

# Salem State College

## Schools of Human Services

### Occupational Therapy Department Newsletter

#### Message From The Chairperson:

**Welcome back to the 2009 Spring semester.** I hope that everyone enjoyed the time off to get some much needed rest and you are refreshed and ready to begin a new semester. The OT faculty members were very busy during the Fall semester transitioning into our new faculty positions. Jeramie Silveira, the previous Department Chairperson for nine years is now the Graduate Coordinator for the OT Program, and Jean MacLachlan, the previous Graduate Coordinator has now become the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. I have taken over as the Chairperson after completing nine years as the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. We are very excited to be taking on new roles and look forward to continued program growth and development.

We will no longer be printing out the OT Newsletters due to the high costs of printing and materials. The newsletter will be sent to you electronically via email and it will also be posted on the department web site page. **Please keep the faculty informed of any changes in your email address or mailing address by contacting our Administrative Assistant Christina Patuleia at 978-542-6693.**

#### **Student Updates:**

**Class of 2009** The class of 2009 is getting ready to present their research projects at the annual graduate student conference. They have done an incredible job planning and preparing for this event which will take place on Saturday, April 4th, 2009. Mary Law from McMaster University in Canada will be the keynote speaker. Please come and support your fellow classmates and enjoy the day networking, visiting vendor booths, and attending sessions. This cohort is completing their final level II fieldwork and will be allowed to take the national certification examination this summer. Congratulations to this wonderful and talented group of eleven students. They will enjoy their OT pinning ceremony on Saturday April 18th at Victoria Station Restaurant in Salem. We all look forward to this much deserved celebration.

**Class of 2010** The class of 2010 has been busy completing their research courses and preparing for their conference which will be held in the Spring 2010. They are a small cohort of eight students with much diversity in their OT experiences. They will begin their first level II fieldwork this coming summer. Keep up the great work. You are heading into the home stretch.

**Class of 2011** The class of 2011 has had a very busy first year acclimating to the course schedule. They will begin their first level I fieldwork this Spring semester. This group of eleven students has considerable energy and has done a wonderful job working together as a group. Keep up the good work that you are completing. We look forward to many good things from this group.

## Message From The Chairperson: (Continued)

Prerequisite Students: For those students taking prerequisite courses, keep moving forward one semester at a time and before you know it, you will be soon entering an OT class cohort. For those students who are completing all of their prerequisite courses this semester, please contact Christian Patuleia at 978-542-6693 to schedule a time to take the competency examination. You must complete the examination and pass all four sections in order to register for the OT summer courses.

We have admitted sixteen new students to the program this academic year. Welcome to all of the new students. Please remember that it is mandatory that you meet with you OT advisor either by phone or in person at least one time each semester to prepare for registration and to make sure that you are moving forward in the program.

We will be hosting the mandatory student informational meeting on two evenings this semester. The first choice is Tuesday, February 3rd at 4:30 or on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:00PM. Please choose one of these dates to attend. We hope to see all present as we update you on important program changes. It is imperative that you notify Christina Patuleia, the OT Administrative Assistant if you are unable to attend.

Salem State College Web Site: This Spring, Salem State College will launch a completely new website for the college. The OT Department will no longer be printing student manuals, newsletters, and various other publications. With changes in the economy, it is essential that we try to keep printing and paper costs down and post most news items electronically. Please take time each semester to familiarize yourself with changes made to the OT Program web site and print out copies of any posted publications. Thank you.

Summer Prerequisite Course Offerings: The following prerequisite support courses will be offered this summer:

SWK 270 Race, Class & Ethnicity Will be offered in Summer I on Monday and Wednesday  
Other Course Announcements to follow at the student meeting.

To My Advisees: Please contact me this semester to address your schedule and to discuss updates. I may be reached at 978-542-7015 or email [Jeanne.corcoran@salemstate.edu](mailto:Jeanne.corcoran@salemstate.edu)

Have a wonderful and healthy Spring semester.

Jeanne Corcoran, OTD, OTR/L  
Department Chairperson

## MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE COORDINATOR

### Spring Graduation Forms:

Students who intend to graduate in May 2009 must have their intent to graduate form submitted to the Registrar's Office by **January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. The link to the form is as follows on the Salem State website, <http://www.salemstate.edu/registrar>

Then click on the link that says: [May 2009 Graduate Application for Degree](#)

### Graduate School Applications:

Students applying to the Master's portion of the program must have their completed applications submitted to the graduate school **by May 31, 2008**. Please go to the graduate OT website for further information regarding the graduate application requirements at <http://www.salemstate.edu/graduate/bmssoct>. You must then submit an application to graduate from the Bachelor's program in the fall of 2009 by the end of June to Megan Miller in the Registrar's Office. For more information go to <http://www.salemstate.edu/registrar>

### Graduate Student Research Conference:

Please remember that the Graduate Student Research Conference is on **Saturday, April 4, 2009 in the Ellison Campus Center from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Registration begins in February, see the OT website for more details. [www.salemstate.edu/oct](http://www.salemstate.edu/oct)

### Summer Courses:

New students expecting to take OCT 400N and OCT 401 this summer must contact Christina Patuleia, department secretary, to schedule a time to take the competency exam. Students who have not passed the exam may not begin the professional OT courses. **It is important that students read the competency exam handbook and take time to study information from all practice areas prior to taking the exam.** The competency exam handbook is available on the OT website [www.salemstate.edu/oct](http://www.salemstate.edu/oct) then click on student resources. Christina can be reached at 978-542-6693.

### Department Website Update:

All student manuals including the OT Graduate School Manual are available on the OT department website and can be downloaded from [www.salemstate.edu/oct](http://www.salemstate.edu/oct) then click the link for student resources

### My Advisees

To all of my advisees, please make sure you meet with me at least once this semester either by phone or in person. Email me at [jeramie.silveira@salemstate.edu](mailto:jeramie.silveira@salemstate.edu) or call me at 978-542-6694.

Jeramie Silveira  
Graduate Coordinator

## Message from the Fieldwork Coordinator

With a new calendar year, come new stages of our education. The students of the class of 2009 have completed their coursework and are eagerly participating in their final level II fieldwork. We have placed students in diverse settings including: Franciscan Children's Hospital, Family Service of RI Early Intervention Program, Beverly School for the Deaf, Project Child, South Shore Therapies, Whittier Rehabilitation, Tewksbury State Hospital, Salem Hospital, Southshore Educational Collaborative and Stepping Stones. While participating in their fieldwork, this talented group of students continues to complete their research and plan the SSC Occupational Therapy Graduate Research Conference for Saturday April 4, 2009.

Students from the Class of 2010 will be participating in geriatric based level I fieldwork settings. Additionally, the students from the class of 2011 will be participating in their first level I fieldwork, in psychosocial settings.

We are always looking to expand our fieldwork setting opportunities, especially in non-traditional and/or community settings. Anyone who is aware of such settings is asked to email contact information to the fieldwork coordinator.

Enjoy your semester. Please feel free to stop by my office, or email me with any questions, concerns or comments related to fieldwork or advising. All of my advisees are asked to contact me by early February with an update of your flowsheet and course plan.

Sincerely,

Jean MacLachlan, MS, OTR/L  
jmaclachlan@salemstate.edu  
978-542-7009

**“Once you recognize within yourself a hunger for something beyond just continuing, once you taste even the possibility of touching the meaning enfolded in your life, you can never be completely content with just going through the motions. There is no going back. Learning cannot be undone. The wisdom touched in moments of real intimacy penetrate the soul with knowledge of who and what we are. It transforms us.” Oriah Mountain Dreamer**