Proposal

As part of the Occupational Therapy curriculum, an optional International Perspectives in Occupational Therapy course is offered for students in the graduate program at the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse (UW-L). This course is also offered for students attending the Robert Gordon University (RGU) of Aberdeen, Scotland. Through video conferencing, traveling, and hosting, students from both universities are able to compare and contrast their countries’ Occupational Therapy practices, health care systems, and cultures. We have chosen the travel option, as well as to participate in the video conference and to assist in hosting the RGU students.

As part of our services for the Office of International Education (OIE) we propose to give an informal presentation to our clinical supervisors and the students in the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club. We feel our experiences will be particularly beneficial to share with others interested in the Occupational Therapy profession due to the specific nature of our travels.

Following our return from Scotland on March 24th, 2008, a presentation will be given within one month to the Pre-Occupational Therapy students during their club meetings. This service will consist of a one hour power point presentation and discussion sharing our experiences in Scotland. Our power point will include information about living with another student in Scotland, major differences between the Scottish and American cultures, and our experiences relating to Occupational Therapy and the health care systems while in the United Kingdom. We will bring Scottish mementoes including pictures, recipes, and information on sites visited. The presentation will be complimented with a handout including information regarding the course, general
information about Scotland, and the similarities and differences we found between the Scottish and American cultures. This presentation will give students an opportunity to learn more about the international option in the Occupational Therapy program and spark an interest in traveling through the UW-L OIE.

The following two services will be given to our Occupational Therapy fieldwork supervisors during our six month internships. It will include an informal discussion about our experiences while in Scotland and the international course offered at UW-L. The hour long service will occur during lunch. One service will be during our summer internship, June 16th-September 5th, 2008. The second service will be during our fall internship, September 29th-December 19th, 2008. Amber Sedam will be at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI for the summer semester and at Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in Woodbury, MN for the fall semester. Bridget Hahn will be at Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison, WI for the summer semester and at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, KY for the fall semester. This will help expose clinicians from different locations, who practice in different specialties of Occupational Therapy, to the international options available to Occupational Therapy students at UW-L. This may also open an opportunity for the clinicians to get involved with international course by having a Scottish student come to their facility to learn more about the similarities and differences between Occupational Therapy practices.

Our service proposal is unique in that it benefits a specific population of Occupational Therapy students and professionals. It will encourage not only future Occupational Therapy students but also practicing clinicians to get involved with international education.