



School of Public Health and Health Professions
Department of Rehabilitation Science

Seminar Series

David Merlo, MS, COTA, CPRP When Parallel Worlds Merge: Collaboration in a Transdisciplinary Universe

October 14, 2011

2:00 – 3:00

Kimball Tower 111

Biographical Sketch:

In addition to teaching in the OTA Department at Erie Community College, David Merlo represents OT and psychiatric rehabilitation locally and nationally, serving as board director of Restoration Society, Inc. (www.restoration-societyinc.org), a person-centered, occupation-based, recovery-oriented community mental health agency. He serves on the Board of New York State Occupational Therapy Association as Website Content Manager and Co-Chair of the Mental Health Special Interest Community. He is actively involved in the Niagara Frontier District of NYSOTA, serving in various elected and appointed roles. Additionally, David actively serves on various committees of organizations including American Occupational Therapy Association, United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (www.USPRA.org), and the National Consortium of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Educators (www.PsychRehab.net). He has presented regionally and nationally on topics related to mental health recovery.

Presentation Summary:

The presenter will recall the important milestones in the congruent histories of occupational therapy and psychiatric rehabilitation. He will explore some of the current strengths and barriers inherent in our occupational therapy profession today, and the external opportunities and threats facing us as we strategize to thrive as an essential contributor to mental health recovery. This session will serve as a jumping off point - asking the question “Where do we go from here, and how do we get there?”

