

News from Curtin University of Technology

With the range and number of events occurring at our school, it is clear that the School of Occupational Therapy does not just focus on making an impact on individuals, it seeks to make an impact on communities as well. This month has seen a series of achievements that lead to state-wide and international recognition of some of our programmes, staff and students. This month also sees the formation of new links with universities offering occupational therapy courses.

Fieldwork

Early in April, the School organised a breakfast meeting for our School's Clinical Education Coordinators (CECs); people assigned to oversee student placements at their facility. Curtin has CECs at RPH, QEII, Graylands, Fremantle Hospital, Osborne Park Hospital, Therapy Focus, Amana Living, and other centres - 19 in total. The meeting was an opportunity for CECs to share ideas, offer suggestions to the fieldwork team and register any problems. From feedback, it is clear that the CEC programme is operating beautifully. The School of OT would like to thank the fieldwork team - in particular Nigel Gribble, Sharon Keesing and Carol Mulkearns for their dedication and hard work. Their dedicated work has certainly made a difference to students, supervising therapists and host facilities.

Awards



Our heartiest congratulations to Associate Professor Samar Aoun who has been awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Medal in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community and to Rotary. Rotary awarded Associate Professor Aoun the Paul Harris Fellow Medal not only for her pioneering work on the Waist Disposal Challenge but also in recognition of her extensive community involvement.

Samar has also served on several committees on a voluntary basis, including the South West Health Forum, the Bunbury Health Service Board of Management, the Steering Committee on Community Liaison in General Practice, the Advisory Board of Centacare Counselling Services, the Advisory Committee of the WA Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine and the Neurological Council of WA. She established and chaired the WA Country Health Services Ethics Committee for the last 14 years. She also led the \$1.5m capital fundraising campaign for the South West Sports Centre, rallying the community to support the project. She is currently a member of the Scientific Committee of the National Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration and a member of the Research and Evaluation Advisory Group of the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network.

Samar has been actively involved in community and population health for many years and currently works for the Centre for Research into Disability and Society (CRDS), School of Occupational Therapy and the WA Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care (WACCPC), both based at Curtin. We're so proud of you Samar, keep up your good work!

Sporting Achievements

We are proud to say that our school boasts students who are all-rounders: they not only excel academically but in sports as well. Our heartiest congratulations to Ashleigh Nelson, who has been selected for the Olympic Training Squad for Australia's Women's Hockey Team. Our congratulations also to Leah Neilson and Allira Solin, who will be doing our school proud in competing at the National Waterpolo League Finals Series.

OT WA Conference

We congratulate the following staff and students whose abstracts have been accepted at the OTWA conference to be held in June, particularly;

Marina Cicarelli
Staff

Creating change in your office ergonomics programme: An evidence-based approach to the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders.

Jodie Armstrong
Honours student

Develop and pilot a self-management programme for mothers with postnatal depression admitted into a mother and baby unit.

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Julie Netto</i> PhD student | Engaging people with mental illness in research. |
| <i>Sharon Keesing</i> Masters student | Do Occupational Therapy models support the needs of the dying? |
| <i>Sarah Mills</i> Honours student | Caring for a terminally ill spouse at home: Impact on activity re-engagement after the spouse's death. |
| <i>Sharmila Vaz</i> PhD student | The social skills rating system: Exploring the psychometric properties in an Australian sample |
| <i>Setareh Ghahari</i> PhD student | A randomised control trial of an online fatigue self-management programme for people with neurological conditions. |

Visitors to the School

We had the privilege of having WFOT's president, Associate Professor Kit Sinclair, join the staff for several days in March. Kit generously shared updates from the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.



We also had the privilege of having Dr Marc Velghe from the Arteveldehogeschool to share with us the occupational therapy programme from Gent, Belgium. His presentation introduced staff to new methods of teaching and new paradigms in curriculum formation.

Publications

We want to congratulate the following staff and higher degree students from the School's Centre for Research into Disability and Society, whose papers have been accepted for publication:

Loh, S.Y., Packer, T.L., Yip, C.H. & Low, W.Y. (2007). Perceived barriers to self management in Malaysian women with breast cancer. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*, 10, 52-57.

Cocks, E. (2007). Intellectual disability: A social movement in need of revitalisation? *Interaction*, 20, 21-27.

Cocks, E. (2007). Can the concept of social capital contribute to disability policies and practices? *Interaction*, 20, 28-35.

Khemthong, S., Packer, T.L. & Passmore, A.E. (2007). Classification of leisure participation in women with chronic conditions: A measurement tool. *Annals of Leisure Research*, 10, 105-121.

Packer, T.L., McKercher, B. & Yau, M.K.S. (2007). Understanding the complex interplay between tourism, disability and environmental contexts. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 29, 281-292.

Packer, T.L., Boshoff, K. & DeJonge, D. (2007). Development of the activity card sort – Australia. *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 54, 1-8

Young, J. & Passmore, A.E. (2007). What is the occupational therapy role in enabling mental health consumer participation in volunteer work? *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 54, 66-69.

Conference Presentations and International Work



The School encourages staff to participate in national and international causes. On this note, we want to congratulate Marina Ciccarelli, lecturer in the School, who presented a paper at the 8th International Work Congress in Durban South Africa. The paper entitled 'Minimising work stress: how can good corporate citizens achieve this?' was co-authored by our colleagues from the School, namely Trevor Goddard and Judith Merritt. Part funding for

this research was generously provided through an Occupational Therapists' Registration Board of WA research grant. The School of Occupational Therapy, in conjunction with the School of Business Law at Curtin University, were sponsors of the Congress.

After the Congress, Marina, together with Professor Rob Guthrie (from the School of Business Law) provided consultation to the Workers' Compensation Fund of South Africa on the development of an Injury Management framework, for injured workers in South Africa.



While in Africa, Marina also took the opportunity to visit the Ugandan child she sponsors through World Vision Australia, and his family. Keep up the efforts Marina, you make us proud!



We would also like to congratulate Trevor Goddard, who in March, was invited to present his paper entitled 'Reconnecting Business and Society: Establishing Trust Through Transformational Leadership Inspired by Martin Luther King (Jr)' at the prestigious conference entitled 'Ethical Sentiments: The Restoration of Trust in Government and Business'. This conference was held in Lincoln College, Oxford, England.

Trevor also serves as a United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Project Leader. This team currently works on:

- Communicating the signing to all individual and organisational members
- Promoting of the World Federation United Nations Global Compact initiative through events.
- Identifying current work by occupational therapists and member organisations that promote UNGC principles and showcasing these within the UN
- Creating a template for Federation project proposals and reporting mechanisms that identify how the project supports principles of the UNGC.
- Developing an application process for Federation members to use UNGC promotional material
- Reporting on Federation activity annually to the UNGC office.
- Establishing an educational process to bring the Compact to the attention of students globally

Trevor is also looking for those who are interested in joining the project. Please contact him if you are interested in doing so.

Graduate Entry Masters (GEM) Programme Accreditation

'Occupational therapists as health professional have a responsibility to the individual, community and the profession to provide ethical, safe, beneficial and competent health care which is responsive to needs. The community has the right to expect that professionals providing occupational therapy services do so in a competent and contemporary manner' (Course Accreditation Manual 2004, p.5).

As such, accreditation is the primary means by which the profession demonstrates the effective establishment and maintenance of standards of practice; it's a way that the profession can self-regulate.

On 9, 10 and 11 April 2008 the graduate-entry Master of Occupational Therapy program will undergo re-accreditation by OT Australia (representing the World Federation of Occupational Therapists as well). Over the two days, the team of accreditors will meet with staff, students, graduates and members of the clinical community, as well as the Pro Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences and the Associate Dean Teaching and Learning.

Professor Lorna Rosenwax wishes to especially thank Dr Giordana Hrga for her tireless effort in coordinating this significant and important event for the School. She also especially thanks those clinicians and students who met with the accreditors to provide feedback on the Masters programme.

Research Collaboration



Professor Cecilia Li, an occupational therapist academic from Hong Kong Polytechnic University continues her collaborative research with the burns unit with Dr Fiona Wood from Royal Perth Hospital. During her stay in Perth, the School co-arranged scientific sessions for clinicians to share Cecilia's areas of expertise in scar management and research. We thank Dr Hoe Lee for contributing to the arrangements.

Grace Zeng (nee Ong)