

Twylla Kirchen, BA, MS, Ph.D., OTR/L
Founding Director, Associate Professor
Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program
Rocky Mountain College
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Education

Ph.D., Occupational Therapy, Texas Woman's University, 2013
Concentrations: Geriatrics, Military Culture
Dissertations: ADAPTATION OF VETERANS TO LONG-TERM CARE:
THE IMPACT OF MILITARY CULTURE

M.S., Occupational Therapy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2001
Concentration: Geriatrics
Thesis: UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF CAREGIVERS OF PATIENTS
WHO HAVE DEMENTIA

B.A., Psychology, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, 1991

State-based Leadership Experience

Appointed to the Montana Board of Occupational Therapy Practice in accordance with Montana Code Annotated 2-15-1749 effective January 1, 2019 for a term ending December 31st, 2022

Scheduled to attend the 2019 Occupational Therapy State Regulatory Leadership Forum,
Baltimore, Maryland-May 21-22, 2019

AOTA Leadership and Volunteer Experience

Accepted to the AOTA Academic Leadership Institute for the 2018-2019 academic year-will complete the program in April, 2019 and receive a credential in Academic Leadership

Member of the Psychosis Community of Practice-October 2018 to Present

Selected to serve on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) January 1, 2019-June 30, 2022)

Attended ACOTE RAE Training-2 Day Seminar-Washington DC-August 2018

Clinical/Management/Leadership Experience

Founding Director, Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program, Rocky Mountain College
December 2016 to Present
Billings, Montana
(Currently in Candidate Status)

Director, Occupational Therapy Program, James Madison University,
August 2015 to April 15, 2018
Harrisonburg, Virginia
*Recognized as fully accredited (ACOTE) program director – December 2015

Occupational Therapist (PRN), June 2015 to May 1st, 2018
Harrisonburg Health and Rehabilitation Center
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Faculty, Occupational Therapy Program, James Madison University,
August 2014 to April 16th, 2018
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Rehabilitation Director, July 2011- July 2014
Pruitt Health
Clinical Instructor, OT FW I (UNC-Chapel Hill), FW II (UNC-Chapel Hill), COTA Student
(SUNY), Medical Administrative Student (Miller Mott)

Occupational Therapist
Brookdale Senior Living, San Antonio, Texas, 2010-2011

School-Based Occupational Therapist, 2002-2011
North Carolina, (Public Schools, DOD Schools), Kansas, Texas

Lead Occupational Therapist (Schools), North Carolina, 2002-2005

Occupational Therapist, March 2002-October 2002
Pediatric Home Health, Amelia Pediatric Therapy, Clayton, North Carolina

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program, Rocky Mountain College,
Billings, MT-January 2019 to Present

Adjunct Professor, Post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program, George
Washington University, Washington, DC, Capstone Advisor for Student Projects-January-April
2018.

Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Program, Health Services Department, James
Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA-August 1st, 2014 to April 15th, 2018

TAP-(Teaching Analysis Poll)-conducted in February 2017-Jim Benedict, James Madison University (Evaluator)

Courses Taught:

Rocky Mountain College Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program

OTD 500-Introduction to Occupational Therapy-Spring 2019
OTD 508-Seminar Series 1-IPE, Occupations of Agriculturally-based Communities, Introduction to Teaching, Learning and Entrepreneurship-Spring 2019

James Madison University, Master of Occupational Therapy Program

OT 561/HTH 461 – Therapeutic Media – Fall 2015
OT 645 – Level I Fieldwork – Fall 2015
OT 691 – Tutorial – Fall 2014, 2015
OT 538 – Administrative Functions for Occupational Therapy Students – Maymester 2015, 2016, 2017
OT 663 – Policy Analysis and Systems of Service Provision – Maymester 2015, 2016
OT 540 – Occupational Therapy Process – Summer 2015, 2016, 2017
OT 610 – Occupational Therapy Intervention through Adulthood – Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
OT 655 – Level 1 Fieldwork Three – Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
OT 692 – Occupational Therapy Tutorial Group III – Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
OT 680 – Independent Study – Fall 2014-ongoing (Fourteen total student-based research dyads)
BIO 440/BIO 540 – Functional Neuroscience – Fall 2014, 2016, 2017
OT 610 – Occupational Therapy Intervention in Pediatrics – Fall 2014

*Student Teaching Evaluation Average (all courses taught) – 4.8/5.0 (Student Satisfaction)

Clinical Fieldwork Instructor-Medical Administrative Student-Miller Mott (January-May 2014)
Clinical Fieldwork Instructor-Fieldwork Level 1 students (two)-JMU, Fall 2014, 2015, 2016
Clinical Fieldwork Instructor-FW I Student-UNC-Chapel Hill (May-August 2013)
Clinical Fieldwork Instructor-COTA Student-SUNY-NY (March-May 2013)
Clinical Fieldwork Instructor-FW II Student-UNC-Chapel Hill (May-August 2012)

Teaching Practicum, 2011
Texas Woman's University
Course: Occupational Contexts

Transitioning to Mental Health (Teaching and Practice):

Courses Completed:

Online: Using the Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults with Serious Mental Illness, AOTA-Completed August 5th, 2018

AJOT CE: Clinical Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy in Mental Health: A Meta-Analysis-Completed August 4th, 2018

A Trauma-Informed Approach Distinct to Occupational Therapy: The TIC-OT Model, AOTA-Completed August 5th, 2018

CE Exam: Occupational Therapy in Mental Health: Considerations for Advanced Practice, AOTA-Completed

Books and Readings:

Occupational Therapy in Mental Health: A Vision for Participation 1st Edition

by Catana Brown PhD OTR FAOTA (Author), Virginia C. Stoffel PhD OT BCH FAOTA (Author)

Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults with Serious Mental Illness - Ebook

Military Teaching Experience:

Enlisted Soldier-1989-1991

Officer-1993-1999

Chief, Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Fort Drum, NY, January 15 1997-May 22 1999

Responsible for the training and operations of the Medical Department Activity. Planned and executed all soldier training to include mass casualty exercises, mobilization exercises and common task training and testing for approximately 180 medical soldiers. Also provided training for PROFIS (Professional Filler System) physicians who were deploying to combat zones.

Safety Officer, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Fort Drum, NY, May 15 1996-January 14, 1997

Established a Safety Program, wrote the Safety Plan and initiated a Safety Committee. Personally and individually conducted all safety-related training to include: OSHA, HIPPA, Fire Safety, Severe Weather Safety, Infection Control, Facility Lockdown, Bomb Threat, etc. for approximately 300 civilian and military personnel

Military-related Teaching Appointment, 08-1992 through 01-1995

Academic Appointment to Develop the Fielding and Training for the Theater Army Medical Management System, which was a system used to track and manage: medical evacuation of casualties from the battlefield to combat support hospitals and the equipment and personnel required to provide medical treatment to soldiers injured in combat.

Courses Attended:

AOTA Academic Leadership Institute 2018-2019

AOTA Education Summit, Louisville, KY-October 2018

Leadership in Chronicle of Higher Education Conference, Minneapolis, MN-October 2018

ACOTE RAE Training-2 Day Seminar-Washington DC-August 2018

JMU January Symposium-Meet the Mixed Methods,-C. Meixner-January 2018

JMU January Symposium-Getting to Know Sage Research Methods-Carrier, Price & Vess-January 2018
AOTA Education Symposium-Dallas, TX-October, 2017
VOTA Conference-October, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), September, 7 & 8, 2017
AOTA Conference, April 2015, 2016 and 2017
AOTA Leadership Conference and Technology in OT-April 2016
Attended *ACOTE Self Study Course*-January 2017
Concussion Prevention – Dr. Bennett Omalu, Bridgewater College, September 28th, 2016
Interprofessional Education Consortium, Bridgewater College, September 28th, 2016
Developing Creative Assessments in the Classroom – CFI, September 2016
Using Mindfulness in the Classroom – CFI, May 2015
Database Management Boot Camp for Researchers – CFI, January 2015
Legal Issues with Managing Students who have Special Needs, January 2015
North Carolina OT Association Conference-2014
JMU New Faculty Orientation – Fall 2014
Facilitating Large Group Discussions in the Classroom – CFI, Fall 2014
Creating a Record of Your Teaching Success – CFI, Fall 2014

Accreditation Experience

Selected to serve on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) January 1, 2019-June 30, 2022)

ACOTE RAE Training-2 Day Seminar-Washington DC-August 2018

Military Experience

Military Spouse, 1996 to Present
Military, Army Officer, 1993-1999
Military, Army Enlisted Soldier, 1989-1991

Research Skills

- Dissertation Committee Member for Amanda Carroll, Doctoral Student, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-December 2018 to Present
- Research Advisor for Jennifer Beverly, MS, PA-C, Doctoral Student of Medical Science, University of Lynchburg-January 2019 to Present
- Acted as research advisor for 19 pairs of student researchers over the 2014-2018 time-span, which to date has resulted in 11 state-based and national presentations and 2 publications in 3 years.
- Knowledge of SPSS, NVIVO
- Microsoft Office, Internet
- Student-led research topics included:
 - Exploring therapeutic approaches of occupational therapists that serve the military community

- Examining the health benefits of a coping strategy intervention with first year occupational therapy students
- Examining OT students'/practitioners' perceptions of confidence regarding preparedness for practice
- Examining the health benefits of a social support group for caregivers of veterans in a nonmilitary-based community
- Using music to enhance quality of life of residents in skilled nursing facilities
- Examining cultural competency of students studying health-related professions in relation to refugee populations
- The health benefits of therapeutic gardening on long-term care residents: a longitudinal study (3 studies)
- The health benefits of creating a family-based cookbook and cooking dishes from a resident growth garden (2 studies)
- Facilitating cross-generational benefits of occupation-based activities in a multigenerational facility
- Facilitating adaptation of student-veterans
- Using a gardening intervention to increase health and well-being of long-term care residents
- Reviewed 20 AOTA Conference Research Proposals (August 2015)
- Assisting peer on publication of dissertation: qualitative research examining the benefit of a therapeutic riding program on children who have autism – January 2015 to present
- Attended Database Management Boot camp for Researchers, hosted by CFI, January 2015
- Currently acting as a research mentor for three graduate-level occupational therapy research projects
- Managed a team of 9 paid research assistants, 2013
- Completed three-phase, mixed methods research study, 2013
- Conducted a pilot study and a dissertation, 2012, 2013

Impact of Research: State of Massachusetts used the below-mentioned research related to veteran health and well-being as support in enhancement of long-term care facilities within the state. Collaborated with:

Janet Fraser Hale PhD, RN, FNP

Professor and Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary and Community Partnerships

Graduate School of Nursing

University of Massachusetts Medical School

55 Lake Ave. North

Worcester, MA 01655

Janet.hale@umassmed.edu

Presentations

Moser, D., Prasnicky, L., Wenos, J. & Kirchen, T. (2019). *Considering Service Members' Lived Experiences To Improve Quality of Life*. Poster presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in New Orleans, LA.

- Kirchen, T., Richardson, L., & Faison, T. (2019). *Correlation Between Entrepreneurial Curricula and Positive Outcomes for Job Creation in OT*. Poster presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in New Orleans, LA.
- Ellis, K & Kirchen, T (2019). *Sexuality & Intimacy Pedagogy in OT Education*. Conversations that Matter, presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in New Orleans, LA.
- Pitts, D., Kirchen, T., Lambdin-Pattavina, C., McIntyre, E., Lain, L., & Blanton-Hubbard, E. (2019). *OT & the Experience of Psychosis*. Conversations that Matter, presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in New Orleans, LA.
- Briggs, K., Kirchen, T., Jones, J., Keefe, C., Pitonyak, J. & Krusen, N. (2019). (SIS) AESIS Fostering Critical Reasoning and Thinking Skills: Four Different Pedagogical Approaches in the OT and OTA Curriculum. Short Course 106, presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in New Orleans, LA.
- Wenos, J., and Kirchen, T. (2018). *Cultivating Civility through Interpersonal Relationships and Emotional Intelligence: Implications for Workplace*. Presentation at the Leadership in Higher Education Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.
- Kirchen, T. (2018). Examining the Health Benefits of a Coping Strategy Intervention with First Year Occupational Therapy Students (Academic & Fieldwork Education). Presentation/Panel at the American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Kirchen, T. (2018). OT Students'/Practitioners' Perceptions of Confidence Regarding Preparedness for Practice (*Academic & Fieldwork Education*). Presentation/Panel at the American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Olson, H., Sallada, L., and Kirchen, T. (2018). Therapeutic Approaches of Occupational Therapists that Serve the Military Community (General & Professional Issues). Poster presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Vizy, L., Kissel., and Kirchen, T. (2018). Examining the Health Benefits of a Coping Strategy Intervention with First Year Occupational Therapy Students (Academic & Fieldwork Education). Poster presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Kirchen, T., Nelson., Z and Williams, C. (2017). Maintaining a Harmonious Home: Educating Caregivers of Persons who have Dementia (Productive Aging; Intermediate). Presentation at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Portsmouth, VA.
- Olson, H., Sallada, L., and Kirchen, T. (2017). Therapeutic Approaches of Occupational Therapists that Serve the Military Community (General & Professional Issues). Poster presented at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Portsmouth, VA.

Vizy, L., Kissel., and Kirchen, T. (2017). Examining the Health Benefits of a Coping Strategy Intervention with First Year Occupational Therapy Students (Academic & Fieldwork Education). Poster presented at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Portsmouth, VA.

McKinney, A., Deck, B., and Kirchen, T. (2017). OT Students'/Practitioners' Perceptions of Confidence Regarding Preparedness for Practice (*Academic & Fieldwork Education*). Poster presented at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Portsmouth, VA.

Wenos, J., and Kirchen, T. (2017). *Cultivating Civility through Interpersonal Relationships and Emotional Intelligence: Implications for Workplace Success (General & Professional Issues; Introductory)*, Presentation at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Portsmouth, VA.

Kirchen, T. (2017). *Understanding Military Culture in the Context of Practice*, Poster presented at the 2017 annual conference American Occupational Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Dinan, S., Tinsley, T. & Kirchen, T., (2017). *The Effects of Group-Based Music on Quality of Life among Older Adults in a Skilled Nursing Facility*, Poster presented at the 2017 annual conference American Occupational Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Dwyer, M., Smith, M., & Kirchen, T. (2017). *Using an Occupational Adaptation Approach to Promote Health Benefits of Group-Based Cooking and Gardening in a Skilled Nursing Facility*, Poster presented at the 2017 annual conference American Occupational Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Sawyer, L., Lupin, E. & Kirchen, T. (2017). *Examining the Benefits of a Community-Based, Social Participation Intervention for Caregivers of Veterans: A Pilot Study*. Poster presented at the 2017 annual conference American Occupational Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Richardson, E. & Kirchen, T. *Gardening: A Meaningful Occupation that Helps Individuals Grow and Thrive Throughout the Lifespan*. Poster presented at the 2017 annual conference American Occupational Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Kirchen, T. (2016). *Using Occupation-based Interventions in Skilled Nursing Facilities*, Virginia Occupational Therapy Association, Richmond, Virginia.

Dwyer, M., Smith, M., & Kirchen, T. (2016). *The Impact of Occupation-Based Intervention on Social Participation of Nursing Home Residents*, Virginia Occupational Therapy Association.

Bloomfield, S., Remington, J. & Kirchen, T. (2016). *Facilitating Cultural Competency in Healthcare Students Through Community Engagement with Refugees*. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Chicago IL.

Henshaw, T., Cunningham, A., & Kirchen, T. (2016). Using Cross-generational Activities to Facilitate Positive Affect in Older Adults. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Chicago IL.

Kirchen, T., Petencin, K. & Diaz, K, (2015). Therapeutic Gardening: Harvesting Memories and Environmental Considerations. North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference

Temple, A. & Kirchen, T. (2015). The Effects of Therapeutic Gardening on Well-being in a Skilled Nursing Facility. Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting.

Kirchen, T. (2015). Creating equality and social justice for student veterans: Perspectives of adjusting to college after combat. Peace & Justice Studies National Conference, James Madison University.

Guest Lectured in a JMU undergraduate Health Sciences Gerontology course on the topic of the Role of Occupational Therapy and Older Adults-October 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.

Guest Lectured in a JMU undergraduate Health Sciences Disability course on the topic of Assistive Technology and Occupational Therapy and Older Adults-September 2016, 2017.

Guest Lectured in a JMU graduate-level Communication Sciences and Disorders course on the Role of Occupational Therapy in Feeding and Swallowing-October 2016, 2017.

Guest Lectured in the JMU Occupational Therapy Program Research Course on the process of coding qualitative data-October 2014.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2014). The Benefits of Using Gardening as a Therapeutic Tool in Occupational Therapy. Presented as a workshop for the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2014). The Future of Occupational Therapy: A Three Point Focus for the Next Five Years. Presented to Occupational Therapy Program Students and Faculty, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2014). Committed to Growing One Family. Presented to the Committed to Caring Judging Committee, Pruitthealth, Norcross, Georgia.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2014). The Future of Occupational Therapy: A Three Point Focus for the Next Five Years. Presented to Occupational Therapy Program Faculty, Shenandoah University, Northern Virginia Campus.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2013). Adaptation of Veterans to Long-term Care: The Impact of Military Culture. Paper presented for Coastal North Region, United Rehab, Durham, North Carolina.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2013). Adaptation of Veterans to Long-term Care: The Impact of Military Culture. Paper presented for Coastal North Region, Dissertation Defense, Houston, Texas.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2011). The Role of a School-based Occupational Therapist. Paper presented at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2010). Sensory Regulation for Children. Paper presented at the Parent Information Session, North East Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2010). The Role of a School-based Occupational Therapist. Paper presented at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2005). Handwriting without Tears. Presented to teachers in two counties in North Carolina.

Kirchen, Twylla. (2003). Sensory Integration for Children. Paper presented for The Arc, for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Publications

Lewis, AN, Messinger, SD, Kirchen, TM, Wenos, JZ (2018). Culture and reintegration of veterans (in RA Cooper, PF Pasquina, DE Etter, Eds.), *Promoting successful reintegration: A practical handbook*. Fort Belvoir, MD: Borden Institute.

Dinan, S., Kirchen, T., & Tinsley, T. (2018). Tuning in to meaningful occupation: Using music in long-term care. *OT Practice*, 23(3), 19–21.
<https://doi.org/10.7138/otp.2018.2303.music>

Kirchen T, Ewing K, Nguyen J, Peachey A. (2017) Health Benefits of Group Based Cooking in a Skilled Nursing Facility. *J Aging Geriatr Med* 1:4.

Petencin, K., Diaz, K., and Kirchen, T. (2016). *Harvesting memories with older adults using therapeutic gardening*. *OT Practice*, 21(12), 23–25. - See more at: <http://www.aota.org/Publications-News/otp/Archive/2016/7-11-2016-sensory-processing/harvesting-gardens.aspx#sthash.fqfsTlax.dpuf>

Kirchen, T. (2015). *Understanding Person and Environment Factors that Facilitate Veteran Adaptation to Long-term Care*. *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*. August, 2015.

Kirchen, T., Hersch, G. & Pickens, N. D. (2014). *Occupational Engagement of Veterans in LTC: Testing the Effectiveness of a Military Cultural Intervention*. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*. Posted online on July 24, 2014. (doi:10.3109/02703181.2014.939801)

Kirchen, T. (2013). *Adaptation of veterans to long-term care: The impact of military culture*. Texas Woman's University). , 224 p. (UMI Order AAI3608269.) Retrieved from <http://ezproxy.twu.edu:2048/login?url=http://ezproxy.twu.edu:2060/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ccm&AN=2012566490&site=ehost-live&scope=site>. (2012566490).

Editorial Experience:

Active member of the Editorial Board of Gavin *Journal of Obesity and Nutritional Disorders* – July 2016 to Present

Guest Reviewer for OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health, a leading research journal in occupational therapy published by AOTF, reflects the Foundation's commitment to advancing the profession through scientific inquiry. OTJR fosters interdisciplinary dialogue with contributions from disciplines such as psychology, neuroscience, economics, anthropology, sociology, geography, rehabilitation science, nursing, and social work. OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health is indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed.

Grants and Fellowships

Received JMU Caucus for Gender Equality Grant – \$500-May, 2016

Submitted a James Madison University-Senate Mini Grant or \$3,500 to fund soccer equipment for the JMU OT program soccer club-Submitted October 2015.

Submitted a \$45,000 grant partnering with Rockingham Memorial Hospital and the Alzheimer and Related Dementia Association to pilot an intervention using a coaching model of care to facilitate engaged caregiving – Submitted April 30th, 2015

Received a \$500 grant from Harrisonburg Health & Rehabilitation to support student-led research on gardening with long-term care patients – January 2015

Received \$12,000 for the Pruitt Health Committed to Caring Garden Project – 2014

Received \$1200 grant from JMU Graduate School to support student travel to present research at the North Carolina State Occupational Therapy Association Conference – October 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017

Completed Grant Writing course under the professorship of Dr. Renee Taylor, May 2012, Topic Focus: PTSD and the Aging Veterans.

Awards and Honors

Received the **VOTA Award of Merit-Educator** (October 2017)-The Award of Merit is the highest honor given by VOTA, aimed at recognizing OTs/OTAs who have made outstanding contributions to occupational therapy scholarship and practice. Recipients of this award should be a licensed OT/OTA in good standing with VOTA and one who has made a contribution to occupational therapy in areas such as research, education, and/or professional practice.

Named Distinguished Woman of the Year, James Madison University 2017

James Madison Occupational Therapy Program awarded Community Impact Award 2017

Nominated – Dolly Madison Leadership Award, James Madison University 2017

Nominated – Junior Faculty Member of the Year Award, James Madison University 2016

One hundred percent of the second year JMU OT Program students presented at AOTA Conference 2016-2017

Arranged for the first acting President of AOTA, Dr. Amy Lamb, to speak at JMU – November 2016

The JMU OT Program transitioned from # 116 to # 58 out of 163 OT Programs in the country via the US News and World Report – January 2016

Conducted a Patient-led gardening initiative and placed 3rd out of 179 facilities in the Pruitt Health, Committed to Caring Competition – March 2014

Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges – 2012

Virginia Chandler Dykes Scholarship – 2010, 2011 and 2012

Fort Sam Houston Spouses Scholarship – 2010

Meritorious Service Medal-United States Army – 1999

Dissertation Description

This study evaluated the effectiveness of the Occupation-based Cultural Heritage Intervention-Military Version (OBCHI-MV) in improving occupational engagement; quality of life and social participation of veterans residing in long-term care settings. Eleven male veterans residing in a state-funded veterans home between the ages of 60 to 92 years participated in the intervention, which incorporated cultural heritage components into a six-session, three-week intervention. Pre- and post-tests measuring occupational engagement, social participation and quality of life were administered to measure the effectiveness of the intervention. In isolation, data analysis using the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test revealed a trend towards clinical significance, though no measures were statistically significant ($p < .05$). However, when coupled with results from the Yesterday Interview (YI) and Post-Intervention Participant Survey, the findings of this study indicate the OBCHI-MV may have the potential to improve quality of life, occupational engagement and social participation for veterans who have recently transitioned to long-term care.

Service Projects

Chair of the Department of Health Professions Policy Committee – Fall 2016-Fall 2017. This work resulted in the development of a comprehensive Promotion and Tenure Policy, which was presented for discussion to the new Department of Health Professions on September 15th, 2017.

Chair of the Department of Health Sciences Strategic Planning Committee-Fall 2015-Spring 2016. This work resulted in a decision report to divide the Department of Health Sciences into two departments (clinical and non-clinical), which was implemented in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Member of the Academic Unit Personnel Advisory Committee (AUPAC) – Fall 2016

Member of the Search Committee for Program Director (HSA) – Fall 2016

Developing curriculum changes to the existing JMU, MOT Program-June 2015 to April 2018

Developed a post-professional OTD program proposal-June 2015 to present-Tabled September 2016

Support the Pre-Occupational Therapy Association with at least one evening a month in order to answer questions and foster a connection between undergraduate and graduate students in order to best serve the university and the community. Serves as an advisor to undergraduate and graduate students interested in becoming an occupational therapist – August 2015 to April 2018

Member of Radford University Sports Medicine Advisory Board – September 2015 to present

Serving on the University Graduate Council – August 2015 to April 2018

Serving on the CHBS Diversity Council – August 2015 to Fall 2016

Serving on the CHBS Graduate Council – August 2015 to April 2018

Mentored a student from the Governor's School (high school) in research – August 2015 through Spring 2016

Serving as a representative for the JMU Department of Health and Human Services on the Harrisonburg High School STEM Committee as they prepare to add a Health and Human Services Pathway to the current curriculum – March 2015/On-going

Presented at the Inter-Professional Education Committee Roundtable Event on the Student Veteran Initiative – March 2015

Committee member of the JMU Student Veteran Task Force Committee (Presented current research related to veterans at the March 23rd, 2015 Meeting)

Developed the Department of Health Sciences Mentoring Program – February 2015

Conducted a Student-Veteran Initiative Roundtable session on January 9th, 2015 from 1 to 4 pm in an effort to unite all campus-related veteran groups.

Chair of the Organization Departmental Think Tank Committee whose mission is to build inter-program relationships amongst faculty and staff of the Health Sciences Department in order to facilitate an improved work climate – October 2014 to January 2016. This work, which included developing and implementing a flexible work schedule for faculty members, an awards system, mentoring program and hosting team building events, resulted in a faculty and staff 20% improved work satisfaction score at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year.

Hosted the JMU Valley Scholars on Saturday, December 6th, 2014/15 from 9 am through 12 pm at the OTCES Clinic for an interactive exposure to the college experience. Continued this event in 2016 and 2017.

Acted as a pediatric clinical instructor for two graduate-level OT students at OTCES with Overcoming Barriers and the JMU Young Children's Educational Program – Fall 2014/2015

Completed an interdisciplinary student case study with the Department of Speech Therapy, Physician's Assistant Program, Nursing and Social Work via a virtual clinical setting created in Second Life – Fall 2014 (75-hour time commitment).

Served as a Care Ambassador to veterans residing in the North Carolina State Veterans Home, providing laptops, e-readers and connecting volunteers with residents to ensure social participation and occupational engagement needs were met. Averaged 2 to 6 hours per week from July 2011 until July 2014.

Planned, implemented and maintained a therapeutic gardening area for the veterans of the North Carolina State Veterans Home. Involved patients, family members and staff in an on-going gardening project that resulted in flowers and vegetables that were shared with residents and homeless shelters within the community. Volunteered approximately 15 hours a week from November 2011 until July 2014. The project was recognized as a Committed to Caring third place recipient in 2014 (Pruitt Health).

Served as Family Readiness Group Leader during the 44th MEDCOM, Fort Bragg deployment to Iraq – 2006

Professional Organizations and Memberships

Member of the American Occupational Therapy Association from 1999 to Present

Member of the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association-licensed to practice in the state (not current)

Member of the Texas Occupational Therapy Association-licensed to practice in the state (not current)

Member of the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association-licensed to practice in the state (not current)

Member of the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association-licensed to practice in the state-(current)

Member of the Montana Occupational Therapy Association-licensed to practice in the state-(current)

Certification from the National Board of Certifying Occupational Therapists-(current)

Member of the World Health Organization for Occupational Therapists-(current)

Member of Academic Leadership Council (as a program director)-attended ALC Conferences 2016, 2017