



**Cabarrus College Contact: Mark Ellison**

**Email: [mellison@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:mellison@cabarruscollege.edu)**

401 Medical Park Drive

Concord, NC 28025

Telephone: 704-783-1616

**OTA FACULTY RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL MADDAK AWARDS COMPETITION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Concord, NC, May 11, 2010-** Two Cabarrus College of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Assistant faculty recently were recognized at the National Maddak Awards program held at the 90<sup>th</sup> annual American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) conference in Orlando, Florida.

Amy Mahle, BA, COTA/L, Instructor in the OTA program, was awarded second place in the professional division for her invention called "Stove Knob Assist, Reach better. Cook safer." The device was created for seated individuals so they can safely reach the knobs on the back of the stove. The invention is a low-profile adaptation which attaches magnetically to the end of a standard reacher. Traditional reachers tend to slip when pushing and turning the knobs, and require grip strength and coordination. The Stove Knob Assist increases independence and safety during hot meal preparation. The Stove Knob Assist features a non-slip grip, attaches to the end of a standard reacher (no need to purchase a new reacher), and does not require the user to squeeze the trigger on the reacher. Amy, a graduate of the OTA program at Cabarrus College, was also recognized in 2006 with first place in the student category for her invention "Toothbrush Hold and Paste."

Amber Ward, OTR/L, ATP, Instructor in the OTA program, was awarded third place in the professional division for her invention called the "Toetroller." The device is a splint which straps to the big toe of the individual. Coming off the splint is a piece of material, which is at 90 degrees to the splint, and is used to press the TV remote control buttons. This device allows persons with no upper body movement to still use a standard remote control.

The Maddak Awards are a competition for professionals and students held at the AOTA conference hosted by Ableware, Independent Living from Maddak, Inc. The Maddak Awards Program was started to provide a forum for Occupational Therapists and students to share their ideas and innovations with each other. The award is intended to serve as a tribute to the creativity, ingenuity and dedication of Occupational Therapists and students who are continually looking for new ways to enhance the rehabilitation of their clients. Occupational therapists are innovators, looking for something that is "just a

little better" for their clients' needs. When the right products can't be found or don't exist, the OT makes it. The inventions that occupational therapist provide are important and satisfy a need in the patient's rehabilitation process.

Cabarrus College offers a two year Occupational Therapy Assistant associate degree. For additional information about the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Cabarrus College please call 704-403-1556 or learn more online at [http://www.cabarruscollege.edu/programs/occ\\_ther.html](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu/programs/occ_ther.html).



L to R: Amy Mahle and Amber Ward

### **About Cabarrus College of Health Sciences**

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences is located on the campus of CMC-NorthEast in Concord, North Carolina. Over 507 students are enrolled in five associate degree and three baccalaureate completion programs. Associate degree programs include medical assistant, nursing, occupational therapy assistant, surgical technology and associate in science. Baccalaureate completion programs include health services leadership and management, medical imaging and nursing. The College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Cabarrus College has experienced tremendous growth this decade, with enrollment doubling and applications for admission increasing nearly 200% since 2003. For additional information visit online at [www.cabarruscollege.edu](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu).