



ACOTUP/ACPUE is a national organization that promotes and develops occupational therapy education and research with an understanding of issues in a global context.

Gearing up for a busy fall

The leaves are turning, summer holidays are over and university campuses are again crowded with students ready to start a new year.

For ACOTUP, it also promises to be an exciting time. There will be some changing faces at various faculties as staff members retire and new people move into those big shoes. We feature a tribute to Mary Edwards from McMaster in this newsletter, with several more tributes on the website that will appear in future issues. The former University Fieldwork Coordinators Committee has a new name – it is now the Committee on University Fieldwork Education / Comité universitaire de l'enseignement clique (CUFE/CUEC). And, with the AGM planned for the nation's capital this year, ACOTUP members will be gathering in Ottawa in time for the spring tulip festival. Some universities will be saying goodbye to their OT Bachelor programs and introducing a new Masters program. So take a deep breath of the crisp fall air and brace yourself – school is now in session!

Laval's School of Health Sciences gets a makeover

As Quebec City celebrates its 400th anniversary with Canada and the rest of the world, the Université Laval program of occupational therapy is beginning its 40th year of life.

We have now 90 new students each year

and the number of academics is also increasing rapidly.

This summer, the entire school of health sciences (Complexe intégré de formation en sciences de la santé) got a brand new look and an up-to-date technologic learning

environment. This year represents also the passage to the continuum bac-master degree in occupational therapy. All in one year! Teachers, OTs and staff members are very proud. If you come to Quebec city, please stop by and visit us.



Book your seat

Join Occupational Therapists from across the globe at these upcoming events or explore their websites:

Toronto, Ontario

Primary Health Care Leadership Summit
November 6-7, 2008 | www.caot.ca

Houston, Texas

AOTA Annual Conference & Expo
April 23-26, 2009 | www.aota.org

Seattle, Washington

Washington Occupational Therapy Association
Annual Conference
October 3-4, 2008 | www.wota.org

London, England

London International Eating Disorders Conference 2009
March 31 - April 2, 2008
www.mahealthcarevents.co.uk

McGill event marks the end of an era

The School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at McGill University is pleased to announce a very special event. We are recognizing the passing of one era – our last professional undergraduate students (Bachelor program) – and the beginning of another – our first Qualifying Year students in the new Master's Program (new professional masters program).

An international expert on the emerging field of Occupational Science, Denise Reid OT, PhD, Professor Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy; the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science, the Institute of Medical Science, and the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Toronto, will give an invited address entitled

Occupational Presence: An Evolving Concept on Monday September 15, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. A wine reception will follow in historic Hosmer House to welcome student occupational therapists of the U-3 and Qualifying Year Master's classes, occupational therapy faculty and members of the McGill occupational therapy community.

Spotlight on Queen's Community Development Placements

by Mary Lou Boudreau and Donna O'Connor

On July 7, 2008, Queen's held a Community Development Forum to spotlight the work completed in student community development placements. Each occupational therapy student at Queen's completes a project-based community development placement as their final fieldwork placement. Pairs of students are matched with community agencies, mostly in the Kingston region, in January.

In conjunction with OT 861 (Community Development Applied to Occupational Therapy), they meet with the agency to discuss their needs and priorities for a project to address an occupational issue or need of the community that they serve. The agency and the project become the focus of the course assignments which apply concepts learned in

the course and begin planning for the placement.

In the final week of the placement this year, a Community Development Forum was held. Agency representatives were invited to attend. Every pair of students prepared a poster and delivered a 10 minute oral presentation about their project, with emphasis on how it illustrated community development or used a community development approach. The poster and presentation formed the final assignment for OT 861. The Community Development Forum featured 15 presentations, including:

- Southeastern Ontario Community-University Research Alliance in Intellectual Disabilities: consulted with families of adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities to explore optimal after-school program models

- Southeastern Ontario Palliative and End of Life Care Program: collected narratives from individuals receiving palliative care to illustrate its value for agency public education.

- Providence Care Mental Health Services: developed a proposal for a college-based peer mentor training program for people who have experienced mental health problems.

This is the first year of enhanced integration of the academic course and the community development placement and for the forum. Judging from the success, it will become an annual event.

For an extended version of this article and the Tribute below, visit www.acotup-acpue.ca.

Tribute to Mary Edwards on the occasion of her retirement

Mary has contributed to the OT field of through her clinical work, education and research. She graduated from the University of Toronto, and worked in rehabilitation in St. Catharines (Rehabilitation Centre), and Hamilton (Hamilton Health Sciences).

Mary has most recently been the Clinical Manager of the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) at Hamilton Health Sciences overseeing client care and therapeutic staff in that role.

In addition, Mary has been the

Professional Practice Coordinator for the MSc OT Program at McMaster University for six years, and has amassed a 30-year history of dedication overall to the education and development of student OTs at both Mohawk College and McMaster University.

Simultaneously, she taught in other areas of the curriculum, focussing on older adults. Research has been an ongoing involvement for Mary who has produced many papers for publications, and numerous presentations to educate and expand the field of

occupational therapy. She has capably represented occupational therapy at McMaster University in a variety of committees both at local and national levels.

It has been a sincere pleasure to work with and know Mary over the past many years. She leaves a large footprint on the topography of occupational therapy at McMaster and in the profession generally, as well as large shoes to fill in the future. We wish Mary every happiness as she embarks on this new adventure in retirement and we will miss her greatly.



Mary Edwards



A new face at NFPS

Meet the newest member of the National Fieldwork Placement team! Amanda Carey joined NFPS in August, and has already had the pleasure of working with many of the university fieldwork coordinators as she finalizes fall placements. Amanda is an Algonquin College graduate in Small and Medium Enterprises Management and has worked in developing a new national business in Ottawa. She brings her knowledge and enthusiasm to the job and is looking forward to working with all the fieldwork coordinators and site preceptors. We are excited to have her join the Megram staff and look forward to continuing our service and commitment to finding the best fieldwork placements for OT students.

Help Us Build a Vibrant OS&OT Community



We have lost touch with you. Please let us know where you are so that we can communicate with you. Email us at: stayconnected.ot@ubc.ca
These are exciting times at the UBC Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy and we want to bring you up to date with the new changes in our department. We have a new vision, new direction, increased resources, and bold plans for a vibrant OS&OT community. Our main priority is to engage you, our alumni, to be part of our new and emerging future.

Please contact us at: stayconnected.ot@ubc.ca to receive notices and invitations to OS&OT special events, lectures, film series, class reunions, and professional development opportunities. Can't wait to hear from you!
www.med.ot.ubc.ca

