A MESSAGE FROM DONNA

Welcome to the summer 2012 edition of Field Notes. I am so thankful that I have only committed myself to a “periodic” newsletter. Time sure has a way of flying by. We are soon saying goodbye to our 2012 graduates. I hope to see many of you at their capstone conference on August 30th. To register go to www.capstoneconference.ca. The students always feel so supported when a former FW educator is at the conference to listen to them present their research projects.

We have some changes underfoot at the Department and in the Fieldwork program. Jean Hsieh is retiring after 34 years in the Department. Please read more about Jean below!

In 2013 you will see some slight changes to the length of the Fieldwork placements. The level 1 Jan/Feb placement will remain at 5 weeks, 4 days/week. We hope this continues to meet many of your wishes for “a day to catch up” or allow those who work 4 days per week to offer fieldwork placements. The level 2a placement, May/June will now be 6 weeks fulltime. This is a change from the 7 week, 4 day per week placement. The level 2b placement in Nov/Dec 2013 will decrease by one week and be only 6 weeks in length. Thus the level 3a & 3b placement in 2014 will now be 7 weeks in length each. These changes have been well thought out and we have considered the input from the clinical community as well as from both our curriculum and clinical faculty affairs committees. A pleasant surprise for you is that in 2013 there are fewer weeks of Fieldwork as we phase in these changes. Yippee! The students will still have 31 weeks of Fieldwork and the requisite 1000 hours.

Please have a look at the upcoming fieldwork educator workshop dates and consider attending one or hosting one at your facility. As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Sarah at any time to help us help you with the student experience. Happy summer!

FESTIVE FAREWELL TO JEAN HSIEH

It is with mixed emotions that I am bidding farewell to Jean Hsieh. I am extremely happy for what her retirement future holds but will miss her immensely. Jean has been with the school/department for 34 years, many of those years spent providing support to the OT and PT fieldwork and clinical education programs respectively. Jean has been instrumental in setting up processes and managing the fieldwork portfolio very capably. She had a knack for reading my mind when I was in need or search of something and always kept calm and happy during what I would deem stressful situations. Many of you have encountered Jean through the years whether you were a student in the OT program or were/are a preceptor to UBC students. I trust you can appreciate the hard work and support that we have all received from Jean over the years. Enjoy your time Jean, you deserve it!

NEW ROLES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OS&OT

Rehana Frankland

Rehana began working with the Department of OS&OT in 2008 as student support for the MOT program. She recently accepted a promotion to manager of the MOT program, and her portfolio now also includes managing the fieldwork process. If you need to get in touch with Rehana with any questions relating to fieldwork or the MOT program in general, she can be reached by email at rehana.frankland@ubc.ca or by phone at 604-822-7196.

Sarah Henderson

Hello! My name is Sarah, and I have recently stepped into the new role of MOT Program Assistant in the Department of OS&OT. I came to UBC from Calgary two years ago to pursue a degree in music, and started off in the department as a Work Study student. Coming from a background in the arts I had never heard of occupational therapy when I first applied, but I’ve enjoyed learning more about OT and am thrilled to have the opportunity to expand my knowledge of the field by working with Donna on the fieldwork portfolio.

I’m still plugging away at that music degree so most of my free time is spent studying, but you can usually find me lugging my laptop around the seawall or reading a textbook on the beach on sunny days. I can be reached via email at sarah.j.henderson@ubc.ca or by phone at 604-827-5392. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about the fieldwork process.
FIELDWORK UPDATES

A huge thank you for the offers we received for the November-December 2012 Level 2 placement block. It was a slow start and after some growing pains with utilizing the HSPnet database, we now have enough offers to begin the matching process for the second year students. You will hear from the department at the end of August whether a student is matched to you.

We no longer send paper copies of the evaluation documents. You can find all the necessary documentation at http://osot.ubc.ca/fieldwork/clinicians/fieldwork-education-documents/. As well, when we send our student match confirmation to you, all the documents will be attached in an email. At any time please do not hesitate to call or email Sarah to assist you with any issues related to the Fieldwork procedures.

Below are the dates for tentative upcoming Fieldwork Educator’s Workshops. Whether you are a seasoned fieldwork educator or wanting to take a student for your first time, these one day workshops are a great way to be really prepared for the student experience. We have recently introduced an online workshop registration at http://osot.ubc.ca/fieldwork/clinicians/workshops/#seven, and will accept faxed or emailed registrations as well.

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CHRIS COURTNEY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FIELDWORK EDUCATION

This award recognizes an Occupational Therapist who demonstrates excellence in and commitment to the clinical education of Occupational Therapy students.

Chris died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1996. Chris was an occupational therapist who was passionate about continuing education and giving back to her profession. She was a champion of student education and was described by occupational therapy students as an excellent fieldwork educator.

This year’s worthy recipient is Lisa Engel from Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. Lisa was proudly nominated by Lindsay Richards, a second year Master of Occupational Therapy student from UBC. Lindsay had many wonderful things to say about Lisa and her ability to teach and welcome students to the fold of OT. A few highlights from Lindsay’s nomination clearly describe what a wonderful and influential role model Lisa has been:

Lisa consistently encouraged me to incorporate evidence into practice. She frequently passed on research articles of interest and was always excited to hear about any research I had found or been reading. When I had questions about how to critique evidence she was open to discussing and offering advice. She modeled evidence-based practice by making decisions with clients based on their preferences, research evidence and her clinical experience.

Lisa facilitated my clinical reasoning by asking me to explain my rational for assessments or interventions that I selected. She was always agreeable to listening to me “think out loud” and would confirm my reasoning or ask more prompting questions if needed.

Her feedback was specific and timely. Lisa used effective teaching strategies such as demonstrating and having me identify 2 things I had done well and 2 things to improve following client interactions. She promoted self-directed learning and told me that the best way to learn about community services or resources was to visit them yourself. She encouraged learning by experience and self-reflection. For example, initially Lisa observed me administer assessments. After confirming that I was capable and comfortable she allowed me to assess clients independently. We continued to debrief my experiences and reflections daily and she was always available to observe if I wanted more feedback. She was extremely professional with all staff and clients. She spoke respectfully, listened attentively and always upheld the values of the profession (i.e. client centred). For all of the above reasons Lisa was an exceptional role model. She showed enthusiasm and excitement in being an educator and this created a welcoming and comfortable learning environment. At the end of the day Lisa would often say to me “Great job OT!” I always felt as though I was a valued peer on the team and this allowed me to develop confidence in my professional and clinical abilities.

Congratulations Lisa and thank you for supporting student learning at UBC.