

# UW-L Occupational Therapy Program

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Edited by: Emily Mayer

## Inter-Professional Model of Patient Care Training

By: Rebecca Frett

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's occupational therapy students have participated in two Inter-Professional Education experiences this spring. Second year students participated in the Inter-Professional Model of Patient Care Training event at Viterbo University. UW-L's occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant students and Viterbo University's nurse, social work, and dietetic students did a case study together using a standardized patient. Students collaborated with each other to design a plan for interviewing the patient, delegating specific areas of concern and to the expertise of appropriate professions, to determine a joint plan of care.

The first year students joined UW-L's first year physical therapy and physician assistant students to plan evaluation and intervention for a case study at a different event. These experiences provided students from all professions the opportunity to experience effectively communicating and collaborating with an inter-professional healthcare team. Interacting with other students allowed each discipline to develop a better understanding of the roles of other healthcare professionals. Overall, these were great learning experiences for occupational therapy students that will help them-navigate an inter-professional team with increased confidence in the future.



## Distinguished Lecture

By Bridget Daly

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA presented as the SOTA and UW-L occupational therapy program distinguished lecturer. Dr. Gillen's presentation took place in the new student union to over 140 clinicians and students. The focus of the lecture was on evidence base neurorehabilitation including performance-based assessments for injuries impacting cognition, cognitive strategies used in conjunction with task-oriented training, and strategies to address ataxia and movement disorders. Dr. Gillen's extensive knowledge and charismatic personality made for a very meaningful day.



## Critically Appraised Topics

Every fall semester, the 2nd year occupational therapy students research a specific topic of their interest. They are required to find and critique three research articles on their topic, synthesize the research, and present their findings to their fellow classmates, professors, and local clinicians. This year the topics included were resting hand splints, robotic arms, driving simulation for veterans, mirror therapy, and treatment for Parkinson's. These CATS are published on the UW-L program website.

By Emily Mayer

## Go Baby Go

By Sarah Weber

In the spring of 2016, UW-L students and professor Laura Schaffer introduced the Go Baby Go project for the La Crosse community. The Go Baby Go organization works to provide self-driven transportation for children who have limited mobility. Materials such as pool noodles, PVC pipes, kickboards, power tools, and foam are used to construct, adapt, & modify a motorized toy car. The occupational therapy and physical therapy students were given the opportunity to collaborate to plan and adapt different cars for children's specific needs. It's amazing to see the child's faces when they were able to move around by themselves in their own environment for the first time! With the help from generous donors, these "builds" happen twice a year, with a total of 7 cars adapted thus far!



## Recently Hired Faculty

By Emily Mayer, Hannah Lukin, and Dana Sopkowiak



Laura Schaffer, MA, OTR joined the UW-L faculty in 2015. She is a graduate from the St. Katherine's Occupational Therapy program and started her work at Children's Hospital in the Twin Cities. She then worked in inpatient acute rehab at Viroqua for one year and Gundersen for ten years. Laura started a spinal cord injury support group at Gundersen and the Go Baby Bo program at UW-L. She is in the process of getting her clinical doctorate. Laura's passion lies in working with people with physical dysfunction and spinal cord injuries.

Amy Mason, MS, OTR joined the faculty in 2016. Previously she taught at the Milwaukee Area Technical School Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. She practiced as an occupational therapist and assistive technology coordinator in the school district of Menomonie Falls, WI. Amy is passionate about a variety of different areas: pediatrics, assistive technology, universal design learning, sensory processing, executive functioning and self-regulation.



Angela Benfield, PhD, OTR joined the faculty in 2016. She is a UW-Milwaukee graduate and has practiced occupational therapy in pediatrics (birth to three, NICU, and school-based) for the past 25 years. Angie is passionate about critical clinical reasoning and evidence-informed professional thinking. She has developed a measure that allows us to understand the habits of critical thinking and EBP. Currently, she is working on a project with Linda Robertson of New Zealand, examining curricular implications of this model for occupational therapy education.

## Retirement of Dr. Denton, Program Director

By Mackinzie Ista

Dr. Peggy Denton is retiring in August of this year after being the UW-La Crosse Occupational Therapy Program Director for the past 14 years. She has had an amazing career over a span of 45 years that includes a clinical expertise in mental health and education, 25 years of teaching to more than 1,000 students, two dozen continuing education workshops for AOTA that have focused on using theory in mental health to plan and provide treatment, guest lecturing at multiple universities, consulting with other universities to improve their occupational therapy program outcomes, serving on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (ROE) of ACOTE/AOTA, serving on the board of directors for NBCOT, holding several positions in WOTA, and she was made a fellow of AOTA in 1998. In her retirement, Dr. Denton plans to do lots of traveling and will stop at every quilt shop that she sees along the way. She is also exploring different volunteer opportunities to take part in as she cannot imagine not being of service to someone, even in her retirement. Dr. Denton will be greatly missed here at UW-L, but we wish her luck and happiness in her retirement!