

## Faculty Scholarship Research Clusters

USC's Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has organized four innovative Research Clusters to study and overcome cultural, institutional and community obstacles to improving health care. By acquiring long-term federal funding as well as private foundation funding, USC researchers hope to ensure substantive contributions to occupational science and occupational therapy over time. Through these Research Clusters, the Department will contribute to the strength of health and social care science, contribute to a streamlined education model, support clinical and community OT practice, and enhance the Department's local and national visibility.

Participants in the Research Clusters contribute strongly to current conceptualizations of participation and occupation, family life and transformation. They link their work in this strategic area to health care reform, health disparities, ICDH-2, occupational therapy practice, and social and educational reform. Moreover, research results aid in the development and redesign of doctoral level courses. The Department looks forward to the creation of a web site to disseminate findings as well as to the acquisition of new library resources.

In the "**Participation in Everyday Life Research Cluster**", a four-year ethnographic and longitudinal study on family cultures and life among 30 African American families attempts to avoid an overly homogenized description of how urban families at risk manage challenges in daily life as they address the health problems of children with illnesses or disabilities. The study seeks answers to several questions: How does familial care giving change over time? How does the care of a child with special health care needs intersect with other family care giving responsibilities? What are the shifting influences of larger community and extended family networks on care

giving? How do these factors impact upon and influence the ability of families to access and create effective partnerships with health care professionals? What are the implications of these findings for occupational science and occupational therapy?

Recognizing diversity while identifying themes and issues that hold across cases, USC researchers look at over-burdened or "vulnerable caregivers" who suffer from serious, chronic illnesses and dynamic "care giving teams" to support them; families dealing with "multiple illness trajectories," significant family dramas associated with poverty and inner city residence, and the place of child illness or disability amidst other crucial family concerns. They examine resiliency, resources and supports that "buffer" hardships and suffering.

USC researchers anticipate increased understanding in the following areas: pediatric illness courses (or disability courses); the influence of impairments on developmental progress and achievements over time; shifts in family structure, household configurations, caregiving patterns and resources; and reconfigurations of parent or parenting team/child dyads in relation to the child's

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## Message From the Chair

Recently, I attended the Society for the Study of Occupation USA, Second Annual Conference held in Deer Valley, Utah. It proved a wonderful testimony to the fact that we were on the right track 15 years ago when we launched our PhD program in Occupational Science. Occupational Scientists who are graduates of our program played a crucial role in organizing the society and in convening this conference. Approximately 100 participants attended from throughout the United States and abroad. But no matter their academic home, clinical affiliation, or part of the world, all shared one value: they were passionate about furthering occupational science. USC Emeritus Professor Elizabeth J. Yerxa gave the *Ruth Zemke Lecture* and as she looked upon the audience seemed to glow in seeing how, what not that long ago, had been only an audacious vision and was now transformed into reality.



We seem to make a habit of audacious visions at USC and a crucial aspect of our vision today concerns curriculum. Our multi-tiered educational program is the centerpiece of the USC tradition. We are one of the few schools, perhaps the only school, in the country that offers the BS program, the professional Masters, the advanced Masters, the OTD, and the PhD in Occupational Science. This positions us to clearly discern the differences among the various levels of education and to figure out how to best associate the mission of each with those of the others. For this reason, we will soon begin an intense one-year process of curriculum revision. Our vision is that each of our levels of occupational therapy education will be clearly justified, respectful of the time-honored traditions that have always under-girded a USC education, responsive to public health concerns of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and loyal to the Department's commitment to serve disenfranchised communities and people with chronic disabilities.

It is our hope that this new curriculum model will shine forth in the year 2005, just as occupational science has its special luster today.

*Florence Clark*

**Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA**

## Student Spotlight

It has always been a challenge for OT students to find the balance of work, rest, and play in their own lives - even though that is what they always hear about while they are in the OT program. It can be especially difficult to find that balance if one discovers they are going to have a baby while in the program. That is just what recently has happened to a few of our students.

Julia Dunlap, a second year MA- II student, has a nine month-old girl named Anna Mae. Julia found out she was pregnant the week before she started the OT program. "Sarah Kelly was the first person my husband and I told about my pregnancy" she mused. "I wanted to know how this was going to work with my school plans. We told Sarah even before we told our parents!" Julia decided to take the spring and summer semesters off from the program. Anna Mae was born the day the spring semester started for her fellow students.

Lisa Mellynychuk, a second year MA-II student, discovered she was pregnant in the beginning of her second semester in the program. Lisa found comfort in knowing that it was working out for Julia and she also decided to take the spring and summer semesters off. Lisa said she never lost site of her goal and she always knew she would return to finish the program. She had a girl, Vanessa, last April who is now 6 months-old.

Sylvia Garciga, a senior in the bachelors program, has a six month-old baby boy, Gabriel. She has two other sons, ages twelve and fifteen. She figured the timing was good because she felt it was her last opportunity to have a baby. "Going to school while being pregnant is not very physically demanding. You are sitting down most of the time which is better than if I were pregnant while working as an OT". That's a good thing because Sylvia was on bed rest for the last half of her pregnancy but she went to class anyway.

When asked what the biggest challenge has been for these women as they go through the program and care for their

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## Faculty Corner

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### USC Faculty honored at AOTA

Congratulations to **Ruth Zemke**, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA and **Stan Azen**, Ph.D., for their recognition at the 2003 AOTA National Conference.

Dr. Zemke received the **Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award** for her *Outstanding Contributions to Education, Practice, Research, and Commitment to Innovation and Leadership*. She will give her lecture in Minneapolis at the 2004 AOTA Conference. Dr. Azen received the **AOTA Certificate of Appreciation**. He was honored for his *Significant Contributions Toward Advancing Occupational Therapy Research*.

**Jackie Mardrossian**, MA, COTA, received **Roster of Honor** for her *Significant Contributions to Education and Professional Development*. ■

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### Promotions

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Congratulations are in order for **Diane Kellegrew**, Ph.D., OTR on her recent promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy.

**Ruth Zemke**, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA has been granted the title of Professor Emeritus of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in recognition of her outstanding contributions and many years of dedicated service to the Department and University. ■

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### Fiesta Educativa

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On June 13 and 14, 2003, the Department participated in Fiesta Educativa, an annual bilingual conference for parents of individuals with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. This conference has been housed at the University of Southern California for the last 25 years, however the USC faculty have not played a role in the past.

This year, our Department was invited to participate in the event. Drs. Florence Clark and Erna Blanche presented two workshops. Dr. Clark's presentation was titled: Mothers Coping: Understanding the Feeling of Having a Child with a Disability, and Dr. Blanche's bilingual presentation

### Fieldwork Education Updates

The 2003-2004 academic year started early in July as David Leary and Jaynee Meyer, USC OT Fieldwork Co-coordinators began planning placements for the new class! Streamlined practice site communication was planned and set in motion, as nearly 100 future OTs completed their summer Level II Fieldwork experiences. The combined Level I Fall/Spring and Level II fieldwork placement request mailing was sent out in late July. The incoming class of students received three stepwise orientations to fieldwork education aspects including revised USC Student Health requirements, new Federal HIPAA legislation, and professional credentialing during the summer.

A half-day Fieldwork Education Seminar was held on September 26, 2003 with 40 practitioners in attendance. The Occupational Therapy Practice Framework and its relationship to Fieldwork Education, as well as its integration into USC's curriculum were highlighted. The topic was offered in response to feedback from last spring's Fieldwork Education Seminar, and attendees and presenters agreed on the value of such gatherings for education updates and professional community support. *Mark your calendar for the spring seminar planned for March 5, 2004!* Adaptation of Level II Fieldwork objectives utilizing the new AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation and Practice Framework is in the works.

Preparations for the March, 2004 AOTA Accreditation Committee's on-site visit continue with contract and procedural updates. Professional program students begin their Level II summer Fieldwork selections in November and the months keep rolling along! David and Jaynee continue their "finely tuned" coordination with an emphasis on student advisement and clinical site support. The Fieldwork Education team "huddles" weekly including Robin Turner, Fieldwork Assistant and constant supporter. The Fieldwork Education team is hard at work for our students and practice community, and maintains a focused commitment to quality education and clinical skill development. ■

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was titled: Sensory Integration for Autism and other Disabilities. These topics proved to be of great interest to this community and they ended up having the participants in standing room only.

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## The A. Jean Ayres Archive at USC

The Archival Research Center, located on University Park Campus, is the new home of the A. Jean Ayres Archive. The archive has been established to honor the work and life of Dr. A. Jean Ayres, the noted occupational therapist and psychologist who contributed so much to our understanding of the brain and whose work has positively impacted the lives of so many children.

Dr. A. Jean Ayres was the world-renowned pioneer of the theory behind sensory integration and the development of tests for its diagnosis and treatment. She was on the faculty at USC for over 30 years. The Ayres Archive will house her letters, lecture notes, published articles, test materials, multimedia and other works.

The Archival Research Center was founded on the University's growing collection of primary materials. In its new home in the beautifully refurbished Edward L. Doheny, Jr. Memorial Library, the research center serves as a central gathering place for research and informal scholarly exchange. Visiting fellowships, guest speakers, exhibitions and seminars at the research center establish the Doheny Library as an invaluable intellectual resources for those with a scholarly interest in her works.

"Dr. Ayres' contributions to pediatric occupational therapy were so important and ahead of her time, the availability of her archive will surely lead to further

mining of her work by researchers," said Claude Zachary, University Archivist. "The Archival Research Center provide the institutional support for the preservation of her work and provide tools to maintain



Dr. Ayres in her clinic.

access for its use."

"Our beloved family member not only received her undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate degrees from USC, the university provided a lifetime setting and support for her pioneering work," said Brian Erwin, Successor Trustee of the Baker/Ayres Trust. "These factors, combined with the Archival Research Center's commitment to scholarship, make this the right place to house her works.

Individuals and institutions holding works by or associated with A. Jean Ayres are invited to contact Claude Zachary at 213-743-2435 or [czachary@usc.edu](mailto:czachary@usc.edu). ■

## USC Student in OTAC Representation

By June McIntyre

I was training in my running group this weekend when my coach reminded me that the ultimate goal is not to cross the finish line at the LA Marathon but to make running a part of life. Other runners made comments like, "I'm training in this group because it's a way to get me out of the house" or "I'm doing this to lose weight because the gym environment is not for me." The culture of my running group represents an awareness and embracement of running as an occupation with multiple lifestyle benefits. Their personal comments resonated with me because they reflected individualized adaptive strategies for the common gain of physical, social, and mental benefits.

Occupational therapy supports the use of occupation for the health and well-being of the individual. Improving the quality of life and living life to its fullest have been important realizations for my own personal life since my early childhood. As a student in my second year of the Master's program at USC, I have had the opportunity to make the connection between supporting individuals as occupational beings, and advocating for the survival of the profession. Supporting occupational therapy has many different faces: telling someone about the profession, being of service, attending seminars, actively participating in class discussion, etc. Advocating for the survival of occupational therapy can also be accomplished in many ways, one of which is to become

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# Occupational Science Symposium XVI

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**O**n January 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy will convene its sixteenth annual Occupational Science Symposium. This year the Symposium's focus is on the challenges and opportunities of creating a new academic discipline (occupational science) and on the ways in which that discipline supports the practice of occupational therapy.

Continuing the long tradition of scholarly excellence that has distinguished the symposium since its inception, this year's keynote speaker is the eminent sociologist, Andrew Abbott, PhD. Dr. Abbott is currently Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago and is the author of *The*

*Chaos of Disciplines* and *The System of Professions: An Essay on the Division of Expert Labor*.

Being honored this year as the Wilma West Lecturer will be Zoe Mailloux, MA, OTR, FAOTA, Clinic Director of Administration and Member of the Board of Directors of Pediatric Therapy Network.

Other distinguished visitors at this year's symposium are Laura Gitlin, PhD, research sociologist and professor in the Department of Occupational therapy at Thomas Jefferson University and Kenneth Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, Professor and Vice Dean at the University of Texas Medical Branch, School of Allied Health Sciences.

Local scholars include Elana Gordis, PhD, USC Assistant Professor of Psychology in the

College of Letters Arts and Sciences and, from our own Department, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, Diane Parham, PhD, OTR, FAOTA.

This year's Symposium will offer reflections on the development of occupational science, which we embarked on fifteen years ago, and its relationship to occupational therapy. We will consider the academic and practice cultures that affect the evolution of each.

The Symposium will be held at the Davidson Conference Center on the USC university Park Campus. The registration fee is \$125.00 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments. For more information, please contact Peter Wittrock at 323-442-2113 or [wittrock@usc.edu](mailto:wittrock@usc.edu). ■

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an OTAC member and maintain membership.

My role as Student Director of OTAC is to serve as liaison between OTAC and OT students of California. I represent the voice of all California students. It is important for me to share student concerns and interests with the Board as well as to update students on current policies and issues that affect all of us. I want to hear from you because your voice matters. And your membership matters. My participation in the OTAC's Board of Directors meeting reinforced my beliefs about how important it is for students to become OTAC members and maintain membership. OTAC is the only

association dedicated to serving the needs and interests of occupational therapists in California. Your membership is key to helping OTAC move forward with professional issues and continuing the growth of the field of occupational therapy as a whole. Membership, in fact, is the largest revenue source for OTAC.

I want to give my congratulations for students holding membership and encourage other students to become new members. Another way to demonstrate professional advocacy is for student members to take the professional responsibility to encourage others to become

members. Student membership is at a discounted rate. You can apply online at [www.otaconline.com](http://www.otaconline.com).



June McIntyre, Class of '04

Keep supporting OTAC, so OTAC can continue to advocate for the protection of occupational therapy. Then we can hope that those receiving OT services can continue to

improve their own quality of life. If you have any questions or comments, please share your thoughts! I would love to hear from you: [jjmcinty@usc.edu](mailto:jjmcinty@usc.edu). ■

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# What? You need money?

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## A Message From the Chairman of the Board of Councilors

Julie Bissell, M.A., OTR/L, ATP

This is a common response around our house. With three college-age boys at home, I am constantly thinking about tuition, room, board, linens, books, lamps, club fees, gas, car insurance, health insurance, and clothes purchases. I cannot believe how much money is needed to help a student acquire an education. I met several USC OT students recently who were graduating with up to \$80,000 debt yet were so enthusiastic about the field and their education at USC that their debt did not discourage them. That says a lot for the USC OT experience.

I have long been grateful for my opportunity for an education at USC in occupational therapy. Many of you will agree that this is a life-changing experience, in more ways than one. Our lives are no doubt better because of what we learned at USC studying occupation and its impact on health, not to mention the lives we have been able to change through our knowledge. Over the years I have worked to make this opportunity possible for others, and I hope you will, too.

Several years ago I was invited to join the Department's Board of Councilors, an alumni group that meets several times per year to support and advise the chair on the directions in which the program should move. The USC OT Department needed money. Wait a minute, I don't understand, I thought. USC had a campaign to raise money. Fundraisers set a goal of 2 billion dollars by 2002 and reached it early in 2001; then they made a new goal

of \$2.2 billion in 2002, and reached it as well. USC seemed to be enjoying tremendous fundraising success.

But, I found out, when money is raised for USC in general, it is not evenly divided among departments and unless the donor specifies the particular project or priority he or she wishes to endow, monies are distributed to support overall university priorities. Of the billions raised in 2002 for the University, only a fragment went to the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. I learned that the Department's main revenue streams (tuition and grant support) while covering current costs are not enough to support a long-term vision or secure the Department's future. I began to dream of raising enough money to name our program and give it the stature of the Rossier School of Education, the Keck School of Medicine and the Marshall School of Business. I began to dream of securing our Chairperson's position as an Endowed Chair and of offering an abundance of endowed scholarships to our fine students.

Occupational therapy has so much to offer in the public health arena in this new century. I encourage all of you to begin dreaming with me. Keep your ears open in discussions among friends and relatives regarding the Trojan family and University gift giving. Let's see if we can steer some of the millions donated to USC every year toward the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

What? You need money? Let's find someone who will be proud to help us, a donor honored to specify an endowment for the number one occupational therapy graduate program in the nation. ■

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The Department relies on the support and dedication of friends and alumni who share our commitment to excellence. Please help tomorrow's occupational therapy professionals realize their dreams. A gift of any size to the Department is deeply appreciated and will be used to directly support occupational therapy education and research needs.

Please contact Jackie Mardirossian at 323-442-2811 or [jmardiro@usc.edu](mailto:jmardiro@usc.edu) for more information.

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Hope to see you at the OTAC Conference...

Visit us at Booth 316!

Alumni Party from 5-7 p.m. at the Sheraton Grand, Compagno Room.



## Student Spotlight *(continued from page 2)*

new babies the common answer was time management. Sylvia said, "I really have to multitask, for example studying while breast feeding. I have to base my study schedule around my baby's schedule". Julia admitted, "The hardest part of managing school with my new family is finding time to do my reading and papers. It was hard to leave her in USC day care while I was starting classes again after I had spent so much time with her during my break from school. I would think about her a lot during class and wonder how she was doing. But now it's fine – I know she is happy there." Lisa reflected, "I have to be super organized so I'm actually much more efficient now. I do things when they need to be done because I know I won't have any other opportunity to do them. The hardest part has been doing this while my husband and I are away from our families in Maryland."

Throughout these challenges, everyone felt that the faculty and students in the program have been very supportive. Sylvia expressed that her classmates are impressed that she can balance her family with her schoolwork. "I admit it's a hectic life but I don't really think about it – I just do it." Julia said, "I especially appreciated Dr. Fazio's help with figuring out how I could arrange my school schedule to make this work. My friends in the program were fantastic! They kept me motivated and focused on school." Says Lisa, "It's been helpful to be going through this experience with other girls in the program. We talk about our babies together, compare stories, and share experiences with each other. That's been really nice."

There have also been some benefits of having a baby while in the program. Sylvia and Lisa both agreed that learning early development and reflexes was easier because they had their own models of it at home. Julia appreciates the fact that there is more flexibility in the second year of the masters program so she has more time to be home with her baby.

So how do these women balance work, rest, and play while they are in the program? Well, the work area is definitely not lacking. As for rest and play the women have their own methods. Julia reflected, "Having a baby alters one's sense of work, rest, and play. Play for me now is geared toward playing with and enjoying my child. My husband and I have been talking about trying to set up a 'date night' for the two of us. As for sleep, there hasn't been much of it since Anna is not sleeping through the night yet. Lisa responded, "My husband does the housework now to help lighten my load. I try to get my schoolwork finished during the week so I can make time to play on the weekends. I work out, play tennis, and spend quality time with my family. I also have friends with children so we spend time together". Sylvia explained, "I take what I call my 'vege day' which is a day when I only have a half-day of school and I can come home, relax, and do the things I want to

do. My husband has every other Friday off of work so that's when we have our time together."

Congratulations to all of our mothers and their baby Trojans! ■



Sylvia and Gabriel, Julia and Anna Mae, Lisa and Vanessa

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The Department, in conjunction with the Physical Therapy department, helped commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by offering a reception at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign. Leading personalities of the Hispanic community including the president of Fiesta Educativa Gonzalo Centeno and assembly member Mark Ridley Thomas attended this special conference. ■

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and caregiver's health changes. From these understandings, researchers will identify core curriculum content concerning intervention projects that improve cross-cultural collaboration.

A second project concerns life experiences of adults with spina bifida. In a four-year ethnographic and longitudinal study that uses Narrative Approaches, Ethnographic Methods and Longitudinal Methods, USC researchers are examining everyday life experiences of 15 adults with spina bifida to understand their perceptions regarding the influence of earlier life experiences on their adult lives. Studying their day-to-day experiences within institutions, at home and in their communities, researchers will learn how people draw upon personal resiliency as well as available resources such as social networks. Keys for occupational therapy intervention effectiveness should emerge from the findings.

USC's **"Biological Foundations of Occupation Research Cluster"** will establish two psychophysiological laboratories for measuring autonomic responses to sensory experiences. One will be at the CHP building on the Health Science Campus and the other at the Torrance Pediatric Therapy Network, a clinical site. USC researchers will continue development of the Evaluation of Sensory Processing (ESP), an instrument that addresses sensory issues at a behavioral level. Researchers will examine ESP's usefulness in planning intervention and documenting treatment effects. They will also initiate planning and the development of new methods for studying sensory processing and praxis in a variety of clinical and non-clinical populations.

The Department is seeking funding to support projects elucidating the neurobiological mechanisms underlying sensory processing and praxis impairments in children with developmental disorders such as autism. As an outcome of this research, a doctoral level Occupational Science course will focus on biological foundations of occupation and develop and evaluate new models of practice that apply knowledge of sensory processing and praxis to lifestyle design for individuals with disabilities and their families.

The **"Clinical Trials for Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation/Cultural Interventions Research Cluster"** continues work that was initiated as part of the USC Well Elderly Study. The goal is to expand this research program and uncover the mechanisms that account for the positive health outcomes in the elders who received the occupational therapy preventive program. This cluster will also

focus on outcome studies targeting obesity and pressures sores associated with spinal cord injury. These studies should result in greater precision in identifying patients who can benefit from therapy and the estimated medical costs. Further, the designs of the studies in some cases will enable the generation of theory which identifies how engagement in occupation improves health.

As a specific example, USC researchers have already evaluated serious pressure sores as a key challenge to the ability of individuals with spinal cord injury to experience a full and satisfying life. In a three-year project using in-depth qualitative techniques, researchers are carefully examining the beliefs and practices surrounding the activities, habits, and daily routines of 18 ethnically diverse consumers with spinal cord injury. They are documenting how personality, lifestyle patterns and choices and environmental context interact within individually constructed lives to influence the development of pressure sores. A variety of data collection procedures, including participant observation as well as interviews with consumers, their caregivers, and other associated persons, are generating results that will aid in the development of a consumer-oriented self-help manual, a set of guidelines for rehabilitation practice and a lifestyle-oriented occupational therapy treatment model.

In this cluster, research on a cultural intervention project with low-income Black and Hispanic middle school children will be extended. In the original work, the focus was on media literacy and critical thinking about peer-conformity, consumerism, drugs, and violence through video production and theatre workshops. The introduction of activities and critical perspectives to help group members examine their place in society and, consequently, their engagement in everyday occupations helps them interpret and navigate the society. In conjunction with a National Endowment for Humanities Award, this research is now being extended to include Native Americans.

To develop comprehensive knowledge about humans as occupational beings, specifically about how day-to-day activities contribute to a human's quality of life, occupational scientists must take fresh perspectives to explore occupations and from that develop new knowledge that will enhance the lives of individuals and society. The **"Emerging Themes in Occupational Science Research Cluster"** is in development to capture innovative research

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## Alumni News

There's been a baby boom amongst alums!

**Don Gordon, MA '94; PhD '02**, announces the birth of his daughter, Kyla on June 9, 2003. She was 7 lbs. and 19 inches long.

**Nancy Bagatell, MA '94; PhD '03**, gave birth to her daughter, Genevieve Holmes, on May 29, 2003. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 21 inches long.

**Brian Young, MA '96**, announces the birth of his son, Daniel, on May 16, 2003. He was 6 lbs., 14 oz., and 19.5 inches long.

Leadership Positions...

**Lora Woo, BS '83**, was elected secretary of OTAC. Lora assumed her duties on July 1, 2003. She will serve a 2 year term.

Just married...

**Erin Schwier, MA, '02; OTD '03**, was married on national television on September 27, 2003. You can check out her wedding details at [www.marrymeontv.com](http://www.marrymeontv.com).

Congrats to all!

Passings...

**Theodore Johnson, BS '98**, was killed August 2003 in a motorcycle accident. He is survived by his wife, **Maria (Lopez), BS '97**, and their daughter, Thea Marie, who was born September 8, 2003. She was 8 lbs., 5 oz., and 20 inches long.

## Homecoming

Over seventy OT alums, students, faculty and staff came together on November 1st to watch the Trojans play against the Washington State Cougars. Prior to kick-off, Trojans enjoyed a picnic lunch with OT friends and had the chance to win Trojan memorabilia. They also experienced the return of the Homecoming Parade competition. Check our departmental website if you are interested in participating in next year's homecoming event.



Occupational Science &  
Occupational Therapy

*Let's Keep in Touch!*

We'd like to hear from you and share your news in an upcoming issue of *Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy*. Please mail this completed form to: USC Dept. of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, Attn: Jackie Mardirossian, 1540 Alcazar St., CHP-133, Los Angeles, CA 90089-9003; fax to 323-442-1540; or e-mail to [jmardiro@usc.edu](mailto:jmardiro@usc.edu).

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UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

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possibilities. This research cluster will address contributions to the knowledge base of occupational science not yet on federal funding agendas by generating innovative theoretical understandings of the biological, cognitive, social, cultural, historical and symbolic dimensions of occupations and how they enhance human adaptation, personal development, group interactions, or contribute to social change. To insure that knowledge is developed through studies that represent the lived experiences of diverse groups of people, diversity may be based on religion, geographical location, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, abilities, age and class among other considerations. Additionally, this cluster is intended to promote research based on approaches in the arts and humanities, including

philosophical studies of occupation, historical analyses and analyses of literary products.

The Department faculty believes that the establishment of research clusters will be useful for creating more efficient acquisition of funding and for establishing research communities consisting of faculty, staff and students at all levels in the educational programs. It should also result in research programs that will nurture not only occupational therapy but also broader health and social concerns with which our country is presently confronted. ■



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## Visiting Professor

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Staffan Josephsson, Ph.D., OT, lectured at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign on October 13, 2003. His presentation was titled: Distance as an Occupational Possibility, Reflections on a Theatre Performance. Josephsson is Assistant Professor at the Division of Occupational Therapy, Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. His main research interests are on the creative, poetic, and dramatic dimensions of human occupation. His co-authored article—Qualitative Analysis of Occupational Data—is used by Dr. Frank in OT 510 as an example of innovative qualitative research methods.



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### Chair

Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA

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