Greetings from the Department of Occupational Therapy at Rockhurst University. On behalf of the Occupational Therapy faculty, we welcome you to our annual newsletter. Much has happened over this academic year, and we hope to bring you the latest news about the clinical, educational, service, and research activities of the department. Let’s begin by noting that throughout 2011, Rockhurst University celebrated the 100th anniversary of its charter, and the Department of Occupational Therapy celebrated our 20th anniversary. This year of reflection was marked with special events that commemorated our past and celebrated our present and future.

As the academic year has ended, we are now quickly gearing up for summer classes. The second-year students begin in June for their intense summer coursework. In July, we will admit a full class of 38 students. During the small break between classes, we had a chance to reflect on the year. This was a very good year for us because we have some top-notch students in our program. We are proud of our students, and it gives us great pleasure to teach them as they prepare to be future clinicians.

I am happy to announce the establishment of four scholarship opportunities for our OT students with the Visiting Nurse Association and RehabCare. This will help offset the cost of tuition for our students. We continue our commitment to service through course embedded service learning, our work in the OT-PT clinic at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic, and through the service trips we coordinate. In addition, the faculty kept themselves busy with scholarly activities through degree completion, publications, and presentations. I am proud of the OT faculty at Rockhurst who show a tremendous dedication to the department and the University.

Warmest regards,

Kris Vacek, Department Chair

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION
Service Learning

Service learning is a teaching methodology that extends learning beyond the classroom and into the community through relevant and meaningful service. Service learning is at the heart of Rockhurst’s educational foundation of learning, leadership, and service in the Jesuit tradition. Everyone benefits from service-learning: community organizations benefit from student talent and faculty expertise while students learn from and serve the community.

We want to send a special thank you to the leaders in the community who allow our students to serve in their facility on a regular basis:

- Parkinson’s Foundation of the Heartland
- Midnight Farms
- Hope Care Center
- Operation Breakthrough
- Marian Hope Center for Children
- Developing Potential Inc.

Hope Care Center: MOT students Ryan Lum and Robyn Dostal work with a client.

Developing Potential: MOT Students Natalie Blackburn, and Erin Birmingham work with a client.

Parkinson’s Foundation: Handwriting class taught by OT students
Congratulations to the MOT Class of 2011!

Yemisrach Mekuria Adefris  
Bethany Noelle Beckman  
Barbara L. Bleich  
Whitney Erin Boehler  
Leslie G. Bray  
Aimee Lee Bury  
Teresa Lea Campbell  
Tarah Nicole Cullen  
Alison Brook Cullinan  
Dawn M. Davis  
Katherine Edell  
Caitlin Curtis Eldridge  
Jessica Anne Foster  
Lauren Nicole Fournie  
Chelsea Elizabeth Grueninger  
Tim C. Howe  
Jill L. Hughes

Chelsea Elizabeth Kastner  
Michele Ann Klindworth  
Danae Caroline Koopman  
Kathryn Ann Lowery  
Jennifer Louise Mattox  
Rachel JoAnn Mayfield  
Kimberly Erin Meredith  
Kelly Colleen O’Toole  
Sarah Rebecca Phillips  
Laura Jean Roeder  
Allison Leigh Schmitz  
Meghan Elizabeth  
Schuckenbrock  
Miranda Denise Showalter  
Amy Christine Tompkins  
Shawna Christine White  
Erinn Ashley Zurcher
2011 OT Awards and Recognition

**Robin Bowen**
**Leadership Award:**
Sarah Phillips (OT 2011)

**Jane Rues Service Recognition:**
Bethany Beckman
Barbara Bleich
Leslie Bray
Aimee Bury
Alison Cullinan
Dawn Davis
Katherine Edell
Jessica Foster
Tim Howe
Michele Klindworth
Danae Koopman
Kelly O’Toole
Sarah Phillips
Laura Roeder
Allison Schmitz
Meghan Schuckenbrock
Miranda Showalter
Amy Tompkins
Shawna White
Erinn Zurcher

**Rues Family OT Scholarship:**
Celie Long (OT 2012)

**Visiting Nurse Scholarship:**
Natalie Lewis (OT 2012) and Robyn Dostal (OT 2012)

**Fieldwork Educator of the Year**
Lisa Koch—The Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City

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**Alumni Are Leaders!**

As you are all aware, the OT Education Program collects data annually on our graduates. Typically, we contact the graduating class in the fall after they have been on the job for a month or two. Each spring we also contact the classes that graduated one, three, and five years ago with an on-line survey. Following are brief summaries from our most recent surveys. We find that you continue your role as a leader after graduation!

~For those graduates of 2009-2007-2005 (1, 3, & 5 Year Follow-up):

- **24%** involved in clinical research
- **53%** provided in-service education & presentations
- **47%** AOTA members
- **53%** supervise staff
- **42%** supervise level I students
- **43%** supervise level II students

~For those who graduated in 2010

The mean salary is **$50,000**

Salary range is **$38,000 - $72,000**

- **70%** had job offers before graduation with a range of job offers from 1 to <5
- Graduates **work** in acute in-patient, rehabilitation, home health, and out-patient facilities serving the age range from infants to older adults.
- **96%** report being satisfied to highly satisfied with their first job as an OT.

“Nothing will work unless you do.” - Maya Angelou
Faculty Updates/Publications/Presentations/Awards

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS:


Schriner, Mylene (April 2011). Health Literacy and Media Preferences with Stroke Survivors. AOTA Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Vacek, Kris (April 2011). Pediatric Grip. AOTA Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Youngstrom, Mary Jane (April 2011). Older Adults’ Use of On-Line Social Networking Sites. AOTA Conference. Philadelphia, PA

Youngstrom, Mary Jane (April 2011). Using AOTA’s Official Documents to Advocate for Best Practice. AOTA Conference. Philadelphia, PA


FACULTY PROMOTIONS and DEGREES:

Kris Vacek was promoted to Full Professor.

Liz Zayat was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Mylene Schriner earned her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Foundations of Higher Education from the University of Kansas.

Katie Ryan earned her PhD in Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman's University.

FACULTY AWARDS:

Mylene Schriner (2011). OT Faculty of the Year Award by the MOT class of 2011.

Mylene Schriner accepting her award at the Class of 2011 Banquet

Department of Occupational Therapy
816.501.4059 or 816.501.4787

Kris Vacek - Chairperson and Professor
Liz Zayat - Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Assistant Professor
Jane Rues - Emeritus Professor
Mary Jane Youngstrom - Assistant Professor
Katie Ryan - Assistant Professor
Mylene Schriner - Assistant Professor
Suzi Wiley - Adjunct Professor
Ketti Coffelt - Adjunct Professor
Ellen Klem - Adjunct Professor
Nancy Spangler - Adjunct Professor
Amy McPherson - Secretary
Lauren Schwartze - Secretary
A Special Thanks to our Guest Speakers and Adjunct Faculty

A wide variety of guest speakers taught Rockhurst students this year to broaden and enhance our students’ educational experiences. Several were Rockhurst graduates or former teachers. A special thank you from us to you!

Robert Cooper, United Seating and Mobility - Assistive and Mobility Devices for the Pediatric Population
Sue Cox OTR/L, Cancer Rehabilitation Specialists - Cancer Rehabilitation and Lymphedema Management
Rachel Eifsletter OTR/L, Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health - Role of Occupational Therapy in the Treatment of Adults with Psychiatric Disorders
Dorie Hoffman, Garden Terrace of Overland Park - Use of the Allen Cognitive Screen
Karen Kedro, KU Medical Center - Psychosocial Disorders in Pediatrics
Ellen Klem OTR/L (’99) - Adjunct Professor in Kinesiology, Health through Occupation II, Musculoskeletal Assessment and Intervention, and Occupational Across the Lifespan
Kim Littlejohn MBA, OTR/L (’00) - Vice President of Business Development for Quantum Health Professionals - Medicare
Peggy Lynn, OTR/L, CHT - Patterson Group - Physical Agent Modalities
Sara Mai OTR/L, Park Hill School District - Educational Experiences in Different Cultures
Chris Metzler, Chief Public Affairs Officer Federal Affairs - New Federal Health Laws and It’s Impact on Occupational Therapist
Brian Mills OTR/L, CHT (’00), KU Med West - Peripheral Nerve Disorders
Linda Nobles OTR/L, MS, former OT faculty member - Visual Impairments and Deaf Issues Among Pediatric Population
Janet Padley, Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City - Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury and Transition Back into the Community
Diane Pickel OTR, President of Kansas Occupational Therapy Association - Use of Behavioral Approach in Occupational Therapy
Jane Rues EdD, OTR, FAOTA, Rockhurst adjunct faculty member - Cerebral Palsy
Kim Salinski, OTR/L - Work Hardening and the Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE)
Jamie (Mediger) Starcevich OTR/L, CHT (’00) - Advanced UE Evaluation
Lora (Wendling) Symington OTR/L, CHT (’00) - PIP Static Progressive Splinting and Serial Casting
Barb Warner OTR, Coordinator of OT Services at Truman Medical Center - Psychotropic Drugs

High Pass Rate on National Board Exam Continues

In the past three years, 72 out of 75 Rockhurst OT graduates passed the National Board for Certification in Occupations Therapy (NBCOT) exam on their first try. That’s a 95% pass rate, well above the national average of 80%. We are very proud to have such a high pass rate and feel this is a direct reflection on our program’s strength.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of OT Grads</th>
<th>Number Who Took the Exam</th>
<th>Number Who Passed – First Time</th>
<th>Pass Rate – First Time</th>
<th>Number Who Passed – Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OT Program Celebrates 20 Years

Thank you to everyone who joined us as we celebrated our 20th Anniversary. We had a terrific day that began with a inspiring talk to the OT students by Dr. Virginia Stoeffel, AOTA Vice-President. She inspired us all to take a leadership role within our profession. The rest of the day was spent listening to the OT Student Research Capstone Presentations followed by a keynote presentation from Dr. Stoeffel. We ended the day with a wonderful reception celebrating the OT Department.

Occupational Therapy Research Capstone Projects for the Academic Year 2010-2011

Older Adults and the Use of Online Social Networking Sites to Engage in Social Participation
Alison Cullinan, Tim Howe, Danae Koopman, and Amy Tompkins
Faculty Mentor: Mary Jane Youngstrom

Evaluation of Health Literacy in Stroke Survivors
Sarah Phillips, Kelly O’Toole, Chelsea Kastner, and Tarah Cullen
Faculty Mentor: Mylene Schriner

A Comparison Study between Occupations and Handgrip Strength in Older Adults
Bethany Beckman, Dawn Davis, Meghan Schuckenbrock, and Erinn Zurcher
Faculty Mentor: Kris Vacek

The Relationship between Hand Preference and Grip Strength for Children Ages Four to Seventeen: An Exploratory Study
Michele Klindworth, Jessica Foster, Brandi Gipson, and Kathryn Lowery
Faculty Mentor: Kris Vacek

Measuring the Effectiveness of Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy on Adolescents with Neurological Disorders to Improve Participation in Occupations
Leslie Bray, Caitlin Eldridge, Chelsea Grueninger, Jill Hughes, and Laura Roeder
Faculty Mentor: Katie Ryan

Development of the Test of Grocery Shopping Skills as an Assessment of Executive Problems: Problem Solving and Planning
Whitney Boehler, Barbara Bleich, Rachel Mayfield, Katie Edell, and Miranda Showalter
Faculty Mentor: Liz Zayat

An Investigation into the Utility of the Kohlman Evaluation of Living Skills (KELS) for the Caribbean Nation of St. Lucia
Yemi Adefris, Aimee Bury, Lauren Fournie, Allison Schmitz, and Shawna White
Faculty Mentor: Liz Zayat
OT/PT Pro Bono Clinic Thrives at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic

The clinic has been providing services to the community at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic since 2001. It complements the mission of Rockhurst University. The clinic serves people who are uninsured or otherwise unable to pay for therapy services. The clinic enhances the quality of life for those citizens while helping Rockhurst faculty and students give greater love, care, and compassion for our neighbor. Additionally, the clinic provides opportunities for students to supplement their clinical skills by gaining hands-on experience in evaluating and educating patients under the supervision of a licensed clinician. The OT/PT Pro Bono Clinic is coordinated by our students. The Student Administrators are responsible for all aspects of the clinic from scheduling volunteers, ensuring documentation is completed and signed, and maintaining the educational files and supplies we provide our clients. This summer, we welcome our new Student Administrators: Brandi Gipson, Amy Grosenheider, and Sarah Scherer.

Thank you to the Kansas City Free Health Clinic for your deep commitment to Rockhurst University!

We Are High Tech….Read Our Blog and Become Our Facebook Friend!

This blog started to document the adventures of Rockhurst University's Occupational Therapy Education Program. Recently we began adding a few personal reflections related to the Rockhurst experience, occupational therapy, and life in general. We also joined Facebook—look us up and become our Friend. This is a great way to keep in touch with us and your classmates. Check us out!

Blog: http://www.otfieldofview.blogspot.com/ and Facebook: RockhurstOT
Thank You to the Fieldwork Sites Who Educated Our Students This Year!

Alphapointe
American Stroke Foundation
Bates County Memorial Hospital
Blair Memorial Community Hospital
Boone County Health Center
Brooklyn Park NovaCare
Cameron Regional Medical Center
Cancer Rehabilitation Specialists
Carmel Hills Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center
Children's Therapy Group
Children’s TLC and RayPec School District
Colorado AgrAbility Project
Colorado Center for Pediatric Learning and Development
Cooper County Memorial Hospital and Clinics
Cushing Hospital
Damien House
Deaconness Specialty Care
Four Fountains Convalescent Center
Francis Howell School District
Freeman Health Systems
Fridley NovaCare
Garden Terrace
HealthSouth Kingsport
Hedrick Medical Center
Integrity Home Health Care
John Knox Home Health
Kansas University Medical Center
Kenny Rogers Center for Children
La Posada Care Center
Lakeview Village
LeAnn Britain Infant Development Center
Leaps and Bounds
Lee's Summit Medical Center
Outpatient Therapy
Lifecare Center of Grandview
Lifecare Center of Yuma
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
Manorcare Overland Park
Marian Hope Center for Children’s Therapy
Menorah Medical Center
Missouri Rehabilitation Center
National Sports Center for the Disabled
National Wellness Center—St. Lucia
Nebraska AgrAbility
Newmark Health Care Center
North Kansas City Early Childhood Education Center
North Kansas City Hospital—Rehab Services
Olathe Medical Center
Olathe School District
Orthopedics Associates—The Hand Center
Overland Park Regional Medical Center
Provena Covenant Medical Center
Providence Place
Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City
Research Medical Center
Research Psychiatric Center
Rusk Rehabilitation Center—HealthSouth
Sam and Rose Stein Education Center
Shawnee Mission Medical Center
Soufriere Special Education School
St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital
St. Elizabeth Sports and Physical Therapy
St. Francis Medical Center
St. Francis Memorial Hospital
St. John Springfield
St. John's Hospital
St. Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City
St. Luke’s Hospital Northland
St. Luke's South
Tabitha Health Care Services
The Carlton at the Lake
Topeka Presbyterian Manor
Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health
Truman Medical Center Lakewood
Village Shalom
Visiting Nurses Association Iowa City
Western Missouri Medical Center
Woman and Children’s Therapy
Wright Memorial Hospital

Fieldwork Update

Fieldwork at Rockhurst University begins early in the program allowing the students an opportunity to apply their coursework in real life situations. Students express this is one reason they chose Rockhurst: they receive hands-on experience right away. The opportunity to work with OTs outside of the school setting also adds a different perspective on what the students are already learning. Fieldwork experiences occur at a multitude of settings. Every student is encouraged to spend time in a variety of settings to increase their overall exposure to and experience in OT settings. Each student then has their own unique experience that helps them grow personally and professionally. Furthermore, they share those experiences with their classmates, which can further educate their peers about settings they many not have been exposed to. The idea behind this is to help the students see the different possibilities in order to help them decide on an area of OT they want to eventually find a career in. If you are interested in serving as a Fieldwork Educator for either a level I or level II fieldwork, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to have us come do an in-service for your facility on supervising students or on how to use the FWPE form or any other topic related to fieldwork, please contact Liz.zayat@rockhurst.edu or 816.501.4129.
Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) Update

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) was excited for the month of April, as it was OT month! The OT students energized the Rockhurst campus by involving them in all of the activities planned for the month. The goal was to help spread the word about OT. Some events included a speaker on April 27th on auditory processing disorder, a collection for the organization Cancer Action, and an Occupations Event Day on campus. As a class, we volunteered, walked, and ran to support the Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired in the Trolley Run. Through these activities, we hope to increase people’s understanding of OT and support OTs in their fight to improve the lives of others.

Several of our students and faculty attended the AOTA national conference in Philadelphia on April 13-17. This was a great opportunity for our students to get involved with our profession's organization. The conference also was a chance to support the 2nd year students who presented their Research Capstone projects. Other events for SOTA this year included a successful bake sale, participating in the on campus health fair, and partnering with Cell Phones for Soldiers. We are excited about OT, and we anticipate many more successful educational and fundraising events for SOTA.
Student & Alumni Updates

Your thoughts and prayers are requested for Rachel (Stoltler) Clasemann (‘99). She survived a terrible car accident in January 2011. She is conscious but not interactive due to brain damage. She currently is living at “On With Life,” a facility located in Ankeny, Iowa that specifically works with young adults who have had brain injuries. Her husband has been keeping an electronic journal at http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rachelclasemann.

Lora Wendling Symington (‘00) and her husband welcomed Jenna Louise on December 24, 2010. Congratulations!

Nicole Gee Jones (‘06) and husband Grant, are expecting their first baby very soon.

Valerie Clark (‘06) and husband Chris, welcomed their first child, Xavier Paul, on September 28, 2009. Xavier weighed in at 8 lbs 6 oz and 22 inches long. Congratulations, Valerie and Chris, on your new addition!

Congratulations to Amy Broadhurst (‘09) and Casey Speer on their recent engagement!

Bethany Beckman (‘11) is engaged to Matthew Ludwikosky. They plan to marry January 10, 2012 in St. John in the U.S Virgin Islands.

Michele Klindworth (‘11) is engaged to Matt Showman. They plan to marry on September 17, 2011.

Rachel Mayfield (‘11) received the Atchison Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship. Congratulations!

To Megan Doty (‘12), Brandi Gipson (‘12), Chelsea Kastner (‘12), Ryan Lum (‘12), Emma Tosatto (‘12), Kate Edell (‘11), Caitlin Eldridge (‘11), Aimee Bury (‘11), Bethany Beckman (‘11), Leslie Bray (‘11), Rachel Mayfield (‘11), and Michelle Klindworth (‘11): a special thank you for volunteering in movement lab!

Sincerely, Jane Rues

Occupational Therapy Department—Fund Raising Campaign

If you have not yet had an opportunity to contribute to the OT program, we would appreciate your support. Please complete the form below and return this sheet with your donation. We thank you in advance for your support of our students and faculty!

If you want your gift received by OT, please make it clear how would you like your gift directed:

1. OT General Fund
2. Jane Rues Family Scholarship Fund (OT)
3. Other______________________________

Online: visit us at http://www.rockhurst.edu/alumni/giving/makeagift.asp

Mail us a check: Occupational Therapy Education—Rockhurst University
1100 Rockhurst Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64110
Hello Out There...

We’d like to hear from you and share your news with other alumni in an upcoming issue of Rockhurst’s Therapy News. Please mail this completed form to: Rockhurst University, OT Program, Attn: Amy McPherson, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2561. You may also email your news to occupational.therapy@rockhurst.edu. Photos are welcome.

FULLNAME: _____________________________________________
First                             Middle                             Last (maiden)

DEGREE/YEAR: ________________________ CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A NEW ADDRESS _______

HOME ADDRESS: _____________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____________________________________________

TELEPHONE: __________________________ EMAIL: _____________________________

HERE’S MY NEWS: _____________________________________________