Four dedicated and enthusiastic Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Educators were nominated by students in 2013 for the Chris Courtney Award for Excellence in Fieldwork Education. The award was established in 1996 in memory of Chris Courtney, an occupational therapist who died suddenly and unexpectedly in the same year. A champion of student education, Chris was passionate about continuing education and giving back to her profession and was described by occupational therapy students as an excellent fieldwork educator. The award recognizes Occupational Therapists who demonstrate excellence in and commitment to the clinical education of occupational therapy students.

Like Chris, this year’s nominees are outstanding role models. We congratulate the 2013 nominees:

**Nora Dun**, CBI OT Services, Victoria
**David Nelson**, Hand Therapy, Kelowna General Hospital
**Anastasia Wong**, Outpatient Hand Therapy, Vancouver General Hospital

In 2013 we have a tie! Congratulations David and Anastasia.

Anastasia’s nominator said, “Anastasia was an amazing teacher for a complex subject. I often got overwhelmed with the amount of knowledge hand therapy requires and she would break it down...She gave constructive and helpful feedback constantly, which I found helpful as opposed to having to wait until a formal feedback session.”

David has been recognized for his passion and for his ability to build trust within the preceptor-student relationship. Quoting his nominator, “David’s enthusiasm and passion for educating is second only to his enthusiasm and passion for hand therapy. As such, he challenged me throughout placement to learn more and think more critically which greatly facilitated the continued development of my clinical reasoning. Mutual trust and respect fostered our open communication throughout the placement. David was able to provide ongoing constructive feedback, as well as positive feedback, to facilitate my learning.”

UBC is proud of the contributions that Anastasia, David, Patti, and Nora make to the profession by acting as role models and creating exceptional learning environments for occupational therapists throughout British Columbia.

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Rehabilitation Research Program, Vancouver Coastal Health

The Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute announced the formal recognition of its newest research program, the Rehabilitation Research Program. Rehabilitation research is an essential part of Vancouver Coastal Health’s mandate to advance knowledge and practice that help people maximize their abilities after injury or disability.

The Rehabilitation Research Program aims to:

1) Discover innovative solutions to optimize the outcomes of rehabilitation and improve the lives of those with disabilities and their families.

2) Translate rehabilitation discoveries so that ongoing research will result in practices that improve outcomes for patients and their families.

3) Train the next generation of rehabilitation researchers.

4) Share knowledge and expertise, so that people around the world can benefit from new rehabilitation discoveries.

Core faculty currently have academic or clinical appointments with UBC (Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Department of Physical Therapy), and are affiliated with the GF Strong Rehab Centre. Co-leaders, Drs. Janice Eng and Bill Miller are complemented by other senior faculty (Drs. Andrei Krassioukov, Hugh Anton, Andrea Townson) and several emerging clinician-scientists (e.g., Drs. Noah Silverberg and Patricia Mills are both VCHRI Mentored Clinician Scientists; Ben Mortenson is a new Assistant Professor). Current faculty funding includes the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Rick Hansen Institute and Christopher Reeve Foundation. Examples of current research include the development of a telehealth chronic disease management program; evaluation of a novel wheelchair skills program delivered by computer tablet, development of innovative cognitive behavioural therapies for people with persistent post-concussion syndrome, and evaluation of an education program for emergency room staff on the management of the life-threatening condition of autonomic dysreflexia after spinal cord injury.

Through research, the Rehabilitation Research Program will support the Vancouver Coastal Health to provide the best rehabilitation care possible. This research will maximize recovery and improve the quality of life of people living with disability.
Student Awards

UBC Affiliated Fellowship Award

The Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is very proud to acknowledge Laura Bulk, second year Master of Occupational Therapy student, who received a UBC Affiliated Fellowship Award. The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies offers approximately 50 Affiliated Fellowships each year to meritorious students on the basis of academic excellence and research potential. Congratulations, Laura!

Rising Star Award

The Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) has chosen Bita Imam to receive this year’s Rising Star Award. The award is given by the Institute to recognize and celebrate research trainees for their outstanding contributions to and achievements in health research. Bita is a PhD candidate in Rehabilitation Sciences and her passion for her field of study is evident in her volunteer activities and charity work. Way to go!

Michael Lee Featured in Healthy UBC

Michael Lee was featured in Healthy UBC in September. In the segment “Thriving Faculty”, Michael outlined his holistic view of the relationship between student mental health, and wellbeing and learning. “We all know the importance of a balanced diet,” Michael said. “Likewise, a balanced life that also attends to mental wellness is important for healthy living.” Michael offered a few pointers for staying healthy, and is particularly proud of his work with the Mental Health Awareness Club. This student-led initiative aims to create a healthier campus by increasing mental health awareness and eliminating the stigma of mental illness. Students from various disciplines, different faculties and various backgrounds work together through various events and programs. “One project that we started last year is a campus-wide mental health needs assessment. Using participatory action research approach, we invited students to tell us about their perspectives on stresses on campus, and identify ways to address these stresses. In addition to knowing more about students’ perspective about stress, this project helped participants to know more about stress issues on campus and supported them to develop strategies to build resilience against stresses.”

This year, the Club is rolling out another needs assessment to look at mental health stigma, and how stigma impacts student life. Through these participatory research activities, we hope we can draw campus attention to mental health and mental illness issues and to enable our community to develop strategies to address these concerns. Our ultimate goal is to help the community to build capacity in creating a healthy learning environment for our future generations.

Read the full interview at http://www.hr.ubc.ca/healthy-ubc-newsletter/2013/09/03/thriving-faculty-featuring-michael-lee/#sthash.us6Odpkp.dpuf
Old and New at Beaty Biodiversity Museum

OSOT enjoys connecting with the OT community a couple of times a year, so on September 25, the department hosted another “Night at the Museum” event. Held at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum on campus, the evening honoured Margaret Hood, founding member of Rehab Medicine at UBC, whose 100th birthday would have occurred that day. Not only was the venue striking and intriguing, it was also appropriate, since the Beaty Museum had been built on the site which once held “the Huts” - the small buildings where Miss Hood first worked when she was active in the School of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Miss Hood’s nephew, Randy Paterson, and her close friends, the Laidlaw family, were among more than 80 people in attendance, including occupational therapists, students, alumni and friends. After gathering, visiting, and enjoying hors d’oeuvres, guests were treated to a presentation looking back to our department’s beginnings in the School of Rehab Medicine with a history of forward-thinking founding member, Margaret Hood. Then from our oldest member to our newest ones, Ben Mortenson and Jill Zwicker took the podium to give overviews of their research, giving us a glimpse ahead to what the next generation of researchers, teachers, and mentors will bring to the department. Then our guests were released into the museum archives to visit further with one another and explore the exhibits of everything from the oldest fossils to the newest high-tech images of microbial life; from the tiniest insects to the largest blue whale skeleton on exhibit in Canada.

Look for our next alumni event on November 2 at the Westin Wall Centre when the department hosts its second annual alumni luncheon following the COTBC Annual General Meeting. We trust that it, too, will be a whale of a good time.


The Laidlaws: Faye, Dave, Ian, Bev, and Heather, who told us, “Marg Hood was a dear family friend, like an Aunt to us, & I’m thrilled to hear about this celebration.”

UBC Alumna Receives CAOT-BC Award

Sarabjeet Charchun, BSc(OT) class of 1998, is the 2013 recipient of the CAOT-BC Outstanding Occupational Therapist Award.

Congratulations Sarabjeet!
The Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy supports three graduate academic programs.

- The Master in Occupational Therapy (MOT) program, for those looking to practice professionally as an Occupational Therapist;
- The Master of Science (MSc) and PhD programs in Rehabilitation Sciences, for those interested in research credentials and the science of occupation; and
- The online Master of Rehabilitation Science (MRSc) for practitioners interested in obtaining a graduate degree that will advance their career and be obtained while working.

UBC Master of Rehabilitation Science Fall OT Grads:
Revitalizing Practice and Careers

Kim Durlacher, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, BC
One of the best parts of MRSc studies Kim points to “Reconnecting with the theory (new and historical) that compliments my clinical practice, from the lens of an experienced OT, thus revitalizing my practice.” Skills gained benefited her workplace too she says, including “funding as a result of a program proposal, implementation of resource materials, and completion of a research project.”

Abigail Hayes, Acting OT Team Lead Neuro, Worthing UK
Abbie comments, “Completing the masters has increased my confidence at work and has enabled me to gain employment in the current difficult employment market in the UK. Most recently it has provided me with the required underlying skills to change my field of practice and take on a leadership role.”

Beth Makepeace, Vancouver, England then Edmonton, AB
Studying online let Beth set the pace while working and moving countries. She says, “I loved that I could continue...courses no matter where I lived.” Also that “content "continued to be useful and applicable wherever I worked, including internationally.” A new mother during her research project, she “found it inspiring and comforting that other students in the program were also raising young families.”

Karin Werther, OT Clinical Educator, Interprofessional Student Services, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hosp, Edmonton, AB
Feeling stagnated in her role and wanting a new challenge, during the MRSc Karin “loved the practicality and applicability of the new knowledge. I was able to directly implement the new information in my job.” A new role came in the midst of her MRSc clinical education research project that involved peers.