

## From the Chair

Greetings from North Dakota, It is amazing how fast spring has arrived. The year has gone very quickly with exciting changes, and we are already into the second half of the spring semester. Over the fall, we settled into our new building on the corner of Gateway Drive and Columbia Road. The building is beautiful and very much designed for collaboration and interaction among all students and faculty housed in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Homecoming also marked the grand opening of the building. It was fun visiting with a number of alumni who came to the open house and who have dropped in to visit the new building. We are pleased that four of the building spaces have been named for OT alumni and supporters. These include the third floor Main Street, named for Wesley Hoffman, who received excellent rehabilitative care from UND OT alumni; Conference Room W314 for Kathy Bangsund, BSOT '72; Conference Room E315 for Maggie Leshner, BSOT '72; and Room E318 in honor of the Kriegl and Gorter families of Bethel (Gorter Kriegl) Bank, including three UND OT alumni Lisa (Kriegl) Dusek, James Kriegl, and Meghan Lyle.



It is hard to believe we just moved in July; it is wonderful being able to collaborate with other folks. We are heading into the end of the semester and while we have had some glitches with technology, all in all it has been a great move.

In December, we hosted an accreditation visit to our Casper, Wyo., campus by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The site visit went well, and I am proud of the way faculty and staff at both of our sites collaborate and keep the focus on student learning.

Admissions for 2017 are done! We have 62 students who will be starting classes this summer in Grand Forks and Casper. Graduate students are quickly approaching oral comps and final scholarly projects, and 58 students are on track to graduate in 2017. This is always an exciting and busy time of the year! As a department, we have decided to not go with the centralized admission service since our primary mission is to serve the region.

The AOTA celebrates 100 years of occupational therapy this spring during our annual conference in Philadelphia. We are hosting an alumni reception on Friday, March 31, and we hope to see you there!

I am extremely grateful for our students, alumni, staff and faculty. It is an honor to work with such amazing people who are committed to making life better for our clients and communities. The UND OT Department is ready to make its mark in the next 100 years! Thank you all for supporting us through recruitment of students, fieldwork education, scholarship and in the day-to-day service of our work!

Janet Jedlicka  
Chair and Professor  
Department of Occupational Therapy

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## Faculty Spotlight

### Faculty promotions

Congratulations to Sonia Zimmerman, PhD, and Debra Hanson, PhD, who were promoted to professor and Sarah Nielsen, PhD, who was promoted to associate professor at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. The recognition of your hard work and dedication to UND and to the OT profession is well deserved!

### New faculty

UND OT welcomes Andrea Young, MOT '12, OTR/L, as a new full-time faculty member at the Casper, Wyo., campus. Andrea is a UND OT alumna and has been working in rehabilitation, and work and industry as her primary practice areas. She also obtained a bachelor's of science degree in health and human performance from the University of Montana. She loves spending time with her family, including her husband and her almost three year old, and is an avid mountain biker. Her plan for the near future includes beginning her course work toward a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.



# Alumni Spotlight: Mandy Chamberlain, MOT '03

## How did you become interested in OT?

I initially was interested in social work and intrigued with the challenge of psychology and helping people, but that all changed after my grandfather had a stroke. I was exposed to occupational therapy through his rehab process, and I discovered that OT combined physical rehabilitation with mental health and cognition. Right then and there, I knew OT was for me. The very next year, I transferred to UND so I could be more involved and submerge myself in a health-science-focused school with a pre-OT program.

## What do you remember about your time with the OT department?

I was a part of the first entry-level master's OT class in 2003, which was such an exciting time! I think some of my fondest memories include the friends, faculty and relationships that were built (that I still have!). I loved anatomy lab, learning neuro rehab with Dr. Stube, and my "group" course was memorable because 9/11 happened during this class.

## Where are you practicing? How did you come to be in that setting?

Currently, I am pro re nata at three different skilled nursing facilities (SNF) in western Colorado. After I graduated, I worked home health and then outpatient/inpatient rehab, as well as at an SNF. I have a love for the elderly population, as I grew up in a sandwich-generation household and have stuck with working with this great population.



## What do you most enjoy about OT as a profession?

My absolute favorite thing about being an OT is that I truly believe that we can change lives. I love helping others, and we can work in such a variety of settings.

## What else are you doing?

In addition to raising three toddlers, I run a website just for OTs called [SeniorsFlourish.com](http://SeniorsFlourish.com). I educate clinicians who work with older adults to be the best they can be through tips, resources, a supportive community and videos.

## Fieldwork Connections

As a practicing occupational therapist, you may have had the experience of supervising an occupational therapy student. If you have, we hope it was a good experience for you! Research evidence suggests that students can provide value to the site, to fieldwork educator professional development, and to the clients they serve. Students promote new ideas, which energize and refresh staff. Students contribute to research activities at the site, as well as other site work projects. In addition, a student internship program provides ready opportunity for skilled employee recruitment.

Yet, these benefits are sometimes not realized because of student difficulty in transitioning to the expectations of the site and fieldwork educator unfamiliarity with the requirements of the education role. This is unfortunate since adequate training for the supervision role can make all the difference, both for the fieldwork educator and for the student.

Although training may occur in many formats, such as online programs or resources provided directly through the education program (visit [www.med.und.edu/occupational-therapy/](http://www.med.und.edu/occupational-therapy/) for online resources provided by UND), there is really no substitute for face-to-face training, which offers opportunity for hands-on practice. This is exactly what is offered when you participate in the AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certificate program. Fieldwork educators maximize the benefits of the student program by learning how to set up a structure for student learning that clearly communicates expectations early in the fieldwork placement. They benefit from learning methods to engage students as active learners, proactively addressing student challenges and applying student skill to benefit the fieldwork educator and the setting (references will be provided upon request).

This spring, we are able to offer two locations in our geographic area to complete this valuable training. The UND OT Program is partnering with CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck, N.D., and Choice Therapy in Bemidji, Minn., to offer a two-day AOTA Fieldwork Educators Certificate Program Workshop (see Save-the-Date section below). You can exponentially improve your student program by attending this workshop. Taught by experts in the fieldwork with experience in both academic and practice settings, you will be introduced to a framework that will help you streamline administration, education, supervision and evaluation components of fieldwork supervision, and actively apply learning theories through dialogue and reflection. This is cutting-edge information, delivered in a tested format that is strategically designed to engage participants and promote deep learning. Finally, you will earn 15 contact hours of continuing education to advance your professional development portfolio and meet licensing requirements.

In fact, the UND OT Program is so committed to the value of this program that we are willing to offer a \$100 stipend to the first 20 participants registered at either location. Please contact [Debra Hanson](mailto:Debra.Hanson@und.edu) to receive your voucher coupon for your discount prior to registering.

We hope that you take advantage of this unique learning opportunity and look forward to working with you!

Deb Hanson and Cherie Graves  
Academic Fieldwork Coordinators



Chad is pictured with his wife Jaime outside of his great grandfather Gustav's childhood home.

## Chad Oppegaard

Following coursework on personal cultural discovery with Assistant Professors Breann Lamborn and Sue Morrison, third-year Casper OT student Chad Oppegaard spent time in summer 2016 traveling to Sweden to meet his European family for the first time. Below is his description of his travels:

"It's funny what one class can inspire. I visited Sweden this summer to meet 16 uncles, aunts and cousins whom I never knew existed until we did our cultural journey assignment. Storbo, Sweden, is a pretty small town. I think the population is under 30, most of whom are my family members. It's in northern Sweden, about 10 miles from the Norwegian border. We visited my great grandpa Gustav's house, where he was born and raised before immigrating to Lengby, Minn., in 1903. My grandpa's first cousin Runey and his family still live there! Runey was awesome. He didn't speak English and I didn't speak Swedish, so he called me "Elmer" all week because he thought I looked so much like my grandpa Elmer (his first cousin). Best trip ever! Thanks for the inspiration!"

## Jamie St. Germain

Jamie St. Germain, a second-year OT student in Grand Forks, has been doing great things on campus that are being recognized. She is serving as fundraising chair for Pi Theta Epsilon, OT student representative for the SMHS Learning Communities, the student representative to the SMHS Health Sciences Curriculum Committee, and employed as facility manager at the UND Wellness Center. Jamie was recently honored by Laurie Betting, interim vice president for Student Affairs, with a designation as an Everyday Superhero on Laurie's blog during UND Homecoming week (October 10, 2016). You can watch the [video here](#).



## Sydney Larson

Sydney Larson, a second-year OT student in Grand Forks, was named the North Dakota Occupational Therapy Student of the Year for 2016 by the North Dakota Occupational Therapy Association. The award was given at the state conference on Oct. 22, 2016, in Fargo, N.D. Sydney was chosen in part because of her extensive volunteerism, including president of Pi Theta Epsilon (OT Honor Society), team captain for UND OT Spin for Kids, a pre-OT mentor, social chair for her class, chair for the UND OT Workshop and Luncheon, and an interviewer in the OT program admissions process. Additionally, Sydney was named Student Ambassador of the Month in August, is active in the Catholic Medical Association, and is highly active through the UND St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. She is also a member of the UND marching band, hockey band, and drumline. She is pictured with Heather Dibla, NDOTA president.

## Save the Date

### AOTA Fieldwork Educators Certificate Program Workshop

Co-sponsored by the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Choice Therapy, Bemidji, Minn.

April 22-23, 2017 (registration deadline: April 7)  
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Instructors: Linda Buxell and Pam Van Cura  
15 contact hours, 1.5 AOTA CEUs/15 NBCOT PDUs  
For more information, contact [Kori Geiger](#) at,  
218.444.8280 or [Debra Hanson](#), 701.777.2218.

### AOTA Fieldwork Educators Certificate Program Workshop

Co-sponsored by the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
CHI St. Alexis Health, Bismarck, N.D.

May 6-7, 2017 (registration deadline: April 21)  
8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Instructors: Carol Chop and Patricia Stutz-Tanenbaum  
15 contact hours, 1.5 AOTA CEUs/15 NBCOT PDUs  
For more information, contact [Jennifer Vesey](#) or  
[Debra Hanson](#), 701.777.2218.

Affordable housing options available upon request.

## Parting Shots



Second-year OT students in Casper, Wyo., participated in a horse painting activity at the Reach 4A Star Riding Academy in the fall as a close for their group class with Instructor Nicole Harris (2nd from right). The horses didn't mind and were painted with non-toxic, animal-safe paints.



Second-year OT students in Grand Forks use sticker rewards under behavioral theory to reinforce positive behavior in Associate Professor Cindy Janssen's class.