



Meet the New Executive

After two years of hard work, the University of Manitoba has completed its term as the Executive of ACOTUP. "It is time to pass the executive baton to the next anxiously awaiting University Program, our colleagues at the University of Ottawa," said Donna Collins, ACOTUP President, University of Manitoba, during her report at the board meeting in July.

The new 2007-2009 ACTUP/ACPUE Executive Committee are: President Michèle Hébert, UFCC Chair Jean-Pascal Beaudoin, Vice-President Mary Egan and Secretary-Treasurer Rose Martini. The new executive say they are excited about the new challenges ahead but the strategic plan report will help them oversee the associations' activities and stay focused on what needs to be accomplished during their term.

Outgoing President's Report from Newfoundland

Donna Collins, outgoing ACOTUP President, University of Manitoba chaired the Board meeting this July in St. John's.

During her report, she stated "Megram, in conjunction with the executive, initiated three new projects; 1) an extensive update of the ACOTUP/ACPUE website, 2) development of an ACOTUP/ACPUE newsletter, and 3) development of an orientation package for incoming executive. The first two projects have been quite successful and welcomed by the organization. It

will be essential in the upcoming year that ACOTUP/ACPUE takes an active role in assisting with these activities to ensure information presented in both media is current and relevant to our organization. The third project continues in development and should be completed for use with the incoming executive."

In addition, she reported, "The executive contributed to the founding of the Occupational Therapy Council of Canada (OTCC); a new organization established by four

of the key occupational therapy national organizations in Canada. The purpose of this new organization is to promote information sharing and coordinated action and planning on issues of mutual concern to the occupational therapy professional groups. ACOTUP has two representatives on the OTCC."

In closing, she thanked the University of Manitoba executive and the management of Megram Consulting Services for the time and hard work contributed over the past two years.

Around the World

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

Vancouver, British Columbia

A National Forum on Cancer Care
November 1-3, 2007 | www.Interprofessional.ubc.ca

Perth, Australia

World Congress of Health Professions
March 26-29, 2008 | www.worldhealthcongress.org

Mt. St. Benedict, Trinidad

Assoc. of Caribbean Occupational Therapists,
8th Biennial Scientific Conference
November 1-3, 2007

Long Beach, California, U.S.A

AOTA's 88th Annual Conference & Expo
April 10-13, 2008 | www.aota.org

Instructor receives distinguished award

Sincere congratulations to University of Toronto status appointment faculty member Maureen Riley who recently received the St. Michael's Hospital "Distinguished Educator

Award" at a Health Disciplines Education Event on May 29, 2007. Maureen is one of only five clinicians to receive this award across all 22 health disciplines, and was recognized for her "con-

tinuous commitment to excellence in education and her dedication to the learning and development of future health disciplines clinicians." Congratulations on this important recognition!



Bridging the art and science of occupational therapy

As part of a classroom project, UBC occupational therapy students were given the opportunity to design practical solutions to client problems. In pairs, the students critiqued an assistive device currently on the market, identified possible limitations and strengths of

the product, and developed a comparable device or modified the current device. The students then showcased their devices at the Solutions Design Exposition, an annual assistive device and health technologies design exposition. Following last year's exposition,

two students were awarded the chance to participate in a program at the B.C. Institute of Technology called Protégé. This provided the students with mentors in engineering, research and development, and explored the commercial potential of their prototype. Following this

program, the students went on exhibit their device at TechMed 2007, a showcase of innovative medical technology. At present, the students are continuing with the research and development of their device and are exploring partnerships with medical suppliers.

University of McGill's exciting new program

In September 2007, McGill began a new undergraduate degree: a BSc Occupational Therapy (non-practicing) or a BSc Physical Therapy (non-practicing) degree. The new program will be a three year, 90-credit program completed over six semesters. All students will then be required to progress to the M.Sc.A. (OT) or the M.Sc.A. (PT) degree to obtain licensure to practice in Canada.

Students who graduate from the BSc Occupational Therapy (non-practicing) or the BSc Physical Therapy (non-practicing) degree, with the required cGPA of 3.0 or better, may be accepted into the M.Sc.A. (OT) or the M.Sc.A. (PT) program which will commence in summer 2010.

The new M.Sc.A. (OT) or the M.Sc.A. (PT) program is expected to be

completed over four semesters commencing in summer 2010 and ending in summer 2011. As a part of the new program all clinical placements will take place during the M.Sc.A. (OT) or the M.Sc.A. (PT) program, and will begin at the start of the Master's degrees during the first summer semester.

From start to finish the sequence will be: a BSc Occupational Therapy (non-practicing) or a BSc Physical Therapy (non-practicing) degree completed over three years followed by the M.Sc.A. (OT) or the M.Sc.A. (PT) degree completed over four semesters.

The M.Sc.A. (OT) or the M.Sc.A. (PT) degree will end during the second summer of the Master's program with a master's project to be submitted for fall graduation.

Symposium success at the University of Manitoba

The University of Manitoba held the Master of Occupational Therapy Independent Study Symposium on June 23, 2007. Invited keynote speaker, Dr. Marcia Finlayson from the University of Illinois at Chicago, set the tone for the day with her thought-provoking

presentation "*Efficacy and Effectiveness of Energy Conservation Education for People with Multiple Sclerosis*". Over 50 students, faculty and clinicians attended the project papers or posters throughout the day. Congratulations to students Helen Gough,

Tanya Hodgson, Harjit Jassal and Melanie Read for receiving the Rouston/COTF Award for Innovation for their project "*Concurrent Validity of the Occupational Therapy Screening Scale with the COPM Performance Scale within an Oncology Population*".

New Masters programs

University of Alberta

In September 2007, the undergraduate program in Occupational Therapy will change to a Master's program (subject to final approval) and only applicants with a bachelor's degree will be considered. CAOT will require a professional Master's degree as the minimum qualification for entry into the profession commencing 2010. Students who graduate with a BScOT prior to

2010 can practice without a master's degree within Canada provided they maintain registration with their professional association.

University of Ottawa

The OT program has welcomed its first Masters Degree cohort. Thirty-three students have joined this two-year program. The team has worked hard to develop a curriculum based on the CAOT and OCGS competencies, where

every course is linked with one another to cover all competencies required, from novice to advance. An electronic student professional portfolio and a fieldwork evaluation tool have also been developed and are strongly linked to the curriculum.

The transition between the Bachelor and the Masters levels will be occurring between September 2007 and May 2009.

New Chair of Occupational Therapy at the University of Ottawa

The University of Ottawa is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Michèle Hébert as Chair of its Occupational Therapy program. Dr Hébert has been a professor in the program for the last 17 years. She has accepted the position for one year. Congratulations and thank you Michèle! On July 1st, 2008, Dr Paulette Guitard, upon her return from sabbatical, will take over the role for the three subsequent years,

renewable. Dr Guitard has also been with the program for several years. She did one mandate as Chair in the mid-90's. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Manon Tremblay for all her work during the six years she has been Chair. Congratulations on your new position as the Director of Operations for the Consortium National de Formation en Santé – volet Université d'Ottawa."

