



ACOTUP/ACPUE is a national organization that promotes and develops occupational therapy education and research with an understanding of issues in a global context.

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 28 – 2016

6th ACOTUP/ACPUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Banff Alberta was host to the annual CAOT conference this year, and many ACOTUP members met this past April to attend the various ACOTUP meetings and sessions held at the historic Fairmont Banff Springs.

ACOTUP kicked off their week with the Annual General Meeting, followed by the directors meeting with a strategic planning session with a facilitator. The directors felt this session was very successful and are excited to see where this session takes the association!

Susan Rappolt, (University of Toronto) president of ACOTUP chaired her final meeting as her term came to an end, and although she will be missed, Lori Letts (McMaster University) will be taking over the role of president, with Lili Liu (University of Alberta) filling the role of vice-president. We wish all the best of luck!

Later in the week, the ACOTUP Curriculum Coordinators met to begin structuring the committee and to give it independence. This session was followed by the Education Committee session led by Aliki Thomas (McGill University) which

focused on *Clinical Reasoning in the Health Profession: From Theory to Practice*.

The Committee on University Fieldwork Education (CUFE) had their annual face to face meeting. Donna Barker from the University of Toronto has completed her term as co-chair. CUFE, and welcomed Sylvie Scurti from Université de Montréal as the new CUFE co-chair to join Eric Constantin from Université de Sherbrooke.

The speed mentoring session ran for the fourth year once again bringing junior and senior researchers together over a lunch-hour for an opportunity for the mentees to gain valuable insight and advice from experienced mentors.

This year, the ACOTUP sponsored session was led by CUFE with the theme of *Holistic fieldwork practice: How do we achieve this?*

Although an incredibly busy time, the 2016 ACOTUP meetings were a huge success. The association is looking forward to the meetings in Charlottetown, PEI in June of 2017.

DR. JOHANNE DESROSIERS DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE TOWNSEND FELLOWSHIP IN OCCUPATION AND SOCIETY

The School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University recently welcomed Dr. Johanne Desrosiers as the first Townsend Fellow in Occupation and Society. Her public lecture entitled "Participation Following Stroke" left an audience of health professionals, students and researchers pondering how to better meet the needs of Canadians whose

every-day life is impacted by a stroke. Presenting findings from a number of studies showing profound and lasting impacts on the accomplishment of social roles, gaps in services and the importance of good mental health, she challenged us to consider "how can we do better?"

The Townsend Fellowship in Occupation and Society was

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established to celebrate and acknowledge the invaluable contributions and accomplishments of Dr. Elizabeth Townsend, who was on hand to congratulate Dr. Desrosiers. This scholar-in-residence program acknowledges Dr. Townsend's tenure as an occupational scientist and occupational therapist, and her outstanding leadership as Professor and Director of the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University. The Fellowship celebrates Dr. Townsend's internationally renowned contributions to occupational science, inclusion, justice and human rights. Dr. Desrosiers' career has been devoted to understanding and overcoming older adults' restrictions in daily activities and social interactions – a perfect match with the goals of the Townsend Fellowship.

The Townsend Fellowship supports a visiting scholar to galvanize scholarship in the School, investigating questions related to everyday occupations and their societal contexts. For this Fellowship, in addition to the public lecture, Dr. Desrosiers applied her expertise and enthusiasm

to support a team of Dalhousie researchers as they analysed data related to participation of people with neurological conditions in daily activities and social roles.

Dr. Desrosiers' contributions to the profession are well known and extensive, including her presentation of the Muriel Driver lectureship, the highest honour bestowed by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. Today, she is Professor and Vice Dean to Student Life, as well as Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Université de Sherbrooke and a researcher at the CSSS Research Center on Aging, University Institute of Geriatrics, Sherbrooke, Quebec. The Dalhousie School of Occupational Therapy was proud to host her as the first Townsend Fellow.



MCMASTER STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS RECEIVE TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE 2016 CAOT CONFERENCE

The McMaster MSc Occupational Therapy Program provided financial support through travel grants to support four student occupational therapists to attend the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) Conference, "Inspired for Higher Summits" held in Banff, Alberta from April 19 – 22, 2016.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded travel grants:

- Chelsea Tidd (Year 1 student)
- Cassondra Starc (Year 1 student)
- Annie Mo (Year 2 student)
- Holly Robson (Year 2 student)

Upon their return, the four students were asked to reflect on one thing about attending conference that the par-

ticularly enjoyed or benefitted from. Their reflections are shared below:

"I really enjoyed the in-depth session on chronic pain management. The presentation built off the evidence, enlisting very creative strategies to address all types of clients who cope differently. I also enjoyed speaking with passionate and creative clinicians throughout the whole conference!" - **Cassondra Starc, Year 1 McMaster MSc(OT) Student**

"I was most touched to hear the Plenary session on obesity and a paper presentation by a former Mac grad: an auto ethnography of mental illness. These presenters were open and honest about their own experiences as patients/clients and their subsequent growth into contribut-

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ing members of the health care community due to overcoming and continuing to overcome their own obstacles. In relation to this, I was amazed and inspired to see the exciting new areas that OT is emerging into, including being leaders in addressing poverty, homelessness, "sanism", and weight bias." - **Annie Mo, Year 2 McMaster MSc(OT) Student**

"The 2016 CAOT conference was an amazing opportunity to connect with clinicians from across the country, as well as fellow students. Presentations at the conference were inspirational, informative and thought-provoking. The opportunity to learn about current research within the occupational therapy profession was invaluable." - **Chelsea Tidd, Year 1 McMaster MSc(OT) Student**

"Although paper presentations and posters were completed on specific topics related to occupational therapy practice (ex. client population, practice context, diagnosis), I found that key messages were able to be applied to the profession as a whole as well as my own student practice. A number of sessions I attended focused on client engagement and participation in addition to advocating to other stakeholders within the therapeutic process. These sessions in particular provided information related to strategic goal setting (HARD collaborative goal setting tool) as well as establishing a framework for supporting student mental health within public and private institutions. I was able to utilize the research reported in such sessions to address my own learning needs with respect to my student- and future-prac-

tice initiatives." - **Holly Robson, Year 2 McMaster MSc(OT) Student**

The Year 1 students were permitted to take time from their clinical fieldwork experience to attend conference, but both were encouraged to attend specific sessions relevant to the practice area from their practicum. Thus, the sites benefitted with the students returning to practicum with information to share with their preceptor and other team members.



All students supported by awards were expected to share their experiences with their peers and their applications indicated a variety of approaches for doing this – blogs, presentations, and a YouTube video were all proposed and implemented.

The awards represent a way to set the stage for lifelong learning and engagement with the profession. It is our hope that these travel awards will become an annual offering to support students in their development as occupational therapists.



NEWS FROM McGILL UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE: Montreal: To stay current with what's happening at McGill's School of Physical & Occupational Therapy (SPOT), check out the School's website www.mcgill.ca/spot or join the group on Facebook or LinkedIn.

Dr. Annette Majnemer, Director of SPOT and Vice-Dean (Education - Faculty of Medicine) will be leading a

Canadian network on children with brain development problems. She and her team have secured funding to the tune of \$25 million from CIHR and other sources for the CHILDBRIGHT network project.



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The Muriel Driver Memorial Lecture is the highest honour that the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) bestows. The 2016 awardee was **Dr. Isabelle Gélinas**, Director of the Graduate Program at SPOT, celebrated for her outstanding contributions to the profession through education, research and the practice of OT.



Congratulations to **Dr. Raphael Lencucha**, Assistant Professor at SPOT, who was one of the lead authors on the recent report, The Challenge of Tobacco Control in Sub-Saharan Africa; The World Health Organization Framework Convention, published by WHO in February 2016. Dr. Lencucha drew from his experience researching whole-

of-government approaches to chronic disease prevention to contribute to the project.

Please save the date: join us for the 2016 Edith Aston-McCrimmon Lecturer. Dr. Stephanie Nixon,

from the University of Toronto's International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (ICDR) Lab will discuss the role of rehabilitation science in improving the lives of people with disabilities in

Canada and around the world. Thursday November 24 2016, 4 p.m. at McGill's Faculty Club.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO PROMOTING SCHOLARSHIP IN OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY

This year, the Occupational Science field in the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences graduate program at the University of Western Ontario will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. With on-going support from the School of Occupational Therapy, this program has attracted diverse graduate students who have conducted novel and important research, contributing to the Canadian and international development of occupational science. While focusing on a range of topics, and employing a diversity of qualitative and quantitative methodologies, their knowledge generation is underpinned by an occupational perspective.

Students have received numerous scholarships and awards, such as Ontario Graduate Scholarships, Tri-council

doctoral awards, Ontario Trillium Scholarships, among others. Their work has been published in a variety of occupation focused peer-reviewed journals, as well as within invited book chapters. Students have also helped expand interdisciplinary awareness of the discipline through bringing an occupational perspective into journals from other disciplines, such as The Canadian Geographer, International Migration, WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation, Forum: Qualitative Social Research, Disability and Rehabilitation, among others. The presentation of students' theoretical and empirical contributions has also been shared at a range of interdisciplinary and international conferences, including annual meetings organized by Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy associations

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and societies, as well as meetings hosted by the American Association of Geographers, World Congress on Gerontology and Geriatrics, International Symposium on Cultural Gerontology, Qualitative Health Research Conference, and Research Conference on Urban Aboriginal Peoples.

Further signaling the strength of scholarship in our program, publications authored by graduate students, and faculty members have been included among the most cited (Huot and Laliberte Rudman, 2010; Laliberte Rudman, 2005, 2010, 2013; Phelan & Kinsella, 2009) and most read articles (Durocher et al., 2014a,b; Phelan & Kinsella, 2009, 2014) in the Journal of Occupational Science. Articles have also been among the most cited (Huot & Laliberte Rudman, 2015) and most read (Classen et al. 2014; Huot & Laliberte Rudman, 2015; Taylor, Fayed & Mandich, 2007) in OTJR: Occupational, Participation and Health. Reflecting additional contributions to scholarship in occupational science, Dr. Sherrilene Classen is Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman is the Associate Editor - Occupational Science for OTJR: Occupation, Participation, and Health. Drs. Anne Kinsella and Evelyne Durocher are currently guest editing a special issue for this journal on occupation and justice.

Faculty members affiliated with the field have been leaders in Occupational Science. Drs. Debbie Laliberte Rudman and Lynn Shaw (now Vice-President Academic and Dean at Pacific Coast University) have both served as President of the Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists (CSOS) and have each been awarded the society's Townsend and Polatajko Lectureship. Reflecting her contributions to occupational science on a more global scale, Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman has also served on the inaugural board of the International Society for Occupational Science (ISOS), was awarded the Ruth Zemke lectureship by the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA, and is on the international advisory board for the Journal of Occupational Science. Dr. Suzanne Huot has served as Executive Director and as an executive member on the board of the CSOS and is currently on the ISOS board. Several of our graduate students have also served on the CSOS board holding various positions. Some have also received the CSOS Award in Student Scholarship.

The Occupational Science field of the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences program is open to students from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds. Since its inception, over 20 students have completed Masters and Doctoral studies, with 14 currently enrolled. One student has also completed the most recently available MScOT/PhD combined program obtaining a Masters in Occupational Therapy and PhD in Occupational Science. Students have come from graduate and undergraduate programs in Occupational Therapy, Geography, Human Factors Engineering, Kinesiology, Psychology, International Development, among others, as well as from within and outside of Canada (e.g. Germany, Iceland, Austria, India, Chile). Graduates have undertaken interesting career paths, obtaining academic positions across Canada and abroad (e.g. Australia, Germany), working as post-doctoral fellows, for non-profit organizations (e.g. Canadian National Institute for the Blind), and in diverse health care settings. There are current 10 faculty members affiliated with the field, many of whom can currently supervise incoming Masters and Doctoral students. People interested in pursuing a degree in Occupational Science can contact the field leader, Dr. Suzanne Huot (shuot2@uwo.ca) and can obtain more information at: http://www.uwo.ca/fhs/hrs/fields/occupational_sci.html.



Five doctoral candidates/students in Occupational Science at the University of Western Ontario who presented at the *Sponsorship for the Health and Wellbeing through Occupation* conference at Bournemouth University organized by Occupational Science Europe in September, 2015. Pictured from left to right: Kathleen Sandy-Thompson, Sigrún Kristín Jónasdóttir, Lisette Farias Vera, Sachindri Wijekoon, and Nedra Peter



ACOTUP RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Name of Researcher: Isabelle Gélinas, McGill

Degrees and Professional Qualifications (including fellowships): Postdoctoral Fellow; PhD (Rehabilitation Sciences); Certificate (Aging Studies), MSc (OT); BSc (OT)

Area of Research: My research focuses on the activities and the contextual factors (personal and environmental) that shape the level of social participation of adults and elderly with disability. More specifically, my research encompasses two main domains: Driving rehabilitation and Activities of Daily Living. Presently my research projects are directed at: the assessment and training of driving abilities in clients with disabilities; the evaluation of functional abilities in persons with cognitive deficits such as dementia, Schizophrenia, Traumatic Brain Injury; the impact of personal and environmental factors on the participation and social inclusion of persons with a disability as well as the implementation of interventions to support their participation in the community.

Research Related Awards and Honours:

- Best Video Honors at the 2013 AUTO21 NCE Conference (2013)
- David Strauss Award, best poster at American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) from The Brain Injury Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group (BI-ISIG) of the ACRM (2010)
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapist Certificate of Appreciation (2010)

Grants / Funding History:

- Marshall, S.C. (Co-PI), Bédard, M. (Co-PI), Gélinas, I. (Co-PI), Naglie, G. (Co-PI), Porter, M.M. (Co-PI), Tuokko, H.A. (Co-PI), Vrkljan, B.H. (Co-PI), Gagnon, S., Li, L., Mazer, B., Rapoport, M., Stiell, I., Wells, G. (2014-17). Candrive Prospective Older Driver Study. CIHR (\$462,244).
- Routhier, F., Gélinas, I., St-Amand, Y., Vincent, C. (2013-16). Dispositifs électromécaniques pour commandes à effort minimal dans les véhicules adaptés pour les personnes ayant des incapacités physiques :

état de la situation des besoins, des produits et des pratiques au Québec. FRQSC (\$150,000).

- Gélinas, I. (Co-PI), Vrkljan, B. (Co-PI), Mazer, B. (Co-PI), Marshall, S., Fleisig, R. (2012-15). Evaluating the on-road performance of older drivers: Innovations to enhance safety. Auto21 Network Centers of Excellence (\$290,089).

Research Collaboration: One of the most important research-related collaboration that has had a significant impact on my career was joining a pan Canadian group of researchers (Candrive team) with extensive expertise that crosses multiple disciplines who were interested in conducting clinically relevant research on issues related to driving in the elderly. Through a CIHR team grant the Candrive research team has now been working together for almost a decade. Partners from the United States and Australia have more recently joined the group. The team is conducting a multi-center study where we are following a cohort of a 1000 older drivers over 5 years to come up with a clinical decision tool to be able to assess those who may be unsafe drivers. We have recently received a 3-year CIHR grant to continue our work with the cohort. This collaboration has allowed me to learn from colleagues who have different expertise in research and to develop a network that has led to scholarly exchanges and further research collaborations. This has permitted me to conduct projects that address more fully the different facets of my research interests. This successful collaboration has allowed our group to make valuable contributions for health care practitioners and policy makers who aim to enhance the safety and quality-of-life of older drivers in Canada and beyond. In addition, this collaboration has also offered opportunities for my graduate students to learn from experts in the field who have a wide and varied experience and to network with other students across the country.

To view this profile in its entirety, please click:

<http://www.acotup-acpue.ca/English/sites/default/files/Profiles/Isabelle%20Gelinas%20McGill%20University%29.pdf>

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Name of Researcher: Jacquie Ripat, U of Manitoba

Degrees and Professional Qualifications (including fellowships): PhD, MSc (Rehabilitation), BMR (OT),

Area of Research: The first research area centres on understanding the interaction between people who use assistive technologies and their environments. The intended outcome of this work is to develop and implement ways to better access and use assistive technology, and to modify environments, in order to promote community participation of people with disabilities.

In the second area, research focuses on understanding and facilitating occupational therapists' and occupational therapy students' client-centred development at personal, practice environment, and systems levels.

Grants/ Funding History:

- Ripat, J. (2012-14). Exploring winter weather issues faced by Manitoba wheeled mobility users. Manitoba Health Research Council Operating Grant (\$78,055).
- Ripat, J., Woodgate, R., Etcheverry, E., Medved, M. (2011-13). Assistive technology and young adults with disabilities. Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Operating Grant (\$130,009).
- Woodgate, R., Ripat, J., Elias, B., Halas, J., Blais, C., & Moffat, M. (2009-11). Unraveling the disability trajectory of first nations families of children with disabilities:

advancing Jordan's principle. Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Emerging Teams (\$529,081).

- Ripat, J., & Woodgate, R. (2009-10). Young adults with spinal cord injuries, participation and assistive technology. Manitoba Spinal Cord Injury Research Committee (\$49,070).

Research Collaboration: One of my most important research collaborations has been with my research mentor Dr. Roberta Woodgate from the Faculty of Nursing at University of Manitoba. I first met Roberta when I took her qualitative research methods course and, subsequently, I enrolled in my doctoral program with Roberta as my advisor. Roberta is an exceptional, renowned and productive qualitative researcher, who generously shares opportunities to engage in research alongside her. She has taught me to see the fun in research and to try to find ways to make research fun and engaging for others. Most importantly, she has taught me to value and cultivate relationships within research, whether with students, research assistants, colleagues, or research participants.

To view this profile in its entirety, please click:

<http://www.acotup-acpue.ca/English/sites/default/files/Profiles/Jacquie%20Ripat%20%28University%20of%20Manitoba%29.pdf>



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

New: Advanced Standing MScOT Program Option

The Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, at University of Toronto will launch a new **Advanced Standing Option MScOT** program. This 12-month, online program is designed specifically for occupational therapists who hold a BSc degree in Occupational Therapy and wish to upgrade their credentials to the Masters level. Admissions are scheduled for September 2016. For details about the program, visit ot.utoronto.ca, or contact Andrea Duncan at a.duncan@utoronto.ca.

Thelma Cardwell Research Day 2016

The upcoming 19th annual Thelma Cardwell Research Day will feature a keynote address by **Dr. Florence Clark**, from the University of Southern California (USC). Dr. Clark, the Associate Dean, Chair, and Mrs. T.H. Chan Professor of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, will speak about **Occupational Therapy as Life Design: Fortifying Health and Well-Being through the Course of Life**. The Department is honoured to have Dr. Clark as our guest. Following Dr. Clark's lecture our grad-

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uating MScOT students will present the results of their year-long research projects.

CAOT Conference

Over 20 of our current MScOT students and numerous alumni and faculty made presentations at this year's CAOT Conference in Banff, Alberta. Many of our students present at the conference each year, and this year we are proud to announce that **Jeanette McGeough** and **Alicja Mazierska** won a 2016 CAOT Student Bursary for their abstract ***Functional Outcomes of Music Supported Rehabilitation Post-Stroke: A Systematic Review***. The award is given to the top 3 student abstracts submitted to the conference. Congratulations to Jeanette and Alicja, and to their project supervisors, **Lisa Engel**, **Dr. Deirdre Dawson**.

Also of note, was the session ***Occupations of Youth with Developmental Disabilities - Learning from the Experts***. The research team included **David Conforti**, one of three youth with intellectual disabilities who act as consultants to the project. David has participated in all research team meetings and was a key presenter. The findings presented at CAOT were from a larger study called ***From the Margins: Voices of Youths with Disabilities on Friendship, Inclusion and Quality of Life***.

OT and Advocacy

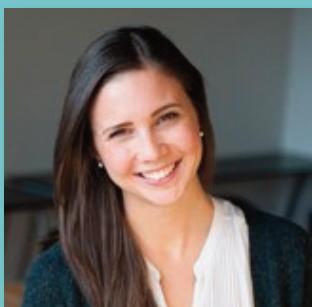
Focus of 2016 OT Alumni Special Event

Over 70 alumni, guests, and students attended an OT Alumni special event on April 27, which featured **Dr. Bonnie Kirsh** (OT'78) sharing highlights from her 2015 Muriel Driver Lecture, ***Transforming Values into Action: Advocacy as a Professional Imperative***.



Dr. Kirsh, an expert in mental health issues, gave an impassioned argument for why occupational therapists should be more active advocates. Following Dr. Kirsh's presentation, a panel of our alumni spoke about their own advocacy experiences and outcomes.

Moderated by **Karen Goldenberg, CM**, the panel included Beth Linkewich (OT'02), Jenny Hardy (OT'13), and Robin Mazumder (OT'11).



Jenny Hardy



Robin Mazumber



Beth Linkewich



DALHOUSIE HOSTS INTERDISCIPLINARY PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (PAR) TRAINING

Participatory action research (PAR) is an approach for supporting effective research in and with communities. Meshing nicely with client-centred practice and integrated knowledge translation (iKT), it is grounded in the philosophy that to effect useful change, stakeholders actively participate in all phases of the research process, from conception through data collection and analysis to the implementation of actions that create change.

To enhance our skills in this collaborative research method, 16 community partners and an interdisciplinary group of 19 researchers from Nova Scotia recently participated in PAR training at Dalhousie University, led by renowned PAR researcher, Dr. Jacques Chevalier. This initiative was funded by a Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation Catalyst Award received by the project team (that included three School of Occupational Therapy Faculty members - Heidi Lauckner (lead), Grace Warner and Cathy White – and other colleagues from the Faculty of Health Professions - Rob Gilbert, Lois Jackson, and Jessie-Lee McIsaac). The award supported research capacity building amongst 7 established research teams and 10 in-

dividual researchers/community partners engaged in community-based projects such as recreation and mental health/chronic conditions, supporting caregivers and volunteers within palliative care and resilience amongst Mi'kmaq youth. Of particular interest from an occupational therapy perspective is how PAR can foster meaningful engagement of community members in research and collective action about issues that are important to them.

This PAR training energized participants with hands-on learning, fostering the development of fundamental tools, skills and attitudes to support collective inquiry in future initiatives grounded in both experience and social histories. Moving forward, the Catalyst Award will support the initiation of an informal Community of Practice that will provide opportunity for continued learning and sharing of PAR tools and projects. The collective experience of the training was well summarized by one participant who stated: "We now have brilliant techniques to illicit data in real time and where people can be active participants in the data analysis." The occupational therapy faculty and their research teams look forward to next steps.

SCHOOL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY JOINS DALHOUSIE AT THE OPENING OF THE COLLABORATIVE HEALTH EDUCATION BUILDING

Dalhousie University changed the face of health care education in Atlantic Canada on December 1st with the opening of the new Collaborative Health Education Building. The \$38.5-million facility is beyond breathtaking with floor to ceiling windows, numerous spaces for students to study and learn, and ad-



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vanced equipment that sets Dalhousie ahead of any other university in Canada.

Photo on Previous Page: A view of Mobility Terrace on the third floor of the Collaborative Health Education Building. (Caroline Kerr photos)

Some of the many featured spaces included the Mobility Terrace and Home Care Room, designed in collaboration with the School of Occupational Therapy and other professional schools. The Mobility Terrace is located on the third floor and appreciates an astonishing view overlooking the Carleton, including a view of the Forrest Building. The terrace was designed to allow students in many disciplines to practice using equipment, such as wheelchairs, on a range of surfaces like ramps and gravel that would be realistic to settings in the real world. Second year students, Sara Hallett and Lauren Johnson, were demonstrating to spectators how to use a wheelchair on a range of platforms.



Sara Hallett demonstrates how to correctly lift a wheelchair onto a platform on Mobility Terrace. (Caroline Kerr photos)

Just off of the terrace is the Home Care Room. The room is filled with advanced equipment that will allow students in disciplines such as occupational therapy and nursing to experience real life scenarios in a home setting. Equipment ranges from adjustable-height counters in the kitchen, allowing people in wheelchairs to access counter space without difficulty, to a spacious bathroom with handlebars to assist users. Another remarkable aspect of the room is the ceiling track lift that is situated in the bedroom space of the room. These lifts are permanently installed in homes to comfortably transfer patients who otherwise wouldn't be able to. During the opening event it was inspiring to watch the occupational therapy students demonstrate the use of all the equipment and to see the excitement it brought to them.



The ceiling track lift is located in the bedroom to allow patients comfortable access into bed. (Caroline Kerr photos)

The Collaborative Health Education Building is truly remarkable, full of light and open space. The School of Occupational Therapy is thrilled to have been a part of designing a collaborative space for various schools and departments at Dalhousie. This building offers faculty and students to learn with and from each other, reflecting the world of health-care that we live in. January is fast approaching with classes and labs beginning in the New Year. We are excited to have this wonderful space for Medicine, Dentistry and Health Professions students to come together and share their learning experiences.

PLAN A TRIP!

Join Occupational Therapists from across the globe at these upcoming events or explore their websites:

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2017 AOTA Annual Conference and Expo, March 30 – April 2, 2017

Visit the website for more information

<http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/call-for-papers.aspx#sthash.jPMzCatT.D1u4IZUW.dpu>
Singapore

SAOT National Occupational Therapy Conference

October 14-15, 2016 – Theme: STRIDE:

Striving Towards Integrating Individuals with Different abilities
Visit the website for more information: <http://notc.com.sg/2016/>
Saudi Arabia

Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and
Orthotic Prosthetics Conference, March 21-23, 2017

Lecture Hall B, Postgraduate Education Center,
KSAU-HS/ Riyadh / Saudi Arabia. For more info commtact:
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