

the Fieldwork

newsletter

Celebrating 30 years of OTA at Mont Alto

At our recent celebration of 30 years of Occupational Therapy at Penn State Mont Alto, attendees heard from Haylee Dietrich, COTA and Dr. Melanie Wheeler, who discussed Contemporary Therapeutic Tech Applications.

Cheryl Deal, COTA presented Stories of Compassion, Resilience, and Therapeutic Use of Self. Cheryl also shared touching stories about her personal experience as a breast cancer survivor and her work with veterans at the Western Maryland Hospital Center.

Keynote speaker, 16-year-old Reese Burdette, along with her family, shared her inspiring journey of recovery after sustaining severe injuries in a house fire. She spent almost two years in a pediatric intensive care unit at Johns Hopkins and ultimately lost a leg due to circulation issues.

The day concluded with student-guided tours of the Allied Health Building, marking the 30-year milestone of engagement in Occupational Therapy.



Educating the Fieldwork Supervisor

One of the roles of the Academic Fieldwork Educator (AFWC) is to provide fieldwork resources to help "enhance supervision." This section focuses on effective communication.

Weekly supervisory meetings utilizing the [PSU Mont Alto Weekly Meeting Sheet](#) can help foster effective communication. Please reach out to Olivia Hammond with any questions or concerns. We are happy to provide additional resources on supervisory skills, articles on theory and practice and continuing education opportunities.



ACOTE Standard C1.12 Providing Clinical Supervision

Clinical supervision is a vital aspect of professional development for occupational therapy students who are on fieldwork. It provides guidance, support, and feedback to students as they navigate the challenges and nuances of working with clients in different settings. In Costa's (2007) *Clinical Supervision in OT: A Guide for Fieldwork and Practice*, she emphasizes the importance of using a reflective and collaborative approach to supervision, in which both the supervisor and student work together to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.

One key aspect of effective clinical supervision is establishing clear and consistent communication channels between the supervisor and student. This can include regular check-ins, meetings, and progress reports. Additionally, it's important for the supervisor to create a supportive and non-judgmental environment in which the student feels comfortable expressing their concerns and seeking guidance when needed.

Another crucial component of effective clinical supervision is providing constructive feedback to the student. This feedback should be specific, actionable, and focused on areas where the student can improve. The supervisor should also provide positive feedback to the student, highlighting areas of strength and celebrating successes.

In summary, clinical supervision is a critical part of occupational therapy education and fieldwork. It provides students with guidance and feedback, helping them to grow and develop as professionals. By incorporating Costa's clinical supervision guide, supervisors can use a reflective and collaborative approach to supervision that empowers students and enhances their learning experience.



Faculty Update

We are pleased to share with you that our Olivia Hammond, teaching faculty and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, completed her Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree from Thomas Jefferson University. Her new title will be Associate Teaching Professor of Occupational Therapy.

Olivia started working on her OTD in May of 2020. Her doctoral project was Life Balance, Stress, and Occupational Burnout in Occupational Therapy Assistant Students: An Exploratory Study. She will be presenting her research at the American Occupational Therapy Association conference in March of 2024. She is also pursuing publication of her research.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hammond on this significant accomplishment!

OTA Students Celebrate Mask-free Graduation

Members of the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Class of 2023 are pictured below after their graduation ceremony. They were the first class to return to normal in-person classes and Level I fieldwork experiences. Celebrating their hard work... and, their uncovered smiles!



ACOTE Reaccreditation

We are looking for volunteers to represent past students, fieldwork educators, and employers for onsite focus groups April 15-17, 2024. If you are interested, or have a recommendation of someone to contact, please reach out to Angela Hissong.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued dedication to our program! We could not continue our program without our community partners and YOU, who have continued to take our students.

I am still struggling to find skilled nursing facility placements. Please contact me if you have any leads or work in one of these areas and would be willing to take a student.

For additional fieldwork resources, please visit our [webpage](#).

Olivia W. Hammond, MBA, OTR/L, CHT

Contact Us

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