



Finding your passion and the joys of student supervision

Pamela Kasyan-Howe, MS, OTR/L FOTA Fieldwork SIS Chair, Academic fieldwork coordinator at South University, WPB, FLOTEC Chair, and overall person who loves all things related to fieldwork education!

As we start 2015 we reflect to find strategies for self-improvement, analyze growth opportunities, and search for outlets to contribute back to our community. I hope each of you identify passionately with an area that sparks your interests and keeps you excited about life and well as our profession.

Along this path of personal, professional and spiritual growth ask yourself the following questions:

- **What are you good at?** If you've been in a practice area for 6 months or longer, there are skills you possess that are beyond entry-level. As years pass you become an expert in matching occupational deficits to compensatory or adaptive strategies. As OT practitioners, we have the gift of creating moments, as we progress our clients towards health and independence that leaves us with that wonderful feeling of knowing how much we helped a client. Share that same skill with a student practitioner thru acceptance of a student in need of fieldwork placement.
- **What are you willing to try now?** What are you learning now? With the information age, if you aren't learning new skills or information, you are falling behind. Find ways to keep a flow of new information entering your mind. Student clinicians are a great way to fine tune your current skills and learn some new ones!
- **What do you enjoy?** This question can have you looking forward and back. Think back to when you were a child. Some roles and habits hold true. What did you love, what do you love now? Occupational therapist will tell you how much they love helping people. We tend to be social and enjoy interacting with others. How can you maximize time doing the things you enjoy? Perhaps you enjoy writing about OT, or sharing talking points about OT. Find an interest, make it become a passion and share it with others.
- I have a distinct opportunity as the FOTA Fieldwork SIS and as a fieldwork coordinator, to meet occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who find their passion in assisting students as they transition from student roles to clinical practice. It's an exciting time to watch as a student with book knowledge in their head, and a nervous smile on their face gets the opportunity to begin fieldwork experiences. It is also a pleasure to have fieldwork educators who mentor and teach the students to enter our practice.
- If you are good at your practice, would enjoy having students bring you current information to practice setting, and enjoy helping others, becoming a fieldwork educator may be a match for your 2015 goals. If you have any spark of interest in mentoring students and assisting in the fieldwork process, please contact your local college/university or go to <http://www.floteceducation.org> for contacts and resources!



- [Fieldwork Educator Certification Courses](#)
- [Fieldwork Resources](#)
- [Key Tips to Improving Fieldwork Educator Effectiveness](#)