Two students from the UNC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy were recognized at the annual Department of Allied Health Sciences Student Scholarships and Awards Brunch on November 12, 2011, in Chapel Hill.

Nathan Emmanuel MacCosbe received the Carolinas Rehabilitation Occupational Science Annual Scholarship. Liz Hartzog ('03) worked with her employer, Carolinas Rehabilitation, to help establish the scholarship, which recognizes a deserving student who has an interest in a career working in acute physical rehabilitation. Recipients complete a clinical affiliation at Carolinas Rehabilitation in the summer. Carolinas Rehabilitation funded the scholarship in recognition of the excellent clinicians now working at the hospital who graduated from the UNC Chapel Hill program.

MacCosbe and Joy Lynn Agner both received June C. Allcott Fellowships. Named in honor of June C. Allcott (1916-1996), the fellowships recognize students who demonstrate exemplary, ongoing, and new community service. Only three fellowships are awarded by the Department of Allied Health Sciences each year.

I have been fortunate enough to work and volunteer with a variety of peoples in different geographic regions, with different needs, desires, and struggles. In these endeavors I have been continually brought back to the realization that what we do defines who we are. When people cannot fulfill the roles most important to them due to illness, disability, displacement, misfortune, or inequality, their opportunities for a meaningful life are circumscribed. Occupational therapists have a unique position in that they can help those individuals do the things they really care about. My personal aspirations are to work on a community level promoting health through occupation. The Allcott Fellowship will support me in reaching that goal by reducing my financial burden and reminding me of the wide-reaching benefits of service.

Joy Agner, June C. Allcott Fellowship Recipient

I decided to pursue a career in occupational therapy because I admired the pragmatic and holistic approach that occupational therapists took toward interventions. I believed that an education in occupational science would give me a strong foundation to adapt to our dynamic health care system and address the barriers to effective care. I have observed the strengths and weaknesses of various settings during my clinical and volunteer experiences. Rather than develop new practice settings during an economic recovery, I hope to strengthen traditional settings and preventative services by establishing more efficient methods and policies for health care practice. Specifically, I have taken an interest in the care of older adults, and I hope to make innovations in a health care system that must be prepared to respond to the rapidly expanding population of older adults.

Nathan MacCosbe, June C. Allcott Fellowship Recipient and Carolinas Rehabilitation Occupational Science Scholarship Recipient
We were honored to have Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman, PhD, OT Reg., as the visiting scholar for this year’s Mitchell Symposium in Occupational Science. After presenting a seminar to the students and faculty and meeting with individuals and groups throughout the division, Dr. Rudman presented a public lecture on February 29 titled “Working against the ‘individualizing of the social’: The critical potential of occupational science.”

Rudman is Associate Professor and Faculty Scholar in the School of Occupational Therapy, within the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Chair of the Occupational Science field of the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences program of the University of Western Ontario. Her research focuses on the relationships between occupation and identity, health, and quality of life. Within the broader field of occupational science, she is particularly interested in examining how social, political, and cultural factors shape what come to be seen as possible and ideal ways to be (identity) and do (occupation) in the later phases of life. Dr. Rudman has been selected as the next recipient of the Townsend and Polatajko Lectureship by the Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists.

The Mitchell Symposium in Occupational Science is named in honor of Drs. Marlys and Earl (Mitch) Mitchell and has been made possible through a generous donation from Drs. Ruth Humphry and Bruce Carney as well as other donors.

**Alumni Updates**

**Tomeico Robinson Faison (’01)** visited Associate Professor Jenny Womack’s Community-Based Practice in Occupational Therapy class in February. Faison, who owns Therapeutic Solutions, Inc., discussed her experiences in starting, marketing, and maintaining her business, which provides occupational therapy services in community-based mental health programs and group homes serving people with developmental disabilities. Faison has taught entrepreneurship and the basics of private practice to numerous other therapists, and she is a generous contributor to student learning at UNC through her willingness to do lectures as well as take fieldwork students.

**Twylla Kirchen (’01)** returned to North Carolina and is the Rehabilitation Director for the North Carolina State Veteran’s Home in Fayetteville. She is obtaining a PhD in Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman’s University.

**Cathy Schweiker (’05)** had her second child, a healthy little girl named Lorelei, in October 2011.

**Stephanie Brown (’08)** became a licensed Yoga for the Special Child® practitioner in July of 2010 and a certified ChildLight Yoga Instructor in August of 2011. She works at the Aspen Developmental Center in Raleigh with children ages one to six and serves children in the community through early intervention. In February, Stephanie implemented an animal-assisted therapy program at the Center to help enhance the therapeutic experience of each child.

**Julia Teague (’08)** works at the Children’s Hospital Colorado in Denver, where she has been a practicing OT on the rehabilitation team for more than three years. She is looking to move back to the NC area very soon.

**Gabe Byars (’10)** is working as the Rehabilitation Team Leader at Bennion Care Center for Brighton Rehabilitation in Salt Lake City, Utah. Gabe currently manages a staff of five, but he is overseeing an expansion and remodel that is expected to triple the size of the rehab department. He also serves on Brighton Rehab’s clinical excellence committee and is starting an occupational therapy professional development group. On other fronts, Gabe ran his first 50-mile ultramarathon in 2010 and has his sights set on running his first 100-kilometer race in 2012.
From the Director

This is my last time to write this letter – I will finally retire at the end of June. Being part of this institution and sharing a work life with the wonderful faculty colleagues and students in the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has been a priceless gift. I was challenged to think deeply and encouraged to laugh hard during my 12 years at Carolina, and I will miss that. This is, without a doubt, a very special community.

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Ruth Humphry returning to the role of Program Director at the request of the faculty. I wish her my very best, and I am confident that Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at UNC Chapel Hill will continue to thrive.

Thank you all, and best wishes for the future.

Virginia A. Dickie
Virginia Dickie, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Director, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Thank You, Donors

We would like to thank the following individuals and corporations for contributions to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Division of Occupation Science and Occupational Therapy program from April 28, 2011 to May 30, 2012. The generosity of our donors helps us provide the educational resources we need to maintain the excellence of our program.

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Wilson Funds New OS/OT Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that Stacy Allieou Wilson (OT Class of 2010) has funded a new annual scholarship named: “Increasing Diversity in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Annual Scholarship” that will be awarded to a deserving UNC OS/OT student for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years. Please join us in thanking Stacy for giving back to the program is such an important and meaningful way!

Baranek and Womack Honored at AOTA Conference

Grace Baranek received the A. Jean Ayres Award and Jenny Womack became a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (FAOTA) at the Annual AOTA Conference in Indianapolis in April.

The Ayers Award recognizes clinicians, educators, and researchers who have demonstrated sustained commitment to the application, development, or testing of theory in occupational therapy. The FAOTA designation is awarded to OT members of AOTA who have used their knowledge and expertise to make significant contributions to the continuing education and professional development of other members.

Above, Jenny Womack, MS, MA, OTR/L, SCDCM, and Grace Baranek, PhD, OTR/L. Right, UNC OS/OT faculty, alumni, and students at the AOTA Conference in Indianapolis in April.