

## Chair's letter

Greetings from balmy North Dakota!

I am sitting down to write this letter following a significantly cold winter. But today it is finally reaching 80 degrees. Summer must finally be upon us!

This spring was a time of new beginnings. We finished our admissions process and we had 44 students accept positions in Grand Forks and 18 in Wyoming! We had many wonderful applicants and the selection process was challenging! This year we piloted a new process, the use of multiple mini interviews. Feedback from the students was positive. They found it to be less intimidating than interviewing with four to five people at one time and also felt that they had the opportunity to share more about themselves. Faculty also felt that the time was more focused and they could be more consistent in rating each student. It was a good change that we will most likely continue. I want to say a special thank you to each of you who allowed applicants to spend time observing with you. This is important in helping students understand more of what occupational therapy is before coming to the program. It positively impacts our retention rates for the program. Ninety-six percent of the students who start the program complete the program. We know it takes extra time in your busy schedules; it is very much appreciated!

Other news: UND students at our Casper site will be moving into renovated space this fall (keep your fingers crossed that all goes smoothly). In Grand Forks we are in the process of finalizing plans for the new building, I must say the architecture team

working on the plans has been amazing! They really listened to our needs and have been strong advocates of all programs at the School.

Faculty updates: Gail Bass is retiring after many years of service to the department. We will be sad to see her go, but she has promised to continue to be involved with our program, teaching as an adjunct and being involved in NDOTA. Cherie (Lowe) Graves joined our faculty in January. She is working with fieldwork and teaching in the group leadership course. We have a search for two new faculty positions related to the health care workforce initiative. One is in Grand Forks and the other in Wyoming. The only thing that has been consistent this past year is everything is growing and building. All good things, but at times I feel I meet myself coming and going!

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and are making plans to travel back to Grand Forks this fall for Homecoming! We will be celebrating 60 years of the UND OT Department, which includes 22 years of our Wyoming program.

Janet Jedlicka  
Chair and Associate Professor  
UND Department of Occupational Therapy



## Pi Theta Epsilon Chapter News



Emily Kringle

The UND Kappa Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon is proud to be the home chapter for not one, but two of the national officers! Emily Kringle, MOT '10, currently serves as president, and Myrtyce (Remus) Courtright, MOT '13, is serving as treasurer. Both served as president of the Kappa Chapter during their second year in the OT Program. We are so very proud of both as they demonstrate their leadership skills at the national level.

Emily Kringle is currently employed at the University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview Acute Rehabilitation Center. She also works casual hours at Regions Hospital in its Mental Health OT department. Prior to being elected as president, Emily was the vice president of the PTE Executive Board.

Emily hopes to facilitate an increase in collaboration among PTE members (alumni and students), between the national board and local chapters, and at the international level. Her advice to



Myrtyce (Remus)  
Courtright

new students is, "Take advantage of every opportunity you can to learn about all the different areas of practice. You never know for sure what area you will practice in, and skills that you develop in one area will give you a different perspective of your patients in other areas of practice."

Myrtyce (Remus) Courtright currently works in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area as an OT for Presbyterian Homes in Roseville and St. Therese.

Myrtyce hopes to help implement a form of increased chapter-executive board communication in order to spread strategies and ideas between chapters in a more effective way to encourage chapter growth. Her advice to PTE members is, "It's all about balance. Learn as much as you can but don't forget that leisure is a vital occupation, as well!"

# Upcoming Events: Homecoming 2014

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As part of the UND Homecoming 2014 events, Sandy Hanebrink, OTR/L, executive director of Touch The Future/ReBoot, Inc., will present a three-hour workshop on assistive technology, low-tech to high-tech, and options for using animal-assisted therapy, as well as a three-hour workshop on ADA and accommodations for students in academic and clinical settings Oct. 9 in Grand Forks.

Touch the Future, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with locations in Anderson, S.C., and Tucker, Ga., that serves individuals who are disabled, seniors, veterans or those from disadvantaged communities by providing computers, durable

medical equipment and other assistive technology, training, and specialized services and programs to meet individual needs. She consults with universities, professional organizations, and health care providers on ADA compliance and accessibility. Touch the Future supports an Evergreen policy by recycling any technology that cannot be refurbished for reuse. Donated technology is accepted, sanitized and refurbished for reuse. Touch the Future is a United Way funded community partner.

For other UND Homecoming events Oct. 9-11, which include a celebration of 60 years of the UND OT Department, visit our website or the UND Alumni Association website.

## Welcome New Faculty/Staff

We are pleased to welcome Cherie Graves, MA, OTR/L, as our newest faculty member in the OT Department in Grand Forks. Professor Graves was formerly employed at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, where she was responsible for OT assessment and intervention, working in the acute and inpatient areas of the Sanford Health system. In addition, Graves served as chair and co-chair for the Sanford Hospital PM&R Education committee and was an active member of the educational committee for the South Dakota OT Association.

Professor Graves joined the Department in January 2014 and has been actively sharing the responsibilities for coordination of Level I and Level II fieldwork with Dr. Hanson and also teaching OT 433: Leadership in Occupational Therapy. In addition to her employment at UND, Graves is currently working on her PhD at UND in the Educational Leadership Department. We appreciate her enthusiasm for all things "education" and her desire to further the mission of the work of the OT Department!

The OT Department is also happy to announce the hiring of David Rzucidlo, administrative and fieldwork assistant for the Occupational Therapy Department in Grand Forks. David is originally from Landenberg, Pa., but moved to Grand Forks in 2011. He comes to us with experience in office coordination, accounting and human services. Prior to moving to North Dakota, Rzucidlo was employed by Acme Markets as an office coordinator, responsible for accounting and human services. He also has experience working within the UND system, having recently worked in the Registrar's Office at UND. In addition to his job responsibilities as an administrative assistant within the OT Department, David's voice will greet you when you call the OT Department and he will be active in communications regarding fieldwork placement confirmations. Please feel free to call our Department and welcome David to our team!

## Fieldwork Connections

As Cherie Graves is becoming newly acquainted with the role of the academic fieldwork coordinator, she is realizing some of the challenges of fieldwork placement. Many excellent fieldwork sites have indicated difficulty with taking a student due to the practitioner working part-time or working in a specialty area. Another common concern is lack of formal training for the fieldwork educator role. Perhaps this is a concern for some of you. Recently we have been exploring the value of multiple mentoring to address these challenges. Multiple mentoring is a team of two or more practitioners supervising a single student or team of students. It has many benefits for students and supervising practitioners. This model creates opportunity for practitioners who typically do not consider supervising a student. These practitioners may have less experience, be in part-time positions or work in specialty areas. This model supports the idea that fieldwork education is the responsibility of all occupational therapy practitioners.

Research has shown that using this model facilitates clinical reasoning skills of supervising practitioners due to the collaboration involved. It creates a positive experience with less likelihood of communication breakdowns and personality conflicts between supervisor and student. It may also ease the pressure that the supervisor may feel when having sole responsibility. Another bonus of sharing supervision is that it creates opportunity for more student placements, meaning more students have direct experience at your site.

From the student perspective, it allows the student to be exposed to multiple areas of practice and multiple practitioners. Students are able to draw on the expertise of a variety of practitioners, which is helpful in developing their own unique approach. Exposure to a variety of supervision styles also helps the student identify his or her own preferred learning style. Please consider utilizing this model in the future and also watch for new resources posted on our website!

Cherie Graves, MA, OTR/L, and Deb Hanson, PhD, OTR/L  
Academic Fieldwork Coordinators  
UND Department of Occupational Therapy

# Alumni Spotlight: Arlen and Maria Klamm

Arlen and Maria Klamm graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1992 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Occupational Therapy. They were married in May 1993.

## How did you become interested in OT?

Maria: I was first introduced to Occupational Therapy in a mental health facility where my grandfather was getting treatment. I had always been crafty and was intrigued by projects that were being used as a therapy tool, and my grandfather was really enjoying it. Then of course I went to college and tried a lot of different things and eventually came back to Occupational Therapy. It was the best fit for me. I wanted to work in health care but not in a laboratory.

Arlen: My mother was a buyer for a medical equipment company. She worked with OTs from time to time and suggested I look into it. When I did, it sounded like a good fit. I asked for an advisor in the OT department as a freshman and stuck with the program all the way through my time at UND.

## Are there any standout moments you remember from your OT education at UND?

Maria: Gross Anatomy was a shock. I wasn't sure I could do it but I was surprised by how interesting I found the experience. Then Group Class was probably just as big a shock but for a whole different reason. I think it was very valuable to work through some of our own personal issues so we can be better therapists. I really learned the importance of therapeutic use of self.

Arlen: I always received good grades all through high school without really trying. I was able to do a lot of cramming to get through my pre-OT classes. Anatomy was a wake-up call for me. It was the first time I had to actually study and found out I really hadn't learned how to do it. I will also always remember the family atmosphere throughout the whole OT department, instructors and classmates alike.

## How did you come to practice at your current site and setting?

Maria: It is all Arlen's fault. I decided to marry him and he already had a job in Sioux Falls. I was so happy to find a job that I would have taken anything. I can say that in hindsight, working for Sanford was one of the best decisions I ever made. Then after about three years of practice, the OT doing our driving program left and that program just fell into my lap. It has been the most rewarding and frightening part of my job for the past 18 years. Then about seven years ago I became the outpatient therapy manager after completing my MBA degree. My current position has its unique set of challenges but I continue to grow and improve. Sanford has allowed me to do many different things over the years, of which I am grateful.

Arlen: Guilty ... It was my fault. I did an optional pediatrics fieldwork at Children's Care Hospital after our junior year. I enjoyed the work, the staff and it allowed me to exercise my creativity. They offered me a job that had nine weeks of vacation and paid me for playing with kids and toys all day. I accepted before returning back to UND for my senior year. Maria and I were friends but hadn't started dating yet. I don't remember when we had the "by the way" conversation but at some point we knew we were both going to be working in Sioux Falls. When I first started working, there were three BrOTs in my department, which was unheard of. Even more unusual was that we were also all married to OTs. After a couple of years, two of them moved away and I inherited both the seating and mobility, and powered mobility



programs. I learned I had a knack for technology. I enjoy being able to help people improve their function, often in one visit. After a five-year stint as outpatient director, I became the assistive technology coordinator for our hospital and have been working full time in technology since.

## What do you most enjoy about being an OT?

Maria: Teaching someone with a disability to drive again with adaptive equipment is the most rewarding for me. People's lives change so quickly due to accidents and illnesses. So many times they look different to the world because of the disability but I can get them in a car, set them up with adaptive equipment and no one knows that they are different. They can have freedom and engage in some of the things they love and that makes me remember why I became an OT.

Arlen: Using activity analysis to help people in creative ways. I really enjoy coming up with things that solve problems for people. I get a lot of requests for "I need something that will help me to ..." Providing or designing devices that work in these situations is very rewarding.

## What it's like to be married to OTs?

We've been married for 21 years now. We both started working the same day a few months before we were married. We are both still with the same organizations (Maria at Sanford Medical Center and Arlen at Children's Care Hospital). During that time, we've been staff OTs, outpatient managers (Maria still is) and had specialty certifications (Maria, Driver's Rehabilitation Specialist;

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# Alumni Spotlight: Arlen and Maria Klamm (...Continued from Page 3)

Arlen, Assistive Technology Professional, and Seating and Mobility Specialist). Two OTs being married is both good and bad. We used to get two of everything from AOTA. We still get double the recruiting mail. When we go to the AOTA conference, we can make it into a vacation. We used to get teased that our children would have treatment plans hanging on their cribs. When we come home from work, it's nice to be able to understand what each of us did during the day. On the other hand, most of the people we hang out with are therapists, which isn't a bad thing but it makes it harder to find someone who knows a plumber or an electrician. We understand what it's like to come home late from work because

of a patient that ran long. We have supported each other when we've gone back to school or when we've been working toward specialty certifications and also know the importance and the time commitment of being involved in our state OT association. We really can't imagine it any other way. Yes, we do analyze each other once in a while, but usually with a sense of humor. We occasionally go back to group class and pull out those so-important communication tools to work through a challenging discussion but for the most part we just have a lot of fun and really enjoy spending time together.

## February Workshop Review: Beyond Boundaries

The OT Department hosted a highly successful workshop and luncheon in Grand Forks in February, with guest speaker LaDonna Bannach, OTR/L, the owner and founder of Beyond Boundaries Occupational Therapy, Inc. Beyond Boundaries is a private practice specializing in outpatient therapy for infants through adults in Fargo, N.D.

The workshop, titled "Sensory Versus Behavioral Interventions: Daily Challenges with Children on the Autism Spectrum," provided participants a better understanding of sensory and behavioral interventions for working with children on the autism spectrum as well as key things to consider when entering the OT profession. LaDonna provided an overview of common sensory and behavior challenges as well as the "bigger picture" for OT evaluation, intervention strategies, and generalization for children on the autism spectrum.

LaDonna is a 2000 graduate of the UND OT program. Her motto, "Focusing on Function for the Future," goes hand in hand with her desire to make a difference in the lives of the individuals and families she serves.



## UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Breaks Ground

The University of North Dakota broke ground for the new \$122 million School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) building Thursday, June 12. Taking part in the groundbreaking with

UND President Robert Kelley and UND Vice President for Health Affairs and SMHS Dean Joshua Wynne were North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple, Sen. Ray Holmberg, Sen. Robert Erbele, Sen. Judy Lee, Mayor Michael Brown, and CEO of Altru Health System and Chair of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Advisory Committee Dave Molmen.



The 325,000-gross-square-foot facility, which is being constructed on the southwest corner of the intersection of North Columbia Road and Gateway Drive in Grand Forks, will incorporate for the first time under one roof all of the School's departments, including Occupational Therapy. To see photos and video from the event, as well as more information about the project, visit [www.med.UND.edu/construction](http://www.med.UND.edu/construction).

# Faculty Recognized for Dedication, Excellence

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Three faculty members have recently been recognized at the university and professional levels for their excellence and dedication to the profession.

At the university level, Anne Haskins, PhD, OTR/L, associate professor of OT, was selected for the UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Award for Graduate or Professional Teaching Excellence, which was presented at the Founder's Day Banquet in February. Haskins was nominated by professional level students for her dedication to teaching and her commitment to making a difference in the lives of others, both in and out of the program. Congratulations, Dr. Haskins!

At the national level, Gail Bass, PhD, OTR/L, was awarded an AOTA Retired Educators Award at the 2014 AOTA National Conference in Baltimore Md., in April. The award acknowledges the leadership and commitment of faculty to occupational therapy programs and the role educators play in the advancement of OT education. Congratulations, Dr. Bass!

Also at the national level, Deb Hanson, PhD, OTR/L, was recognized with the Roster of Fellows Award: Leadership Excellence in Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education at the 2014 AOTA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md., in April. The Leadership Excellence Award is given in



recognition of the contribution toward continuing education and professional development of members of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Congratulations, Dr. Hanson!

## Gail Bass Retires

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The OT Department is saying goodbye to Dr. Gail Bass.

Dr. Bass joined the OT department in 1996 as a pediatric OT faculty member, and along the way has also taught Professional Writing, OT Theory, Assistive Technology I and II, Group Leadership, and Medical Sciences. She has overseen numerous scholarly and independent study projects, with several of the student projects being selected for the AOTA National Conference in both sessions and poster presentations. Dr. Bass counts working with the students as one of the most important functions of her time at the University. She also represented the School of Medicine and Health Sciences through service on the University Faculty Senate, and was instrumental in development of the OT department's expanded department assessment processes.

In addition to her student involvement, Dr. Bass sees her efforts in building the collaboration with the Wyoming satellite program, and mentoring and collaborating with clinicians who have returned to teach, as highlights of her time with UND. She believes that these types of collaborative experiences "really keep the OT program and the OT profession vibrant."

Dr. Bass is most looking forward to spending time with her husband Jerry at their lake property, making plans to become a hospice volunteer, and diving into her passion for quilting. We wish Dr. Bass all the best with her goals and plans!

## OT Alumni Scholarship Campaign Update

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We've nearly reached our goal of raising \$25,000 for the OT Alumni Scholarship fund! Only \$500 more is needed before the fund can generate \$1,000 in scholarship support annually for

our students. Thank you to all the donors who have given gifts to the OT Department over the past two years. Even small gifts add up to a big impact! Give a gift online at [www.undalumni.org/medicine](http://www.undalumni.org/medicine).

## Parting Shots

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Wyoming OT Program graduates and faculty