



For Your Information!

Attention all ACOTUP Members – don't forget to mark your calendars with the upcoming UFCC and ACOTUP meetings that will be held during the CAOT conference this summer. The meeting times have yet to be set, but the dates will be Monday, July 9th and Tuesday, July 10, 2007. As soon as the times are set, Members will be notified.

As well, the Leadership Forum will be held on Wednesday, July 11 at the conference and ACTOP is allowed to have up to five people act as ACOTUP's representatives. Please contact Donna Collins if you wish to volunteer.

Rehabilitation Institute expands its scholarship program to six universities

Graduate students with disabilities at six different Canadian universities will now have the opportunity to receive a \$20,000 scholarship if their research is related to rehabilitation.

Formerly available at the University of Toronto, students at McMaster, Ryerson, Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier and York will now be able to apply for these scholarships.

The Rehabilitation-Related Research for

Graduate Students with Disabilities scholarships are provided by the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and supported by TD Bank Financial Group. The scholarships are \$20,000 plus a supplement for educational expenses incurred as a result of the student's disability.

Applicants must plan to be enrolled in a rehabilitation-related graduate program leading to a masters or doctoral degree at one

of the eligible universities.

The next round of scholarships will be awarded for the 2007/2008 academic year, with an application deadline date of May 1, 2007. International students are also encouraged to apply as are final year undergraduate students.

For more information, please visit www.torontorrehab.com or call 1-416-597-3422, ext. 3081.

Around the World

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

Birmingham, England

WFOT International Symposium on Arthrogyrosis
September 20-21, 2007 | www.amc07.co.uk

Toronto, Ontario (provincial focus)

GTA Rehab Network Best Practices Day
March 2, 2007 | www.gtarehhabnetwork.ca

Kingston, Ontario

Winter Seminar Series in Rehabilitation Science
at Queen's University, Wednesday afternoons
March 8 -April 4 | <http://rehab.queensu.ca>

Sudbury, Ontario

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine Symposia
Presented live, video conference and by webcast
Feb. 15, March 15, April 12, 2007 | www.normed.ca

Deadline approaching fast for health services award

There are only a few weeks left to submit a nomination for the CHSRF Health Services Research Advancement Award.

The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2007.

This award recognizes both individuals and organizations that have made a major contribution to the advancement of health services research in Canada.

Winners of this prestigious

award will receive \$10,000 as well as a certificate commemorating their efforts. For more information and copies of the nomination form, please visit the website at www.chsrf.ca.



Praise for the quality of Canadian Occupational Therapists

The director of a large U.S. rehab center in Cleveland, Ohio has heaped some “flowers” on Canadian OT training.

Ruth Plautz, OTR and Director of Rehabilitation Services at Menorah Park Center for Senior Living recently wrote to NFPS

commenting on the quality of Canadian occupational therapists.

“Currently we have a Canadian-trained OTR and she is terrific!,” she stated. “As a large organization, we accept clinical practicum students from various universities...I understand Canada

is experiencing a shortage of therapists as we are, but we are impressed with our Canadian trained therapist!”

Any interested students can contact Connie Roffey at NFPS regarding international placement requirements.



Work and Experience Opportunities

CAOT Public Policy Discussion Paper

CAOT is seeking a graduate student or faculty member with an interest in public policy to develop a discussion paper on the relationship between access to participation in a meaningful

occupation and a healthy economy in Canada. It must be completed by May 1, 2007, and there is a modest \$1,000 honorarium. Those interested can contact Donna Klaiman at 613-523-2268 ext. 229.

Occupational Therapist/Occupational Scientist

Applicants are invited to apply for a probationary tenure track position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level at the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University. Consideration of

applications begins March 1, 2007 and the position is available on July 1, 2007 pending budgetary approval. For details, please contact the Director at liz.townsend@dal.ca.

Video game therapy: U of T student combines health and entertainment

by Laura Rosen Cohen

A fourth-year University of Toronto engineering student has developed a fun way to help children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy improve their gross motor skills.

William Li has developed a video game that allows these children to play while improving their health.

The game has components of existing video games adapted for children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy. The player sits in a chair to activate the game and presses and holds down a button underneath it with their “good” or stronger arm. The other arm becomes a joystick that works in conjunction

with a motion-detecting web camera. The game might include picking up fruit, and the child has to reach up and “touch” a piece of fruit on the screen and “throw” it into a bowl.

Li says it was the children and their families who inspired him to create the game and it was rewarding to know he could help.



NFPS Coordinator Connie Roffey

NFPS – A successful beginning to the New Year

NFPS is off to a wonderful start in 2007, building the momentum for an incredible year ahead.

To date, we have received over 135 applications and have had great success in locating placements for the students in the months of January/ February and for March/April.

We have even placed a UK student in the Saskatoon City Hospital for an eight-week placement!

I would like to extend a special thank you to Donna Drynan and her staff from UBC, for providing 16 offers for possible placements during the months of April/May. With BC

being the hardest province to locate placements, I was ecstatic to receive the offers. Each and every university has been very helpful, without this continued support, NFPS would be not be achieving such positive results.

Thank you to all UFCC's, I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Go back in time – attend your class reunion at McMaster University this summer

Mark down the date! McMaster University is hosting the 15-year, 10-year and five-year anniversaries of the Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Classes of 1992, 1997 and 2002 on June 9, 2007.

The Reunion Planning Committee is organizing an exciting day to make the reunion celebrations very special and memorable.

Proposed events include the annual Helen Saarinen Fun Run, kids' activities and family picnics, culminating with a formal dinner/dance.

Don't miss the chance to renew old friendships and reconnect with faculty and staff! Email Jenny Thomson at thomsj@mcmaster.ca or Helena Collins at collinsh@mcmaster.ca.