

Your National Fieldwork Placement Service

It may be the cold depths of winter, but NFPS is a hive of activity with numerous student applications and requests for placements stretching from east to west.

With a new two-year service agreement and fee structure in place, the focus of the service continues to be on building relationships with sites across the country to provide interesting and dynamic fieldwork experiences for students.

The new service agreement, signed this summer between Megram and ACOTUP, includes the creation of a committee to discuss issues and establish an on-going dialogue between Megram and fieldwork coordinators – with the goal of continually providing a quality service to students applying for a placement through NFPS.

Members of the NFPS Joint Committee are: Susanne Mak, MSc., OT, assistant academic coordinator of clinical education at McGill University (serving as chair and CUFÉ representative); Susan Rappolt, OT, executive committee vice-president and chair, OS & OT at the University of Toronto (serving as the ACOTUP/ACPUE representative); Lori Shimmell, MSc., OT, professional practice coordinator at McMaster University (serving as a CUFÉ representative); and Meghan Howard, BJ Hons., vice-president and director of communications at Megram Consulting Services (serving as the NFPS representative).

The committee has met twice already, in November and again in January, and both meetings were extremely productive.

Among other things, the committee is currently working on a written policy around placements where students have a personal connection to a site or an OT preceptor and a placement request has been made to NFPS for that particular student.

Once the policy is finalized, it will be posted on the NFPS website and disseminated to all university fieldwork coordinators. The committee is also working on an organizational flow chart to establish a reporting system for comments, concerns and suggestions, i.e. how university fieldwork coordinators can bring an issue forward to the Joint Committee for discussion. Again, once established and formalized, it will be posted on the website for reference.

Earlier in 2010, NFPS coordinator Anita Law went on maternity leave. Her replacement is Ann Hamilton with assistance in database management from Angie Limlaw.

“This is not an easy position to fill – our biggest challenge is a short time period for a steep learning curve,” says Meghan Howard. “We are providing a service and appreciate that not everyone involved in the process has the time for a new person learning the job. Unfortunately this can be extremely stressful for the staff member. We are trying to alleviate that with

increased communication with fieldwork coordinators and sites. We hope everyone involved will welcome Ann to the role and be supportive as she navigates through the varying processes.”

Ann brings 33 years of experience in office management, accounting and credit management to the position and has numerous years of experience in customer service.

Her employment background includes work as a branch manager in the financial industry and office manager for a large manufacturing business.

Born in England, Ann spent the early years of her life in Hamilton before moving to Rockingham area with her husband, Dale. She is the treasurer of the local horticultural society and a member of the Friends of the Rockingham Church – a historical building the group saved from being destroyed. She spends her off hours rescuing small animals and working on the grounds of her century home.

“I am looking forward to helping many students in occupational therapy find satisfying and career-building fieldwork placements, and working with the team at Megram for all their clients,” she says.

Ann will oversee the placement coordination, supported by Angie, who’s administrative and computer knowledge and experience will be very beneficial to managing the number of applications NFPS now receives on an annual basis.

ACOTUP

NEWSLETTER – Winter 2011

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

A busy end to 2010

by Paulette Guitard Ph.D Erg. Aut.(Ont.) erg(c),
Directrice Programme d’ergothérapie Université d’Ottawa

Once again things have been busy and exciting at the University of Ottawa this year. In September 2009, we launched a short program (a 30-credit master’s program) offered to those with a bachelors in occupational therapy and a minimum of two years of work experience. Course work was conceived to be completed within a year. We are happy to congratulate our first graduate, Ms. Lucy-Ann Kubina who worked under the supervision of Dr. Claire-Jehanne Dubouloz and Dr. Mary Egan. Congratulations Lucy-Ann.

In September 2010, the School of Rehabilitation Sciences launched a PhD in rehabilitation sciences. The PhD program in rehabilitation sciences focuses on scientific discovery as it relates to the impact of disease and impairment on people’s ability to assume their role and function in society. The program is designed to prepare candidates from both professional and research backgrounds to become independent researchers and leaders in all areas of the rehabilitation sciences as well as from areas not traditionally associated with rehabilitation. The goal of the PhD program is to develop rehabilitation scientists with independent and collaborative research skills who will contribute to the knowledge base that informs the practice of rehabilitation professionals. This program is the only program among Canadian PhD programs in rehabilitation sciences that offers students the possibility of studying in French and/or English. All professors are capable of supervising students in both languages. The new PhD program will thus permit the training of health professionals...

Busy con’t on back page



Tanya L. Packer,
PhD, MSc(Anat), BSc(OT),
OTReg(NS)

Meet Dalhousie’s new director of OT

“It is with great pride and excitement that I take on the position as the third director of the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University. Our school has a strong international reputation, recognized for theoretically driven, innovative programs. With many health and societal challenges, I believe this foundation will continue to guide the school as we strive to increase our abilities to create new knowledge and to bring research, practice and education closer together.” - Dr. Packer

Dr. Packer’s international career has seen her teaching and conducting research in many continents: from developing the first occupational therapy education program in Russia, to undertaking community based rehabilitation in China and India and studying accessible tourism in Hong Kong.

Most recently as director of the Centre for Research into Disability and Society in Australia, together with her research students, her work focused on development, testing and integration into the health system, of self-management strategies for people with chronic conditions and disabilities. She developed related policy for the Department of Health and provided education to allow health professionals to deliver client-centred self-management programs.

Dr. Packer completed her PhD at Queen’s University in 1993. After 10 years at Queen’s she spent three and a half years at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University before taking up the position of professor and director, Centre for Research into Disability and Society at the School of Occupational Therapy, Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia where she also lead a well-funded research team.

Their work has been published in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, OTJR, Australasian Journal on Ageing, the International Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Disability and Rehabilitation to name a few.

Born in Nova Scotia, Dr. Packer returned home and to Dalhousie University in January of 2010, and, on the retirement of Dr. Liz Townsend, assumed the position as director of the School of Occupational Therapy in July.

New PhD program at University of Ottawa

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...in both official languages at the highest levels of research training in an interdisciplinary context. In accordance with University of Ottawa regulations, students will be able to submit their work in the official language of their choice: English or French. Four students are currently enrolled and two are occupational therapists. Dr. Mary Egan has been appointed the director of the PhD program.

In November 2010, we hosted, in collaboration with all the schools and programs within the Faculty of Health Sciences, a symposium on clinical education. This event was organized to

recognize the volunteer work of all the fieldwork educators who have supervised students in the last two years. It was held out of town in a rural resort: four workshops were held in rooms with fireplaces; lunch was served in a restored barn. Quite the atmosphere!

Fieldwork educators felt pampered and rejuvenated, had the opportunity to network and learned a few tricks to improve relationships with students and colleagues. Even if was a lot of work, the day was also a treat for the event planners (our fieldwork clinical coordinators)!



Donna Klaiman,
M.Ed OT(C)

ACOTUP hires its first executive director

This past fall, the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy University Programs (ACOTUP/ ACPUE) began its search for an executive director – a new position created to further the development of the association.

Advertisements outlining the job description and the qualification requirements were sent to all occupational therapy university departments with a request for it to be disseminated throughout the faculty, to provincial professional associations and contacts in the OT community at large. Advertisements were also sent to CAOT and posted on the ACOTUP website at www.acotup-acpue.ca.

ACOTUP is proud to announce that candidate Donna Klaiman, M.Ed OT(C) has accepted the position and is the association's first executive director.

This two-year contract position will see Ms. Klaiman working on behalf of the association for two days a month and assuming a leadership role in moving the association forward. Duties will be performed in conjunction and cooper-

ation with the association's secretariat, which is responsible primarily for administrative support and organizational functions.

Ms. Klaiman brings a wealth of experience to the role, having retired from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists two years ago where she held many positions including director of standards and director of policy and professional affairs for 13 years. She also worked in the private sector in rehabilitation management and in the publicly funded health sector as the director of occupational therapy services at the Elizabeth Bruyere Health Centre in Ottawa.

Ms. Klaiman is familiar with issues related to higher education having held teaching appointments at the University of Toronto, University of Ottawa and Algonquin College. She is a graduate of McGill University (Bachelor of OT) and University of Toronto (Master of Education).

Today, she is also busy running her own business, Donna Klaiman Designs, combining her love of travel with her...

Executive director con't on page 3...



New NFPS Logo

Along with the innovative website, the National Fieldwork Placement Service (NFPS) now has a new logo with matching letterhead. Designed by Irene Sauve of Megram Consulting Services in Renfrew, Ontario (the management company for NFPS), the new logo is reflective of the services being provided.

"We wanted it to be bright and fresh, while conveying a sense of national unity," says Meghan Howard, Megram vice-president and director of communications. "We have three versions of the logo that we will use interchangeably – one with white lettering to use on dark backgrounds like the website, one that is bright green and the third has a rich red tone."

The NFPS mandate is to find OT students challenging and interesting placement opportunities in requested fields of practice across Canada by working together with university fieldwork coordinators, site supervisors and site preceptors. As such, the new logo has all the letters joined together to show the teamwork required to make the service work well for students. The maple leaf is instantly recognizably as the symbol of Canada.

"We are proud of the service we provide, and are working hard to build and grow each year," says Howard. "When we first took over management of the service, we had to create processes, develop all required documentation like application forms, build databases and establish protocols. We designed and built the very first NFPS website, which has now been re-launched and updated as the service has evolved. This was simply the next step in creating the entity that is NFPS today."



Donna Klaiman, executive director

Executive Director con't from page 2.

...appreciation of textile art. Through her virtual boutique, www.donnaklaiman.com, she represents women who are both entrepreneurs and textile artists from around the world who want an online global presence to expand their business and their economic circumstances.

"My husband is an international consultant so we travel a great deal," she explains. "Right now I represent women artists from Nepal, Cambodia, and three African countries. As a fellow occupational therapist pointed out to me, I am still enabling occupations through this venture! These happen to be artists in developing countries but I am interested in working with women artists from anywhere in the world."

Despite her busy travel schedule and work on her new business, Ms. Klaiman was excited about the opportunity to work for ACOTUP.

"As a profession, occupational therapy has given me advantages to use my skills and experience in creative and innovative ways; I would like to take this opportunity to position ACOTUP as the voice for OT education in Canada."

The members of ACOTUP welcome Ms. Klaiman to the team and are looking forward to a productive two years together.

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

Anaheim, United States
OTAC Spring Symposium

April 2-3, 2011 | www.otaconline.org/index.php/spring-symposium

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

AOTA 91st Annual Conference & Expo
April 14-17, 2011 | www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/2011-Conference.as

Kuwait, Kuwait

2nd Annual Occupational Health and Safety Forum
April 18-19, 2011 | www.fleminggulf.com/cross-industry/middle-east/2nd-annual-occupational-health-safety-forum

UWO selects OT as a Faculty Scholar

The Faculty of Health Sciences and the School of Occupational Therapy are proud to announce that OT faculty member Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman has been named a Faculty Scholar.



Faculty Scholars have an international presence in their discipline and are considered all-round scholars. Winners hold the title of Faculty Scholar for two years, and receive a stipend of \$7,000 each year for scholarly activities.

Dr. Rudman is an assistant professor in the School of Occupational Therapy and chair of the Occupational Science Field, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Graduate Program. Her research interests relate to the occupational lives of aging adults. More specifically, her research program addresses three major areas: contemporary structuring and negotiation of retirement; community mobility in later life; and how occupation is influenced by and influences the experience of chronic disability in later life. She is also committed to developing the discipline of occupational science, taking on leadership roles in national and international organizations. Within an occupational science framework, her research seeks to enhance understanding of how occupational possibilities (what people see as ideal and possible occupations to engage in) are shaped within socio-cultural contexts and how individuals and collectives negotiate occupation. She is principal investigator for a three year SSHRC funded study examining the discursive construction of retirement in Canadian print media and the ways in which individuals draw upon and resist broader discourses in their narratives of retirement preparation and living. She has also recently been involved in research examining the occupational lives and community mobility experiences of older adults with low vision (funded by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind), and the occupational participation of residents in long-term care (funded by the FHS Interdisciplinary Research Award).