

Charting the Future

In April 2003, the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy completed a 20-page self-study report in response to the guidelines of the University of Southern California's Committee on Academic Review. The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with an overview of the Department's history and mission, as well as to articulate a comprehensive plan for improvement for the upcoming six years. Based on its review of this report, the Committee will make recommendations concerning the support and future positioning of the Department within the wider context of the University.

The review process is two-tiered. First, an Internal Review Committee will review the self-study document. In Phase II, which will occur in the fall semester, an External Review Committee consisting of three distinguished colleagues will make a site visit and also review the self-study document. Input from both committees will then be considered in generating a list of recommendations for future actions to be taken by the Department.

In the report, it was noted that, since its initiation in the 1940's, the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has played a pioneering role in charting the direction of academic occupational therapy in the United States. This position of leadership reflects the Department's consistent pattern of innovation in research, theory development, education, and practice. It was also noted that the Department has achieved a high degree of distinction for its development of occupational science. Currently, measures of academic

ranking, quality of faculty and students, research productivity, and teaching effectiveness all indicate that the Department has been highly successful in meeting its goals. The report documented that, relative to its competitors, the Department is extremely well balanced in terms of its strength in both education and research. The following were noted as strengths: reputational excellence, competence of faculty, research and teaching, leadership in occupational science, the faculty practice, breadth and innovation in research methodology, production of leaders, innovative programming for the urban environment, and success in placing students.

Based on the above strengths, five objectives were formulated in developing a comprehensive plan designed to ensure the Department's continuing leadership in the field.

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Message From the Chair

By now most of you have probably heard that there will be a significant Trojan presence at the national headquarters of the American Occupational Therapy Association. I was elected Board Director of AOTA; Linda Fazio was elected Chairperson-Elect of the Commission on Education (COE); one of our graduate students, Brandi Buchanan, was elected Chairperson of the Assembly of Student Delegates; and Deborah Pitts was elected Chairperson of the AOTA Mental Health Special Interest Section (SIS). Additionally, a member of the Department's Board of Councilors and a USC alumna, Susan Knox was elected to the Representative Assembly. This means that the values, mission, and strategies that USC has always stood for are likely to have an even stronger impact on occupational therapy on a national scale.



I believe no time could be more perfect for us to influence the national occupational therapy agenda. This is because I sense that the possibility of bringing occupational therapy into its “Golden Age” is stronger than ever before. Distinguished scholars Howard Gardner, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, and William Damon maintain that a profession finds itself in its Golden Age when there is alignment of market demand, the knowledge focus of the profession, member concerns, and the priorities of outside stakeholders. Clearly, this is a time when the traditional domains of occupational therapy—function, occupation, and health—have become key priorities in the marketplace.

Further, the profession's generation of knowledge and the science that supports our practice—including occupational science—has expanded exponentially in the past decade. In my role on the AOTA Board of Directors I will work my hardest to let outside stakeholders know the many ways in which occupational therapy (including preventive programs) can improve quality of life for all Americans, and do so cost-effectively. I hope that my 27 years of involvement as a practitioner, educator, and researcher will enable me to zero in on the priorities that will ensure our profession is positioned to meet consumer needs and create a healthier world.

I want to thank all the members of the USC Trojan Family for their ongoing support.

Florence Clark

Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA

Student Spotlight

Erin Schwier graduated from the USC OT program with her clinical doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) this May. The title of her OTD project was “Disability Advocacy in Health Policy.” Erin wants to use her OT background to help people with disabilities by decreasing structural and societal limitations that hinder people in their ability to lead healthy, independent lives. She hopes to give back to the community and address policy issues that can be barriers in OT practice, issues she studied during her residency for the USC OTD program.

As a resident, Erin worked as an OTD Policy Fellow for the Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions (CDIHP), alongside Center's directors June Kailes and Brenda Premo (the latter being the former director of the California Department of Rehabilitation). The CDIHP is based at Western University of the Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif., and was established in 1998. Their mission is to improve the capabilities of health care providers to meet the growing needs of people with disabilities, increase the number of qualified individuals with disabilities who pursue careers in the health professions, and empower people with disabilities to become more vocal and active participants in their health care.

Another aspect of her residency has been working with the MediCal Policy Institute, part of the California Healthcare Foundation. Erin was assigned to examine how the state budget cuts are affecting MediCal consumers with disabilities. In order to look at the experiences of consumers

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Faculty Corner

USC Faculty in AOTA Leadership Positions

Congratulations to **Florence Clark**, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA and **Linda Fazio**, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA for winning positions in the 2003 AOTA National Election. Dr. Clark was elected Board Director and will assume her post at the AOTA annual business meeting June 8, 2003 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Fazio was named COE Chairperson-Elect. She will take office at the 2004 annual business meeting next May in Minneapolis.

Deborah Pitts, MBA, OTR/L, CPRP was elected chairperson of the AOTA Mental Health Special Interest Section (SIS). Deborah's unique position in the Department—classroom teaching and fieldwork education, as well as practicing and consulting with local mental health organizations—makes a perfect fit for this AOTA undertaking. Ms. Pitts has also served as a surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Behavioral Health Division for the last five years. ■

Lawlor Promoted

Congratulations are in order for Mary Lawlor, Sc.D. OTR, FAOTA, on her recent promotion to full professor. Professor Lawlor joined the USC faculty seven years ago and her promotion is long overdue.

A national leader on issues related to occupational therapy as it applies to maternal and child health, most recently, Dr. Lawlor distinguished herself through her longitudinal research on the cultural boundaries that African American families with children with disabilities inevitably encounter in the health care system. She has an impressive record of cutting-edge publications and is known as a wonderful mentor. Dr. Lawlor has been appointed the coordinator of the Ph.D. Program in Occupational Science for the next academic year. ■

The Zemke Tribute

Ruth Zemke, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA, retired at the end of the spring 2003 semester, after 22 years with USC. On April 25th, Dr. Zemke was honored at a retirement party held at the Town and Gown on University Park Campus. There were over eighty people—family, friends, colleagues and students—that attended the event.



Dr. Zemke with some of her students

Dr. Clark emceed the event and expressed her heartfelt appreciation of the contributions Dr. Zemke has made to the Department throughout her tenure. Dr. Jeanne Jackson read letters written to Dr. Zemke by those who were unable to attend. Later, a scrapbook containing letters and photos from events and gatherings from past years was presented to Dr. Zemke.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the "Ruth Zemke Scholarship," through which the Department hopes to raise enough contributions to secure an endowed scholarship. To contribute to the "Ruth Zemke Scholarship," please contact Jackie Mardirossian at jmardiro@usc.edu or (323) 442-2811. ■

New Publication by Blanche

“*Observations Based on Sensory Integration*,”

by Erna Blanche, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA is now available at AOTA. Included is a two-part videotape series and workbook to develop skills in a nonstandardized assessment of sensory integrative functions. This resource can be utilized with children of varying ages and skill levels in a variety of settings. ■

Back to the Future

May 16, 2003 dawned bright and sunny. The jacarandas on University Park Campus were blooming, the lawns and flower beds were at their best, and happy students, guests, faculty, and staff of USC celebrated USC's 120th commencement. At the 61st Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy satellite ceremony, 28 B.S., 55 M.A., 5 OTD and 5 PhD degrees were granted.

Dr. John Hisserich represented Vice President Van Der Meulen's office as he congratulated the graduates. He praised their entry into a field that is focused so strongly on developing the potential of each of their care recipients to live a full life of participation in society. Dr. Zemke, joining the students in one last graduation before her retirement, was the satellite keynote speaker. In the spirit of both reminiscence and looking forward—common to both retirement and graduation—she noted some of the changes during her almost 40-year professional experience.

When she began, Willard and Spackman was not just a major textbook, it was the only textbook. Even then, students were proud when their teachers had post-professional master's degrees from USC, even as our university began offering the entry-level master's degree that was a model for what will become the

requirement in the field in 2007. Fewer than 10 OTs in the field had Ph.D.s, and we're now celebrating over 30 completed Ph.D.s in occupational science, and a dozen doctorates of occupational therapy from USC alone. The foremothers, whose portraits hang on the wall in our departmental Hall of Honor, were current leaders in the field at that time, not part of its history.



But, looking back at them now, these women offer models and examples of leadership useful for the future of a field that focuses on their contributions during a challenging time for health care. Miss Margaret Rood, the founder of the department, was acknowledged as a model of a caring, practicing therapist, linking new ideas with pragmatic applications. Some of "Roody's" past patients even attended her memorial service, held on the USC campus in the '80s.

Dr. Mary Reilly, a formidable academic and personality, was recognized as the group recited her famous quotation, that man, through the use of his hands, as energized by mind and will, can affect his health—which has long summarized a basic assumption of OT.

Ms. Wilma West's national impact on graduate education in occupational

therapy was acknowledged by Dr. Zemke at the ceremony, citing how West guided educators to obtain federal grant support for graduate student training, as Chief of the Health Service Training Branch of the U.S. Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. Dr. Zemke noted that such a grant provided some of the support for her own doctoral education.

Dr. Betty Yerxa was acknowledged as a founding mother of occupational science. It was noted that among her greatest contributions to the field will be the continuing graduates of our program, who are imbued with the knowledge of occupational science as they move into leadership positions in practice, education and research.

Finally, the graduates were recognized as future leaders of the field. As USC alumni, they are expected to build a profession that meets and exceeds the dreams of those who have gone before them. ■

USC OT to Lead AOTA in Student Representation

Our very own Brandi Buchanan is the newly elected chairperson of the AOTA Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD). Brandi will begin her term of office on June 5, 2003 and will serve for one year. Brandi graduated with her master's degree this May, and will begin the OTD program this fall. Congratulations to Brandi! ■

Research

Society for Study of Occupational Science

The Society for the Study of Occupation: USA will host its second annual conference in Park City, Utah on Oct. 16-18, 2003. The purpose of this conference is to provide a venue for scholars and practitioners to discuss emerging ideas about occupation in an intimate and relaxed atmosphere. Unlike most conferences, where rushing from paper to paper is the modus operandi, the Society prides itself on providing an educational experience while including time for play or networking and collaboration with other attendees.

This year the exciting program will include concurrent papers and exchanges on occupational science methods, descriptive studies, theory development, curriculum, and applications to practice. Dr. Elizabeth Yerxa, Ed.D., OTR, FAOTA is the recipient of the honorary Ruth Zemke lectureship in occupational science. Dr. Yerxa's paper is entitled "The Infinite Distance between I and It."

Submissions for abstracts will be accepted until June 10, 2003. Please visit the website at http://www.education.wisc.edu/occupational_science/ for abstract application, membership forms, and other information about the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA. While you are perusing the website, please notice the other benefits provided. ■

Occupational Science Symposium XV

The Department hosted its 15th annual Occupational Science Symposium in January, continuing a tradition of interdisciplinary scholarship exploring the many facets of occupational science. This year's topic, "The Spheres of Rehabilitation: Body, Mind and Social Structures," was inspired by the work of keynote speaker Margaret Stineman. Dr. Stineman is associate professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work, which she terms "Health Environmental Integration," incorporates contemporary models of disease and disability, and expands beyond historic theories of mind/body interconnectedness to include the social and physical

environments.

Following the keynote address, Florence Clark and Jeanne Jackson shared insights from their current work, a three-year, in-depth qualitative research project to carefully examine the beliefs and practices surrounding the activities, habits, and daily routines of 18 ethnically diverse individuals with spinal cord injuries and pressure sores. Drs. Clark and Jackson described the research questions, the rigorous ethnographic methods, the two-stage coding procedure, and general findings to date.

Associate Professor Mary Lawlor presented some of her groundbreaking work on the reconceptualization of human development theories that provide the background on how parents and children

co-create and live lives directed toward possible futures, possible selves.

Children, including those with chronic illnesses and/or disabilities, live in extremely complex social worlds, navigating across family, home, institutional, and community arenas. Dr. Lawlor pointed out the implications of these ideas for both clinical practice and theory development in occupational science.

Betty R. Hasselkus was honored as this year's Wilma West Lecturer. Dr. Hasselkus' research, teaching, and practice has focused on the experience of caregiving for people with disabilities by family members, physicians, day-care staff, and occupational therapists. She

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Knox named to Board

With the recommendation from Dr. Clark, USC President Steven B. Sample recently appointed Susan Knox, Ph.D., OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, to the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy's Board of Councilors. Sue is a 1968 graduate of the USC OT master's program and a 1997 graduate of the USC OS Ph.D. program. She currently serves on the AOTA Representative Assembly where she was recently elected another term. Dr. Knox is a recognized occupational therapist, and is very

involved in local, state and national organizations related to occupational therapy. The Board of Councilors was established to provide professional guidance to Dr. Clark and the Department, and to assist with fundraising. Current Board members include Julie Bissell, MA, OTR, chairperson; Mark Biehl; Linda Florey, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA; Mary Foto, OTR, FAOTA; Frances Kelley, OTR; Lawrence Kovalenko, MA, OTR; Janice Matsutsuyu, MA, OTR, FAOTA; James Papai, MPH; James and Patricia Plumtree; and Elinor Richardson, Ed.D. ■

USC OT at OTAC Conference

On October 27, 2002, three members of the USC OT Trojan Family received recognition during the annual OTAC Awards Banquet. The first award presented was the Outstanding Student Award to Heather Kitching, who completed her master's degree this past December from USC. The Fieldwork Coordinator Award went to Jaynee Meyer, who always has fieldwork in her heart (and now always on her mind as part of the new fieldwork team here at USC). Very appropriately, Dr. Ruth Zemke received the Lifetime Achievement Award as she announced her retirement. During Dr. Zemke's acceptance speech, she challenged all to consider their own lifetime achievement and to make a goal to give our best to occupational therapy. We extend our congratulations to these fine practitioners! ■



Sixty-five people attended USC's OTAC Conference Alumni Party this year, which was by far the best-attended alumni party at conference. Trojans enjoyed hot hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and took pleasure in catching up with old friends as well as meeting new ones. Activities included a free raffle for OT Trojan memorabilia, dancing (including a conga line!), and a fashion show lead by Dr. Clark, sporting the newest styles won at the CFOT silent auction. In addition, Dr. Zemke was honored with heartfelt sentiments of how she will be missed after her retirement at the end of this school year. There was also a spontaneous special dance dedicated to the field of occupational therapy; the song was, appropriately, "I Will Survive." The evening proved once again that the Trojan spirit is alive and strong. ■

USC OTAC Award
Winners: Jaynee
Meyer, Ruth Zemke
and Heather Kitching



Faculty Corner continued...

Office of Fieldwork Education Hosts Seminar

The USC OT Office of Fieldwork Education held a seminar on April 4, 2003 to provide in-service training to more than 70 clinical instructors who provide ongoing support to the academic program. Participants were greeted by Dr. Florence Clark, provided with updates from USC's academic program and were able to network with both community colleagues and faculty. The emphasis of the seminar was an introduction to the new AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation (FWPE) for both OT and OTA students. The new FWPE was developed by AOTA, and educators have begun to disseminate information to the profession. AOTA has provided in-service materials and will continue to support education and training in the use of the new FWPE via an upcoming OT Practice article and workshops at the national conference in June. The California Fieldwork Council is also coordinating training at various practice sites upon request. To date, training sessions are scheduled in various sites throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The USC Office of Fieldwork Education has some new faces this year, though they are very familiar to the OT Department. David Leary and Jaynee Meyer have teamed up to become the new "dynamic duo" who coordinate fieldwork

placements for more than 100 students per year. They have both previously held teaching positions at USC and continue to do so in addition to their new administrative roles. David and Jaynee share strong clinical community relationships through their past years of practice in the occupational therapy community. They also complement each other in organizational style and commitment to providing successful educational experiences to both students and clinical instructors. Over the next year, they will be busy implementing more effective communication and placement strategies that will help students and sites make the best "matches". The April seminar was an incredible example of the continued support and enthusiasm from the clinical community to providing learning opportunities to the students. ■

In Memoriam : Harriett Zlatohlavek

Harriett F. Zlatohlavek, emeritus associate professor, died November 5, 2002 after a long illness in Fairfield, Calif. She was 92.

Ms. Zlatohlavek began her career as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Iowa, and later taught health and physical education in Cedar Rapids. In 1944, she enrolled in the War Emergency Certification program to become an occupational therapist and then worked with wounded veterans.

After being recruited to USC's

OT faculty, she completed her graduate studies. Known as "Miss Harriett," Zlatohlavek was an early educator in occupational therapy and was hailed for her contributions to the use of arts and crafts. She served as chair of the Department from 1961 to her retirement in 1974.

A scholarship will be established in her name. For information, contact Jackie Mardirossian at 323-442-2811. ■



*Harriett F. Zlatohlavek
March 31, 1910 - November 5, 2002*

with various disabilities Erin developed, coordinated, and conducted twelve focus groups throughout California—from Santa Cruz to San Diego. She looked at issues such as: consumers' awareness of benefits, how services are accessed, and how consumers feel about the information they receive. She and the CDIHP team presented their findings to legislators and health care administrators in an effort to inform them and facilitate positive change.

Erin's plans for the future include staying active in policy work. She will be continuing part-time as a Policy Fellow with the CDIHP in their work with the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, which is administered through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education. This center is evaluating methods and technologies to increase the usability and accessibility of diagnostic, therapeutic, and procedural healthcare equipment for people with disabilities. She also hopes to work in pediatric OT in San Diego.

In addition, Erin will be married in September of this year and is co-authoring a book with her stepmother titled *Breaking Bread and Nourishing Connections*, about the occupation of dining as a social experience and mealtime as an opportunity to engage in interactions with people with

disabilities. It is evident that this Trojan's future is indeed a bright one. ■

Erin at Commencement '03



Honor Roll of Donors

The USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy gratefully acknowledges alumni and friends for their financial support and the encouragement their support represents. As promised in our last newsletter, this Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts contributed between the time period of July 2001 and March 2003.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the Honor Roll. Errors and omissions may be reported to Jackie Mardirossian at jmardiro@usc.edu or (323) 442-2811.

Again, we thank you for your support!

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Our Future OT's!

With a 30% increase in the number of applicants, we anticipate welcoming a comparably larger class for this year's professional program, which starts on June 16th. We are expecting 66 entry-level master's students and 8 new seniors. In the fall, 15 undergraduates who began as juniors will join them for a total of close to 90 students. Of the 90 students, twenty of them are coming to us from outside of California, and 11 are male. For many it will be a second profession. We are excited about the wonderful academic and work related experiences that they have had, about their zeal to become occupational therapists and about what they will bring to our profession. The faculty has completed its annual curriculum review in preparation for their arrival, making adjustments to maximize their experience with us. In addition, at printing time, we expect an entering post professional master's class of nine students, an OTD class of nine students, and three new PhD students.

When we ask our new students why they chose USC, the great majority of them tell us that our alumni encouraged them. It especially pleases us to know that USC remains #1 with you! ■

Honor Roll of Donors

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Alumni News

Maricel Africa-Feser, BS '97, announces the birth of her son, John Michael Feser III on August 25, 2002. He was 7 pounds and 2 ounces, and 19 3/4 inches long. Maricel can be contacted at maricelfeser@hotmail.com.

Jesus Vidana, BS '01, a Marine reservist, was injured April 8, 2003 in Baghdad, Iraq. Jesus joined the Marines Reserve as a radio operator in 1997. He was one of approximately 1,000 members of his unit from three states called to active duty in February 2002. The Department is proud of Jesus for his service to our country!

Passings...

Shirley Evans Charait, '49, died September 19, 2002 at the age of 82. During her career, Shirley worked as an occupational therapist at the Veterans' Hospital in Bedford, Mass., and was director of Occupational Therapy at Beverly Hospital in Westwood, Mass. Shirley worked for the Visiting Nurses Association in Natwick, Mass. from 1978 until her retirement.



Occupational Science
& Occupational Therapy

Students Awarded Scholarships

Four USC students were presented with scholarships from the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) during the OTAC Conference in October 2002. The awardees of the *First Professional Masters Degree Scholarships* are:

June McIntrye and Trishell Gorczyca.

The awardees of the *Graduate Scholarships for OTRs* are:

Eric Asaba and Heather Kitching.



Left to right:
Heather, Trishell,
June and Eric

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.

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Check here if this is a new address.

Here's my news (attach additional sheet if necessary): _____

I'd like to read about the following in an upcoming newsletter: _____

Zemke says “Sayonara” to Sapporo

In 1995, Dr. Ruth Zemke made her first visit to Japan, as a speaker on a whirlwind of engagements at conferences and workshops. Dr. Clark, who had visited once before, encouraged Zemke to join her (Clark) in this wonderful international opportunity. Little did they know how much a part of their life the city of Sapporo, Japan, in the Northern island of Hokkaido, and the Sapporo Medical University (SMU) would become in their lives.

Dr. Tsuyoshi Sato, a USC alumni, was Dean of the School of Health Sciences at SMU. He dreamed of developing a graduate program in Japan for occupational therapists which included occupational science, so he went straight to the source. With the experience of being a guest in a exotic land, with every need predicted and resolved in advance, how could anyone resist an invitation to help him build his dream? Drs. Clark and Zemke certainly could not and they agreed to an initial relationship. Across two years (1998 & 1999), using sabbatical leaves, each contributed part of one year on-site and the rest of their year as consultant via long-distance. They began the master’s program, which was followed by a three-year commitment of summers onsite and long distance and onsite consultation from Dr. Zemke to begin a Ph.D. program.

The years supplied an amazing amount of familiar content: faculty meetings, curriculum discussions, class lectures, student reports, grading and office hours. But many subtle differences arose. Faculty meetings began with a bow from the Dean with the same response from faculty. This lovely means of acknowledgment became a familiar one, and you can catch them both bowing a bit when meeting someone today, even in LA.

The university offered a traditional apartment for their stays onsite and they both became familiar with the quick removal of shoes at the genkan or entrance to the apartment, sliding into a pair of slippers for inside. In fact,

the concept of lecturing while wearing faculty formal dress and a pair of slippers was one that took some getting used to, but protected the classroom floors quite well! The tatami floor covering in several of the rooms was new when Dr. Zemke first arrived and reminded her of the scent of newly mown hay, from her rural childhood. Of course, inability to read the markings on the microwave, the washing machine and dryer, etc. was a reminder of limitations of our language skills. However, just one look at either of us, and neighbors, shopkeepers, taxi drivers were all eager to practice their often excellent English skills. The students listened to lectures, read articles, spoke in class and wrote papers generally in English. But it was fun to compare the labored process of response to a question in English to the spirited involvement when the classes discussion lapsed back into Japanese, with a summary at the end for the teacher.

The experience offered opportunity for new occupations for both. Dr. Clark explored concepts at the Shinto shrine nearby with the priests there and Dr. Zemke enjoyed the karaoke room parties, learning a Japanese song about the north country phonetically. The hanami, or cherry blossom viewing party that was held each year in spring was captured by the local TV news, sharing the enthusiastic joy of the visiting foreign faculty member (Dr. Zemke) with the people of Sapporo. Over the years, Matsuri, festivals of several kinds became a part of her calendar, as did the Tokyo sumo basho (tournament). The excellence of Japanese hanabi (“fire flowers”) or fireworks was one of the high points of summer along with the years of development of the Japanese Occupational Science Study Group and Occupational Science Seminar. This group comprised therapists and educators from all areas of Japan, who met in small local study groups and came together most years, to share their theoretical and research work about occupation.

The 2003 academic year was the last year of Dr. Zemke’s summer stays in Hokkaido. The sudden death of Dr. Sato at the end of December

(continued on page 12)

Pathways Highlight

USC-OT has been expanding the clinical pathway courses available as electives to graduate students. One of the latest additions is the Sensory Integration Perspective course, which was taught for the first time in spring 2003 by Dr. Diane Parham.

This new class counts as Course 1 in the Sensory Integration Certification Program cosponsored by USC-OT and Western Psychological Services (WPS). When USC graduate students finish this course, they will have completed one of the four courses required for certification in sensory integration through

the USC-WPS program. Some students are choosing to further develop their clinical expertise in this specialty area by enrolling in OT 610, the four-month clinical-practice course that provides students with hands-on experience and expert clinical mentorship in an interdisciplinary setting at Pediatric Therapy Network in Torrance, Calif. Whether or not the students opt to take OT 610 or to continue with the certification process after completing this course, they will have been exposed to the foundational ideas and research, as well as emerging concepts, that shape occupational therapy practice in the area of sensory integration.

Student interest in this new course offering was strong: ■

a little more that half of the graduating MA class of 2003 elected to take this course. In the future, the course will be taught by Dr. Erna Blanche as well as Dr. Parham. ■

(Zemke, continued from page 11)

2002, made the farewell more intense. However, her “Sayonara” to Sapporo is not a permanent one. Faculty, students and colleagues their and throughout Japan remind her that she will return for the Japanese Occupational Science Seminar again this summer and in years to come. The relationships formed and the ideas developed during this time of exchange from USC, will continue to grow in the future. ■

(Symposium, continued from page 5)
was the director of the Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 10 years, and has more than 80 scholarly publications in journals and texts. Dr. Hasselkus shared portions of her writings and thoughts about occupational experience as it relates to place and space in our lives, culture and disability, connection to others, well-being and life span development, creativity, and spirituality.

The afternoon session featured USC’s Ann Neville-Jan, who provided a highly informative and oftentimes humorous multimedia presentation on how the world

of fashion—particularly in regard to shoes—reflects various social, political, and cultural changes. According to Dr. Neville-Jan, writers identify issues of race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality as complexly linked with the power and perception of shoes. Drawing on data collected from two ethnographic studies of children and adults with foot impairments, Dr. Neville-Jan showed how constraints related to shoe choices incurred consequences for body identity, socialization, and care of the body.

Rounding out the day’s proceedings was Janice P. Burke, chairperson of the Department of Occupational

Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Burke spoke on the experience of occupational loss, citing data from a qualitative study conducted with persons during the first year of post-traumatic brain injury. Findings suggest that occupational loss results in a profound sense of being “outside” the world, and that family members are more concerned for their loved ones’ safety than for their occupational involvement.

Planning is currently underway for the January 2004 symposium with the projected topic “The Challenge of Building a New Social Science.” Hope to see you there. ■

The five objectives are as follows:

To advance research in occupational therapy and occupational science in four areas: (1) participation in everyday life (occupation); (2) biological foundations of occupation; (3) clinical trials for occupational therapy and rehabilitation interventions; and (4) emerging themes in occupational science.

To create a streamlined and carefully conceived overall education model that will shape the national agenda.

To support clinical and community occupational therapy practice through education and research.

To expand and redesign the Department's infrastructure of support for its research, education, and practice missions.

To enhance the visibility of occupational therapy and occupational science within the USC community, the local region, the state, and national and international arenas.

By fulfilling these objectives, the Department will help position occupational therapy as a crucial profession within the shifting context of modern health care. In this era, in which consumers demand affordable health care, effective treatments, and empowerment in decisions that deeply impact their future, occupational therapy is both a viable and compelling option. Toward situating occupational therapy optimally within this context, the Department will combine innovation in both education and research to promote the profession's ability to meet society's health care needs.

In the area of education, we will, in the next few years, develop a well integrated curriculum, ranging from the baccalaureate to the doctoral level, which we envision will be widely emulated on a national basis. This curriculum will equip future therapists and academic leaders with the sophisticated skills necessary to meet the complex demands of the new century. Future practitioners will gain treatment expertise in traditional medical and rehabilitation contexts as well as in more recent applications such as prevention, lifestyle redesign, and community planning for occupational health. Within the model, future academicians will receive intensive training in research and theory to promote their ability to build the research base on occupation necessary to support key advances in practice.

It is our additional goal within the next six years to catapult both occupational science and occupational therapy into a more prominent position within academic thought, social practice, and healthcare. Moreover, we believe that during this time period we can significantly promote increased recognition of occupational science and occupational therapy as bona fide, valued disciplines. Just as the public thinks of culture as the domain of anthropology, so too will it think of human engagement in occupation (everyday activity) as the focus of occupational science. We envision a future state of affairs in which occupational science contributes to a larger sphere of knowledge and "occupation" is explicitly recognized as a key ingredient of human society. To accomplish this goal, we will systematically expand occupational science in strategically defined research areas, add outstanding new faculty members to our productive research core, train a cadre of exceptional doctoral students who will be capable of making major advances in occupational science via funded research, and intensively showcase occupational therapy and occupational science through key academic and mass media outlets.

Thus, in a manner highly characteristic of its tradition of leadership in the field, the current vision of the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is to boldly confront the emergent health care challenges of the new century. Toward this end, our faculty welcomes the participation of the local clinical community, Departmental alumni, and students in helping us to achieve our mission. ■



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