New Graduate Certificates Launched

Just in time for the fall 2013 academic year, three new graduate certificates were approved, with the first students to be enrolled in September 2013.

The programs target the continuing education needs of occupational therapists and other professionals who want to study but don’t necessarily want or need a full graduate degree. Current Dalhousie graduate students may be able to incorporate a certificate or a single course into their program of study. The three Certificates are:

- **Chronic condition self-management** – an approach currently being adopted across settings, jurisdictions and disciplines in Canada and beyond to help people with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiopulmonary disease, mental illness, and/or neurological conditions such as MS manage their health and everyday life.

- **Aging and continuing care** – an increasingly important topic in health, social and community services due to the aging of our population.

- **Diversity and inclusion** – an important area for health, social and educational services in order to meet the needs of vulnerable groups in an increasingly diverse Canadian population.

New Home - Disability Management Program

In early 2013, the School of Occupational Therapy became the new home for the Disability Management Program, further extending our program offerings. Fully online, this four course certificate is a great option for undergraduate students from many different programs who may want to work in the field of disability management. The four courses, taught by highly qualified disability management consultants, are offered in each of three terms: fall, winter and spring.

Faculty and Staff Highlights

**Dr. Diane MacKenzie and Carmel O’Keefe graduated in May 2013.**

**Congratulations!**

In October 2012, **Diane MacKenzie** defended her Interdisciplinary Phd thesis “What are you looking at? Investigating visual observational behaviour of occupational therapists and untrained observers”. Under the supervision of Dr. David Westood, Health and Human Performance, Diane used eye-tracking methodology to investigate observation patterns during safety decision-making skills for
Instructor Carmel O’Keefe completed the leadership stream of the MSc (OT – Post-Professional) program. The capstone, eight month practicum course of the Master of Science program, completed with the Halifax YWCA – WISH program, produced a grant application, full-time fieldwork placements for five ELP MSc(OT) students and further strengthened the partnership between the community organization and School of Occupational Therapy.

In April of 2013, Dr. Brenda Merritt was awarded the Faculty of Health Professions Teaching Excellence Award. This award recognizes not only her innovative and supportive teaching style but also her ongoing contribution to curriculum development and mapping within professional programs.

Congratulations to Brenda Head, MSc (OT – Post-Professional) on her retirement. Brenda has been a pioneer from the time she began her career in St. John’s Newfoundland and Labrador in the late 1960’s to today. Her activism with the Atlantic occupational therapy leaders helped found the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University. While Brenda retained a small clinical practice for many years, she also completed her masters’ degree and launched the School’s Continuing Professional Development program with innovations in mixed delivery online and onsite options. Now Brenda has retired from her best known role as the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Fieldwork Education Coordinator which she has held since the School opened in 1982. In this role, she introduced diverse student supervision models, and partnered with researchers and practitioners in the development of a Community of Practice to discuss ways of linking theory and practice. At the very least, Brenda Head deserves to be recognized as an outstanding leader in fieldwork education – not only in Newfoundland and Labrador, but throughout Atlantic Canada and Canada. More broadly, Brenda Head deserves to be recognized as one of Canada’s long serving, innovative occupational therapists.

Master of Science (Occupational Therapy Entry Level)

In 2012-13, 56 students graduated from the MSc (OT Entry Level) program. A total of 60 new students were admitted; 44 from Atlantic Canada and 16 from outside Atlantic Canada. We are proud of the number of students from diverse backgrounds and experience admitted this year. In collaboration with the practice community, a total of 168 full-time fieldwork placements and 60 part-time placements were provided.

Master of Science (Occupational Therapy post professional)

Two new students were admitted in the Thesis Stream and 3 new students in the Practice Leader Stream in the post professional master’s program bringing the total enrollment to 19 students (Research Thesis Stream – 12; Practice Leader Stream – 7).

Congratulations to Rebecca Cabell, Susan Jurczak (Posthumously), Marie-Claude Messier, and Jill Phillips who successfully completed their post professional degrees and graduated in October 2012.

Congrats are also extended to Nancy Boutcher, Darla King, Kerrie Luck and Carmel O’Keefe who successfully completed their post professional degrees and graduated this past May 2013!
Lunch and Learn

The Lunch and Learn series was successfully overseen by Mari Bassiletti again this year. This lunch time presentation series is delivered via teleconference, with therapists from across Atlantic Canada participating as both presenters and participants.

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<tr>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Morrison</td>
<td>Driving Assessment and Community Mobility Following a Stroke</td>
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<td>Shelley McKibbon</td>
<td>Literature Searching for Occupational Therapy Professionals</td>
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<td>Alice Rose</td>
<td>Early Intervention Following Mild Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
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<td>Pam McCaskill</td>
<td>Power Wheelchair Drive Controls</td>
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<td>Lisa Hutchings</td>
<td>Using the COPM as a Rehabilitation Team Outcome Measure</td>
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<td>Lisa Dennis</td>
<td>Northern Experience – Sharing My Experience of Working With Aboriginal Youth</td>
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<td>Leslie McLean</td>
<td>When Helping Hurts: Understanding Compassion Fatigue</td>
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<th>Winter 2013</th>
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<td>Krista Porter</td>
<td>Picking the Correct Power Base</td>
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<td>Axel Wilson</td>
<td>The Rotator Cuff Muscles and the Glenohumeral Joint of the Shoulder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Axel Wilson</td>
<td>The Hand and its Intricacies: A Clinically Oriented Approach</td>
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<td>Heidi Lauckner</td>
<td>Age-friendly Communities: A Way of Enabling Occupation at the Community Level</td>
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<td>Darla King</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy and Inclusion in Child Care Environments</td>
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| Jason Lomond         | Medical Acupuncture as a Tool to Enable Occupational Performance |
| Jennifer Saunders    | Innovation in Practice Education                                |

New Research Grants

Beagan, B. (PI), Dalhousie SSHRC Research Development Funds ($3,500) for LGBTQ identity, religion and spirituality

Brown, M., Hutchinson, S., & Lauckner, H. Dalhousie FHP ($2,500) for Collaborative Community Practice and Social Determinants of Health – mini course

Burge, F., Martin-Misener, R. (PIs), Asada, Y., Brown, M., Marshall, E., Murphy, A., McNally, M., Natarajan, N., Piccinini, H., Sampalli, T., Warner, G., Vallis, M., & Whelan, A.M (Co-PIs) Strategic research Initiative Fund (SRIF; Dalhousie University) ($200,000) for Primary Healthcare: The foundation of the health care system getting stronger

Campbell, M. (PI), Dieleman, C. & Karabanow, J. University of New Brunswick, St. John’s Centre for Criminal Justice Studies. ($10,000) for Prospective evaluation of the Nova Scotia Mental Health Court program: Phase 1.

Dieleman, C. (PI), Hughes, J. (Co-PI), Kaiser, A., & Bayers, L. Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, Research Establishment Grant. ($142,203) for Understanding how social determinants of health affect the criminalization of people with mental health problems

Hickey, E., Lauckner, H. (Co-PIs), Godden-Webster (Associate), Isenor, J. (Co-I), & Hayes, V. (Associate), NSHRF REDI Research Team Development Award ($9,976) for Capturing the
Impact of Collaborative Practice in Long-Term Care: The Nova Scotian Context

**Lauckner, H., & Leclair (Co-Pis), Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation ($4,973) for Occupational Therapy Practice Processes at the Community Level**

**Lauckner, H., (Pi), Hutchinson, S. (Co-I), FHP Research Development Grant ($4,893) for Community-based peer support among adults living with chronic conditions in rural settings – developing a peer support framework in partnership with the community**

**Lauckner, H., & Hutchinson, S. (Co-Pis), Nova Scotia Health Research (NSHRF) Foundation Knowledge Sharing Support Award ($9,846) for Integrated Knowledge Sharing and Planning for Community-Based Chronic Condition Self-Management**

**MacKenzie, D.E., Boe, S., Short, C., & Saric, A., Faculty of Health Professions Research Fund ($5,000) for Therapeutic Management Practices with Clients Experiencing Spasticity: Current trends in assessment, intervention selection, outcome measures and interprofessional collaboration.**


**Packer, T.L., & Doucet, S., Alexiadis-Brown, Andrews, C., Godden-Webster, A., Lauckner, H., & MacKenzie, D., Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University ($2,300) for The Interprofessional Dalhousie Health Mentors Program (HMP): Assessing Student Outcomes (ASORT)**

**Stadnyk, R. (PI), Dalhousie University, Faculty of Health Professions Research Development Grant ($4,973) for Developing a Collaborative Research Project in the area of Community Music Making: An Occupational View**

**Warner, G. (PI), Hutchinson, S. (Co-I), & Dill, D. Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University ($5,000) for Collaboratively developing a self-management intervention for older care partners**

**Warner, G. (PI), Hutchinson, S. (Co-I), Genoe, R., Reashore, J., Robbins, J., Cassidy, K.L., & Figueiredo, L., NSHRF (team development grant) ($6,991) for Self-management support for care partners during the transition home**

### Publications 2012/13


Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Tanya L. Packer, PhD, OT Reg. (NS) Professor and Director

Book Chapters


