

Department Receives Largest Occupational Therapy NIH Funding

The USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has recently achieved another stunning success by acquiring a 2.2 million dollar NIH research grant to conduct a large-scale extension of the Well Elderly Study. To our knowledge this is one of the largest single research grant awards in the history of academic occupational therapy.

The grant, headed by Investigators Florence Clark and Jeanne Jackson, and entitled *Health-Mediating Effects of the Well Elderly Program*, is being funded by the National Institute on Aging and will be conducted between May of 2004 and April of 2008. The high level of enthusiasm surrounding this project is a tribute to the increasing recognition of occupational science's ability to produce new knowledge that can significantly benefit the health and well-being of our nation's population.

The new grant has two main objectives. The first objective is to replicate the effects of the Well Elderly intervention. In the previous grant, the intervention was found to delay age-related declines in health, physical function, and psychosocial well-being among ethnically diverse community dwelling older men and women residing in federally subsidized apartment complexes. In the upcoming study, participants will be recruited from a broader range of settings including senior centers, medical facilities, apartment complexes, and senior education

centers. This will enable generalization of the results to a wider range of elders. In addition, in the new project it is hypothesized that the intervention will produce beneficial effects in cognition, an outcome domain not included in the prior investigation.

The second major objective of the study will be to assess the intervening processes that underlie the positive effects of the intervention. In other words, an attempt will be made to determine exactly why the Well Elderly program is so successful. Toward this end, repeated assessments will be undertaken of subjects' daily patterns of occupation, approaches to coping, perceived control, social contact, and key biological markers (e.g., salivary cortisol, a key index of perceived stress), and changes on these variables will be linked to the improved outcomes that result from the intervention. This will enable a careful documentation of the intervention-based changes that lead to the beneficial outcomes.

The above goals will be achieved by using an experimental design involving the participation of 440 elderly men and women. In the first 6 months of the study, one-half of the participants will receive the Well Elderly intervention, while the remaining participants will go untreated. As in the original Well Elderly Study, the intervention will employ lifestyle redesign principles to help the elders engage in personally meaningful occupations that promote

their independence, health, and life satisfaction. Using a "crossover design," following this initial phase the control participants will also be given the intervention. Over an 18 to 24 month interval, all subjects will complete an assessment battery to measure the variables noted above: patterns of occupation, styles of coping, perceived control, social support, and stress-relevant biomarkers. By correlating these measures with the main outcomes of perceived physical health and function, psychosocial well-being, and cognition, a window will be opened that sheds light on the processes that connect the Well Elderly intervention to its beneficial effects. The results will allow for improved planning of

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Message from the Chair

When the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy received another #1 ranking from *U.S. News and World Report* last month, I breathed a huge sigh of relief. Having remained in the top OT position since its inception in 1999, I knew that there was only one direction in which our program could move; and with the administrative pressure put on academic departments to improve their rankings, I suspected the top-tier occupational therapy programs throughout the country were doing everything possible to build on their reputations so they could take our place.

But that didn't happen! And here I sit feeling an abundance of gratitude to all those who contributed to our success -- for I sincerely believe that achieving and maintaining our #1 status is the result of a great effort from all parts of our Trojan Family community.

First, let me recognize the crucial role played by our faculty. They are energetic teachers who put their all into ensuring the high quality of our academic program. They work long hours to stay up-to-date on best practice, meet student needs both in and outside the classroom, and maintain links with the clinical community. Satisfied students appreciate and remember the personal touch they experience at USC; they go on to become the practitioners who spread the word about the excellence of our program. And satisfied students emerge only through the total professionalism, responsiveness and humanism of our faculty.

Second, I want to attribute our success to the dedication of the clinical supervisors who oversee our internship program. No part of professional education has a more powerful and lasting effect than those initial clinical experiences. I vividly recall my first fieldwork 34 years ago -- yet, to be honest, I do not remember much of what happened in the classroom. Our # 1 ranking is a reflection of the caring and competence of the practitioners who interact with our students.

Third, I thank all of the graduates of our doctoral program in occupational science, which began 15 years ago. Today, most of its 24 graduates have assumed academic positions at universities and colleges throughout the nation and the world. Their outstanding achievements as instructors and their magnificent work infusing occupational science into curricula shine brightly upon our USC program.

I also must acknowledge our exceptional team of scholars and researchers. Their cutting-edge research -- spotlighted not only in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* and other OT publications, but also in journals outside our profession -- has exponentially enhanced our Department's reputation. Their commitment to our scholarship activities is evidenced by their ability to successfully raise research dollars while competing against well-established researchers in other fields, as well as their sacrifice of weekend time to finish book chapters after working with students all week.

Lastly, I want to thank you: our alumni. When you graduate from USC and take your place in the professional world of occupational therapy, you become our ambassador. Collectively, you are the "critical mass" that tells prospective students, colleagues, administrators and policy makers about the quality of our program, our graduates and our profession. You have played a vital role in our most recent major accomplishment and we are proud to share it with you. *You're #1.*

Florence Clark

Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to the following faculty, staff, and student members on their achievements!

Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor and Chair, received the 2004 Presidential Medallion, USC's highest honor (refer to story on page 3).

Erin Cokeh, first year MA-II student, was elected for AOTA's Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) secretary. Erin will assume her role in May 2004.

Jeanne Jackson, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, Associate Professor, was awarded the *Ruth Zemke Lectureship* at the last SSO:USA conference last October.

Mary Lawlor, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor, is a newly elected member to the Academy of Research. The Academy's purpose is to recognize those individuals who have made exemplary and distinguished contributions toward the science of occupational therapy.

David Leary, MS, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, and **Jackie Mardirossian**, MA, COTA, AP, ROH, Director of Communications and Development, will receive the Terry Brittell OTA/OT Partnership Award at AOTA's 84th annual conference in Minneapolis this May.

Deborah Pitts, MBA, OTR/L, Instructor, is honored with an AOTA Service Award for her participation on the mental health specialty certification consultation group. Ms. Pitts also authored an AOTA self-study article for continuing education credit published in a recent *OT Practice*.

Susanne Smith-Roley, MS, OTR/L, Project Director, was recently elected as AOTA's Chairperson-Elect for the Commission on Practice.

Ruth Zemke, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, Professor Emeritus, will deliver her Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture during AOTA's conference on May 23, 2004.

Clark wins the 2004 Presidential Medallion

Florence Clark, chair of the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, recently received USC's highest honor.

On March 11, 2004, USC paid tribute to Clark with its Presidential Medallion, which is awarded to an individual who has brought honor and distinction to the university.

"To be honest, my first response was amazement, and my second a profound sense of gratitude," Clark said. "There just are so many members of the USC community who have made significant contributions, and I often think of the projects in which I am engaged as occurring a bit on the periphery or behind the scenes. So I was truly astounded that my work had been noticed at this level."

Clark has been indispensable in driving her vocation from the periphery of the academic world to its center. Under her guidance, the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has been ranked No. 1 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report since it began its occupational therapy graduate program ranking. She also has greatly influenced the public's understanding of the occupational therapy field, speaking on the international lecture circuit and appearing on CNN, National Public Radio and at the National Press Club.

First arriving at USC in 1976, Clark joined the faculty as an assistant professor. While teaching at the

university, she earned her doctorate with a dual major in educational psychology and special education. She became an associate professor in 1982 and a full professor in 1989, the same year she became chair of the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

One of her greatest achievements at USC sprung from her role as lead investigator on the USC Well Elderly Study. The large-scale clinical trial demonstrated that the elderly could improve their health and slow the aging process through lifestyle redesign programs. The results of the study were later published in several prestigious journals, including the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, which up until that point had never published the results of an occupational science study.

For her pioneering contributions to her field, Clark received the prestigious Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award and the Award of Merit, both from the American Occupational Therapy Association. She is also a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association and a charter member of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation's distinguished Academy of Research.



USC bestows its highest honor on occupational therapy leader

"Professor Clark's groundbreaking work in occupational science has helped countless people achieve a quality of life previously undreamed of, both in recovering from illness and in staving off the deleterious effects of aging," said USC President Steven B. Sample. "Her outstanding stewardship of the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has brought great luster to our university."

Clark not only teaches the importance of "building blocks of the self," as she calls it; she has also contributed directly to the well-being of her students through her classroom proficiencies. An admired and popular professor, she has also chaired 70 masters' theses and doctoral dissertations. Clark also has served on many university boards and committees, including membership in the Executive Board of the USC Academic Senate and as chair of the Academic Senate Committee on Community and Academic Life at USC.

Her commitment to student learning and enrichment even extends to campus living: she and her husband, John Wolcott, are faculty master and co-master at USC's North Residential College. ■

View Clark's Acceptance Speech from the Faculty Convocation

To read Dr. Clark's acceptance remarks, go to:

http://www.usc.edu/schools/ihp/ot/presidential_medallion_acceptance_remarks.html



Brain Research Pioneer's Long-Lost Letters Provide Hope for the Learning Disabled

The late Dr. A. Jean Ayres (1920 – 1988) is the pioneer who, beginning in the 1950s, formulated the theory of sensory integration. Therapy based upon her theory is now applied worldwide by occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, and physicians to treat children and adults with learning disabilities and other manifestations of sensory processing disorders, such as hypersensitivity to touch, taste, and odors, and fear of heights and movement.

In the midst of her most productive decade of work, the 1970s, Dr. Ayres found time to write letters to her learning-disabled nephew, Philip Erwin, describing why his brain functioned as it did and how he was benefiting from therapy. These letters, as well as Erwin's recollections of what life felt like before, during, and after therapy, are captured in a new book entitled, *Love, Jean: Inspiration for Families Living With Dysfunction of Sensory Integration* (Crestport Press; \$15.95).

Just as Ayres found being a pioneer to be a lonely and often frustrating existence, so too did Erwin, who provides unique insights into what it felt like to be an undiagnosed, learning-disabled child.

Dear Phil,

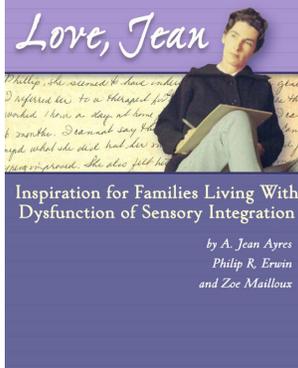
Now that some of the school pressure is off you and you are feeling better about yourself it may become easier for you to make friends. Remember that there are a lot of other people with the same or similar problems to yours and those people may be having trouble making friends, too. One of the factors that makes for successful friendships among people with problems is being accepting of the other person even with his problems. A lot of allowances need to be made on both sides. There are no doubt a lot of people who feel good about having you accept them just the way they are...
Love, Jean

and go home having put off discovery by my adversary, the teacher, for one more day. If any one feeling remains palpable from those years of decline it is the feeling of putting off today the certain, inescapable misery of tomorrow."

The third author of *Love, Jean*, Zoe Mailloux, was Ayres's longtime research assistant and now a world-renowned expert in dysfunction in sensory integration. She provides insights for parents who are considering or who already have arranged therapy for their children.

While *Love, Jean* is part history and part family story, it ultimately is a guide for parents of children whose problems may have been misdiagnosed and who finally are turning to sensory integration-based therapy for help. When children with sensory integration issues are properly diagnosed and treated, their sense of their physical presence, their ability to interact with others, and their self-esteem improve. Sensory integration therapy is a gradual process that reveals its effectiveness in subtle and yet significant ways. ■

"Some say that there is no such person as The Invisible Man...I don't agree. If I tried hard enough I was periodically able to become so small, to radiate so little presence in the classroom, that I could become invisible



A Fond Farewell

It is with gratitude and best wishes for her future, and with a great sense of loss for our Department, that we bid Kimberly Morris-Eggleston, MA, OTR/L farewell. Kim has been our Director of Recruitment for the past three years and has amazed us with her ability to communicate the profession and our professional

program to a multitude of prospective students both here at USC and at schools throughout Southern California. She has done this through an unbelievable number of presentations and through the development of public relations materials, and has amazed us with her energy, responsiveness and creativity. We wish her well as she continues her education by enrolling in OT 610, Sensory Integrative Dysfunction and

Practice, preceding her goal of entering pediatric clinical practice. Thank you, Kim. You will be missed! ■



Department Reviewed by ACOTE Team

In December of 2003 the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy submitted their Report of Self-Study to the American Occupational Therapy Association Accreditation Department. The Self-Study documented the two-year process of careful review and analysis of all components of the occupational therapy professional program. The professional program includes what is presently the first three semesters of the academic program for both seniors and graduate students and the Level II fieldworks. Also studied were administrative processes and policies surrounding

admissions, general matriculation, graduation and post-graduation employment. March 29-31, 2004 were the dates of the actual on-site review conducted by Jane Olson, PhD, OTR, Chair and Graduate Program Director, Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Sharon M. Brown, MS, OTR/L, Occupational Therapy Supervisor, McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence, South Carolina.

The team compared on-site review with the Self-Study through examination of documents, and meetings with faculty, students, fieldwork educators, and employers of

graduates. All involved were pleased with the thorough review and quality of the process. The team now submits the Evaluators' Report of On-Site Evaluation to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and the final results will be made known later this spring. The Department anticipates another ten years of accreditation.

During the exit report, Dr. Olson stated, "USC OT is a flagship model for all programs." Congratulations to the department for this outstanding achievement! ■

Fieldwork Corner

David Leary and Jaynee Meyer, co-coordinators of Fieldwork Education, continued their strong relationship with our clinical community at the Fieldwork Education Seminar held on March 5, 2004. Approximately 40 OT practitioners attended the half-day seminar addressed individualization of the new Fieldwork Performance Evaluation. Aimee Bender, OTR/L of Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Norma Flickinger, OTR/L of the Veteran's Administration Long Beach Healthcare System shared their site specific objectives developed for the new AOTA FWPE. A special thanks to them both for sharing their

information!

No less than one dozen clinicians and long time fieldwork education supporters from the clinical community of USC met with the ACOTE Accreditation team at the USC Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign on March 29, 2004. We are very grateful to all fieldwork educators who support USC's program and send a special "thank you" to Maria Aza (Glendale Memorial Hospital & Health Center, Behavioral Health Services), Arnel Calvario (Childrens Hospital Los Angeles), Cheryl Ecker and Lisa Gliege (Therapy in Action), John Fisher and

Anu Kandathil (Good Samaritan Hospital), Linda Florey (UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute), Mary Kay Gallagher (Gallagher Pediatric Therapy), Katie Gunderson (Huntington Memorial Hospital, Della Martin Behavioral Science Center), Whitney Pike and Joan Vartanian (USC University Hospital), and Lora Woo (California Children's Services, Los Angeles)! The Accreditation team was extremely impressed with the wonderful support and collaborative efforts of our practice community. ■

OTD Program Update

USC's OTD program continues to grow, and this our third, is no exception. Twelve OTD students graduating in May, August, and December 2004 will walk at commencement ceremonies this May. Their portfolio projects represent a wide range of diversity ranging from raising public awareness of occupational therapy, to innovative practice, and public policy and

advocacy.

Uyen Nguyen, MA, OTR/L collaborates with nonprofit organizations including the Dayle McIntosh Center, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander communities to develop educational materials in Vietnamese and to promote occupational therapy to consumers, and healthcare professionals in the Vietnamese community in Orange County, California. Written educational

materials translated into Vietnamese were distributed at Uyen's OT booth at a Vietnamese Health Education fair in an effort to increase awareness and understanding of the value of occupational therapy. Uyen wants to motivate more college students in the Vietnamese community to become occupational therapists, increase occupational therapy referrals from healthcare practitioners who are Vietnamese, and to empower

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Research Corner

Constructing Identities in Social Worlds: Stories of Four Adults with Autism

Since becoming an occupational therapist in 1989, Nancy Bagatell, PhD, OTR/L has spent a great deal of time working with and getting to know individuals with autism. As a clinician, she was intrigued and captivated, yet at times felt greatly frustrated. Nancy's frustration stemmed from the fact that her clients were not participating in typical occupations, or at least not interested in participating in typical occupations in typical ways. While Nancy often could not understand what her clients were doing, she had the sense that their actions had meaning. This "clinical irritation" sent Nancy on a journey – a journey that lead her to complete her dissertation on this very topic.

Gaining an understanding of the lives of adults with autism is particularly pertinent at this time as autism is now considered an "epidemic" of sorts. In 1999 a report by the California Department of Developmental Services indicated that the number of people with autism receiving services surged by 273% from 1987-1998. While most research focuses on children, it is important to consider what happens to these individuals as they grow up and live as adults with autism.

Nancy's dissertation, an ethnographic study, concerns how adults with high functioning autism, through their efforts at constructing identities, create meaningful lives. Utilizing data collected from extensive narrative interviews and participant observation, stories of the process of "doing, being and becoming" emerged.

Despite traditional views that focus on the social deficits of people with autism, the participants in Nancy's study were remarkably resourceful in using social strategies to construct their identities. Nancy reports they used social interaction, narrative and occupation, three inter-related means of constructing identities, although they did not always do so in a "typical" manner. Key to their efforts was locating and becoming part of communities, for it is within these social worlds that identities are crafted. For the adults in the study, constructing identities is an ongoing process requiring creativity and ingenuity. It is often hard work, in many ways a struggle. However the participants persisted in their attempts to craft their identities and create a meaningful life. One participant felt a sense of belonging when she located and became part of a gypsy community. For another, learning to play tennis was a way to join a community, one that afforded him a certain sense of position. For all of the participants, finding a community of people with autism or disabilities was an especially powerful means of constructing an identity.

Nancy's study challenges many of the traditional deficit-focused views of autism. It also contributes to the ongoing debate regarding identity. Lastly, the findings provide support for and extend the ideas put forth by occupational scientists regarding the intimate relationship between occupation and identity. ■

Zemke is Honored Lecturer for 2004 *Afternoon Tea with a Scholar*

The *Afternoon Tea with a Scholar* is an annual event sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of OTAC. The Tea took place at the USC Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign on March 27, 2004. The Tea is an opportunity for occupational therapy practitioners to take part in an inspirational presentation from a renowned occupational therapist, occupational scientist, and distinguished scholar. This year's honored lecturer for the 3rd Annual *Afternoon Tea with a Scholar* was Dr. Ruth Zemke.

Dr. Zemke's lecture was titled "The Globalization of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy" a topic in which she has particular expertise as an internationally recognized leader in the development of occupational science. Following her stimulating lecture and discussion, the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy unveiled her portrait as the newest addition to their OT "Wall of Fame".

After the event Dr. Zemke and Dr. Florence Clark signed copies of their books Occupational Science: The

Evolving Discipline and Lifestyle Redesign: Implementing the Well-Elderly Study. ■



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. This Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts contributed during the past year.

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!

\$2500 and up

Western Psychological Services

\$1000 - \$2499

Florence A. Clark
Florence S. Cromwell
Jeanne M. Jackson
Richard McCauley
James S. Plumtree
Leonard V. Wendland

\$200 - \$499

Dawn L. Barnier
Barbara W. Bobitch
Linda L. Florey
Kathleen A. Gross
Susan J. Harris
A. Joy Huss
Lawrene Kovalenko
Janice S. Matsutsuyu
Kristine E. Naylor
Elaine B. Quinlan
Lyla M. Spelbring
Jill C. Wondries
Abigail Wool

\$100 - \$199

Mary E. Foto
Arnel C. Calvario
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Hannah M. Cline
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Carolyn Crouch Gayer
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Deborah J. Hazama
Dane B. Hickerson
Elise M. Holloway
Nancy E. Inagaki
Susan H. Knox
Sharon K. Lee
Eva K. Ma
Zoe Mailloux
Phyllis J. Meltzer
Marcia Miyasaka
Patricia Nagaishi

Pamela Nakada
Rajinder K. Narula
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Shawn C. Phipps
Loree A. Primeau
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Louise S. Storm
Louise A. Sumpter
Karen P. York
Mary Zehnpfennig

\$50 - \$99

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Kathryn C. Ceppi
Joan L. Daems
Zelda A. Donin-Green
Cheryl L. Ecker
Kimberly A. Eggleston
Judith Freeman
Carolyn Gee
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Beth Jacobs
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Hope Y. Lee
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Amy Weisberg
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Amy J. Yoshimitsu

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Joy Lacy
Janis Kitsuwa-Lowe
Cindy L. Kwong
Holly M. Ledesma
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Esther Martin-Reichardt
Laura Matsumoto
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Margaret Mitani
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Ruth S. Webb
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\$1 - \$24

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Nancy J. Bagatell
T. Magdalene Berman
Patricia A. Bernens
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Deborah L. Cornwell
Caroline D'Angelo
Carole Darnold
Maria De Jesus Gonzalez
Julie M. Gray
Elizabeth A. Derry
Yasmeen Dixon
Vickie G. Fausz
Stephanie Feuer

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In Memoriam

Elinor Richardson, a long-time member of the Department's board of councilors, died on Feb. 18, 2004.

Dr. Richardson taught at the USC Rossier School of Education (RSOE) as an adjunct for many years and was the mother of the late Penelope Richardson, a former RSOE professor and chair of the department of higher, adult and professional education prior to suffering a stroke. Penny's occupational therapy intervention was the focus of Dr. Florence Clark's

Eleanor Clarke Slagle lecture in 1993, and for whom Elinor Richardson established the Penelope Richardson Scholarship.

A memorial service was held on the USC campus at the United University Church on March 25, 2004. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Penelope Richardson



Penny and Elinor Richardson

Scholarship at the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Checks should be made payable to the USC Dept. of OS/OT and mailed to the care of Jackie Mardirossian, USC Dept. Of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, 1540 Alcazar St., CHP-113, Los Angeles, CA 90089-9003. ■

Occupational Therapy in *Seniors Fit for Life* Program

The USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice is participating in an exciting, new senior outreach program led by the Keck School of Medicine. The program was developed for seniors who want to learn how to maintain and enhance health in personally relevant and sustainable ways. The new Senior Fit for Life program is comprised of six USC professions including geriatric medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nutrition, social work, and pharmacy. Each provider meets with the participants to discuss health-related issues from their field of expertise.

Stephanie Baars, OTD, OTR/L and

Katie Salles, MA, OTR/L saw ten patients at the first Senior Fit for Life clinic on February 27, 2004. They assessed patterns of occupational engagement, balance in the areas of social, productive and physical activities, and health-related risk factors. At the end of the clinic, the OTs provided each participant with lifestyle redesign recommendations and individually tailored strategies for health promotion.

Dr. Florence Clark played an integral part planning occupational therapy's role in the Senior Fit for Life program. When available appointments for the first clinic filled in one week, Dr. Clark stated, "This tells us that the

individuals are invested in their quality of life." She went on to say, "We want to assist them in preventing disease and disability, sustaining mental and physical functioning, and remaining engaged in life. Both the participants and the practitioners are dedicated to preventing or minimizing age-related declines in health and functioning."

The Senior Fit for Life program will continue on indefinitely. The directors hope to dedicate one day each month to the program that takes place in the new Healthcare Consultation Center II. The occupational therapists look forward to being an important part of the Senior Fit for Life team as the program evolves. ■

Both Sides of the Coin - OT/PT Student Forum

On the evening of April 7, 2004, OT and PT students and faculty alike came together for dinner and a panel discussion entitled "Both Sides of the Coin". It was a groundbreaking event sponsored by Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) and organized by Jennifer Links, the Health Science Liaison for GPSS, and the OT and PT senators, Colleen Harvey and Carmen

Romano. The forum schedule included a panel presentation on the history of each profession, including a discussion of populations and settings, and commonalities and differences, as well as a time for socialization. Panel members then presented a case study selected to highlight areas of overlap and distinct contributions made by each profession in the service of our clients. Both faculty and students came

away with an appreciation of the important perspectives offered by both disciplines in addressing the complex health problems of the 21st century. Faculty are already making plans for future collaborations. ■

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For more information: Toll free: 866-385-4250; E-mail: otdept@usc.edu; www.usc.edu/ot

Occupational Science Symposium XVI

Continuing its tradition of scholarly excellence and professional relevance, the Department hosted its sixteenth annual occupational science symposium—*Creating an Academic Discipline that Supports Practice*.

Leading off the program was the distinguished Professor of Sociology, Andrew Abbott from the University of Chicago. He sketched the development of the profession of occupational therapy from its inception to the present and compared it with examples of other professions that contain academic and practice wings.

Dr. Laura Gitlin, Professor of Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson

University, provided an in depth analysis of the process of building a funded research program and specifically focused on implications of family caregiver research for clinicians and scientists.

Dr. Elana Gordis, a clinical psychologist in USC's College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, discussed the core elements of the mentoring process that have help position her to receive a sizeable amount of external funding.



Front: K. Ottenbacher, A. Abbott, F. Clark. Back: Z. Mailloux, D. Parham, E. Gordis, L. Gitlin

Zoe Mailloux, Administrative Director at Pediatric Therapy Network in Torrance, was honored as this year's Wilma West Lecturer. Her lecture

focused on professionalism.

Building on the theme of developing externally funded research programs was Dr. Kenneth Ottenbacher, Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He shared his extensive knowledge, deep experience, and sense of integrity while offering suggestions on building models for externally funded research programs.

Lastly, Dr. Diane Parham, our very own renowned researcher in sensory integration and childhood disabilities discussed the future possibilities of occupational science and occupational therapy and the magnitude of change experienced in our profession.

The following Saturday morning a large group of graduate students gathered as Drs. Gitlin and Abbott graciously gave extra of their time to engage in informal and wide-ranging discussion on strategies of funding and the building of research programs. ■

The Top 10 Reasons to Remember USC OS/OT in Your Will:

10. A bequest to USC OS/OT is a true testament to how much you value in occupational therapy and occupational science.
9. Your bequest will assist future students financially, enabling them to attend USC OS/OT.
8. Your bequest will signify your belief in the ways in which USC OS/OT is serving the public good.
7. A bequest helps to insure the future viability of the profession into posterity.
6. Your bequest may lower or eliminate your estate tax.
5. Your bequest can be an inspiration to others to remember USC OS/OT in their estate plans.
4. Your bequest will help the Department achieve greater stature at USC and nationwide.
3. You will receive membership in the Trojans Founders Circle, a society of USC alumni and friends who have made long-term financial commitments to USC OS/OT.
2. Your bequest will make you feel good because you know you are making a contribution to something in which you truly believe and in which you can make a difference.

And the Number 1 reason to remember USC OS/OT in your will:

1. _____
(fill in the blank)

**For more information on making a bequest to USC OS/OT, contact
Jane Page, Office of Planned Giving at 213-740-2682
or visit their newly revamped website at www.usc.edu/giving.**

**To talk with someone in the USC OS/OT department, contact
Jackie Mardirossian at 323-442-2811 or jmardiro@usc.edu**

Alumni News

Sheila Wehe, BS '47, died October 5, 2003 in Santa Barbara. Sheila lost her battle with cancer.

Donna Berger Stanton, MA '79, was admitted to the Roster of Fellows in June 2003 during the AOTA Awards Ceremony in D.C. She is currently President-Elect of the American Society of Hand Therapists, and will begin her role as President in 2005.

Carolyn Snyder, MA '90, has adopted a daughter, Marita Leigh. Marita will turn three in July.

Susan Spitzer, MA '95; PhD '01, has been chosen to receive the 2004 AOTA Cordelia Myers Writer's Award during the AOTA Awards Ceremony in May.

Holly Ledesma, MA '00, has been working for the Los Angeles County

Department of Mental Health since early 2003.

Current student (and future alum) **Patrick Armstrong**, MA '05, was married to Keiko Takahashi on January 10, 2004.

(Continued from page 1)

lifestyle-oriented treatment for the elderly, a rapidly mushrooming population greatly in need of preventive services.

In support of the project, Dr. Clark and Dr. Jackson have assembled an outstanding multidisciplinary research team. Co-Investigators include: Dr. Stan Azen, Professor and Director of Biometry and Clinical Trials at USC; Dr. Bob Knight, Professor of Gerontology and Professor of Psychology at USC; Dr. Doug Granger, Associate Professor of Behavioral Health at Pennsylvania

State University; Dr. Chih-Ping Chou, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at USC; Dr. Barbara Cherry, Research Assistant Professor of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at USC; Dr. Maryalice Jordan-Marsh, Associate Professor of Nursing at USC; and Dr. Todd Forman, Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at USC.

Finally, it is important to note that Dr. Clark and Dr. Jackson's ongoing work in the area of gerontology, as reflected in the new Well Elderly project, is part of a wider program of research involving the application of lifestyle

redesign to varying populations that face special challenges. Other groups for which lifestyle redesign programs are being developed include obese adults, as well as adults with spinal cord injury who are at risk for medically serious pressure ulcers. Through this coordinated series of applications, occupational science research promises to help solve the emergent health care needs of the 21st century. ■

We are inviting your comments on how the Department can help alums stay better connected with your former classmates. Use the *Let's Keep in Touch!* form to provide your feedback. If you are not already a member of the USC Alumni Association, visit <http://alumni.usc.edu> to view their benefits!



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.

FULL NAME _____
first middle last maiden

DEGREE/YEAR _____ TELEPHONE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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Check here if this is new information.

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

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

Honor Roll of Donors *(Continued from page 7)*

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Karen P. York

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consumers to seek occupational therapy services.

Katie Salles, MA, OTR/L is implementing a lifestyle redesign program through the Executive Health Program at USC in downtown Los Angeles. Taking a “healthy habit development” approach spotlighting occupation, Katie holds weekly groups, helping participants learn about healthy habits to manage stress, occupation, and the relationship between the two. Brandi Buchanan, MA, OTR/L works with a disability policy consultant to identify and report how the policies and procedures of the nation’s Department of Homeland Security impact individuals with disabilities. Brandi is also investigating OT’s role in public policy and advocacy, compiling a similar report for academic programs and occupational therapy practitioners to position practitioners to do advocacy and public policy work.

There are also a number of innovative practice projects including, among others, a parent-child play group, social skills interventions for children with autism, and pre-adoption workshops for parents who are adopting children. The USC OTD program proudly supports and enables practitioners to advance practice into new arenas and work in diverse areas of public health and policy. ■



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