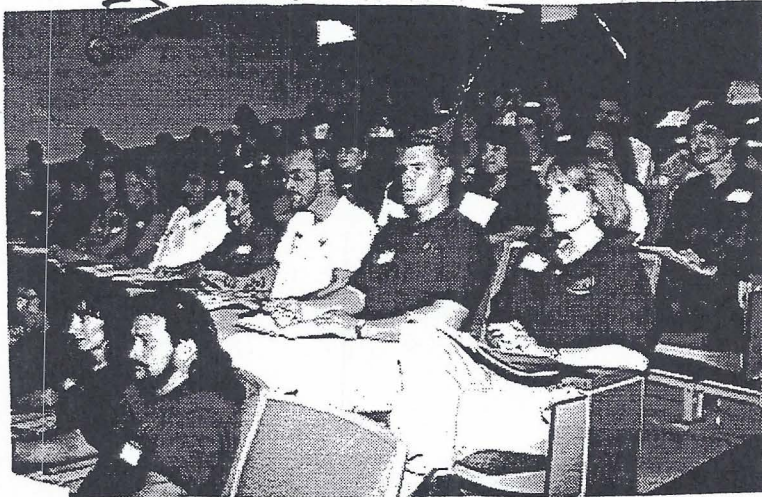
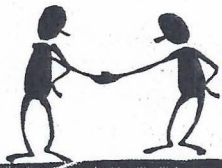
For more information on pet therapy, you can contact me (Marty Dawson) at 299-8549. If you prefer to write, my address is 11805 Canyonlands, SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

Submitted by
Marty Dawson, UNM OT student



Marty's dog sure gets around!

New Mexico Programs Celebrate OT-OTA Partnerships



An attentive and enthusiastic audience was comprised of OTA students from Eastern New Mexico University, Western New Mexico University and OT students from UNM.

The OT Program at the University of New Mexico (UNM) hosted the first annual celebration of OT-OTA partnerships with the OTA programs from Western New Mexico University (WNMU) in Silver City, and Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in Roswell. Events leading up to the partnership program included:

- *Fieldwork Coordination*

Shortly after arriving in New Mexico to assume their new positions as Academic Fieldwork Coordinators, **Claudia Leonard, OTR/L** of WNMU and **Linda McClain, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA** of UNM met with **Pat Herrera, OTR/L** of ENMU to explore ways the programs could develop partnerships for Level II fieldwork. They soon focused on the need for joint activities prior to Level II fieldwork.

- *Collaborative Leadership*

The day was highlighted by a nationally known speaker, an innovative lunchtime icebreaker, small group collaboration and interaction, and a panel of successful COTA-OTR teams. The teams are comprised of **Barbara Curtis, OTR/L** and **Wally DaCosta, COTA/L** from

Albuquerque Manor and **Danny Myers, COTA/L** and **Steve Swenerton, OTR/L** from the Albuquerque Public Schools.

Play was the topic presented by **Sue Knox, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA**, a guest speaker on campus for the day. **Dr. Pat Burtner** was in the midst of arrangements for Dr. Knox to make a presentation at UNM, and through creative scheduling (and Dr. Knox's generosity), her audience tripled.

- *Student Leadership*

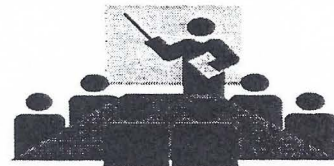
In late spring, **Michelle DeCanditis**, the 1997 UNM ASCOTA student representative, began meeting with Dr. McClain about her project as co-chair of the ASCOTA multidisciplinary task force. She generated enthusiasm and elicited the help of the UNM SOTA. As the planning progressed, the students offered housing for overnight lodging and provided assistance during registration.

- *Faculty Leadership*

The chairpersons—**Gwen Cassel, MOT, OTR/L** from WNMU, **Pat Herrera, OTR/L** from ENMU, and **Terry Crowe, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA** from UNM and their faculty provided support and encouragement to the academic fieldwork coordinators and students throughout the project.

- *Center for Outpatient Rehabilitation and Evaluation (CORE)*

CORE (Las Cruces, NM) provided a financial gift to the UNM OT program last spring as a part of the celebration of OT week. The OT faculty unanimously supported the use of part of this gift to fund this educational activity to benefit all three education programs. Due to CORE's generosity, registration and lunch fees were waived for all participants.



- continued on page 5

OT-OTA Partnerships (continued)

During the afternoon, the small student groups were self-led, while faculty from all three universities and community therapists provided mentoring. The students negotiated roles and solutions to situations published in AOTA's "COTA and OTR Education Unit." The students demonstrated great proficiency in using the following documents to propose solutions to situational dilemmas: "The State of New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department Board of Examiners for Occupational Therapy Rules and Regulations" and the Occupational Therapy Roles" (AOTA).

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) within the OT Curriculum



Problem-based Learning (PBL) continues to be an integral part of our occupational therapy curriculum at UNM. Each week, students spend two or three hours working in small groups discussing clinical cases. Besides learning content knowledge, students learn to work as effective team members; give and receive constructive feedback to each other; ask pertinent questions that lead to learning related to the cases; use learning resources such as the Internet and current journal articles; and use clinical reasoning skills needed to understand the cases.

While PBL is student-directed, it is necessary to have skillful facilitators who can help the students grow professionally. Numerous occupational therapists have participated in two-day facilitation training workshops, and many have donated significant time to serve as weekly facilitators for student groups. It would be impossible to integrate this important type of learning without the generous support of the community! Students regularly tell us that PBL is one of the highlights of their educational experience, and they thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work closely with therapists in the community. If you are interested in serving in the capacity of a facilitator, please contact Betsy VanLeit at 272-1753. We plan to conduct more facilitation training workshops in the future.

A special thank you to: Tatiana Abras, Sidney Alley, Mary Barnett, Jana Bordegaray, Steve Chase, Daphne Currier, Jeanne DuRivage, Maureen Flaherty, Carolyn Ford, Rona Hammetter, Ginny Laadt, Jeff Lederer, Erin Moody, Sheila Mun-Bryce, Jeanell Pelsor, Sandy Saperstein, Lisa Shaanan, Tanya Stewart, Gail Stockman, Julia Sweeney, and Carla Wilhite.

Submitted by
Betsy VanLeit, MPA, OTR/L and
Terry K. Crowe, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

Introducing the OT Part-time Faculty

Sandy Saperstein, MS, OTR/L (left)
demonstrates goniometry on a student (*Jeanne Drenna*)
in lab.



Sandy is currently a part-time instructor in the OT Program. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy. Her previous clinical work has been in a variety of settings ranging from in-patient rehabilitation to home health care, with a strong emphasis on working with adults with neurological deficits. In addition to teaching at UNM, she works part-time for Bear Canyon Therapy Services.

- Continued on page 6

Faculty Introduction (continued)

Sandy initially became involved with the OT Program at UNM as a Problem-based Learning facilitator. She currently teaches Applied Kinesiology in the fall and Organization and Administration in the spring. In addition to teaching, she has presented national workshops with Terry Crowe and Betsy VanLeit on problem-based learning and has completed a research project with Betsy VanLeit investigating psychosocial occupational therapy in New Mexico.

Faculty Introduction continued

Rona Hammetter, MS, OTR/L
is one busy lady!



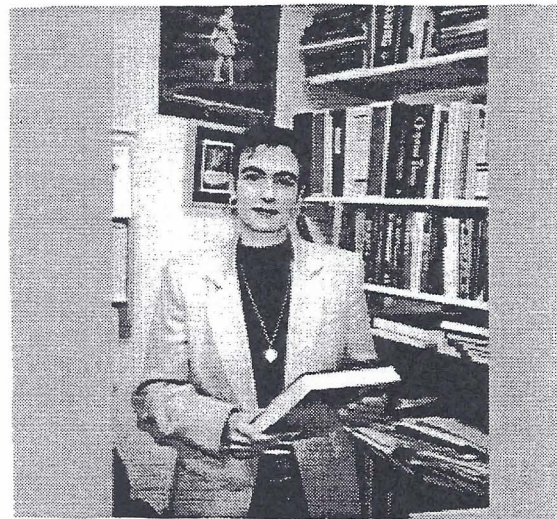
Rona graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Wisconsin. Her Master's Degree in Special Education was earned through a collaborative program between the University of Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her research was completed through the Neurosurgery Department of the Medical College of Wisconsin and she investigated the motor component of chronic cerebellar stimulation on children who had the diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

Rona has an extensive background as a clinical occupational therapist. She worked in rehabilitation and acute care at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, Howard University Hospital, Alexandria Hospital in Virginia and at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She also worked as a clinical instructor at the University of Southern California, had a private practice which

served the Milwaukee Police Department, and was Research Associate for the Department of Neurosurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is presently working for the Albuquerque Public Schools where her primary involvement is in the Early Childhood Program. She has also been assigned half time as a clinical faculty member of the UNM Occupational Therapy Program, which is a liaison position between the two institutions. She is involved in activities that educate students about the school system as well as functioning as a facilitator for Problem-based Learning and instructing independent study OT students in the area of diagnostic testing of children by an interdisciplinary team.

Faculty Introduction continued

Tatiana Dayrell Abras, MS, OTR/L
stops in for a chat.



Tatiana Dayrell has joined the Occupational Therapy Program as a clinical faculty member. This unique position is a collaborative program between the Albuquerque Public Schools and the Occupational Therapy Program. Tatiana graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Saint Ambrose in 1994. Recently she received her Master's Degree in Education/Community Health from the University of New Mexico and is currently working on a doctorate in Health Education with a focus in Public Administration.

- continued on page 7

Faculty Introduction (continued)

She has worked in a variety of settings including child and adult rehabilitation, adult and geriatric long-term care, home health, private practice, and community-based adult habilitation programs. She is currently working for the Albuquerque Public Schools providing consultation and directs occupational therapy services for children with disabilities. In addition, she supervises occupational therapy students who participate in the Learning and Building Program (LAB) - a psychosocial program within a juvenile detention facility.

Faculty Introduction continued

Keri Ross, MS, OTR/L at home with her dog "Simba"



Keri (in her non-APS or UNM job roles) is a foster "mom" to homeless dogs, Simba (shown above) automatically is a foster brother during these times. Animals are an important part of Keri's life.

Keri graduated initially from the University of Miami with an AB in American Civilization. She then received her degree in occupational therapy from the University of Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, Keri received her MS in pediatric occupational therapy from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Keri has worked in several different states, including New York, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania before moving to New Mexico in 1979. She has extensive experience in

pediatrics, working with children and infants, including those with spina bifida and cerebral palsy. She has worked in rehabilitation, home health, and with the PIE team at UNM evaluating infants and young children. She has been involved in a research project at the Laguna Pueblo, investigating motor skills in typically developing Native American two-year-olds.

Keri has worked in APS for over 15 years in a variety of positions and locations. She currently is the Neuromotor Liaison and works closely with the APS Related Service Specialist and over 100 APS OTs, PTs, COTAs, and PTAs. Some of her primary responsibilities are fieldwork placement and pediatric diagnostic evaluation and assessment. She appreciates the UNM OT Program's staff resources.

"Part-time Faculty Introduction" to be continued in the next issue.

Welcome!

Louella is shown with her grandson, Joshua (the love of her life), who, by the way, has already participated in Dr. Pat Burtner's "Baby Lab."

The OT Program is pleased to introduce Louella Lopez, Fieldwork Assistant.

- continued on page 8

Welcome (continued)

Louella joins the program after many years of experience in Business Management and after recently earning a Bachelor's Degree in University Studies from UNM. Her management and interpersonal style makes her a natural for this challenge!

One of Louella's current challenges is to computerize the fieldwork system. The program recently purchased the Fieldwork Clerk software. Once the data is entered and organized, it will greatly facilitate the students' ability to retrieve information about sites, as well as streamlining the fieldwork assignment process. Louella works halftime with the fieldwork program and halftime on faculty and program projects.

Master's Degree

As outlined in Issue I of this Newsletter, the UNM OT Program is anticipating a move from the Baccalaureate program to an Entry-Level Master's Degree program for the class that begins the summer of 2000. Because of the complexity of service delivery systems, expectations of new graduates has expanded including the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, to work independently, to act as consultants, and to move into community settings. In response to these service needs, the OT curriculum has and continues to offer courses incorporating these advanced skills. In addition, a recent survey of OT and PT students resulted in a strong 80% preference for a Master's Degree.

Having recognized these trends, it seems prudent to move ahead. We are working with the Physical Therapy faculty members toward curriculum revisions and completing the paperwork required by the University of New Mexico and the State Commission on Higher Education. The American Physical Therapy Association has mandated all professional degrees for physical therapists be awarded at the post-baccalaureate level by January 1, 2002. We share eight courses with the Physical Therapy Program.

We would very much appreciate your support. Please address support letters to Dr. Terry Crowe, Program Director, Occupational Therapy Program, Health Sciences & Services Building, Room 215, Albuquerque, NM 87131-5641.

Please direct any questions you may have about this anticipated change with faculty by calling 505-272-1753.

Fieldwork Corner

The breadth and depth of the OT Program is continually enhanced by the generosity of our fieldwork educators! We acknowledge how fortunate we are to have ample fieldwork sites to foster clinical reasoning in our students. Thank you for the partnerships you provide!

Thanks to each of you who have taken time to visit with me as I make site visits. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future. I continue to make visits each month. If you would like for me to visit your center soon, please contact Louella Lopez at (272-6914) and she will schedule a site visit.

Please be sure to look for the "New Supervisors Workshop" brochure in this issue of *OTras Perspectivas*. The topics selected for this workshop are those which emerged from a Fieldwork Educator's Needs Assessment in the OT Week last October, so hopefully they also will reflect your issues. Those who responded to the survey said the top two ways to communicate were OT Week and local workshops. We are therefore offering the workshop in two locations in New Mexico (Las Cruces and Albuquerque). Although this workshop is designed for the new fieldwork educator, experienced Fieldwork Educators are invited to participate to share their expertise. This no-cost workshop is one way we can say thank you for your contribution to our students' educational experience. Your attendance at this workshop does not obligate you to provide fieldwork.

There are two new publications from AOTA: 1) Fieldwork Anthology, and 2) A Guide to Reasonable Accommodations for Occupational Therapy Practitioners with Disabilities: Fieldwork to Employment. Copies will be available for review during breaks at the "New Supervisors Workshop."

Please don't hesitate to share your good ideas with the UNM OT fieldwork office!

- Linda McClain

UNM OT COE

The first steps to officially create the UNM OT Program's **Council on Education (COE)** will occur with the counting of the ballots for the first elected executive board. Thank you to those who made and accepted nominations. Also thank you to those of you who have voiced interest, through the COE Form in the first newsletter or through personal contact. You will be hearing from the Board, once the COE's structure is created. As a charter member of COE, your voice can be heard. The COE will not only foster partnerships among students, community therapists, and faculty members, but will also determine a focus (e.g. continuing education, scholarships, mentoring, leadership training, etc.). Please accept the invitation to be an active member of the UNM OT COE.

Please cut and mail:

Leadership Interest Form
(No experience required!)

_____ I am interested in serving on a UNM OT COE committee.

_____ I am interested in chairing a UNM OT COE committee.

_____ I am interested in the following continuing education program, and would attend if it were offered: _____

Name: _____

Day phone: _____

Please mail your marked **Ballot** and **Leadership Interest Form** to:

Louella Lopez
Occupational Therapy Program
University of New Mexico
HSSB, Room 225
Albuquerque, NM 87131-5641

Postmark by March 31, 1998

You are eligible to vote if you:

- Supervised a UNM Level I or Level II student.
- Intend to supervise a Level I or Level II student within the next year.
- Are a UNM alumni.
- Are a UNM student.
- Are a UNM faculty member.



Please cut and mail:

BALLOT

President

_____ Keri Ross
 _____ Write in: _____

Vice President

_____ Tatiana D. Abras
 _____ Write in: _____

Secretary

_____ Carla Wilhite
 _____ Write in: _____



Debbie (Brue) Bryan, '95 is working for Cooperative Education Services in Albuquerque.

Stuart Kay, '96 writes that he's working at HealthSouth Rehab Hospital in Albuquerque.

Aine C. Keith '95, employed by St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, writes that she is doing fine and loves it in Boise, Idaho. She would be interested in hearing from her classmates to hear how they are doing. P.S. The potatoes out here are fabulous! HaHaHa.

Kathy Patten '96 works at KidPower Therapy Assoc. in Albuquerque, and writes that she has been involved with the NM LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Program from 1997-1998, as well as being a graduate student in the MPA (Master's of Public Admin.) Program at UNM.

Ann Sacks '95 works for the Pojoaque Valley Schools. She says she's working three days a week and is loving it.

Amy L. Turner '96 works in the Espanola School District with EASI. She reports that she was married one year on Oct. 12 and is enjoying ballet and jazz dance classes and drag racing.

Coming Soon!



Check out our Website

The Occupational Therapy Program will soon be online. For the latest announcements, information about our academic program, and current events, stay tuned for our Homepage address.

Alumni Reunion

Classes of '95, '96, '97

Watch for mailing regarding May 2 potluck at Terry Crowe's home.

UNM OT Alumni,

Stop by and visit us or clip and mail the Alumni Form below to:

Louella Lopez
Occupational Therapy Program
University of New Mexico
Health Sciences & Services Bldg.
Room 225
Albuquerque, NM 87131-5641

Alumni Form



Name _____

Name during OT Program
(if different) _____

Graduated December, 199 _____

(Address & phone number will NOT be published)

Address _____

Phone (work) _____
(home) _____

Employed by _____

Position _____

Information to share (1 - 2 sentences):

