



Newsletter, Issue #9, January 2010

Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists (CSOS)

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A Departing Word from the Out-Going Executive Director

Happy New Year! The Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists is proud to introduce its new Executive Director, Mike Ravenek. I would like to thank all members for their support and contributions to the society over the past three years. Having worked for CSOS since 2006 I have met some incredible people, experienced wonderful things, and learned a lot. While I am stepping down from this position to focus on the completion of my doctoral research, I will remain engaged in the society and look forward to seeing you all at our future symposia!

Sincerely,
Suzanne Huot

A Word from the In-Coming Executive Director

With our new website that is soon to be launched and the joint CSOS / SSO:USA conference in October, the year 2010 is shaping up to be an exciting one for CSOS. I am thrilled to be taking over for Suzanne in the capacity of executive director, although she has left pretty big shoes to fill with all of the great work she has done. Suzanne has been a great source of support for me in making the transition into the position and for this I would like to thank her. I am currently finishing the MSc (OT) program at The University of Western Ontario and I will be returning to the school in the fall to start the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences PhD program in the rehabilitation science stream. My interest in occupational science stems not only from my background in occupational therapy, but also the youth, the translation of knowledge initiative, and the collaborative nature of the field.

The study of occupation has much to offer, and I look forward getting to know many of you as the year progresses. Excited about the prospects of 2010, I will leave you with one of my favourite quotes reflecting the power of occupation written by Helene Polatajko:

“Occupation is a curious thing. It pervades our lives and marks our days. It defines us and is defined by us. It both shapes the world and is shaped by the world. It can be known by the tools it uses and the wake it leaves in its path. It is intangible and invisible until a person engages in it. It is a performing art. It can only be seen when a person performs it and only understood when a person tells you its meaning.”

Sincerely,
Mike Ravenek

As always, if there is anything you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, such as an announcement, or opinion piece, please email the information to: csos@dal.ca

Joint Conference of the CSOS and SSO:USA – ‘Redefining Boundaries and Bridges in Occupational Science’

The Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists and the Society of the Study of Occupation: USA will be hosting its first joint conference October 14-16, 2010. The conference will be held at the Spencer Leadership Centre in London, Ontario. The call for abstracts is underway, with a deadline of February 15, 2010.

Consistent with the mission of both SSO:USA and CSOS, this forum seeks to advance the study of occupation and foster collaborative work. This innovative, exciting conference will bring together an international group of scholars who share an interest in advancing methodological, theoretical, and empirical knowledge related to the study of occupation.

We are inviting abstracts for research papers, theoretical papers, panels, forums and posters. Abstracts which clearly link to one or more of the conference sub-themes will be scored more highly.

Conference Sub-themes

The overarching theme of this conference “Redefining Boundaries and Bridges in Occupational Science” relates to its intent to advance the study of occupation by providing opportunities to critically reflect upon and expand theoretical, methodological, and empirical work in occupational science. Sub-themes include:

- Fostering and sustaining research collaborations
- Developing and challenging theory
- Extending and transforming methodologies and methods
- Building and translating knowledge

For further information please contact Mike at csos@dal.ca or visit the SSO:USA website at www.sso-usa.org

Occupational Science Stream at the CAOT Annual Conference

The inaugural Occupational Science Stream at the CAOT annual conference that took place in June in Ottawa was a success. The full day of scholarship featured 18 paper presentations and 10 poster presentations from a variety of Canadian and International scholars, and a panel discussion with the journal editors from the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy, Marcia Finlayson; the Journal of Occupational Science, Clare Hocking; and WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation, Karen Jacobs. Following up from this successful venture, which received very positive evaluations from attendees, a second Occupational Science stream is being planned in partnership with CAOT for the 2011 CAOT conference to be held in Saskatoon, SK.

International Society of Occupational Science (ISOS)

The ISOS executive, Alison Wicks, Eric Asaba, Erna Blanche and Debbie L. Rudman, will be providing a workshop on Occupational Science at the WFOT Congress in Chile (May, 2010). The ISOS website is currently being updated, and individuals can join as members (at no cost) via the website. Institutions interested in a membership with ISOS should contact Alison Wicks at alison@wicksmail.com.

CSOS Membership

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 and we accept subscriptions at any time. You can join CSOS or renew your membership by filling in the attached form. The continued growth of our organization will contribute to the ongoing success of Occupational Science in Canada.

Membership includes listserv subscription, newsletters, discounts on symposia, eligibility to vote in elections, opportunities to get involved with CSOS events and activities, as well as the option to subscribe to the Journal of Occupational Science.

Website

Our website has been completely redesigned and will soon be launched. Please update the domain name in your 'favorites', as the site will also have a new domain name: www.csoscanada.com

Your New Board

At our first virtual Annual General Meeting, held in late September of 2009, a new CSOS Board was elected. Appreciation is extended to those who previously served as board members, including: Jane Davis, Ben Mortenson, Rebecca Casey, Sharon Dale Stone and Jane Taylor. Newly elected members including: Michèle Barrière-Dion, Julia Rozanova, Robin Stadnyk, Dianna Robertson and Annette Rivard. Our continuing board members include Debbie Laliberte Rudman, Lynn Shaw, Melinda Suto, Denise Reid and Daniel Molke.

Revised Mission and Strategic Directions

A revised mission statement, and 4 key strategic directions, were also approved at the AGM.

CSOS Mission: The CSOS will build a Canadian, interdisciplinary organization to coordinate interests in occupational science and promote its continued growth. This organization aims to promote an understanding of the importance of occupation to a diversity of public and academic audiences, and to advance the interdisciplinary study of occupation.

Strategic directions:

1. Promote interdisciplinary scholarship on occupation through creation of opportunities to network and exchange knowledge.
2. Enhance graduate student opportunities to engage in occupational science research and knowledge translation through provision of mentoring and funding.
3. Promote awareness of occupational science and knowledge transfer within public, academic and policy arenas.
4. Further develop a stable, effective organizational structure for CSOS.

Sub-committees addressed these key strategic directions are in the process of being formed. We welcome volunteers!