

Dr. Letha Mosley Named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows

Dr. Letha J. Mosley, a 2005 Adult Education graduate (Ph.D.), was honored at the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) 88th Annual Conference & Expo on April 12, 2008. She was named to the Roster of Fellows for "Excellence in Education and Addressing Health Disparities." Dr. Mosley is only the third person in Arkansas to earn this recognition, and she is among the first graduates of the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center to be named a Fellow. This award is for occupational therapists that, with their knowledge and expertise, have made a significant contribution to the continuing education and professional development of members of the AOTA. A person receiving this award may identify himself or herself by using "FAOTA" after his or her signature.

Dr. Mosley has been an occupational therapy educator for almost 15 years. She is currently on faculty at the University of Central Arkansas teaching such courses as Introduction to Research, Current Issues & Trends in Occupational Therapy, OT in Geriatrics, and Occupations across the Lifespan. She has made numerous contributions to the profession in education as a fieldwork supervisor, clinical education coordinator, academic fieldwork coordinator, and continuing education program planner. Dr. Mosley has presented at state, national, and international levels in education on many practice areas, but she has maintained a primary focus on presentations and workshops that facilitate cultural competency and diversity in the health professions.

Dr. Mosley's scholarly work centers on community-based participatory research with faith-based and community organizations to address the health needs of African Americans in the region; the campus-community partnership is formally known as *SHIFT-AAH* (Strengthening Health Initiatives For Today's African American Households). She has collaboratively developed such programs as *My Weight His Way*, *Stepping Out on Faith*, and *Living Legacies: Learning & Choosing Healthy Lifestyles*. Each program was designed to decrease health disparities by increasing: 1) awareness about health issues, 2) access to culturally and spiritually relevant health and wellness programs, and 3) self-advocacy skills and actions necessary to minimize health risks among African Americans. A central theme in her programs is "to meet the people where they are," in keeping with that theme, she has provided health programs in churches, community festivals, and barber shops in African American communities. Key issues addressed in each program include conditions which are prevalent among African Americans such as obesity and obesity related conditions (diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and hypertension). She is currently working to further develop and standardize an occupation-based assessment for practitioners to use to holistically evaluate individuals who are obese.

Dr. Mosley has demonstrated a strong and consistent commitment to the profession through her service. She served six years on the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), which is the governing body for accreditation of all OT and OTA educational programs. In addition, Dr. Mosley now is on AOTA's Commission on Education representing post-professional level academic educators. Letha has worked extensively with the national Black Occupational Therapy Caucus as a regional member-at-large, and now she facilitates a mentoring program among students, educators, and practitioners. Dr. Mosley mentors potential students, OT and OTA students, faculty, and practitioners within the profession and in other

disciplines. Dr. Mosley's goal is to be a visible role model who provides avenues to recruit, support, and nurture the success of underrepresented populations within the profession.

Letha indicated that her continued success as a professional was strongly supported and enhanced by her doctoral studies in the UGA Adult Education program. Under the mentorship of her major professor, Dr. Juanita Johnson-Bailey, and her dissertation committee, she was provided numerous opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills, and resources to excel. Prior to her graduation in August of 2005, the department supported her in attending the Salzburg Seminar on Multicultural Education in Austria and in participating in the Graduate School's (Dean Grasso) Future Leaders' Class of 2004, Leadership Workshop.



Mosley Left



Mosley 3rd from Left



Dr. Mosley (Right) poses with her mother after receiving the award