



INAUGURAL MITCHELL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED FOR SPRING

The Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy is pleased to announce the first annual Mitchell Symposium, which will take place during the spring semester 2011. The Mitchell Symposium is named in honor and memory of Dr. Marlys Mitchell, the founder of the master's program in Occupational Therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill, and her husband, Earl, a great supporter of Marlys' work and of occupational therapy. The symposium is made possible through a new fund, initiated by a generous donation to the division made by Dr. Ruth Humphry and Dr. Bruce Carney, with the intent that future symposia will be supported through ongoing donations to the fund.

The inaugural Mitchell Symposium will feature visiting scholar Dr. Mary Lawlor, who is known for her work in ethnographic research, interdisciplinary models of service delivery, pediatric occupational therapy, and maternal and child health. Her research interests include examining the meanings

of illness and disability in family life, the social nature of therapeutic experience, and cultural influences on health care and developmental processes. Dr. Lawlor earned her Sc.D. in Therapeutic Studies from Boston University and is currently a Professor in the Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. She was the Principal Investigator for an interdisciplinary longitudinal ethnographic research project funded by National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, which involved African American children with special health care needs, their families, and the practitioners who serve them. She has also received grants from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the U.S. Department of Education, and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.

During the Symposium, Dr. Lawlor will present on Studying Human Action in Context: Research Dilemmas and Possibilities for faculty and graduate students from

the Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy and other divisions within the Department of Allied Health Sciences. This talk will emphasize video and narrative analysis of data. Dr. Lawlor will also present a public lecture, titled Health Disparities and Cultural Competence: Bridging Clinical Worlds and Life at Home. This presentation will focus on findings from a longitudinal interdisciplinary urban ethnographic project conducted through a series of MCHB and NIH funded studies, currently called Boundary Crossings: Re-Situating Cultural Competence. Emphasis will be placed on findings related to bridging home life and institutional worlds and the theoretical implications for addressing health disparities and facilitating effective collaborations in the moments of health care encounters.

Additional information about the Mitchell Symposium will be made available once specific dates and times have been confirmed.

Life Interests and Values Cards Published

The UNC-CH Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders is proud to announce the publication of the Life Interests and Values (L!V) Cards. The material is a tangible outcome of interdisciplinary collaboration between the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy that began in 2003, and that currently also involves the Division of Physical Therapy. Authors Katarina Haley, Jenny Womack, Nancy Helm-Estabrooks, Denise Caignon, and Karen McCulloch and illustrator Stuart Helm worked closely with people with aphasia, volunteer raters, and graduate student research assistants to develop a pictorial material that would be at once engaging, clear, and relevant.

The purpose of the L!V Cards is to facilitate communication and collaboration with adults with aphasia about their interests and life goals, so those goals can be used as self-determined targets for rehabilitation and life planning. The material consists of 119 drawings of life activities and feelings that are sorted into response

categories or rated on a visual analogue scale according to straightforward procedures. A parallel questionnaire for family members and friends may be used to support productive discussion about possible changes in activity routines and priorities. To date, research about the L!V Cards has focused on validating the activity card sets, establishing reliability of administration, and investigating of the congruence of responses between people with aphasia and their friends or family members.

More background, resources, and order information are available at the L!V Cards website (www.livcards.org). The project was funded by the Department of Allied Health Sciences and by the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute at UNC-CH.



Congratulations

to the UNC-Chapel Hill Occupational Therapy Class of 2010, which achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the National Occupational Therapy Certification Exam!

Emily Beidler	Drew Margerison
Lauren Brock	Sharon Moore
Gabe Byars	Kera Murphy
Tracy Callahan	Caroline Richardson
Shruti Cherian	Jill Riley
Lauren Ellis	Emily Shadur
Tara Farrar	Ryan Ort
Teri Forkey	Kimberly Waddell
Maria Gonzalez	Connie Wang
Latoya Harris	Jessye Warlick
Tiffany Hawkins	Stacy Wilson

Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

DEPARTMENT of
ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
UNC-CHAPEL HILL



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Postcards from International Fieldwork

The summer of 2010 was an exciting time for international Fieldwork II experiences. One of the ways students and faculty members stay in touch during fieldwork II, local or international, is an online discussion forum. With permission, we are sharing excerpts of postings from this summer.

Hedy Lent-Bews (Class of 1996) supervised two UNC-Chapel Hill Occupational Therapy students in Honduras as part of her work with Un Mundo, a nonprofit international development organization (www.unmundo.org). Students Lauren Brock and Kera Murphy posted the following reflection:

We are waiting out a rain storm before we swim/bathe in the river down the hill from the Un Mundo office. This morning, with the help of roosters, dogs, and sunlight that perpetually rises by 5:30 a.m., we awoke and sat down to breakfast with our respective families. After a short, windy ride, we began visiting various communities where later we'll return to interview families. In total, we walked about five hours along a beautiful dirt road, surrounded by lush green mountains and the winding Cangrejal River. This walk was not only to orient us to the area, but also to point out the homes of children who have already been identified through Un Mundo as having disabilities and who are currently bussed 2+ hours each way to a special education school in La Ceiba. We went to the house of one 9-year-old who has recently been having frequent seizures. Today he stayed home because he was very ill. In the next few weeks, we'll return to some of the communities we visited today as well as others further off the beaten trail to help identify children and adults with disabilities. The information we learn about the needs of these individuals will be compiled and shared with Un Mundo and the committee of parents with children already identified. Together, we hope to create recommendations that will serve to develop future services for individuals with disabilities living in the Cangrejal valley.



Lauren Brock and Kera Murphy with friends in Honduras.

Sue Coppola (Class of 1985) supervised nine OT students, including UNC-Chapel Hill student Sharon Moore, as part of the National Association for Practicing Anthropologists-OT (NAPA-OT) Field School in Guatemala, a program begun by anthropologist, Gelya Frank, PhD, and Nancie Furgang, MS, OTR/L. Here are excerpts from Sharon's posts to the discussion forum:

There are about 30 students participating [anthropology and OT] with a strong focus in each of the components on occupational justice. My site is a 70-bed residential facility for older adults who can no longer live alone and who don't have family to care for them. The facility was started by a Guatemalan woman whose mother passed away from Alzheimer's Disease. They basically rely on donations. They sometimes don't know where they're going to find food for the next day, and the staff haven't been paid in about 2-3 months, but they keep coming. There is such a lack of resources that they are in survival mode. We have been observing and interviewing the residents at Casa Maria. We pay attention to activity patterns and resident roles, how residents interact with each other, resident interactions with outsiders, etc. We've also been talking about how assistance is prioritized in Guatemala and how it is different from the U.S. For example, the U.S. often prioritizes the neediest of the needy, but in Guatemala they often prioritize help by who would benefit from it the most. One issue that has come up frequently has been the issue of ownership. Many of the residents have nothing that they can really call their own. They have community clothing and share just about everything. It's been interesting to think back about how people create meaning through places with objects, and about the importance of ownership and choice. We're still exploring some of these themes as far as what they might mean for occupations in the setting. We've also started some activity groups, and we're in the process of developing more.



Clockwise from top: Sharon Moore (Class of 2010) assists a resident with an activity at Casa Maria in San Felipe de Jesus, Guatemala. Sharon and a resident enjoy a dance. Sharon and Sue Coppola (Class of 1985).