



OT students “SOAR” into placement!

Viking Air and the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at UBC recently established an exciting new partnership.

This partnership is the first of its kind in all of Canada. It is unique in that it offers students an opportunity to practice their skills and gain knowledge in a production focused workplace environment rather than the traditional health care setting.

What is Viking Air?

Viking Air was established in 1970 as an aircraft maintenance and repair company at Victoria International airport in Sidney, British Columbia, with a focus on seaplane and utility aircrafts markets. In 2015, they celebrated the Twin Otter’s 50th anniversary. To learn more about Viking Air click [here](#).

The Innovation

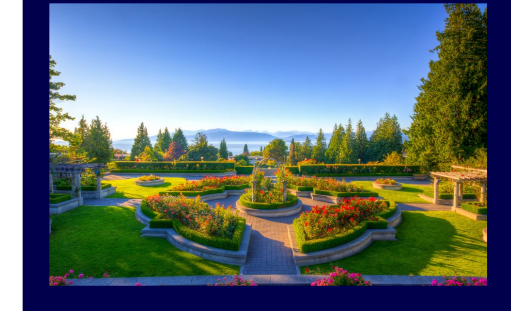
Over a 14 week period, Viking Air committed to provide learning opportunities and practical experience in facilitating healthy work environments and effective return-to-work programs. In return, they hosted four students who had comprehensive knowledge of body mechanics, ergonomics and injury prevention. The students assisted with assessing and identifying methods on eliminating musculoskeletal injuries (MSI’s).

Students settled in rapidly and developed a Viking Air specific job demands analysis template that included both physical and cognitive job requirements. They also created ergonomic safe work practice information sheets for areas identified to have a high risk of MSI injuries and facilitated *Lunch ‘n’ Learn* information sessions open to all employees.

In the words of a student

Lauren MacDonald, UBC MOT II student, who completed a placement with Viking writes...

Viking Air has an innovative and forward-thinking corporate culture. This was evidenced by their excitement to bring student OTs on board and their receptiveness to recommendations. Both the office staff and the shop floor employees made us feel right at home and gave us every opportunity to learn, try new strategies, to collaborate with other professionals, and to provide education. Being part of developing the OT role in this industry setting re-affirmed for me the core principles of OT – looking at the interaction between person, environment, and occupation and that we can truly can use our skills to effect change in any setting.



Donna Drynan, Senior Instructor &

Lauren MacDonald, graduate MOT2 student

See highlights from the 2015 MOT Capstone
Conference on Flickr on <http://ow.ly/R4qgk>



Congratulations to Kevin Waldorf for receiving the inaugural **CAOT FIELDWORK EDUCATOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**. Kevin was the successful recipient for the University of British Columbia for 2015. The purpose of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Fieldwork Educator Award of Excellence is to acknowledge the contribution of a practice educator who demonstrates exceptional performance in teaching and mentoring students in the workplace and who represents a “gold standard” in inspiring students to passionately pursue professional practice. The recipient needed to have significantly contributed to practice

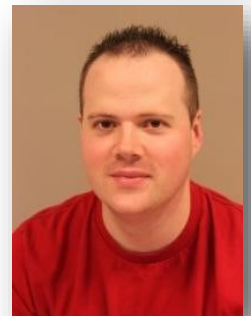
education of student Occupational Therapists through inspirational and innovative teaching with diverse learners over many years. Kevin has educated a record 18 students over his 7 years as a Fieldwork Educator. To quote one of his nominators: *“Kevin, through his admirable teaching style and genuine concern for me, was able to empower me, build my confidence and motivate me to strive to become a successful occupational therapist. He did this by understanding who I was as a person and a learner”*. Other words used to describe Kevin's ability to teach include:

- always available and receptive to questions and feedback
- provided “teaching moments” during the work day.
- actively sought students’ feedback to help improve their

learning experience and how he could improve his role as a preceptor.

- timely and consistent feedback throughout the placement, often immediately after each incident, and during formal weekly feedback sessions.
- skilled at facilitating clinical reasoning
- able to modify his teaching methods
- easy-going and trusted students
- required me to use guided self-reflection and self-motivated learning.

Congratulations Kevin. A recognition well deserved!



HATS OFF TO DONNA DRYNAN...



... for completing a UBC Certificate on Curriculum and Pedagogy in Higher Education - International Faculty SoTL Leadership Program. The aim of the certificate program is to better prepare educational leaders at UBC with scholarly approaches to teaching, learning and curriculum practices. Faculty members participate in the program to investigate research-informed, evidence-based and strategically-aligned curriculum and pedagogical practices within their disciplinary context (e.g., curriculum renewal and evaluation, peer-review of teaching, learning-centred course design and assessment, student engagement strategies, flexible learning initiatives).

The program itself was 8 months long, and Donna was externally reviewed by a peer to ensure acceptable completion of all program requirements. The Department is very proud of all her hard work, and extends its congratulations on this great accomplishment.



Northern Health Student Traveling Roadshow Showcases Occupational Therapy

UBC students inspire high school kids to pursue health care careers!

The Recent Health Care Traveling Road show provided an opportunity for healthcare professional students from the North and rural BC to travel to the communities of Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge located in the Peace River Regional District. This was an opportunity for students to share their passion for healthcare with local high school students and in turn, have the local community share their passion for northern and rural practice and living.



For one week in June, Liv Brekke, UBC MOTI student was part of the Healthcare Traveling Roadshow. This year's Roadshow included 14 health care students representing 9 different professions touring 3 different communities in Northern BC.

Liv kindly shares some highlights of her experience.

At the high schools, the majority of our time was spent interacting with small groups of students at hands-on stations. In the OT area of the "rehab department" (the PT/OT station), some of the opportunities for students included:

- ⇒ *assembling and riding a wheelchair;*
- ⇒ *calibrating a pressure-relieving*

cushion;

⇒ *using a sock aid;*

⇒ *and trying on different splints.*

The wheelchair obstacle course was definitely the highlight for most students! For me, talking about Occupational Therapy with the students really helped reinvigorate my passion for our awesome profession. It's pretty humbling to think that, thanks to the Roadshow, hundreds of kids have now heard about and experienced OT!

One aspect of the presentations we did, was that we were able to visit each other's stations. I probably learned just as much about my peers' professions as most of the students did. Among many other things, I learned what a medical engineering technologist is and that medical radiation technologists are anatomy whizzes. I even got to try intubating a training dummy!

One of the highlights of the experience was immersing myself in the 3 Northern communities. We had tours of the Fort St. John Hospital, Dawson Creek and District Hospital, and Tumbler Ridge Health Centre. There were also numerous recreational opportunities including:

⇒ *wheelchair basketball at the Pomeroy Sports Centre in Fort St. John;*

⇒ *a jet boat tour of the Peace River followed by a picnic BBQ, courtesy of local residents;*

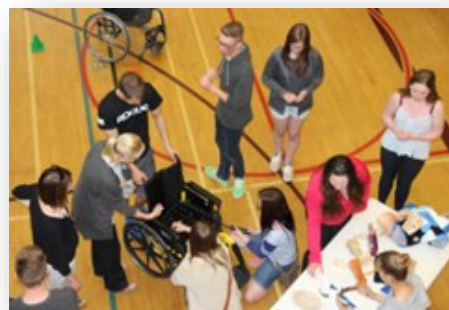
⇒ *golfing and dinner in Taylor, BC;*

⇒ *a backstage tour of the Paleontology Research Centre in Tumbler Ridge; and, a boat trip to Kinuseo Falls*

To summarize, my experience with the Healthcare Traveling Roadshow



was all about connecting with the community. The Roadshow delivered on the promise of an opportunity to educate and engage others about Occupational Therapy. However, the trip also became about building a new interprofessional community with my peers. What surprised and impressed me most, was the incredibly warm and friendly welcome we received in each and every place



we visited.

So if you're looking for a place with amazing recreational opportunities, where they welcome strangers as friends, and where OT can really make a difference, rural and northern BC is for you! I certainly hope I will be back there one day soon.

Donna Drynan, Senior Instructor
ddrynan@mail.ubc.ca, &

Liv Brekke, MOT 1

OSOT Research Initiative Fund

1st Competition for Research Project Funds at OS&OT

This year the Department launched the first competition for research projects funded by the OSOT Research Initiative. The review panel was very pleased with the number and quality of the applications received, and we are happy to announce details of the two successful projects:

Sinead Hynes, post-doctoral fellow, \$5042, for her project “I think therefore I do: A Cognitive Occupation-Based program for people with Multiple Sclerosis (COB-MS). This study is part of a larger project to test COB-MS, a cognitive intervention developed for people with MS, and will involve a consultation phase that will identify facilitators and barriers to successful implementation of COB-MS, and ensure content validity and clinical utility.



Jill Zwicker, Assistant Professor, \$5000, for her project “Effectiveness of Cognitive Orientation to Occupational Performance (CO-OP) in Very Preterm Preschool-age Children with Developmental Coordination Disorder: A Pilot Study.” Jill’s study will determine whether a cognitive therapy approach most effective at improving outcomes for children with DCD (CO-OP) is effective in improving motor outcomes for very preterm, preschool-age children with this disorder. The study will also explore whether the amount of CO-OP practice at home is related to the magnitude of motor changes.

The OSOT Research Initiative fund is supported by donations to the Department. To contribute, [click here](#).

Many thanks to all applicants, and to the adjudicators: Laura Bulk, Ginny Fearing, and Liisa Holsti, ably supported by Cynthia Hsieh. Please join congratulating Sinead and Jill as the inaugural recipients of this award!

Two new investigators awarded grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research



Dr. Jill Zwicker, Assistant Professor, received a 5-year Foundation grant for her research program titled “Using Brain Imaging to Determine Predictors of Developmental Coordination Disorder and Response to Intervention.” This program aims to identify clinical risk factors, brain biomarkers, and patterns of motor development in early childhood that predict DCD in children born preterm. Jill will evaluate effects of rehabilitation on the brain and functional outcomes, and describe psychosocial functioning and quality of life of affected children. The success rate for new investigators in this competition was only 15% nationwide, and the Department is incredibly proud that Jill was recognized for her innovative program of research so early in her career.

KUDOS TO
BEN AND JILL!



Dr. Ben Mortenson, Assistant Professor, was funded for a project titled “Systematic, Comprehensive, One-to-One Training (SCOOT) for Scooter Skills.” This 3-year, mixed-method trial, will determine if a novel scooter skills training program is safe and useful. The study utilizes an integrated knowledge translation approach that involves academic researchers, and a team of scooter prescribers and users in the development of the research questions, interventions and study design. This operating grant was one of only 7% of applications approved for funding in the highly competitive process.

Congratulations to Ben and Jill on this tremendous achievement!
OT Lens



**Janice Duivesteyn is the
Recipient of the 2015 FoM
Excellence in Clinical Teaching
Award**

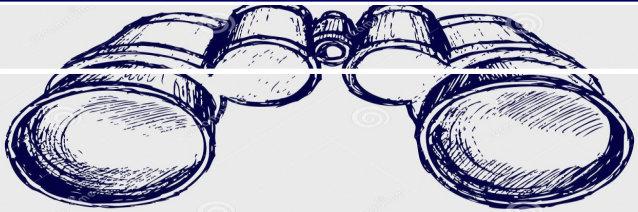
Janice Duivesteyn is the recipient of the 2015 Faculty of Medicine Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award! Janice is a Clinical Assistant Professor who has taught in the department for over 15 years, and is known provincially, nationally and internationally for her expertise in the area of dysphagia management and eating, drinking, swallowing disorders. She is also a practicing occupational therapist at Sunny Hill Health Centre.

Not only is Janice a highly regarded instructor in the Master of Occupational Therapy program, but her teaching extends beyond the classroom. Her contributions to continuing professional education for clinicians and colleagues is so widespread that most OT practicing in BC in dysphasia or swallowing assessments and management were trained by Janice. She consults locally and internationally, and has participated in a variety of international initiatives to educate and mentor fellow clinicians. Congratulations Janice!



Dr. Laura Nimmon joins OSOT

Our newest assistant professor is Dr. Laura Nimmon, who joined us July 1, 2015, through a partnership with the UBC Centre for Health Education Scholarship (CHES). Laura wasted no time getting her research funded, and received the Young Investigator Award from The Arthritis Society toward her program of research examining client centered care, patient empowerment, and the dynamics of the health care team in chronic illness care. Laura, who earned her PhD at UBC in health literacy, will be based at CHES on the VGH campus.



Stay tuned!

Visitors to OSOT this Fall!

- ◆ Dr Michael Curtin, Charles Sturt University, Australia—September 24-25, 2015
- ◆ Dr Tamar Weiss, University Peter Wall Scholar—November 9-24, 2015
- ◆ Dr Rachel Thibeault, University of Ottawa—November 25-27, 2015

UBC Honorary degree recipient—We are thrilled that Rachel will be the first OT to receive an honorary doctorate from UBC during the ceremony where our MOT, MRSc, MSc + PhD students convocate on November 27th, 2015.

- ◆ Public talks will be announced via email.

Testing New Waters for the MRSc 10th Anniversary

A 5 part leadership webinar series "[Influencing and Leading Rehabilitation Practice](#)" from April 13 - May 11, was our first online *continuing professional development* (CPD) opportunity for rehabilitation practitioners since the launch of our free [Research Relays](#) in 2012. Fully subscribed, the inter-professional list of registrants included occupational therapists, physical therapists, a social worker, speech language pathologists and others from across Canada. 90% of registrants attended 4-5 of the five webinars. The following feedback reflects the positive ratings and comments about the series:

"Overall, opportunities for self-reflection on the content as well as the examples and case studies were very helpful and relevant."

"The pre-reading was very complimentary and allowed some of the background content to be understood and allowed us to dive into discussion quicker. The reflective opportunities very much helped to personalize the learning."

Facilitators utilized several approaches for enabling participant interaction during the webinars. Some met more success than others and will inform future webinars process decisions. About one third of participants indicated that real-time learning such as webinars would best suit their schedule for future CPD activities, and over two thirds chose a mix of synchronous (real time) and asynchronous learning. A variety of delivery approaches may offer optimal opportunities for future CPD, and will be explored.

Thanks to *Dr. Theresa McElroy* for coordinating the development of the series, to our capable facilitators, *Jason Giesbrecht, Karen Hurtubise, Clare Faulkner* and *Sarabjeet Charchun*, all registrants and attendees who were able to provide feedback. We appreciate your support and your ideas for future online continuing professional development activities. Special thanks goes to [Rehabilitation Science Online Programs](#), Program Assistant *Tracy Strauch* who provided excellent technological support to the facilitators and registrants, and to *Sandy McNeill*, Registration and Conference Services Manager in the Faculty of Medicine's [CPD](#) office who coordinated registration.

Research Relays Resume Fall 2015

With the Leadership Series behind us and planning for future CPD ahead, a new free *Research Relays* series begins early in October 2015. It brings presentations from MRSc grads as well as from PhD graduates in Rehabilitation Science. Registration will open this month. Please watch our [Research Relays](#) page for the fall presenters, topics, and registration information.

It's time... Your Master's is Just a Click Away!

Check out course-based and research study options at www.mrsc.ubc.ca or email us at info@mrsc.ubc.ca

MRSc: Apply by April 30 for September entry; September 30 for January entry
GCR: May 15 for September entry; October 15 for January entry

SEEDS OF CHANGE

UBC'S DR. MELINDA SUTO EXAMINES THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY GARDENING ON PEOPLE LIVING WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNES

Two years ago, the rooftop patio on Seymour Street was like any other in downtown Vancouver: a basic concrete yard for tenants to take in a view of neighboring high-rises; a landing for smokers to exchange a few words between draws on their cigarettes.

Today, the scene is much different. Where cigarette butts once lined the ground, potting containers, overflowing with basil and oregano can be found. Tomato plants creep and curl along stakes, young asparagus shoots sprout through rich, dark soil, and peas hang heavy off the vines.

To outsiders, the newly-established rooftop garden may look like many others that have sprung up over Vancouver's downtown core in recent years, but this particular site is unique — set atop the Coast Mental Health Resource Centre, and tended by a group of gardeners with a history of severe mental illness.



The Coast Wellness Garden on Seymour Street, Vancouver

"It's a complete transformation," says UBC's **Melinda Suto**, an associate professor in the [Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy](#), who is serving as a principal investigator on a research initiative exploring the impact of community gardening on the wellbeing of people with severe mental illness living in supported housing. And while the arrival of plants has certainly changed the appearance of the rooftop patio, Dr. Suto hopes the true transformation will take place among the group of study participants, now all active gardeners.

"People with severe mental illness who live in supported housing are at a higher risk for being socially isolated and not engaging with their community," says Dr. Suto.

It was this recognition that drove Dr. Suto to examine how participation in a leisure activity or simple occupation, like community gardening, could help mitigate the isolating effect of severe mental illness, and improve overall wellbeing.

Today, thanks to grant support from the Vancouver Foundation, Dr. Suto is two years in to a three-year community-based participatory research (CBPR) project — a partnership with [Coast Mental Health](#) — set to determine how the simple act of planting a seed and watching something grow can help create better health and social connections for this particular, and often marginalized population.

Since the program was established last year, the research team — which includes Dr. Suto, as well as Coast Mental Health's CEO **Darrell Burnham**, Master of Occupational Therapy students **Neysa Hale** and **Ursula Stansfield**, and alumni, **Dana Statham** and **Emma Brown** — has established two distinct community gardens in Vancouver: the Coast Wellness Garden, on Seymour Street, and the Health and Wellness Garden, near Clark Drive. The number of garden participants has also grown, from 14 to 21, since the project began.

As one of the first studies to explore the topic in depth, the findings have the potential to make a significant contribution to the wider field of occupational science and help clarify what role gardening, and other leisure occupations, may play in the support of mental health rehabilitation.



Melinda Suto

“What we’re really interested in determining with this study is whether a low-tech leisure activity, like creating and maintaining a garden, can encourage better health, and social connections for those living with severe mental illness,” says Dr. Suto.

And, while it’s still early days, Dr. Suto and UBC Master of Occupational Therapy student researchers, say a number of benefits are already emerging. Through interviews and direct observation of the study participants, there’s early indication that community gardening offers a welcome escape from the exhaustive nature of mental illness.

“Whether it’s living with intrusive voices, or mood swings, a mental illness can be very wearying,” explains Dr. Suto. “The garden can be a complete salve for that, as it provides people with a different way of being. They may be having voices, but they can still take part in the act of planting a seed, or picking out a weed. For many, that can make a huge difference to how they’re feeling.”

For gardener **David Norman**, who’s been coming to the Coast Mental Health Resource Centre for years, the introduction of the gardening program has given him something new to look forward to each day.

“It’s nice to have something that belongs to you, and you belong to it,” says Norman, standing beside his garden plot, bursting with carrot and radish tops. “That’s something that was missing for me before — I would come here and play a few rounds of pool, but I didn’t really have anything that I belonged to, or took care of, so it’s nice to have something to care for.”

Planting seeds, nurturing social connections

Dr. Suto, who attends the weekly gardening sessions at each site, says that many of the gardeners have gained new confidence, thanks to the skills they’re developing and advice they’re taking away from workshops offered by local Vancouver-based horticultural therapist, **Shelagh Smith**.

“These gardens have really given people an opportunity to acquire skills,” says Dr. Suto. “They’re not only learning how to plant, and weed, but when to harvest and even how to incorporate some of the vegetables and fruit they produce into their weekly meals.”

With many of the gardeners also living in supported housing, some with little to no employment opportunities, the garden has also provided some unintended, but very welcome economic benefits.

“Last year, we produced so many vegetables that the gardeners were able to eat straight from the garden,” says Dr. Suto, acknowledging that even just a bit of additional produce can make a big difference to those living in supported housing.

For Dr. Suto, who has close to four decades of experience as an occupational therapist, and has dedicated her professional career to the field of mental health, one of the most rewarding observations has been the fact that the gardeners — many who live relatively isolated lives — are finding renewed purpose, and along the way, building new social connections.

“When we first met our study participants, many said that they were not satisfied with their social connections,” says Dr. Suto. “Gardening has begun to erode that a bit and some of our gardeners are even meeting up outside of the weekly sessions.”

While the program has helped foster greater social ties among many participants, for others, like **Shurli Channe**, the very act of gardening has become a vital part of her recovery.

“I’m drawn back every week because the garden has become a continuation of my recovery,” says Channe, who, after decades of living undiagnosed with



Shurli Channe

bipolar disorder, eventually landed on the streets and in the shelters of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Fortunately, thanks to the actions of local health units on the eastside, Channe secured permanent housing and access to mental health support services through Coast Mental Health. Today, only seven years later, she serves as an active board member with the Coast Foundation Society, as a peer worker with Coast Mental Health, and as a volunteer on the Downtown Eastside.

And while Channe's path to recovery began some time ago, since joining the community garden at Seymour Street in March, she's gaining new hope.

"When I have my hands in the soil, I feel at ease — when you do something as simple as gardening, just putting your hands in the ground and watching something grow, you can't help but smile," says Channe. "When you look at someone like me, I shouldn't be walking around as happy as I am, but I feel happier, and healthier than I ever have before."

Budding opportunities

Next summer, when the research initiative wraps up, Dr. Suto and her team will dig deeper into the data, pouring over their observations and interviews with participants once again, to gain greater clarity into some of the early trends and observations that have emerged.

After publication, Dr. Suto, as well as her student researchers are keen to see the findings from their study applied by occupational therapists and other rehabilitation professionals in practice.

"It's my hope that people will look at community gardening and see that it has a lot of potential to improve the lives of people with severe mental health issues living in supported housing," says Dr. Suto.

Second-year Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) students, Ursula Stansfield and Neyla Hale, who have spent the past year working alongside Dr. Suto to collect and analyze the data from this year's participants, say they are both encouraged by what they've seen.



Ursula Stansfield and Neyla Hale

"The gardeners have been so welcoming and open," says Stansfield. "I have felt very privileged to hear their stories, gain a small glimpse into their lived experience, and see, first-hand, just how powerful an activity, like community gardening, can be for people with severe mental illness."

"It's been a really meaningful project to be a part of," adds Hale. "For me, it's illustrated just how beneficial a simple activity can be and how important 'occupations' are for the maintenance of good health and wellbeing."

Though the research is set to wrap up next summer, Dr. Suto hopes to see the program continue long after the study is finished.

"Even now, though we're still a year away, we're thinking about and talking about sustainability," says Dr. Suto, who has established a project advisory group, consisting of two staff members at Coast Mental Health, as well as six garden participants, who play an active leadership role.

Dr. Suto has also started making connections with others across the Lower Mainland to see if similar opportunities, and new spaces, could be established for more individuals with severe mental illness living in supported housing.

And while the development of new sites may be many years down the road, the seeds of change are taking root.

Kerry Blackadar, *Communications Coordination for the Faculty of Medicine of UBC*

UBC Master of Occupational Therapy students showcase their research at annual Capstone Conference

Can motor outcomes be predicted early in life? Could Nintendo Wii be used to enhance walking capabilities in adults who have lower limb amputation? Does community gardening have a role to play in improving the wellbeing of individuals with severe mental illness?



These were just some of the questions posed — and explored — at this year's **10th annual [Capstone Conference](#)**: one of the crowning events for second-year UBC students completing their Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT).

The daylong event, put on by [UBC's Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy](#), was an opportunity for these soon-to-be graduates to showcase findings from research projects conducted over the course of their final year of the program.

"I'm always impressed by the caliber of research conducted by our students," says **Dr. Catherine Backman**, head of UBC's Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

And this year was no exception. Under the supervision of faculty members, as well as academics and clinicians in the field, the graduating class of 2015 designed and executed well over 20 research projects, each contributing new developments to the field of occupational therapy.

As in the past, this year's Capstone Conference drew quite a crowd, as friends, family, upcoming students and clinical faculty came out in support of the graduates.

And while the event is certainly a celebratory occasion for the graduating class, it's also a real opportunity for the wider community to hear about up-and-coming research and learn more about the value of occupational therapy as a profession, says Dr. Backman.

For many students and faculty members, this year's conference was particularly special, as it drew support from B.C.'s Attorney General and Minister of Justice **Suzanne Anton**, MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview, as well as **David Eby**, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey. Both attended to hear, first-hand, from students and gain a richer understanding of some of the unique research projects underway within the Department.

One of the many projects that caught Anton and Eby's eye was "[Picture This](#)," a photo exhibit exploring the lived experience of high-functioning stroke survivors.

"I have always been interested in the issue of accessibility — and these photos are a powerful demonstration of how the world looks to people who have suffered from a stroke, and how the world now operates around them," says Anton.



BC Attorney General Suzanne Anton, MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview, and David Eby, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey, meet with UBC students Marie Maratos and Linh Huyng, as well as Greg McKinstry (front), Vice President of the Stroke Recovery Association of BC, at the 10th Annual Capstone Conference.

“The students did a striking presentation and I really admire them for reaching out and sharing their findings on the issue of accessibility for stroke survivors.”

For Eby, the photo exhibit was a powerful, and very personal experience.

“My father had a stroke and lived with a disability from stroke for a number of years before he passed away,” reflects Eby. “The approach these students have taken with their research — having stroke survivors document their experience through photos — is very inspiring, as you really get to see the world through somebody else’s eyes and see the challenges they face, as well as the positive things that are happening for them.”

He adds: “The fact that these students reached out is very heartening — it shows they are interested in teaching others and exploring ways they can really help improve the experience for stroke survivors.”

MOT students **Marie Maratos** and **Linh Huynh**, who partnered with medical students Jordan Lui and Julia Tan, to conduct the yearlong study, say seeing the support from Anton and Eby is a great first step towards their goal of translating their knowledge and reaching out to those who can help affect change.

“Moving forward, no matter where this project takes us, it’s about creating change and working with the stroke survivors as equal partners, as they really are best able to educate us, not the other way around,” says **Dr. Tal Jarus**, a professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, who served as the students’ supervisor.



UBC master of Occupational Therapy students Linh Huynh and Marie Maratos

But Maratos and Huynh were not the only students to reveal some exciting developments in the field of occupational therapy during this year’s Capstone Conference. Studies ranged from examinations on adaptive features of wheelchairs and the efficacy of scooter training through to explorations of virtual reality interventions for children with autism.

Many of the students have already presented, or are preparing to present their research at national and international conferences.

For a full list of student research projects, visit the Capstone Conference [website](#), or explore [photo highlights](#) from the day.

Kerry Blackadar, *Communications Coordination Faculty of Medicine*



Dianna Mah-Jones Receives 2015 BC Outstanding Occupational Therapist Award

The Department is delighted to announce that Dianna Mah-Jones, Clinical Associate Professor, has been awarded the 2015 BC Outstanding Occupational Therapist award by the CAOT-BC. This award recognizes a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession throughout his or her career, and we could not be more proud of Dianna’s recognition. To learn more about Dianna, check out the following [interview](#) that was conducted by Sarah Slocombe (MOT2) while on fieldwork at CAOT-BC. Congratulations Dianna on receiving this honour!





Tracy Henderson Wins 2 Prestigious University Service Awards



Tracy Henderson, Curriculum Coordinator extraordinaire, has been honoured with two prestigious university service awards, the 2015 Faculty of Medicine Applegarth Award, and the UBC President's Service Award for Staff. These accolades recognize Tracy's 7 years of outstanding service to the department. As a part of the OS&OT team, she has often gone above and beyond her duties, and has become such a central figure in our office that a steady stream of visitors (including students and clinical faculty) often come by just to say hello. Congratulations to her on winning these well-deserved honors. Her colleagues shared profound appreciation for having such an amazing support person in the office. Well done Tracy!

Alison Gerlach Awarded "2014 Best Scholarship Paper" by the Journal of Occupational Science

Congratulations to Alison Gerlach, MSc (OT), PhD candidate, who recently received the *Journal of Occupational Science's* award for best scholarship paper in 2014. Alison was commended in October 2014 for one of the top-read papers in the *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*. Well done, Alison, for your continued scholarly excellence!



Gerlach, A., Browne, A.J., & Suto, M. (2014). Play as a critical occupational determinant of health for Aboriginal children. *Journal of Occupational Science*, 21(3), 243-258.

Gerlach, A. (2012). A critical reflection on the concept of cultural safety. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 79(3), 151-8.

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We offer three graduate academic programs.

- The **Master in Occupational Therapy (MOT)** program, for those looking to practice professionally as an Occupational Therapist;
- The **Master of Science (MSc) and PhD** programs in Rehabilitation Sciences, for those interested in research credentials and the science of occupation; and
- The online **Master of Rehabilitation Science (MRSc)** for practitioners interested in obtaining a graduate degree that will advance their career and be obtained while working.