



Alumni News

Winter 2023



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From the Director

A message from Peggy M. Martin, PhD, Program Director

Welcome to the 2023 issue of the OT Alumni News! We are excited to share our growth with you since our last Newsletter. We have graduated our first class of OTD students and our last class of MOT students, all stellar graduates who are practicing in key areas throughout the country!

Our graduates have consistently passed the NBCOT with high pass rates, a trend that seems to be continuing with our first class of OTD students. I think you'll see some of the reasons why when you turn the pages of this issue. We were awarded full accreditation, developed innovative and successful faculty-led level I fieldwork experiences, expanded the OT role to primary care at the UMN interprofessional, student-run Phillips Neighborhood clinic, hosted our first annual OT Recognition Event, supported 49 students in Capstone experiences and projects across our region, and began development of a faculty/ student clinic.

We invite all of you to join our efforts to develop high-value learning activities and cutting edge research while contributing to the health and wellness of our communities. As always, send me an email at marti370@umn.edu with new ideas, suggestions for improvement, and just to visit.

Sincerely Yours,

Peggy M. Martin ■



PROGRAM IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ANNUAL REPORT

Demographics of Incoming Class, Fall Semester	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Age (mean)	24.4	24.3	26	24	23	23	22.5
Cum GPA	3.47	3.61	3.62	3.50	3.51	3.55	3.48
Minnesota Resident	62%	73%	79%	76%	81.6%	70.2%	83.0%
Gender (% female)	91%	91.8%	91.4%	92.0%	87.8%	93.6%	95.1%
Number of Qualified Applicants	584	499	428	186	142	131	111
Graduation in	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Graduates	47	48	45	49			
NBCOT Pass Rate	100%	98%	98%	100%	94%	100%	100%
Fieldwork	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fieldwork Rotations	101	94	100	102	128	65	90
Number of rotations in MN	92	2	100	98	124	106	94
Number of rotations outside MN	9	2	0	4	10	5	5
Percent completing 1+ non-metro rotations*	92%	96%	99%	58%			
Level II fieldwork in non-metro rotations	48%	42.5%	53%	55%	18%	20%	18%

*either a level I or level II rotation; Information as of 12/31/2018

Program Receives ACOTE Accreditation

The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral (OTD) degree program in Minneapolis and in Rochester are now accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The Program was found to be in *full or substantial compliance with the 2018 Accreditation Standards for the Doctoral-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist* on April 2, 2022. Thank you to all community members, students, recent graduates, institutional colleagues and community members who participated in the accreditation self-study process and the onsite visit last February, 2022.

Accreditation serves two primary purposes, to ensure high quality of programs delivering occupational therapy education and to ensure that programs remain at high quality when accredited.



We are scheduled for a re-accreditation visit seven years from now (2028-2029), the longest accreditation cycle awarded to a new program. ■

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.

In Memoriam – Remembering Alumni

JULIENNE WEIGHTER, one of the first successful kidney transplant survivors in the world, died February 5, in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. She was 72. Born in Grand Forks, North Dakota on February 20, 1948 as the youngest of seven children, Julienne developed kidney disease at age 14. After an extended illness, local government officials arranged for her transport, along with her mother Evelyn, from the U.S. Air Force Base in Grand Forks to Richmond, Virginia where Doctor David Hume performed the operation, considered experimental at that time. The kidney was donated by her mother. Richmond was one of the three cities in the United States performing the controversial surgery in 1963.

Julienne and her mother remained in Richmond until June 1964 while doctors continued to monitor her progress. She attended Cathedral Central High School there. She returned to Grand Forks, then relocated to Minneapolis for continued medical follow-up, graduating from St. Anthony of Padua High School in 1967. She then attended the University of Minnesota where she received a B.A. in Social Work. While attending the University, she became the first female security guard at the Minnesota State Capitol, working there from 1971 to 1973. After her college graduation, she was employed as a Principal Financial Worker in the Hennepin County Economic Assistance Department until 1979.

Julienne returned to the University of Minnesota where she received a B.S. in Occupational Therapy. She was employed as an O.T. for 28 years working in the fields

of pediatrics, homecare, occupational health and development, and physical disabilities. She was very active in the Minnesota Occupational Therapy Association. Julienne worked at several Twin Cities facilities and ended her career as an O.T. at Sister Kenney United Hospital in St. Paul in 2012. In 2000, Julienne received her second kidney transplant at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. It was donated by her brother Everett Weighter.



Julienne married John Goggin in Minneapolis in 1973. Their daughter Alycia Goggin-Weighter was born in 1977.

Julienne was a life-long lover of animals, especially dogs and cats. Over her lifetime she adopted many rescue animals. Fancy, her current dog, is a rescue animal from a puppy mill.

Julienne's parents Edmund F. Weighter and Evelyn A. (Ronkowski) Weighter are deceased. Survivors include her husband John, daughter Alycia (Brandon Tibbetts), grand-daughter Evelyn, step-daughter Jennifer (Eric Fowler), grand-sons Drew and Cole, siblings Everett Weighter of Brookings, Oregon, Nerus Weighter of Bellingham, Washington, James Weighter of Everett, Washington, and several nieces and nephews.

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In Memoriam - Remembering Alumni

(continued from page 4)

MARY AMELIA (ROEPKE) WILCOX was born December 9, 1931, in Toronto, Canada to Martin



Henry Roepke and Edith Juanita Roepke. The family returned to the U.S. in 1934. Mary spent her formative years in St. Paul, Minnesota. She attended Murray High School in St. Anthony Park and worked part time in the local library. After high school Mary studied Occupational Therapy at the University of Minnesota. She graduated with distinction in 1954. Following graduation, she worked as a Registered Occupational Therapist at the University of Minnesota hospitals.

She married James R. Wilcox, a lifelong friend, on June 25, 1955. She continued working at the U of M hospitals while her husband completed his U. S. Army commitment and pursued graduate studies at the University. Mary and her husband moved to Ames, Iowa, in 1959. Mary worked at the Ames Methodist Church and later at the Dairy Department at Iowa State University. Their daughter, Barbara Jean, was born while they lived in Ames. Mary and her husband moved to Gulfport, then to Long Beach, Mississippi in 1961. Mary quickly made close friends with many of their neighbors and was active in the Long Beach Methodist Church. While in Mississippi their son, Steven Bradley, was born. In 1966 the family moved to West Lafayette, Indiana. Mary worked part time as an Occupational Therapist at the Americana Nursing Home, now St. Mary's, and later at Home Hospital.

After Mary and her husband retired, they bought a cottage on Bear Island Lake in northern Minnesota where for twenty years they spent summers from mid-May to mid-October. Mary greatly enjoyed entertaining family and longtime friends at the lake cottage. She was active in the Ely United Methodist Church, was a member of the Ely Library, and was active in the local PEO chapter. She greatly appreciated the love and friendship of her PEO sisters in Minnesota. Mary enjoyed people and was very social. She enjoyed visiting with her extended family and with friends, and readily conversed with strangers she met. She was an

active member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, PEO chapter CW, and the American Literature Club in Indiana.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Harlan Hugh Roepke, a brother-in-law David N. Wilcox, his wife Phyllis (Bowe) Wilcox, sister-in-law Susan (Wilcox) Ault and her husband Gerald R. Ault. Mary is survived by her husband James, daughter Barbara Jean (Wilcox) Richards, husband Kenneth, her son Steven Bradley Wilcox, his wife Melissa (Fyffe) Wilcox, her granddaughter, Cassie Elise Wilcox, Cassie's mother, Theresa Wilcox, and her sister-in-law Judith (Bole) Roepke.

MICHELE HANSEL, MS, OTR/L (March 20, 1981 - September

25, 2022), 2007 graduate of the MOT program, was a much-valued partner to the OT program. The 10 years she spent in her role as OTR at the Rochester Community Behavioral Health Hospital, Michele mentored



dozens of MOT students in the classroom as an instructional support staff, in Level 1 FW experiences, and in Level 2 FW. Her support to the program in its early years in Rochester cannot be overstated, and she did so in spite of significant, ongoing health concerns. After leaving Rochester in 2019, Michele moved to Sun Prairie Wisconsin where she worked at the Mendota Mental Health Institute, teaching other occupational therapists to incorporate sensory strategies for coping and emotional regulation into treatment plans for the clients they served. She is survived by 3 children and one grandchild.

Please let us know of the passing of an alumni of the UM OT Program, so that we can share that information. Contact Linda Maleitzke or Jireh Mabamba at OTalumni@umn.edu or by calling (877) 334-2659. ■

Highlighting Fieldwork Educator Marlys Gapstur Sand

The OT Program is supported by skilled OT practitioners who give their time, energy, and expertise as fieldwork educators. One who stands out is Marlys Gapstur Sand. Marlys is a 1981 alum of the University of Minnesota's bachelors Program in OT and graduated with a Masters in Human Development from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. She honed her clinical skills working inpatient physical disabilities at Methodist, programming for youth with chemical dependency at Fairview Riverside, and many years in the public school system. Early in her career, she began a shift to academics as a guest lecturer and adjunct faculty until taking a position as assistant professor at St. Catherine's in 2016. In that role, she developed curriculum and taught in the OTA program and the MAOT program.

In her "retirement", Marlys continues feeding her passion as an educator by mentoring students as a Level 1 and Level 2 fieldwork educator for our non-traditional community sites. These sites do not have an OT practitioner on staff but could benefit from an occupational therapy perspective. One student wrote that "Marlys was a great fieldwork educator as she brought top-level experience and wisdom to guide students in a community OT setting. She took the time to learn about our goals and facilitated opportunities to support our passions. Her efforts to connect with everyone made a lasting impact on students and the clients." Another stated that "[Marlys'] ultimate goal is to get her students to become 'jazzed' about being an OT and she's done just that! She has so much knowledge and experience that she's enlightened us with as we're growing in our own ways professionally, it's inspiring and makes me excited for what is to come on my own path. I've learned so much from her in just 4 weeks. There are so many practical skills I've been able to gain from her teaching and I'm always wanting to know more/hear more/learn more from her. She is a great educator."

Marlys uses her student-centered and community sensitive approach to OT practice and her expertise as an educator to help the OTD program develop a presence at community sites. These sites have not had OT as part of their programming, specifically a residential site for women in recovery and their children, and an adult day program for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. The recovery site has now hosted four level 2 students and a capstone student. The day program consistently provides an experience for 8-10 Level 1 students each semester. Many of these students have benefited from Marlys' mentoring. Noted by a student: "I would just say that I really appreciated

the opportunity to work with Marlys. She brought genuine enthusiasm to our work every day, and continuously opened my eyes to exciting nuances of OT practice. She was warm and open to conversation and feedback while also challenging us to grow as professionals. It was great to learn from her!"

As part of this effort, Marlys was critical in the refinement of a 5-session Level 1 teaching plan and the development of a Level 2 handbook for non-traditional community sites.

The 5-session plan, guides students in observing/developing key therapy skills such as observation, application of theory, intervention (group leadership), and documentation. It also serves to support other fieldwork educators in guiding students through their Level 1 experiences. The Level 2 handbook maps out the students' 12 week internship, clarifying expectations for students, for the community sites, and for other fieldwork educators. Both of these documents have proven invaluable as we further develop these and other non-traditional community sites.

Marlys is the ultimate student mentor and role model. A Level 1 student summed up her favorite things about Marlys and the highlights of getting to have her as an educator. "From the start she stated how she didn't want to create "mini Marlys"; she wanted us to be ourselves and grow into our own individual OTs. Marlys cares about the people we serve and goes out of her way to do small things like bake cakes, clean up/fix things and donate a lot of her own supplies to projects and group programs which truly helps our experiences. She offers great feedback and allows us to make mistakes and learn from them. She allows us to be creative and really make OT connections with everyday things. She makes small connections and grows personal relationships with her students which enhances the learning and relationship. Marlys stated that she wants us to 'fall in love with occupational therapy' while we are completing our fieldwork."

As a fieldwork educator, Marlys has impacted the lives of new OTs and community members, modeling what an OT can and should be. ■



FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Rochester Alumni

SAMUAL CUYA

Q: Why did you choose Rochester?

I chose UMN-Rochester because of the educational and career opportunities, the easier commute to Chicago to visit my family, and the cost of living.

Q: How was your time being a student, specifically in Rochester?

My time as an OT student in Rochester was challenging in the sense that I was starting a new chapter in my life independently. Luckily, the Rochester campus operated as a close-knit community where I built my OT family and friends.

Q: What opportunities did you gain from going to Rochester?

The opportunities I gained from attending UMN-Rochester were job offers at Mayo Clinic, leadership within the OT program, and developing programs at local community centers.

RACHEL MARTONIK

Q: Why did you choose Rochester?

When looking at occupational therapy schools, I was excited by the University of Minnesota's prestigious reputation as a research institution and by its highly regarded allied health programs. The additional promise of a close connection to the Mayo Clinic and its School of Health Sciences drove me to accept my admittance to the U of M's Rochester campus.

Q: How was your time being a student, specifically in Rochester?

My time as a graduate student in Rochester was overall positive and formative. I genuinely enjoyed my cohort and



formed an incredible network of peers, not to mention friendships that have lasted the years since graduation. Additionally, I felt supported by a number of my professors, with some of whom I remain connected.

Q: What opportunities did you gain from going to Rochester?

Being in Rochester allowed me to have several level I and one level II fieldwork placements at the Mayo Clinic. To have access to the world-renowned hospital's resources and to receive training from its experienced providers were opportunities I will never forget. Rochester's connection to Mayo provided me with a firm foundation in my clinical formation and a strong appreciation for and understanding of working on an interdisciplinary healthcare team. ■



Assistive Technology in the UMN OTD Program

UMN OTD students have several on-campus opportunities for hands-on engagement with various assistive technologies. During a day of learning fabrication and adaptation, students were able to take inexpensive materials and learn how to set up and use commercially available assistive technologies.

Students learned about wheelchair seating and mobility by interacting with regional vendors and experts who bring equipment to the lab. They also had the opportunity to try the equipment and learn about the evaluation process, including use of objective measures and process for medical justification of equipment.

Students on both campuses were able to experience virtual reality applications relevant to OT practice and how to design and adapt 3D prints using resources from the University of Minnesota's Health Sciences Libraries' Makerspace and Virtual Reality Studio. Students practiced modifying a pillbox design to accommodate specific impairments in function.

The UMN OTD faculty has decades of clinical and school-based experience using assistive technologies and providing wheelchair seating and mobility services. Students benefit from strong faculty connections to AT experts and services throughout the state, the region, and nationally. ■



UMN OTD student using virtual reality in the Health Sciences Libraries' Virtual Reality Studio.



UMN OTD student designs and 3D prints – examples of adaptations to facilitate occupational performance.



UMN OTD students gaining hands-on experience with assistive technology.



UMN OTD students learn about wheeled mobility and positioning from expert instructors, Dr. Tamara Vos-Draper and Caroline Portoghese, both OTs with Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) and Seating and Mobility Specialist (SMS) certifications through RESNA.org.

Community Collaboration in Action

The University of Minnesota OT Program connected with The Pillars of Prospect Park through Carlson Weinberg and Associates, LLC. who introduced Oppidan and Ebenezer leadership to leaders of University programs, departments, colleges, centers, and schools, including OT.

The Pillars of Prospect Park is a senior community of 283 apartments consisting of independent living for active seniors, assisted living, and dimensions memory care. Many residents have a University of Minnesota (UMN) connection due to the close proximity of this community to the University's Minneapolis-East Bank Campus. Unique to this location is a 100-child daycare center attached and a Student Intergenerational Housing Program for UMN students. This program allows students to rent studio apartments at a reduced rate in exchange for 10 hours of community volunteer time at The Pillars. The developer and owner is Oppidan and the operations manager (both senior housing and child care center) is Ebenezer, which is part of the MHealth Fairview Health System.



UMN OTD Student (Alejandra Munoz-Salas) working with a child

Dr. Peggy Martin, Program Director, and Dr. Traci Kruse, Director of Experiential Learning, met with The Pillars of Prospect Park leaders to design an OT partnership that began in fall of 2021 with a faculty-led Level I fieldwork. Small groups of first and second year OT students worked with Pillars staff to design population level interventions for residents. Since then we have added Level I students in the child care center and offered faculty-supervised

telehealth OT to the assisted and independent living residents. We also added Level II fieldwork students to the setting so that even more students learn from the partnership with The Pillars.

These students completed their 12-week experience working with residents in Dimensions, assisted, and independent living. They created activity groups to meet the needs of Dimensions and assisted/independent living residents, modified activities to facilitate participation, and worked with individual residents who didn't qualify for traditional OT services to increase their functional independence in their apartments.



Level II students Jennifer Roll '23 (left) and Karl Dischinger '23 (right) participating in Intergenerational Llama Day in June

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Community Collaboration in Action *(continued)*

One resident even started attending weekly balance classes after students encouraged the individual to participate in activities.

Students also supported Pillars staff by providing education about occupations, transitions, cognition, depression and memory care, positioning, sensory processing, and nutrition. Students consulted about accessibility of the environment for all residents and described how OT could help residents throughout their time at Pillars including the initial tour, adjusting to moving in, and adapting to a life-changing event or illness.

Many interprofessional learning opportunities for students exist at The Pillars of Prospect Park. Students worked alongside physical therapy students and experiential learning teams in nursing and pharmacy. Erin Erdahl, the Director of Active Living, was integral in connecting residents to OT students. The



UMN OTD students (Anna Drees and Zachary Engel) in an intergenerational group

activities team frequently collaborated with OT students and supported student-led groups to promote resident engagement in occupations. Melisa Mewes, Health Services Director; and Haley Niesche, Resident Services Coordinator; were receptive to student ideas and their executive team (Griffin Myslivecek, Executive Director; Jay Benedict, Outreach and Sales Director; Kristen Edson, Sales Coordinator; John Boston, Dimensions Manager; Karen Miller, Assisted Living Director; Jeremy Switzer, Culinary Director; and Tyrone Moore, Environmental Services Director; worked to make the Pillars at Prospect Park experience the best it can be for residents and students. We are truly grateful to have such a valuable partnership in The Pillars of Prospect Park and are excited to see where this partnership goes!

If you are interested in developing a faculty-led Level I experience or community Level II experience contact, Dr. Traci Kruse, at otfieldwork@umn.edu. If you or someone you know is interested in any of The Pillars locations reach out to Jay Benedict at 612-623-7007 or jay.benedict@fairview.org and let him know you heard about The Pillars and the OT student partnership in the UMN OT Alumni Newsletter. If you would like to support funding housing opportunities for students while they are participating in clinical rotations such as this experience at The Pillars of Prospect Park, please contact Peggy Martin at marti370@umn.edu. ■



Level II students Marisa Johnson '23 (left) and Ellison (Ellie) Schmillen '23 (right) facilitating the "Happy Little Paintings" group on Bob Ross Day during Homecoming Week

Spotlight on Capstone

The capstone project and experience is a distinguishing feature of the entry-level clinical doctorate degree in OT and occurs after all coursework and Level 2 FW requirements have been met. The purpose of the doctoral capstone is for students to envision, plan and carry out a project that meets the needs of an organization while also providing the student an opportunity to

develop skills in an area of in-depth focus. Areas of possible focus include: Advocacy, Administration, Advanced Clinical Practice, Education, Leadership, Program Development, Research, or Theory Development. Students begin to plan their capstone up to 12 months ahead of time and finalize their plans for their project and experience in the months leading up to the summer capstone experience. ■

Interested in exploring whether your organization might benefit from taking a capstone student? Contact Terrienne Jones at OTDCapstone@umn.edu

Our first cohort of OTD students recently graduated and here is just a sampling of the organizations with whom they collaborated:

- Autism Society of MN (St. Paul)
- Wilder Foundation (St. Paul, MN)
- Fairview Hand Therapy (Minneapolis, MN)
- People Serving People (Minneapolis MN)
- Augustana Care: Open Circle Adult Day (Hopkins, MN)
- Exerciseabilities (Rochester, MN)
- Kalamazoo Youth Network (Kalamazoo, MI)
- Mission Hills Post Acute Care (San Diego, CA)
- United Hospital District (Blue Earth, MN)
- Handi Medical (St. Paul MN)
- Healing Routines (New Ulm, MN)
- YMCA (La Cross, WI)
- Messabi Family YMCSA (Virginal, MN)
- Three Rivers Parks District (Maple Grove, MN)
- PossAbilities (Rochester, MN)
- Cummings Treasured Time Adult Day (Deerwood, MN)

OT Student Reflects on Capstone



Megan Hunter is completing her 14 week doctoral capstone experience and project through the Amherst Wilder Foundation's Customized Living Services. This is a unique setting where adults with both mental and physical health needs, who live in a St. Paul Public Housing building, receive services such as housekeeping and mediation management to support their independence.

Q: What is your specific capstone project and how did you choose it?

After completing a needs assessment with the on-site staff at the Customized Living Program at Ravoux, it was evident that the residents desired increased opportunities for socialization and purposeful activity. To address this need, I'm developing and implementing a creative arts program to promote well-being and motivation among the residents.

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OT Student Reflects on Capstone *(continued)*

Q: How does an OT student go about creating a program like this?

For the first few weeks of my capstone, I focused on noting residents' input and identified needs. Data collection included unstructured interviews of residents, observations of residents, and obtaining more staff feedback. In week one, I implemented a daily activity group in the community room to promote socialization among the residents and help me get to know them. This initial activity group continues to inform my understanding of the impact of engagement in meaningful activity on well-being and motivation for the residents. This information has also contributed to the ongoing design of the creative arts program for the site. In week 4, I implemented the creative arts program twice per week in the Wilder activity room.

Q: What kinds of creative activities are you offering?

I have worked with both groups and individuals expressing themselves through creative writing, drawing, watercolor or acrylic painting, collaging, sculpting, crocheting, knitting, origami, adult coloring, and various craft activities.

Q: How will you assess whether or not the creative arts program is improving residents' motivation?

To assess motivation, I complete the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) Volition Questionnaire on each participant who attends the creative art group. In addition to this data, all field notes, observations, unstructured interviews, and feedback, will be analyzed and presented to the site. This data will provide useful information on how creative arts, meaningful activity, and socialization can impact well-being and motivation among their clients.

Q: What happens to the program after you leave at the end of 14 weeks?

As part of my project, I will provide deliverables to Wilder to assist in the sustainment of the program post-project completion. These

deliverables include providing staff with resources for group activities, project books, a designated activity closet with creative arts projects, and grant spending recommendations for the funding Wilder has received to support this program. I have also been working with my on-site mentor to designate a staff person to lead the daily art and activity group to ensure the sustainment of the program following the completion of my 14-week experience.

Q: How has doing your capstone impacted you personally and professionally?

This capstone project has helped me to comprehensively apply all the skills I have learned over the last 3 years. Every day I am using my OT lens to identify client needs and gaps in services. I find myself continuously thinking outside of the box as to how I can best support the clients from an OT perspective. Since there is no OT on site, I have become much more confident in trusting the knowledge that I have and applying what I have learned. I am also able to learn from and collaborate with other professionals who may or may not know what OT is. I can provide insight into the profession and show the positive impact it can have on individuals. I have recognized myself developing both personally and professionally in skills of leading, problem-solving, critical thinking, taking initiative, acknowledging my strengths, and always advocating for myself and others. ■



Rehabilitation Science Division Develops Occupational Therapy Scientists and Educators

The Division of Rehabilitation Science continues to grow and develop. The faculty has grown to 21 core and 15 affiliate members with faculty having primary appointments at the University of Minnesota in Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Rehabilitation Medicine, Kinesiology, Neurology, Psychiatry, and Engineering and at the Minneapolis VA, Gillette Hospital, and TRIA Orthopedics. Three of our occupational therapy faculty members, Dr. Peggy Martin, Dr. Corey McGee, and Dr. Tammy Vos-Draper are core members.

This past year, Rehab Science graduated six PhD students, including new OT Faculty member, Dr. Leah Johnson who was advised by Dr. McGee and Dr. Ludwig. Current student and doctoral candidate Yue Wu, advised by Dr. Peggy Martin, was awarded the prestigious U of MN Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. Five new PhD students have matriculated in the past year, including Karin Burbach, MS, OTR/L, CHT, who serves as an OT teaching assistant and is advised by Dr. McGee. There are currently a total of 26 students with 13 having earned doctoral candidacy status. Students represent a wide breadth of interprofessional backgrounds including occupational therapy, physical therapy, music therapy, speech therapy, developmental disabilities, psychology, orthotics and prosthetics, exercise physiology, engineering, biology, and pharmacy.

Some very exciting news for the Program in Occupational Therapy is that we are currently in the late phases of

developing an OTD/PhD pathway. This pathway will support Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) students in making substantial progress towards the Rehabilitation Science PhD while earning the OTD. We expect to have interested and qualified OTD graduates enroll in the PhD as early as fall 2024.

OT faculty continue to teach in the Division on topics such as disability theory, rehabilitation science history, team science, and grant writing. The Division has also recently expanded its curriculum to include three new courses in research methods, a new course in adult learning, and a new course on grant writing, all taught by occupational therapy faculty.

Students and faculty represent the Division and University in research partnerships locally and nationally, and widely disseminate to regional, national, and international audiences via invited lectureships, conference talks, and publications. All of this has put the Division to be a frontrunner in advancing our science and preparing future rehabilitation scientists for the immediate and distant future. We are confident that occupational therapy's expanding presence will strengthen the Division and support our mission to educate leaders in and advance the science of OT.

For more information about pursuing a PhD in Rehabilitation Science, please contact Corey McGee, PhD, OTR/L, CHT @ mcge0062@umn.edu or at 612-626-5645. ■

OTD Recognition Event

The Occupational Therapy Program held its first OT Recognition Ceremony on April 29, 2022 in the Great Hall. This ceremony was established to mark the transition from classroom learning to the beginning of the clinical care portion of the doctoral curriculum. The event recognized the work year one students did to be successful in Level 1 fieldwork, year two students prepare for Level II fieldwork, and year three students for completing all fieldwork and preparing to embark on their final Capstone Semester. There was a reception following the ceremony where students were able to celebrate their achievements with their friends and family. You can watch the ceremony on the OT Youtube page! ■



On-Campus Educational Clinic

The Occupational Therapy Program is in the final stretch in receiving approval to implement an educational free clinic. The University of Minnesota Rehabilitation and Wellness Clinic will provide our UMN OT and PT students with faculty supervised hands-on experience to:

- Support their education
- Serve the rehabilitation health and wellness needs of our uninsured/underinsured university neighbors
- Provide potential research participant integration for student and faculty research

The clinic will provide both telehealth and in-person pro-bono services (working out of the Children's Rehab classrooms).

Faculty-supervised interprofessional groups of students will provide rehabilitation therapy as well as health and wellness services to persons unable to easily receive therapy services elsewhere. This will contribute to the educational mission of the OT and PT Programs. Therapeutic interventions will be provided by the appropriate services for those with a limited, specific need. It is anticipated that the clinic will open toward the end of fall or early spring semester.

Intake information will be added to our program website if you, or someone you know, is interested in receiving services through the University of Minnesota Rehabilitation and Wellness Clinic. You may also contact Dr. Diane Anderson at ander230@umn.edu with questions or to express interest (and be added to a waitlist). ■

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic – Volunteers Needed!

Our students are now functioning as student occupational therapists at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC), a free primary care clinic in Minneapolis. The clinic is an interprofessional clinic where students from medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, under the supervision of licensed health professionals, provide care to patients with primary health care needs.

We seek to expand our roles at PNC but to do this, we will require the assistance for our skilled alumni to precept our students to ensure their success.

There are many benefits of this opportunity:

1. Serve the underserved and underinsured
2. Extend occupational therapy's reach into primary care
3. Aid in training the next generation of OTs
4. Continue your development as a holistic OT

The mission of this clinic is perfectly aligned with our profession and is as follows:

- To increase the accessibility of comprehensive, patient-centered, quality health services to patients with unmet needs
- To develop compassionate, culturally sensitive future health professionals in an interprofessional, team-based learning environment
- To support community partnerships and promote overall health and wellbeing in the communities we serve

To learn more:

- Read about PNC here: <https://sites.google.com/view/phillipsneighborhoodclinic/home>
- Contact pncoccupationaltherapy@gmail.com about volunteering



Please give this opportunity serious consideration! The primary requirements include that you are NBCOT certified, MN State-licensed, available to travel to the clinic in Minneapolis, and available for occasional after-hour shifts from 6 PM - 9 PM. We will cover your liability insurance as well. The commitment and training are minimal but the impact of this opportunity for our students and the community are enormous. We look forward to hearing from you! ■

The Power of Fellowships



Joshua Polanski (OTD class of 2024)

"I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. I have known since my time in undergrad that I wanted to become an occupational therapist. Being a personal caregiver for the last four years has reaffirmed to me that I value assisting others so they can have a high quality of life, well-being, and maintain their independence. I love OT because we help our clients to be the agents of their own change and engage in their meaningful occupations. My late grandfather had Alzheimer's Disease for over ten years. During that time, I saw how much my grandmother sacrificed to be his fulltime caregiver. Looking back, she was a primary influence on me choosing OT as a career because she demonstrated what client-centered care looked like. Additionally, she always approached my grandfather's care from a strengths-based perspective. I greatly value these components of OT and I hope to show this same kind of compassion and empathy to my clients in the future!

Receiving the McCauley Alumni and Friends OT Fieldwork Graduate Fellowship has been a true blessing. Before this scholarship, I was prioritizing fieldwork placements that were close to home given my car issues and the financial obligations that come with being a graduate student. However, I now have the opportunity to apply for sites that will challenge me and allow me to develop into the best Occupational Therapist I can be! I am proud to be an OTD student from the University of Minnesota and I am looking forward to representing my school, my peers, and all those who have come before me in a positive light!"



Oriana Freeman, OTD class of 2024.

"I graduated from the College of Wooster in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Throughout my career exploration, I had been pulled between biology/medicine, psychology, and neuroscience while also exploring my love for art. I felt conflicted as to how my career could encompass my interests and expertise. During my time working as a preschool teacher at Fraser, I discovered occupational therapy. A few of my students would see the occupational therapists. I was curious to see what the students were working on outside of the classroom and to identify ways to support their occupation within the classroom as their teacher. After shadowing the occupational therapists on-site, I truly fell in love with the field. It was the combination of all of my interests! In my future career, I hope to continue working with children and foster my development in areas of interest such as feeding therapy and sensory processing. The scholarships I have been fortunate enough to receive include the Terry Berg, Frances and Jack Eberlein, Joan and Patrick Daems, and Ruth Overgaard Brewer. These scholarships have been pertinent to my ability to continue my education and still enjoy my time in graduate school alongside my peers. It is an honor to be in this field and I am so appreciative of these scholarships for making this dream possible."



Momina Chaudhry, OTD Class of 2023

"I graduated from the University of North Dakota with the hopes of pursuing a degree in occupational therapy. Coming to the University of Minnesota, I knew that my dreams could become a reality. My interest in occupational therapy rises from wanting to eliminate the healthcare disparities that make access to allied health services difficult for minority populations. Experiencing such disparities first-hand fueled my passion and compelled me to choose the invaluable career of OT. I hope to diversify the profession by representing minorities in healthcare as well as utilizing my unique skill set to contribute

(continued on next page)

The Power of Fellowships *(continued)*

to the progression of OT. My hardwork has been supported by the Richard J. McCauley Graduate Fellowship, which I am truly honored to receive. Due to this award, I am able to fulfill my goals and help others achieve optimal health and well-being. This fellowship has made it possible for me to be the best version of myself while promoting a profession dedicated to the betterment of others."

Sarah Preisinger (OTD Class of 2024)

"I was first introduced to occupational therapy in high school while assisting as an aide in a Special Education gym class. The first time our district occupational therapist came to work with one of the students, I became fascinated by how her creative problem-solving was making a difference in my classmate's school tasks and decided to pursue a career in occupational therapy. I spent time observing OT and learning more about the profession throughout my undergraduate experience and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science. Throughout the OTD curriculum, I have developed leadership skills and I am currently the OT Clinic Coordinator at the Philips Neighborhood Clinic, a student-run clinic in Minneapolis. As coordinator, I am striving to increase the presence of OT in the clinic as OT is a new service for patients and is still developing to reach its full potential.



I am honored to receive the Marie Louise Wales Fellowship which has allowed me to continue to focus on my education and develop the knowledge and skill to be a successful occupational therapist. The Fellowship focuses on contributing to the health and well-being of children and has amplified my passion to make a difference in the lives of children and their families." ■

OT Student Named MNLEnd Fellow

Bruktawit Zewdie is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a major in health and wellness, and this fall will begin her second year of her doctorate in occupational therapy on the Twin Cities campus. Currently, she works as a Psychiatry Assistant at Fairview Hospital. There, she works with clients who have struggled with mental health and/or have experienced drug dependence and overcoming alcohol or drug addictions that severely affect neuronal connections in the brain. She has also worked with adults and children who have autism and neurological disorders.

"The LEND fellowship program gives me a unique chance to develop leadership skills and learn with diverse Fellows from different disciplines. Ultimately this program will help me strengthen my experiences with neurodevelopmental, related disabilities (NDD),

and current interdisciplinary work in psychology research. I hope to gain clinical experience that will help me educate others about the various cultural differences that exist in society and use a relationship-oriented approach. I would like to also gain skills that will help expand my current knowledge of OT practice so that I can use it in my future practice. I strongly believe that this fellowship will help me succeed because it will teach me skills that are centered on cultural competence and humility. I want to break that barrier by bringing my diverse values into settings that are traditionally not occupied by those outside of dominant cultures." ■



Occupational Therapy Fellowship Awards 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

Richard McCauley Graduate Fellowship in Occupational Therapy: to provide financial assistance and support increased diversity in the profession of occupational therapy.

Cintia Blas
Momina Chaudhry
Zainab Harunani
Elena Johaneck
Ekaterina Nazarenko
Peter Simon

Borghild Hansen Memorial Fellowship in Occupational Therapy: provides financial assistance to for occupational therapy students.

Ellie Bute
Kelsi Johnson
Seth Kirkeide
Hope Loosbrock
Katelyn Marthaler
Emily Riner
Lauren Schueler

McCauley, Alumni and Friends Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Graduate Fellowship: to provides financial assistance to students while they complete the fieldwork requirement for their degree in the Program in occupational therapy.

Joshua Polanski
Hafsa Rehan

Marie Louise Wales Fellowship: supports students planning to enhance the health of children.

Sarah Preisinger
Megan Veenstra
Lauren Zoborowski

Marvin Lepley Memorial Graduate Fellowship in Occupational Therapy: provides financial assistance for occupational therapy students.

Madison Steffen

Terry Berg Memorial Scholarship: provides financial assistance to students completing their occupational therapy internships with children in a rural setting.

Oriana Freeman

Annette Levey Scholarship in Occupational Therapy: provides financial assistance to applicants with academic excellence who are entering the Program in Occupational Therapy.

Joshua Polanski
Hafsa Rehan

Joan and Patrick Daems Occupational Therapy Scholarship: provide financial support to students who demonstrate the potential to contribute to the health of children with physical or cognitive impairment.

Oriana Freeman

Frances and Jack Eberlein Scholarship: provides financial assistance to non-traditional students or students changing careers.

Lydia Andu
Oriana Freeman

Ruth Overgaard Brewer Scholarship in Occupational Therapy: supports students enrolled in graduate-level training in Occupational Therapy.

Oriana Freeman
Zamzam Haile
Hafsa Rehan

CCR Fieldwork Scholarship: assist second year occupational therapy students completing a third Level II fieldwork course.

Zachary Engle
Cole Nelson
Joshua Polanski
Bruktawit Zwedie ■

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions to the Program in Occupational Therapy Fellowship Funds in 2022

\$10,000+

- Kenneth J.* & Janet E. Albrecht*
- Joan L. & Patrick M. Daems
- Dianne L. Eberlein
- McCauley-Brown Endowment Fund
- James R. Wilcox

\$1,000 - \$10,000

- William E. Berg
- Gloria J. Moen
- Susan A. Scheefe
- Scheefe/Schmitt Family Charitable Fund

\$500 - \$999

- Sarah Kujawa
- Elaine M. Schermann

\$101 - \$499

- Patricia A. Bugliosi & Andrew J. Thompson
- Jacqueline A. Carlson
- E J. Day
- June E. Franklin

- Roger H. Gross & Mary S. Dunnavan
- Jacquelyn A. Karvas
- Susan R. & William B. Koenig
- Sonia M. & Mark J. Lager
- Ann J. Lien
- Ruth A. & Douglas J. Nelson
- Craig E. Nelson
- Nancy J. Newman
- David & Carolyn H. Oliver
- Karol M. & Udom S. Orr
- Roger A. & Nancy A. Ralston
- Deborah C. & Michael H. Resman
- Jacqueline M. Royce
- Jan E. Stube & Gary Hedeem
- Anne M. Stuessy
- Margaret A. Stuessy
- Susan A. Tembrock
- Lynn F. Trostad
- Karen J. Underwood
- Kathleen C. Zawislak

\$0 - \$100

- Amy K. Anderson
- Margaret U. Berrisford
- Mary P. Gohmann
- Nicholas P. & Candyce H. Goschy
- Joyce M. Hennes
- Paula K. Hentges
- Kent T. & Kathleen L. Kehrberg
- Richard L. & Marjorie N. Kellor
- Maria L. Lara
- Jireh & Kayla J. Mabamba
- Antoinette & Gary I. Masler
- Kathleen A. McMahon-Adler
- Beverly R. Olson
- Cathy L. Peters
- Sandra L. Peterson
- Michelle A. Radovich
- Maxine A. & Philip J. Samek
- Gretchen M. Schmalz
- Andrea R. Verhey

Giving makes discovery happen! If you wish to make a legacy gift, ongoing contribution or a one-time gift to the Occupational Therapy Program, please visit: <http://z.umn.edu/supportot> or call: U of M Foundation at 800-775-2187

Center for Allied Health to Join the College of Pharmacy

The Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP) has worked in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy, the Academic Health Sciences, and the Provost's office to move the CAHP into the College of Pharmacy. The CAHP, College of Pharmacy, and University leadership are excited about this new direction.

"This collaboration will bring forth new opportunities for all of us," said Dean Lynda Welage. "Importantly for the College of Pharmacy, it reaffirms our commitment to interprofessional education and practice while providing numerous new collaborations in our education, research, and community missions."

"We look forward to our new partnership with the College of Pharmacy, particularly the potential for new interprofessional opportunities in teaching, practice,

and research, said Peggy Martin, PhD, OTR/L, program director for occupational therapy. "This transition comes as our first class of doctorally prepared students graduate to work in settings that support people to lead fully productive lives. As a founding member of the Center for Allied Health, we have seen the benefits of working with other professionals and look forward to learning more about how we can work with the College of Pharmacy to improve the health and wellness of our communities."

While the College of Pharmacy and CAHP continue to outline the evolution of this collaboration, you can learn more about the College of Pharmacy by visiting their website <https://www.pharmacy.umn.edu/>

OT Faculty Publications and Presentations

Occupational Therapy faculty enjoy sharing their expertise through consulting, public speaking, and collaborating in research. Here is a partial list of the invited lectures, presentations, and published papers from the 2020-2021 academic year. Please contact our faculty directly regarding these topics at: <https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/occupational-therapy-ot/why-ot-program-um/faculty-directory>.



Michael Jensen, EdD, OTR/L

- **Jensen, M.** (2021). Workplace wellness: Helping clients meet physical, mental, and emotional challenges on the job during COVID-19. *OT Practice*, 26(2), 12–15.

Leah Johnson, PhD, MA, OTR/L

- **Johnson, L., Karau, R., McGee, C.** (2021). Concurrent Validity and Precision of the Thumb Disability Examination (TDX) in First Carpometacarpal Osteoarthritis. *Journal of Hand Therapy*. Ahead of Print.
- **Johnson L.** Biomechanics & Ergonomics of Manual Wheelchair Propulsion & Review of a New Ergonomic Wheelchair Design. Tech Panel Accepted at American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference. Scheduled April 2020 - Canceled due to COVID.

Terriane Jones, PhD, OTR/L

- **Jones, T.** Cognitive Functional Evaluation of Older Adults: Role of Occupational Therapy. Wilder Foundation Caregiver Support Services webinar. November 11, 2021
- **Jones, T.** Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and the Person with dementia: Supporting the individual while getting the job done. Leading Age Online Dementia Certificate Care Conference. April 19, 2021. Minneapolis, MN.

Peggy Martin, PhD, OTR/L

- Peters, C., Mahoney, W., **Martin, P.** (in print). A place for occupational therapy over time: Practice and knowledge. In *Textures of Life*, Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press

(continued on next page)

OT Faculty Publications and Presentations *(continued)*

Peggy Martin, PhD, OTR/L (continued)

- Mahoney, W., Peters, C. & **Martin, P.** (2021, March). Network for lesbian, gay, bisexual concerns in occupational therapy: History of occupational justice and wearing the buttons. Society for the Study of Occupation, virtual delivery.

Corey McGee, PhD, MS, OTR/L, CHT

- Johnson, L., Karau, R., **McGee, C.** (2021). Concurrent Validity and Precision of the Thumb Disability Examination (TDX) in First Carpometacarpal Osteoarthritis. *Journal of Hand Therapy*. Ahead of Print.
- **McGee, C.** & Mathiowetz, V. (2021). Reliability and Validity of a Novel Instrument for the Quantification of Hand Forces During a Jar Opening Task. *Journal of Hand Therapy*. doi: 10.1016/j.jht.2021.04.012
- **McGee, C.**, O'Brien, Skye, J., & Wall, K. (2021). Thumb Carpometacarpal Palmar and Radial Abduction in Adults with Thumb Carpometacarpal Joint Pain: Inter-rater Reliability and Precision of the Inter-metacarpal Distance Method. *Journal of Hand Therapy*. doi: 10.1016/j.jht.2021.03.001
- **McGee, C.** & McIlrath, S. (10/8/21). Test-Retest Reliability and Precision of the Rotterdam Intrinsic Hand Myometer. Podium presentation at the 2021 Annual Conference of the American Society of Hand Therapists, St. Louis, MO.
- **McGee, C.**, Van Heest, A., Brearley, A., Ludwig, P., Krebs, E. Mechanisms of a Dynamic Stability Protocol for Persons with Thumb Osteoarthritis. CTSI Poster Session 2021, Minneapolis, MN (10/25/2021).

Patricia Schaber, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

- **Schaber, P.**, & Candler, C. (2020). Signature pedagogies and learning designs in occupational therapy. In S. Taff, B. Hooper, L. Grajo, *Perspectives in Occupational Therapy Education: Past, Present, and Future*. Chapter 6.

Tammy Vos Draper, Ph.D., OTR/L, ATP/SMS

- Goodwin, B. M., Olney, C. M., Ferguson, J. E., Hansen, A. A., Eddy, B., Goldish, G., **Vos-Draper, T. L.** (2021). Visualization of user interactions with a pressure mapping mobile application for wheelchair users at risk for pressure injuries. *Assistive Technology*. doi: 10.1080/10400435.2020.1862938
- **Vos-Draper, T. L.** "Data Driven Development of Personal Use Pressure Monitoring System for Wheelchair Users," National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel Annual Conference. (March 12, 2021).
- **Vos-Draper, T. L.** "Data Driven Development of a Clinical Tool for Assessing Weight Shift Performance in a High Risk Population of Wheelchair Users," National Pressure Injury Prevention Association Annual Conference NPIAP. (March 12, 2021).
- **Vos-Draper, T. L.**, Morrow, M., Olney, C. "Seating and Positioning Experts Weight in on On-Demand Pressure Mapping," 2021 ASCIP Conference American Spinal Cord Injury Professionals. (September 2021).
- **Vos-Draper, T. L.**, (Author & Presenter), Portoghese, C., (Author & Presenter) "What to Know About Seeking ATP Credentials," MOTA CE Webinar Minnesota Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA). (November 10, 2021).
- **Vos-Draper, T. L.**, (Moderator), Portoghese, C., (Moderator) "Assistive Technology Panel Discussion," MOTA CE Webinar Minnesota Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA), Minnesota. (November 3, 2021). ■

Want to learn more?

Please contact our faculty directly regarding these topics at:

<https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/occupational-therapy-ot/why-ot-program-um/faculty-directory>


FOCUS ON FACULTY & STAFF

Welcome to New OT Faculty



LEAH JOHNSON graduated from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering, with a specialization in biomechanics and rehabilitation, a minor in global health studies. After graduation, she worked as a healthcare consultant in Chicago before moving back to Minnesota. She graduated from St. Catherine University with a master's degree in Occupational Therapy and works as an OTR/L with older adults. She recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a PhD in Rehabilitation Science and a graduate minor in public health. She wanted to continue to work at the U because of the wonderful people, resources, and opportunities for growth. She is excited to be teaching, as she discovered how much she enjoyed working with OT students during her time as a PhD student.

She likes to read, go for walks and bike rides, kayak on calm water, and make stuff. She lives in Northeast Minneapolis with her husband, son, and rescue pitbull-bulldog mix. ■




ABIGAIL FREDRICKSON received her Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from A.T. Still University - Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine with an additional year of an Academic Anatomy Fellowship. She then completed an additional 3+ years of postgraduate training in orthopedic surgery, family practice, and general surgery.


As an osteopathic physician and clinical anatomist, her teaching interests include cadaveric anatomy, biomechanics, and neuroscience. Since residency, she has taught various foundational science courses for undergraduate and professional programs including occupational therapy and physical therapy. Prior to Minnesota, she developed and implemented a number of health science courses within several new occupational therapy graduate programs.

This past spring, Dr. Fredrickson had the opportunity to co-teach the neuroscience course within the Body Structures and Functions series with Minnesota's program director, Dr. Martin. Following this experience, she knew the culture within the occupational therapy program was a good fit. In addition to the welcoming faculty, she greatly appreciates the value Minnesota places on professional academic development. ■

Staff Changes at the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP)



SHERI BECK (she/her) is excited to work with future OTD students in her role as Admissions and Recruitment Coordinator. Sheri has worked in Admissions and Advising at the University of Minnesota since 2002. She lives in North Minneapolis with her spouse, Ken, who teaches middle-school math, two grown sons, a lab-hound mix, and three cats. Sheri enjoys traveling, biking, swimming, baking, and spending time with family, and can often be found curled up with her cats and a good book.



ALLY BRANDT-FITZGERALD received her Bachelor of Arts from the College of Saint Benedict in psychology. Wanting to learn more about business and marketing she continued her education at St. Cloud State University and received her MBA. Ally enjoys many aspects of marketing and events but has found her passion in designing and creative content and developing events that allow people to make meaningful connections. Ally previously worked in the

hospitality industry for four years in marketing and events and started her new role in April 2022 as Marketing & Communications Specialist at the University of Minnesota. In her spare time, you can find Ally attending concerts or training for her next race.



BRITTANY PALMER joined the CAHP Operations team as the Administrative Assistant for the Occupational Therapy Program in June 2022. Brittany Palmer received her Bachelor of Arts from The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in Anthropology and German Studies. During her time at UMN, Brittany worked in the University Honors Program office as a Peer Mentor/Assistant. Since graduating, Brittany has worked in a diverse range of environments, ultimately finding her passion in applying her systems-oriented way of thinking to creative problem solving and helping others. She is excited for the opportunity to return to campus and combine all of her favorite parts from her past roles. Brittany is enthusiastically returning to work after an absence during which she focused on her family. In her spare time, she enjoys running, painting with her daughter, or brushing up on her German. ■

2022 CAHP Commencement

The occupational therapy program at the University of Minnesota held their 2022 graduation ceremony on Friday September 16th at Northrop Auditorium. This was a particularly special ceremony because OT graduates walked across the stage to receive their doctoral hood and doctoral degrees for the first time at our University.

The ceremony included both programs within the Center for Allied Health Professionals which includes the medical laboratory sciences program. The medical laboratory sciences program celebrated an important milestone as well. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the MLS program at the University of Minnesota! The ceremony included opening remarks from the two program directors, Dr. Peggy Martin (OT) and Dr. Donna Spannaus-Martin (MLS).

The ceremony's commencement speaker was Dr. Michael Osterholm. Dr. Osterholm, who is an internationally recognized and highly decorated epidemiologist, researcher, and author. Dr. Michael Osterholm shared with our graduates lessons from his life and inspired them to achieve greatness in their own careers. He stressed the importance of both professions towards a better future.

The occupational therapy student speakers were Bobbi Berg and Peter Simon. The student speakers, who represented both the Twin Cities and Rochester student cohorts, spoke about



their personal growth during the program and aspirations for the future. As Bobbi Berg said in her speech "Now it's time to take our skills, passions, and education to our communities and all of health care, to impact the lives of others in ways that not only changes outcomes but are felt with the heart."

OT and MLS faculty applauded graduates as they recessed out of the auditorium and then joined graduates and guests at the reception following the ceremony. ■



Congratulations graduates!

Celebrating the 2022 OTD Graduates



Rachael E. Batty
Justine M. Bauer
Stephany Beaulieu
Bobbi J. Berg
Kendra B. Bollig
Devyn R. Braunshausen
Grace K. Burns
Nina C. Carney
Rachel M. Colclasure-Rem
Leah M. Couillard
Marcie A. Drayton
Erika H. Edlund

Kimberly J. Frederickson
Melissa M. Glynn
Andrea M. Gredvig
Erin E. Gustafson
Elizabeth C. Hanson
Zainab N. Harunani
Asiya A. Hassan
Abigail E. Howell
Megan Hunter
Kristin N. Jaeger
Kelsi N. Johnson
Seth R. Kirkeide

Bailey P. Koshatka
Hanna R. Marshall
Katelyn A. Marthaler
Katelyn A. McGhan
Maria K. Miller
Ali M. Miller Pine
Nicole K. Motz
Kristen K. Murray
Allison K. Nadeau
Nponda S. Nadjombe
Lindsay R. Nori
Sydney E. Orr

Molly A. Palecek
Kaylin G. Payette
Katelyn M. Pritchard
Hafsa Qureshi
Lauren M. Schmidt
Peter T. Simon
Patrick J. Stary
Megan J. Veenstra
Sarah C. Visser
Hilary R. Widman
Lauren C. Zoborowski

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Current CE Offerings

As an AOTA Approved Provider of continuing education, we strive to offer accessible, evidence based courses that are offered on demand to fit busy schedules. Our current offerings include:

- Medical Based Pediatric Practice
- Mind-Body Aspects of Practice
- Neurocognitive Approaches for Older Adults
- School Based Pediatric Practice
- Task Oriented Approach to Neurorehabilitation
- Upper Extremity Strength: Evaluation and Intervention



We are also tentatively planning on offering our very popular comprehensive Hybrid Refresher Course for Occupational Therapists in the spring of 2023. This 'introductory-level' course is designed for occupational therapists who want to return to practice, change their area of practice, further develop their practice skills, earn contact hours, or reinstate their Minnesota License when lapsed for four years or more.

If you are interested in learning more about any of our CE courses please email Terriane Jones at jone1727@umn.edu ■

All of the offerings can be found here:
<https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/ot/events-continuing-ed/continuing-education-courses>

A Special Shout Out

2021 - 2022

50th Anniversary OT Class of 1970

Kathleen Aug
Barbara Bachman
Mary Camp
Grace Chesboroug
Mary Frush
Connie Good
Martha Ives
Martha Kolar
Linda Motoyoshi
Kathleen Miller
Michele Mulhall
Nancy Martin*
Marylys Mankell
Linda Miller
Lynn Nalezny
Georgiann Olsgard
Grace Piasecki
Kristine Ritchie

Lee Roetman*
Nancy Ralston
Marlys Schilz*
Lynn Starrine
Kathleen Swenson
Julia Taube*
Linda Vore
Dannielle Reisner

25th Anniversary OT Class of 1995

David Bell
Shelly Brooks
Andrea Verhey
Erin Trobec
Julie Burnette
Wendy Dewey
Angela Eggen
Diane Francis
Kari Schuldt
Lynne Heroux

Jennifer Fankhanel
Anne Hartzel
Nancy Friedel
Cheryl Jacobson
Pamela Weltzien
Garritt Kokesh
Mark Narveson
Nicolle Moerke
Julie Mehr
Sara Rohde
Cynthia Proulx
Scott Peterson
Martha Preston
Wendi Ruoff
Teresa Liffri
Jennifer Rosenstiel
Robin Samuel
Marc Schaefer
Shari Weyer
Virgil Thompson
Steven Velaski
Paula Wardour

2022-2023

50th Anniversary OT Class of 1971

Janet Adams
Claudia Bertramson
Barbara Barros*
Mary Brambilla
Cathleen Cox
Jill Cramer
Leila Chambers*
Jane Galstad
Nancy Gaylord
Deborah Gaughan
Judith Huls
Diane Butler
Robert Johnson*
Barbara O'Keefe
Mary Mullvain
Linda Keith
Sandra Peterson
Lynn Peterson
Cathleen Shepherd
Barbara Strewler
Robert Salo
Kristine Tuma
Mary Tuinenga*

Linda Stein
Barbara Woodward
Rebecca Galen
Ellen Uecker*
Roger Uecker
Linda Wolstenholm*

25th Anniversary OT Class of 1996

Randy Briggs
Patricia Bugliosi
Tracie Sinclair
Cheryl Lynn Dewey
Elizabeth Ellingson
Kelly Olsen
Patti Erickson*
Lynne Drumm
Sandra Thurlo
Melissa Bozzay
Michelle Fennig
Amy Glaser
Beth McCue
Tisha Degross
Ruth Forsline
Penny Fiscus
Dianne Hale

Nancy Finnegan
Monica Heltemes
Joyce Hoffman
Karole Lieb
Patrice Krocheski-
Meyer
Elizabeth Lychack
Kerri Burandt
Emily Hanson
Diane Norton
Caroline Portoghese
Dean Palma
Aarn Rothey
Lisa Torgerson
Kathryn Mitchell
Camille Snobl
Matthew White

*deceased

Update Your Records & Share Your Story!

Graduates from our OT Program influence the healthcare field every day and make a positive impact in our state and beyond. We take great pride in your success and want to hear from you! Please take a few moments to update your contact information and share your professional and personal accomplishments by going to <https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/ot/alumni/alumni-in-action> and clicking on "Be the Next Story." We will include alumni stories and updates in upcoming issues of the annual OT Alumni Newsletter. ■



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Center for Allied Health Programs

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