

October 12, 2010

Keeping In Touch . . . Impacting Lives

Local and National Recognition for Community Outreach Efforts by the Occupational Therapy Department

Impacting the Lives of those affected by the Oil Spill



The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) recognized the impact of the Gulf coast oil spill on the local community. In an internet article the AOTA interviewed Shannon Mangum, MPS, LOTR, an assistant professor, about preventative mental health and support opportunities in the school system.

Mrs. Mangum stated “We do hands-on activities for the kids, and then we provide parents with specific activities to bring home so they have resources. We provide ideas for teachers because we have a lot of non-seasoned teachers and after-hour opportunities for parents to learn about preventative mental health.” Occupational Therapy students are currently engaged in community-building projects within the local schools. As a part of the Community Based and Specialized Practice course, senior students will develop preventative mental health programming for 3rd graders at Gautier Elementary School in St. Bernard Parish. They will also provide teacher training regarding how to support the “whole” child to enhance healthy emotional, social and intellectual growth. In addition, the students will provide resources for parents related to parenting and how to cope with the impact of the oil disaster. It is our hope to develop and ongoing partnership with this school.

The entire article from the AOTA can be found at <http://www.aota.org/News/Consumer/oil.aspx>

Reflecting upon Post-Katrina Efforts

The Occupational Therapy (OT) program was highlighted in a recent issue of *Advance for Occupational Therapy Practitioners*. The August issue highlighted the OT department community involvement after hurricane Katrina. Kelly Alig, Shannon Mangum, and Kerrie Ramsdell, occupational therapists and faculty members within the OT department, were interviewed about their experiences and their assistance in rebuilding the city after such large disaster. Faculty and students assisted

the community in many ways by gutting homes, offering suggestions for universal design (accessibility) in the rebuilding of homes, and offering education on mental health.

To read the article in its entirety, please visit <http://occupational-therapy.advanceweb.com/ebook/magazine.aspx?EBK=OT081610#>

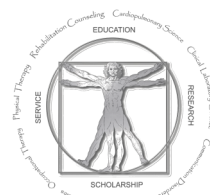


Rehabilitating Housing

Students and faculty joined over 1,000 volunteers in the Rebuilding Together project, Fifty for Five project. The Fifty for Five project commemorated the 5 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.



Rebuilding Together has pledged to rehabilitate 1,000 homes in the Gulf Coast region and worked on 50 homes during the week of Aug 24-29. Kerrie Ramsdell, MS, LOTR, an assistant professor, organized a team of occupational therapists and students who identified safety and accessibility needs in these homes. Students and faculty worked on 4 homes sponsored by the Administration on Aging for Rebuilding Together of Greater New Orleans. The focus of safety and accessibility needs is to promote aging in place. Successful aging-in-place strategies can assist in decreasing falls risk and housing concerns for the elderly population.



Promoting Leadership & Collaboration
within an Interdisciplinary Network

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