Universal design – it’s not just for buildings any more! Universal design has morphed into strategies and methods that support individuals to learn more effectively and efficiently. Called UDL (universal design for learning), creators have developed instructional practices that support learning from a holistic perspective, ideally allowing faculty members to bypass the need for unique adaptations for individuals with special learning needs in their classrooms because the accommodations are already integrated into their pedagogical approaches.

Cathy Schelly, MEd, OTR, Principle Investigator and Marla Roll, MS, OTR, Co-PI, are in the midst of training CSU faculty to utilize UDL principles in their classrooms due to a three-year $800,000 grant from the Department of Education. In providing an overview of the grant, Cathy noted, “one of the project’s main goals is to provide university educators with the skills, information and technical assistance they need to deliver their course content in ways that are accessible to the broadest range of students, regardless of their learning style, dominant language or learning challenges, thus increasing the likelihood of their academic success.”

“Presenting course material in a variety of styles and formats, encouraging students to actively engage in the learning process in multiple ways and allowing students to express their understanding of the material in more than one format are three of the pedagogical principles that the project staff are bringing to life for faculty as they work with them to create ‘pedagogical curb-cuts’ to enhance student learning,” commented Marla, discussing some of the specific UDL strategies. Universal design for learning integrates accessibility and usability tenets; it also utilizes research on effective teaching methods to round out the framework for inclusive pedagogy. Its value is that it strengthens university outcomes such as student retention and graduation rates by enhancing student learning and faculty teaching strategies simultaneously. It is indeed a win-win educational approach.

“The Occupational Therapy Department is proud to be the leader of this important effort,” said Department Head, Dr. Jodie Hanzlik. “We look forward to enhancing student learning and faculty instruction in the short term. In the long term, we look forward to integrating the UDL philosophy into the fabric of CSU pedagogy. How fortunate we are to have been awarded a grant that not only serves to enhance the daily occupations of students and faculty, but further defines the parameters of what we do as occupational therapists.”

To learn more about the Occupational Therapy Department’s UDL project, visit: http://accessproject.colostate.edu.
Making Changes, Maintaining Core Beliefs

“Our longstanding energy and passion and our commitment to excellence, respect, integrity, honesty and civility reflect not only what we believe in, but our everyday behavior as well. Our beliefs and behaviors are part of our CSU OT culture, nurtured over the years by each and every student who has graduated from our program; those values keep us moving, we are those values….”

Jodie Redditi Hanzlik, Department Head
The department will be undergoing some changes over the next year. As you may know, I have been in the department for a long time – 22 years as a faculty member and the last 10 years as department head. It’s been a wonderful professional and personal journey! Our department is outstanding: faculty, staff and students! Our longstanding energy and passion and our commitment to excellence, respect, integrity, honesty and civility reflect not only what we believe in, but our every day behavior as well. Our beliefs and behaviors are part of our CSU OT culture, nurtured over the years by each and every student who has graduated from our program; those values keep us moving, we are those values... I have always been very proud to be a member of the Occupational Therapy Department. So it is with bitter sweet feelings that I announce that I will be taking a position in the Graduate School in January 2007 as the Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs – It truly has been an honor for me to serve the alumni, students, faculty and staff as department head.

I will be leaving the department with an incredibly strong leader in the position of Interim Head, Dr. Karen Spencer. Karen has been with the department for 23 years and recently served the department as the Project Director for our Program of Excellence award; she was instrumental in planning and implementing the departmental improvements supported by the award. The Adapted Garden, the Assistive Technology Lab and more are the result of Karen’s work with the faculty and her ability to give life to the department’s vision of excellence. We have already begun a nationwide search for a permanent department head. We are working hard to fill this position with someone who will continue to move our department forward with the love and passion it deserves!

Over my years as department head, I have asked you to invest in our department. Many of you have responded to my fund-raising requests and those generous efforts have succeeded in such outcomes as the endowment of a student scholarship in Wanda Mayberry’s name and the initiation of a technology fund to assist us in maintaining our Assistive Technology Lab.

Today, I am asking you one last time as department head, for your support. This time - with a different twist! I am challenging YOU, along with all of our alumni, friends, faculty, staff and student body to join me in making a donation! The only way we can maintain and enhance our long-time reputation of excellence is to support the department we know as a national and international leader for setting the standard for teaching, research, service and outreach.

No donation is too small. Please join me in making a clear statement about our commitment to the excellence of the Occupational Therapy Department at Colorado State University! Let’s reach a participation goal of 100%!!

My Best to Each of You,

Jodie Redditi Hanzlik, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA
Professor and Head
Evaluating “CIT” Effectiveness

Project IMPACT uses an intervention known as constraint-induced therapy (CIT) to encourage recovery in the stroke-affected side. Participants in CIT spend six consecutive hours per day practicing movement skills with their stroke-affected arm and hand for a period of two weeks. At the same time, participants are required to wear a padded mitt on the unaffected hand for 90 percent of their waking hours.

Stroke or “brain attack,” as it is sometimes called, is the leading cause of long-term disability in the United States. Accordingly, most survivors of stroke experience some degree of difficulty with movement which impacts their ability to carrying out their every-day responsibilities and their activities of daily living.

Dr. Matt Malcolm is investigating a novel therapy designed to dramatically improve how much and how well the person is able to use his or her stroke-affected arm. This $1 million study, called project IMPACT, is a multi-center clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health, and is currently ongoing at CSU, University of Florida, and University of South Carolina.

Although several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of CIT, the most effective elements of the treatment are not known. Likewise, more research is needed on making the CIT intervention fit with the current model of healthcare and rehabilitation in the U.S. Project IMPACT will answer both of these questions by studying the various elements of CIT and also testing a home-based version of the treatment.

“Our goal with project IMPACT, is to develop a better idea of how to design and carry out effective therapies for people with strokes,” says Malcolm. This goal fits well with the mission of Dr. Malcolm’s NeuroRehabilitation Research Laboratory at CSU: to establish the most effective therapeutic approaches to assist individuals with neurological damage to return to independent living and an enjoyable quality of life. “At the end of the day, we want to know how to make the process of rehabilitation better for people with stroke and we want to provide therapists with more research-supported strategies for ensuring this process,” says Malcolm. Visit the NeuroRehabilitation Research Laboratory website at: www.cahs.colostate.edu/nrrl for additional information.

“Our goal is to develop a better idea of how to design and carry out effective therapies for people with strokes.”

– Dr. Matt Malcolm, OTR
The annual research symposium has been established to honor graduating students and to celebrate their research. April 25, 2007 is the date of this year’s 6th Annual Research Symposium. Dr. Manfred Diehl, Professor and Director of CSU’s Center on Aging will be the keynote speaker.

Colorado State University
Department of Occupational Therapy

announces

The Fifth Annual Research Symposium

Sensory Processing Disorders: Linking Science to Practice

Keynote Speaker
Lucy Jane Miller, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA

Tuesday, May 2, 2006
1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sensory Processing Disorders:
Linking Science to Practice

1:00 p.m.  Welcome

1:15 p.m.  “Validating Sensory Processing Disorders by Examining Brain Physiology”
Patti Davies, Ph.D., OTR
Colorado State University, Department of Occupational Therapy

2:15 p.m.  Graduate Student Evidence-Based Research Poster Session

3:00 p.m.  “Utilizing Sensory Processing Strategies in the Classroom”
Louise Belleau, M.S., OTR
Advance Therapy, Inc., Fort Collins
Elena Dearth, OTR
Poudre R-1 School District, Fort Collins

4:30 p.m.  “Sensory Processing Disorders: A Journey for Recognition”
Lucy Jane Miller, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA
KID Foundation

5:30 p.m.  Reception and Book Signing for Dr. Miller’s book, Sensational Kids: Hope and Help for Children with Sensory Processing Disorders
Lory Student Center
North Ballroom
Colorado State University campus
Fort Collins, Colorado

2006 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Lucy Miller Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA served as the keynote speaker for last year’s Research Symposium. She is recognized as an eminent teacher, researcher, and consultant nationally and internationally. Miller is a recipient of honors and awards ranging from state and national associations to universities and federal government. She is a scholar who continues to advance concepts of sensory processing disorders (SPD), assessment, standardized testing and intervention. Dr. Miller has educated regions of therapists worldwide in regard to these issues. To learn more about sensory processing visit www.kidfoundation.org – a foundation created by Miller dedicated to bringing sense to the lives of children with SPD.
Oliver Chang, MS, OTR, doctoral student with an emphasis in OT in the School of Education’s Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program, was awarded one of the top three prizes for graduate student poster presentations for the Front Range Neuroscience Meeting. Oliver’s poster was entitled, Validating Modifications to the Sensory Gating ERP Paradigm. OT faculty members, 2nd and 3rd authors, were Drs. William Gavin and Patti Davies.

Karen Atler, MS, OTR, was invited to the Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences, Yamagata, Japan as a visiting professor for a week in Spring 2006. Karen’s lectures addressed occupation-based practice in the US and Japan.

Dr. David Greene, OTR, was awarded the College of Applied Human Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award. David is known for his humorous and impassioned lectures, his commitment to student learning and his innovative instructional materials. The web-based animated, interactive movement exercises he created for his Biomechanics class and text, Kinesiology: Movement in the Context of Activity (2005, co-author, Susan Roberts) reinforce movement concepts and enhance student learning and outcomes.

Dr. Hiromi Fujii, OT, visited CSU’s OT Department in Fall 2006 on sabbatical from Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences, OT Department, Yamagata, Japan. He studied the graduate curriculum and trends of OT practice in the US.

CSU’s Career Center provides employment opportunities for alumni. Alumni can access employment postings free-of-charge by visiting www.career.stuser.colostate.edu.
The Alumni Association is inviting you to submit your e-mail address at https://advancing.colostate.edu/ALUMNI/UPDATEFORM. The Alumni Data Base will provide you with a permanent CSU e-mail address and allow you to access OT classmates to catch-up or network.

The Class of ’56 (or thereabouts!) reunited during homecoming weekend to celebrate 50 years as alums of CSU’s Occupational Therapy Department. Honored alumni included Wanda Mayberry, Sara Vattano, Betty Phillips, Pat Willbarger, Jane Baker, Karla Weldon and Ted James. A tour of the OT Department was just one of the events that was included in the celebratory reunion visit. Interested in organizing a reunion? Contact Linda McDowell at McDowell@cahs.colostate.edu or 970.491.6253.

Dr. Patti Davies, OTR, will receive AOTA’s prestigious “Fellows, FAOTA” award for outstanding contributions to pediatric research and practice. Patti will be recognized as a fellow this spring at AOTA’s annual conference in St. Louis.

Dr. Pat Sample was invited by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct a qualitative research study regarding the survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing disaster who suffered traumatic brain injuries.

Each year OT Department faculty, students and staff choose a community program to support over the holiday season. This year the department made and donated fleece blankets to each of the children in the Namaqua Center’s Residential Program which serves children with emotional disturbances.
Dr. Shinji Satake, head of the Occupational Therapy Department and Manabu Sasake, assistant professor of Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences (YPUHS), Yamagata, Japan, visited the Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) at CSU along with ten of their OT students for a week of educational and cultural exchange this past fall. While here in Fort Collins, students attended classes with their CSU colleagues and visited departmental centers and community programs to learn about OT practices in the US. In addition to a wide variety of educational experiences, the YPUHS faculty and students learned about American customs and culture through their many visits to the homes of CSU faculty and students for get-togethers and dinners. The OT Department also hosted a reception in honor of their guests. As part of the reception, Dr. Satake lectured on his research and entertained the group with a host of magic tricks!

The annual fall visit is one component of the formal exchange program between the departments that has been ongoing over the last six years. Each spring, YPUHS invites a CSU/OT faculty member as a visiting professor to lecture and to learn about the Japanese OT culture. Dr. David Greene will travel to YPUHS in the spring of 2007.