**OT Degree Program Now Fully Accredited**

Following a successful accreditation visit, the Master of Occupational Therapy (O.T./M.) degree program received full five-year accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Lewis College OT graduates, beginning with the first class graduating in December, are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist. After successful completion of this exam, they become Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). Also, graduates attain state licensure based on the results of the national certification.

**OT Welcomes New Faculty**

Three new faculty join the department and one faculty member receives a permanent placement.

Emily Buchman, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., clinical assistant professor, comes from the Shepherd Center where she was an occupational therapist in the spinal cord injury department. (Link to faculty profile)

Yi-An Chen, Ph.D., O.T.R./L., joins the OT faculty as an assistant professor after a stint as a research associate in the Georgia State PT department. She also works as a part-time OT at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Chen’s research focuses on neurorehabilitation of functional arm/hand use behavior following a stroke. She earned her Ph.D. in biokinesiology at the University of Southern California. Chen also holds a bachelor’s and masters degree in occupational therapy from two universities in Taiwan.

Jade Gross, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., C.S.L.T., clinical assistant professor, joins the OT department faculty permanently after a previous limited-term assignment, dating back to the department’s inception. Gross completed her Doctor of Occupational Therapy from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and earned a bachelor’s in psychology from the University of Kansas.

Deborah (Debi) Hinerfeld, Ph.D., moves up from part-time status to clinical assistant professor of occupational therapy. She earned her bachelor’s in occupational therapy at Utica College of Syracuse University and her master’s in health care administration at Mercer University.

Welcome -

We are excited to start another year of our O.T./M. program and welcome the new faculty and students.

The OT department reached a significant milestone this semester as we received full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Thank you everyone involved in the process for their work and dedication.

Our program benefits from new faculty additions. We welcome Dr. Yi-An Chen to our team, along with her extensive knowledge and experience. We are also hosting Sang-Heon Lee, a visiting professor from Soonchunhyang University, South Korea.

Carolyn Podolski continues to grow and develop our fieldwork network with new facility relationships in Georgia and other states, providing students with top-notch fieldwork experiences to enhance their education. In addition, she arranged for students to assist at Camp BIAG for fieldwork credit providing hands-on experience working with individuals affected by traumatic brain injuries. Lastly, we welcomed our third student cohort into the program.

Several faculty members recently presented research in the U.S and internationally. Dr. Debi Hinerfeld and I presented our posters on our individual research at the World Federation of Occupational Therapy conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Dr. Yoonjeong Lim spoke on her research at a Barth Syndrome Foundation conference in Florida. Dr. Pey-Shan Wen presented her collaboration project with kinesiology at the Brain and Behavior, Initiative Maximizing Student Development and Center for the Advancement of Students and Alumni at Georgia State.

In addition, the OT department made a splash at the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association conference. A number of students and faculty gave outstanding research presentations. Professor Carolyn Podolski received the Barbara E. Grant Award of Merit and Dr. Jade Gross was named chair of education.

I am honored to serve as the inaugural chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Georgia State and I wish you all a happy and healthy semester.

Kinsuk Maitra,  
Ph.D., O.T.R./L., F.A.O.T.A.
Kudos

Carolyn Podolski, clinical assistant professor, received the Barbara E. Grant Award from the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association at the October state association meeting. Podolski was awarded the association’s highest honor in recognition of her outstanding service and leadership in the OT profession.

Jade Gross, clinical assistant professor, was named Georgia Occupational Therapy Association (GOTA) education committee chair. As education chair, she facilitates communication between educational programs and promotes student engagement within GOTA.

Sang-Heon Lee, is a visiting professor from Soonchunhyang University, South Korea

Faculty Presentations


Poster Presentations


OT Department Participates in GOTA

Several OT student made presentations at the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association (GOTA) conference in Jekyll Island. Schonie Lee Hamilton gave a poster presentation “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare from Conception to Birth.”

Karen McWaters, Peyton Pritchard, Christine Sherwood, and Wei Wang presented their poster “Refugee Crisis in Georgia: How does Occupational Therapy Fit In?”

Karen McWaters, Karlie Moore, Paige Muma, Payton Pritchard, Christine Sherwood, and Hillary Woodall presented their research conducted with Dr. Pey-Shan Wen, “The Effects of Yoga on Pain, Sleep, Mood, and Executive Function in Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury.”

Amanda Pitts presented a poster on behalf of her and her research team members Hayat Akmel and Jonathan Cam “The Impact of Supportive Services on the Quality of Life and Senses of Well-being in Community Dwelling Older Adults.”

Students News

The Georgia Leadership & Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (GaLEND program) accepted three OT students Liz Loncher, Jennie Chambliss, and Jenn Boner. They are currently in classes that promote the importance of family-centered, interdisciplinary care for people with disabilities.

Class of 2020 - third cohort of O.T./M. students with department chair Dr. Kinsuk Maitra.