

## Chair's letter

Greetings from Grand Forks,

It is amazing how fast the fall went, it seems that it goes faster and faster each year! I am appreciative of the times I am able to stop and reflect on what has happened in the past few months as I write these updates for the newsletter!

Life here at UND is busy, we have wonderful students, and we have had many opportunities to work with others at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and UND. Exciting new things are happening: Faculty and students have been actively involved in the planning of the new building, and we are expanding class sizes, hiring new faculty, and working hard to keep up with health care trends!

One thing that is rewarding is the opportunity to visit with alumni who are back visiting campus. This year I had the distinct honor of visiting with a number of alumni. I want to share with you two stories: This year for Homecoming we had the opportunity to visit with Loretta Bloomquist, a 50-year graduate of our program. Anne Haskins, Joelle Evanson, OT '14, Gina Czoski, OT '14, and I toured campus with her and talked about the changes on campus and stories from when she attended school here. One of my favorite stories Loretta shared was about a past Homecoming event when a bonfire was started with a bunch of hay bales unloaded in the middle of University Avenue. Needless to say, this wasn't a sanctioned Homecoming event, but it was great to be able to enjoy her memories and see how things have changed on campus from her perspective.

We also had the opportunity to visit with Maggie Lescher, as she traveled back to North Dakota to visit family. I was impressed with her commitment to the OT profession as she is working

diligently to provide needed services to the children and families she serves through her clinics. She is a strong advocate for research and evidence in our profession.

As I reflect on these two women, one of the things that stands out to me is the wisdom, grace, and commitment they have to UND and their education as occupational therapists. We all have our stories of what our UND education means to us. It is more than a career or an

education; it is a way of life that supports the spirit of engaging people in the occupations that are meaningful to each of us and the clients we serve. I am grateful to be an alumna of the University and to have the opportunity to work and teach so many dedicated individuals in their pursuit of making a difference.

Please mark your calendars for Homecoming 2014! It will be Oct. 10-11. This will be our celebration of 60 years in Grand Forks and 20 years in Wyoming! I want to issue a personal challenge to have the largest group ever of OT alumni present at Homecoming. We welcome your ideas for how to make this event meaningful for everyone and a true celebration of the history of OT in North Dakota.

Enjoy the holiday season!

Best regards,  
Janet Jedlicka  
Chair and Associate Professor  
UND Department of Occupational Therapy



## Fieldwork Connection

If you are a fieldwork educator for occupational therapy students, you will want to visit our recently revamped OT department website at [med.UND.edu/ot](http://med.UND.edu/ot). There, you will find a section devoted exclusively to fieldwork, with resources to support you in your educator role.

In the Overview section, you will learn how the fieldwork program is designed within the UND occupational therapy program curriculum. This section also includes the incentives offered by the UND OT department to encourage your interest and commitment to fieldwork education. A description of the process for becoming a UND OT fieldwork educator is provided. Next you can view the UND Fieldwork Manual, which provides an overview of the UND OT program curriculum, the specific policies and procedures relative to Level I and II fieldwork, and commonly used forms. Forms used for both Level I and Level II fieldwork are posted, including those completed by students during the fieldwork experience, as well as forms for fieldwork educators in preparation for and evaluation of OT students. Specific information is available

to fieldwork educators through the Resources page. These are posted to help you develop learning objectives and weekly learning activities, plan for weekly supervision meetings, customize student learning experiences through the use of learning contracts, and support clinical reasoning through reflective writing. In particular, the "Queensland OT Fieldwork Collaborative" website contains tools for setup and maintenance for the fieldwork rotation, detailed information to help you develop your unique approach to clinical education, resources for student feedback, and evaluation and tools for working with students who are experiencing difficulty.

Related Links will take you to sites outside of the OT UND department. You will find several websites to broadly prepare you for fieldwork students, and sites that address specific fieldwork concerns. Other resources available through the AOTA website are also posted.

Please take advantage of these resources as you plan for your next occupational therapy fieldwork student.

# Alumni Spotlight: Becky Hansmeier

## How did you become interested in OT?

Growing up I had wanted to be a teacher for the longest time. That changed, however, my sophomore year of high school when I watched a television show where one of the main characters suffered an injury requiring him to receive therapy. Up until that time, I had never even heard of occupational therapy, but the show sparked my interest to start researching the profession, and eventually begin job shadowing. OT ended up being a perfect fit because it afforded me the opportunity to "teach" every day, just in a different capacity. I particularly was attracted to the fact that an OT career would allow me to work with people of all ages in a multitude of settings so I would always be challenged and constantly learning.



## Describe your experience with your education at the UND OT program. Are there any standout moments you remember?

UND's OT program provided me with a well-rounded education that equipped me with the foundational skills to be successful in a variety of settings. The program's emphasis on leadership development, community involvement, and personal and professional growth has been instrumental in my first few years as an occupational therapist. I appreciated being a part of such an interactive learning environment in which I knew my classmates and professors well. The curriculum's hands-on approach to learning is what truly stands out to me, everything from baby lab

in the pediatrics course to volunteering at Northlands Rescue Mission as part of the service delivery class.

## How did you come to practice at your current site and setting?

In July, I returned from an 11-month international experience in Malaysia through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Young Adults in Global Mission program. The service-learning experience was not only life-changing on a personal level, but it was also a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow professionally at my placement site, a residential care facility for adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Although the program's focus is on developing future leaders and fostering relationships between national church congregations and communities, my occupational therapy skills came in handy on a daily basis. As I have transitioned back to life in the United States, I decided to continue my education before returning to practice so I am currently completing advanced training in sensory integration and SIPT certification through the University of Southern California.

## What do you enjoy most about being an OT?

I love how occupational therapy combines science and medicine with the "art" of working with people to develop relationships. I appreciate being a part of a health care profession that truly allows me to utilize creativity on a daily basis to help individuals from a client-centered, holistic perspective. My favorite moments are when a child masters a new skill that he or she has been trying to achieve, or an adult client regains the ability to participate in a meaningful occupation that allows for a greater level of independence and a better quality of life.

# OT Students Make Strong Showing at 2013 Frank Low Research Day

The 33rd Annual Frank Low Research Day held in April is a research forum where students and faculty present scholarly activity and share research interests. This year, 99 posters were displayed, with 94 presented specifically by students. OT students, in conjunction with their graduate faculty advisors, presented the first and second place health science posters for 2013, with three additional teams receiving honorable mention.

- 1st Place—Sara Joersz, MOTS, and Rebecca Polansky, MOTS, with advisor Dr. Anne Haskins. Caregivers of Children with Disabilities: An Exploratory Study of Factors Influencing Occupational Therapy Home Programming Engagement.
- 2nd Place—Joshua Gilbertson, MOTS, and Christopher Johnson, MOTS, with advisor Dr. Anne Haskins. An Occupation-Based Intervention Protocol for Carpometacarpal (CMC) Joint Arthroplasty.
- Honorable Mention (three-way tie)
  - Brooke Dahle, MOTS, and Laura Hennes, MOTS, with advisor Dr. Sarah Nielsen. Community Based Program for Young Adults with High-functioning Autism: Social Participation and Dating.
  - Erin Sykora, MOTS, and Renee Warzecha, MOTS, with advisor Dr. Gail Bass. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Program for Prevention of Juveniles Entering the Criminal Justice System.



- Kelly Bainbridge, MOTS, and April Benoit, MOTS, with advisor Dr. Scinda Janssen. The Role of Occupational Therapy in Skilled Dementia Care: Improving Quality of Life (pictured).

For abstracts of these projects, and additional scholarly projects and independent studies, please visit the OT department website under Final Capstone Project.

# Outreach: Ghana

In May, faculty, students and an alumna from the OT Department travelled to Ghana, Africa, for two weeks to participate in a service learning opportunity. This experience was offered in conjunction with Step Far, a nonprofit organization in Ghana that assists with the development of outreach activities. This was the first time this travel experience had been offered through the OT Department.

The group flew in to Accra after the long flight out of New York, and then traveled four hours into rural areas for the first week. Students commented that the roads were really rough, even to students used to rural North Dakota and Wyoming!

For the first week, faculty member Sonia Zimmerman, alumna Allie Kalb, MOT '12, and students Maranda Myrold and Taryn Wagner travelled to the town of Ho in the southern Volta region to work with clients in conjunction with staff physical therapists at the regional hospital. Faculty members Janet Jedlicka and Anne Haskins, and students Anne Lee and Megan Mordecai travelled to Hohoe, further northeast in the Volta region, to work at a second regional hospital. Since there is no hotel in Hohoe, the group was invited to stay at the home of a community elder. At the end of the first week, the whole group held a workshop for families with children diagnosed with cerebral palsy, based on research that Allie compiled during her scholarly project.

In the second week, the group returned to Accra, where they attended a third regional hospital to provide client care. The group also had an opportunity to visit the University of Ghana, and interact with faculty and students of the first occupational therapy program in the country, which opened in 2012. There was also a bit of time for sightseeing, with stops in Kakum National Park to view the upper rainforest canopy, Cape Coast to tour a slave trade castle, and open air markets to sample the local cuisine in Accra.

A full story about the visit can be found in the Fall 2013 issue of North Dakota Medicine at [www.ndmedicine.org](http://www.ndmedicine.org).



# Footnotes



Yvette Gourde, BSOT '91, is now living in New Zealand. She's in the process of obtaining her credentials to practice. We wish her all the best.

Lance Norman, MOT '06, has been named vice president of ancillary services at River View Health in Crookston, Minn., where he has worked since 2011. Lance teaches modalities as a long-term adjunct faculty member for the program. Congratulations, Lance!

OT student Katrina Kotta was crowned UND Homecoming Queen for 2013 (pictured). She is donating her Court proceeds to the UND Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA). We are pleased to have students who demonstrate such strong commitment to helping others!

Jacque Jones, OT administrative clerk on the Grand Forks campus, is retiring from the department after 16 years of outstanding support to faculty, students and staff. She has been an instrumental part of our department and we wish her all the best in her new adventures.

# Save the Date

## Sensory Versus Behavioral Interventions: Daily Challenges with Children on the Autism Spectrum

Friday, February 7, 2014

Memorial Union – Lecture Bowl

University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

Presenter: LaDonna Bannach, OTR/L

Synopsis: During this half-day workshop, Bannach will provide an overview of how sensory and behavior challenges can look similar as well as different. Behavioral and daily challenges can be very abstract for children along the spectrum. We will look at the “bigger picture” for these children by discussing an overview of evaluation, strategies, and generalization techniques. Bannach will share with you some of the most important concepts, ideas and strategies she wished she would have known when entering the profession 16 years ago.

For more information about this event, call the UND OT Department at 701.777.2209.

## UND/Casper College April OT Conference and Expo

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Casper College

Morning Session: Amanda Delizzio Kute, OTD, OTR, HPCS level 2, will be speaking on alternative therapies such as pool therapy, animal-assisted therapy, and OT use of equine (formerly known as hippotherapy).

Afternoon Session: Cathy Blair, PT, DPT, OCS, will be speaking on vestibular therapy.

For more information about this event, e-mail [roberta.reid@my.und.edu](mailto:roberta.reid@my.und.edu).

## Student Scholarship Campaign Update

There is good news to share about the OT Alumni Scholarship, which has grown to nearly \$22,000, thanks to generous gifts provided by our alumni and friends. This puts us about \$3,000 from our goal of creating an endowed \$25,000 scholarship fund that will provide \$1,000 in financial support for OT students annually.

If you would like to give a gift, they can be sent directly to the UND Foundation at 3501 University Ave., Stop 8157, Grand Forks, ND 58202 (memo: OT Alumni Scholarship), or submitted electronically at [www.undalumni.org/medicine](http://www.undalumni.org/medicine) (a 4 percent credit card processing fee applies). Thank you so much to those who have given!

## Parting Shots



Casper OT students dress as super heroes at the Parky's Super Hero 5K run to raise money for a bone-marrow transplant for Parklen Henderson, son of Casper Year I OT student Devan Henderson. Diagnosed with an undocumented autoimmune disorder, Parklen is hospitalized in Denver to prepare for the transplant.



Grand Forks OT students participated in Carfit Technician and Carfit Coordinator training in November in conjunction with Altru Health System.