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MOT students provide meaningful occupational engagement for community dwelling seniors with early dementia.

Note from the Director

We are pleased to share some of the 2019 highlights from Texas Woman's in Denton, Dallas and Houston. This is an exciting time for the School of Occupational Therapy as we are planning strategic initiatives for the next five years. These include the transition from our MOT program to the launch of our entry-level OTD program this summer on all three campuses.

We surpassed 75 years of occupational therapy at TWU and continue to prepare for the next generation of occupational therapy practitioners as we embrace AOTA's Vision 2025.

This is an unprecedented time in our history with the COVID-19 pandemic, but we adapt and overcome. I am very proud of the way our faculty and staff are coming together to shift curriculum online during the crisis while maintaining the strong integrity of our programs.

One of our goals is to continue to connect with as many alumni and emeritus faculty as possible in 2020. For updates on future events and announcements, follow us on:

Twitter @TWUOccThpy
Facebook @TWUOT

Be well and be well occupied
—Cynthia Evetts, Director

Signature Events

The Vanderkooi Endowed Lectureship

Dallas Campus

February 7, 2020

This year's Vanderkooi award recipient, **Deirdre Dawson, PhD**, lectured on Executive Dysfunction: The keystone of occupational performance. Dawson focuses on six main areas of executive function: energization and initiation, fluency and flexibility, organization including planning, control/ self-regulation, decision making and meta-cognition. "Understanding executive function is fundamental to supporting occupational performance in our clients," she explained.



Virginia Chandler Dykes, Vanderkooi Endowment Founder, and Dr. Deirdre Dawson



Kelsey Orsak, the 2018 recipient of the Mary J. Newsom Award

Mary J. Newsom Award

Houston Campus

May 2, 2019

Kelsey Orsak, award recipient, delivered the 2019 annual lecture. During her academic career, Orsak served as the president of the Student Occupational Therapy Association and secretary of PTE. Her favorite part about occupational therapy is "how unique every client is! There is never a boring day."

Bridging the Gap

Denton Campus

December 6, 2019

Don Virostek, CPO, LPO of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, presented on orthotic correction for scoliosis and the process to obtain successful results. A panel followed, sharing therapy strategies and interventions Scottish Rite offers to help clients maximize daily occupational performance. Strategies for challenges to successful occupational participation for persons with scoliosis were explored.



Keynote speaker: Don Virostek, CPO LPO; Panelists: Heather Roberts, OTR, PhD; Amy Lake, OTR, CHT; and Kirsten Tulchin-Francis, PhD

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Katie Odom



Brig. Gen. Francois R. Martelet (left) and U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Katie Odom at NATO's CIOMR/CIOR Mid-winter Meeting (Courtesy photo)

Dr. Katie Odom, TWU 2009 MOT graduate and a major in the U.S. Army, was awarded NATO's Martelet Cup after presenting her research team's findings in a report titled "Behavioral Health Management Following a Severe Burn Injury: A Pilot Study and the Way Forward for the U.S. Army Burn Center and Indicators for Brief PTSD Management in

Operation." Odom has served the U.S. Army for the past eight years, seven of which were in the Active Component.

She currently is the director of Rehabilitation and Recovery Services for the Warrior Transition Battalion at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Our Newest Faculty Members

Linda Barnett, OTD, MA, OTR, Assistant Clinical Professor



Dr. Barnett has a strong history in pediatrics, early childhood intervention,

spirituality and community partnerships. In addition to her teaching, Barnett maintains a position at Early Childhood Services of North Central Texas. Barnett serves as a member of AOTA Community of Practice - Pediatric Trauma and TOTA Standards & Practice Committee chair. Her contributions to the profession also include proposal and CE reviewer for TOTA and AOTA.

Suzanne Burns, PhD, OTR Assistant Professor



Dr. Burns' research foci are two-fold: 1) executive dysfunction in adults with stroke living in community,

and 2) leveraging mobile technology to mitigate health and participation disparities in persons with disabilities. Currently, she is the co-principal investigator for an extramurally funded multi-site study, developing and testing a mobile app designed to assess accessibility of public buildings.

Catherine Cooper Hay, PhD, OTR, Assistant Professor



Dr. Hay comes to us with extensive knowledge of stroke and brain injury. Her research

is in OT neurological rehabilitation practice and currently includes 1) interventions to promote upper extremity recovery after botulinum toxin injections for spasticity management, and 2) the wheelchair procurement process after an acquired brain injury. Hay's latest article "The Impact of One's Sex and Social Living Situation on Rehabilitation Outcomes After a Stroke" was in *The American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.

Angela Shierk, PhD, OTR Assistant Professor



Dr. Shierk brings a depth of pediatrics experience. Currently, as a research OT at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital

for Children, Shierk's research (in collaboration with Dr. Heather Roberts) explores the effectiveness of constraint induced movement therapy, the role of therapy following botulinum toxin injections and the effectiveness of home programs for children with cerebral palsy.

Interested in joining our team?

As we transition to an entry-level OTD degree program and continue the post-professional degree programs, we are looking to welcome additional faculty positions

JOB DESCRIPTION: Full-time, clinical and tenure track positions at instructor, assistant or associate rank. Contracts are 9-month with ample opportunity for summer teaching. Experience with children is a plus in Houston, rehab skills in Denton, and psychosocial and rehabilitation practice in Dallas.

Qualifications: A doctorate in OT or related field (may consider those in progress with impending graduation). Must hold or be eligible for licensure as an occupational therapist in the State of Texas.

Contact: tfletcher1@twu.edu

Jennifer Martin, OTD, OTR, CHT, CLT, Asst. Clinical Professor



Dr. Martin comes to TWU with over 20 years of clinical practice in adult

physical dysfunction, hand therapy and lymphedema. Her doctoral project focused on improving self-care adherence with non-oncology lymphedema clients using an Information-Motivation Behavioral Skills approach. Martin would like to disseminate and implement her project in the community and pursue opportunities to use the approach with other chronically ill populations.

A graduation day surprise visit from OT pioneer and long-time friend of TWU OT Fred Sammons



Left: Dr. Fette and Mr. Sammons. Above: Dr. Washington, Dr. Rider, Mr. Sammons, Dr. Evetts, Ms. Hennigan

Community Partnerships

Community Activities—Denton

Our Denton students have a strong community presence with Dr. Claudette Fette. Highlights include weekly Able Disabled groups with people with mental illness, weekly transition skills groups at Cumberland Children's Home, new work with people who are homeless and seasonal activities with ARC and Community Connections. Sher Harnish incorporates students into a weekly group with Stepping Stones, working with individuals with dementia. Under the leadership of Mary Hennigan, students also ran a CarFit event for the elderly.



Sensory Friendly Events—Dallas

Our Dallas students have actively spread autism awareness in the community with Dr. Tina Fletcher, hosting events at the Dallas Museum of Art and Dallas Zoo. Students have led events at Nasher Sculpture Center, Heart House, Mosaic Family Services and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens with Dr. Linda Barnett and other faculty.



Rehabilitation Services—Houston

The Master of Occupational Therapy students in Houston lead activities in the community with Dr. Alicia Lohmann. One focus is on expanding rehabilitation services in the community with R.S.V.P., a nonprofit that provides services and equipment to individuals that are both uninsured and disabled.



Featured Publications

Handbook of Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Disabilities published by SLACK, Inc.

Dr. Sit and Dr. Neville co-authored this publication to provide one inclusive source that effectively identified key components of evaluation and intervention for adults with physical disabilities. This publication fosters clinical reasoning development.

Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy textbook—13th Edition, published by Wolters Kluwer

Faculty from Texas Woman's University that contributed or served as review board members to this textbook include Cynthia Evetts, PhD, OTR; Noralyn Pickens, PhD, OT; Theresa M. Smith, PhD, OTR, CLVT; and Claudette Fette, PhD, OTR, CRC.

Staff Awards



Tesse Scott, Fieldwork Coordinator

Scott, pictured here with Chancellor Feyten, celebrated 40 years of service to the university in 2019 and was also recognized for her contribution to the AORE Campus Challenge.

Faculty Awards



Suzanne Burns, PhD, OTR 2019 recipient of the ASA/ACRM Young Investigator Award American Stroke Association ACRM Young Investigator Award in Post-Acute Stroke Rehabilitation

Dr. Burns was recognized as a professional who demonstrates drive and commitment to furthering rehabilitation research in the area of post-stroke care, measurement and/or stroke patient outcomes.



Alicia Lohmann, OTD, OTR, CBIS 2019 recipient of the ACRM Interdisciplinary Team Award

Dr. Lohman accepted the award on the behalf of the RSVP team, Rehabilitation Services Volunteer Project. Lohman and the interdisciplinary team were recognized for their work and contributions for underserved populations within their community.



Keegan McKay, Adjunct Faculty 2019 TOTA recognized OT of the Year Award

McKay was recognized for his display of professionalism, leadership and service to the profession. McKay contributed above and beyond typical job responsibilities, and we thank him for his local and state contributions.



Tina Fletcher, EdD, MFA, OTR 2019 Taiwan International Forum Speaker

Dr. Fletcher was the keynote speaker at the 2019 Taiwan International Forum on Children and Museums, Oct. 25-26. In her presentation, "The Museum Experience for children with Autism," Fletcher spoke about promoting museum engagement and participation in children with autism using sensory strategies, environmental supports and curriculum development.

Congratulations 2019 OTD and PhD Graduates!

2019 OTD Graduates

Margaret Bates, Central Oklahoma State faculty
Camille (De Larm) Ko, Baylor Institute of Rehab
Amanda Frias, Mary Hardin-Baylor faculty
Holly Grieves, Western Michigan University faculty
Jamie Hurst, Central Texas Shared Services (CTSS)
Jaimee Perea, Pate Rehabilitation
Jakayla Price, Medical City Plano
Gina Stango, Owner of MedRehab
Brandon Walker, Children's Health Dallas
and TWU Adjunct



*Committee: Noralyn Pickens, PhD, OT (Chair);
Cynthia Evetts, PhD, OT; Ann Medley, PhD, PT*

2019 PhD Graduate

Heather McKay

**Dissertation: Comparing Occupational
Adaptation-Based and Traditional
Educational Programs for Dementia Care**



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