In its 65th anniversary year, the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy looks back at selected highlights in its proud history with some of the most distinguished names in our USC family: Florence Cromwell, MA, OTR, FAOTA, Acting Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy from 1974 to 1976 and AOTA President from 1967 to 1973; Elizabeth Yerxa, Ed.D., OTR, FAOTA, Emerita Professor and Chair of the Department from 1976 to 1988; and Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor and Associate Dean and Chair of the Division from 1988 to the present.

The 1940s
1942: The Department of Occupational Therapy is founded at the USC College of Arts and Sciences; Margaret Rood is Chair.

1944: The first class of bachelor’s degree students in OT, including A. Jean Ayres, graduates. War Emergency courses are also initiated to prepare OTs to work in veterans’ hospitals; five groups of students receive this training at USC.

1946: Wilma West is the first person in the U.S. to receive a Master’s degree in OT, at that time an inter-divisional degree at USC. The following year, USC establishes the first advanced/post-professional Master’s degree in OT.

Ms. Cromwell: My first job was at Los Angeles County Hospital in 1949, and we trained USC students. At USC in that day, the schools were small, but it was a time of growth. The OT school was in a former residence down on campus, a two-story house converted room by room into classrooms, a very limited space. OT and PT were both in that house, with additional anatomy labs. OT had a crafts house out behind the former residence. Harriet Zlatohlavek ran the crafts, and she was Chair of the Department ultimately [from 1960 to 1967]. This was the day of crafts, and our patients used that.

Dr. Yerxa: When I arrived at USC in 1948 as a student in OT, there was a very small enrollment in OT, with extremely dedicated instructors who had gone through the War Emergency courses. Margaret Rood was the chair, and she was a legend, a very dynamic person. We were required to take a solid foundation in liberal arts before we started the OT courses; I’ve been very grateful for that. The instructors were OTs, PTs and a few physicians and psychologists. OT was not well understood [by the public], but the instructors were very enthusiastic, which was contagious.

Ms. Cromwell: Angeline Howard becomes Department Chair.

Ms. Cromwell: Most of the people who manned OT programs in Los Angeles graduated USC. For example, Jean Ayres worked at a psychiatric hospital in South Pasadena. It was a close-knit, fairly small group of women, very few men at the time. It was a select crowd we attracted to OT, as jobs in industry and such weren’t open to women, and we attracted people interested in helping people. As the program at USC grew, the influence of OT grew. I earned my own MA in OT from USC in 1952.

The 1950s
1953: Angeline Howard becomes Department Chair.

The 1960s
1962: Under Department Chair Zlatohlavek, USC establishes the first 2-year, entry-level Master’s degree in OT.

Ms. Cromwell: Margaret Rood – “Roody” – was a fantastic girl with all kinds of skills and energy and ideas. She had to generate interest in OT to Los Angeles, to hospitals and schools. Those early people picked up Roody’s enthusiasm, and we all got that. She gave good educational value and a lot of hope to us in a growing profession, and she was a lot of fun!

The 1950s
1953: Angeline Howard becomes Department Chair.

Ms. Cromwell: Most of the people who manned OT programs in Los Angeles graduated USC. For example, Jean Ayres worked at a psychiatric hospital in South Pasadena. It was a close-knit, fairly small group of women, very few men at the time. It was a select crowd we attracted to OT, as jobs in industry and such weren’t open to women, and we attracted people interested in helping people. As the program at USC grew, the influence of OT grew. I earned my own MA in OT from USC in 1952.

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1962: Under Department Chair Zlatohlavek, USC establishes the first 2-year, entry-level Master’s degree in OT.

(Continued on page 7)
L
ast year at this time, I announced to you that I had just been elected Vice-President of AOTA. Now, my first year in this role is coming to a close, with two more to go. And what a wonderful year it has been! It seemed that with each new month, I became more and more convinced that the Centennial Vision “gets it right.” How great it is that we are organizing our activities and marshalling our resources to assure that by 2017, occupational therapy will be a powerful, widely recognized, science-driven, and evidence-based profession, with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society’s occupational needs.”

The Centennial Vision gives us the hope that our wonderful profession will reach its golden age in just 10 more years. At the 19th Annual Occupational Science Symposium, an internationally renowned scholar, Shane Lopez, presented his theoretical work on what constitutes hope. According to Professor Lopez, the essence of hope is setting and pursuing goals, knowing the pathways that will lead to success, risk-taking, and finally, having the energy to sustain action. This year, as I made one Centennial Vision presentation after another, I could see that OT practitioners, researchers, students and educators were rallying in support of the vision with a powerful sense of hope. I firmly believe our success in realizing the Centennial Vision depends on bringing our collective activities in alignment with it. Therefore, I want to share with you the concrete initiatives we have undertaken to align USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy activities with the Vision.

First, we have implemented a public awareness campaign so that our occupational science and occupational therapy educational programs, as well as the OT profession, will be widely understood and valued on the USC campus. This has involved developing a portfolio of marketing materials, designed by a top notch public relations firm, to get the word out to the University community with depth, color and simplicity. I was particularly proud of an event announcement we placed in the Daily Trojan, the USC student-run newspaper, the day we were sponsoring a presentation by military occupational therapists who would describe the work they do with returning soldiers. The words on the ad, which was red, white and blue and featured a combat soldier, said, “When bullets stop, hope starts. Come hear about what is being done to help our returning soldiers.” When I looked at this ad, I was reminded of our profession’s long history of responding in times of war.

We have also taken the words evidence-based and science-driven to heart as we invest in the Division’s future, and with it, the profession’s future, in meeting society’s occupational needs. We are just about to complete the second USC Well Elderly Study, once again hoping to be able to demonstrate the powerful ways in which OT slows down the declines associated with aging and improves the health of the elderly. Can you believe 13 years have passed since we initiated this research program, and lo and behold, now I qualify as a participant! What is important, however, is that over these years, we have developed the expertise to conduct the kind of randomized clinical trials our profession needs, and we expect to continue doing this kind of research in other domains of practice. Our next federal grant submissions are likely to be in areas such as stroke, autism, sensory integration or spinal cord injury. Moreover, we are working hard to recruit faculty who have a track record in up-and-coming, as well as traditional, areas of practice. This will give USC a greater capacity to fortify practice through publication of outcomes data. At the same time, we continue to support and do the basic science that underpins practice innovation.

Finally, we are embracing the Centennial Vision’s emphasis on building a diverse workforce and global connections. This year, we will offer substantial Centennial Scholarships to qualified students from underserved populations. While we currently have one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation, this new program will enable us to recruit students who would otherwise be unable to enroll. Ever since Elizabeth J. Yerxa began disseminating occupational science internationally, our Division has had global connections. But now we are working collectively as a community of scholars to expand them. As examples, Professor Jaynee Taguchi-Meyer has created several international fieldwork opportunities for our professional students, and the OS Symposium had a global theme. And would you believe it, representatives from no fewer than fourteen countries on five continents attended! As well, we hosted an international Think Tank on the future of occupational science.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said that when it’s “dark enough, you can see the stars.” There is no doubt that the need for the OT profession and for occupational science is greater than ever – just think of our returning soldiers, the autism epidemic and the anticipated growth in the number of older people trying to hold on to their health, happiness and independence. This is the 65th year of the USC Occupational Therapy program. It will be a year of reflection and appreciation of those who have contributed to its legacy and a celebration of our future. I hope that, in the spirit of our anniversary, you will be moved to contribute to our endowment or join us in other ways to secure the Division’s future. I hope you will be part of our 65th Anniversary Celebration and, if you have not revisited your roots in the Division, I hope this will be the “special” year in which you re-connect with your Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science Trojan Family.

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The SPM is a versatile tool designed to seek information from those who closely observe a child (between ages 5 and 12 years old, inclusive) in either the home or school environment. There are three forms: the Home Form, the Main Classroom Form and the School Environments Form. Each of these forms may be completed in about 15 to 20 minutes by primary caregivers or main classroom teachers who have known the child in the relevant setting for at least 1 month, and in even less time by others who do not have as many interactions with the child, such as an art teacher or playground supervisor. Scores can be derived for home; the main classroom; classes in art, music or physical education; playground; cafeteria, and/or the school bus. Results can be interpreted by occupational therapists trained in sensory integration and processing, as well as other professionals with sensory integration training, such as psychologists or counselors, social workers, physical therapists or speech-language therapists.

The goal of the SPM is to identify if sensory issues are involved in the behavior of a child in the setting being examined. By scoring five sensory systems, the SPM can provide the OT with a starting point for determining what, if any, intervention might be suitable. The instrument can also be effective as a pre- and post-test measure. It conforms with federal mandates for early identification and intervention contained in the IDEA and No Child Left Behind.

The SPM rates well for reliability and validity. A nationally representative sample of 1,051 typically developing children, grades K through 6, was studied when standardizing the Home Form and Main Classroom Form. The results showed, respectively, a median internal consistency of .85 and .86, while the median test-retest reliability for each was found to be .97. To develop scoring guidelines for the School Environments Form, 306 children from the original sample were involved; the result here was a median internal consistency of .89. To test the usefulness of the SPM for determining typically developing children from children with identifiable disorders, a sample of 325 children receiving occupational therapy participated. Results showed that the SPM has a high degree of sensitivity (.85) and specificity (.85), indicating that it has low rates of false positives and false negatives. Validity of the scale scores was verified through factor analytic studies.

The SPM began with an early version called the Evaluation of Sensory Processing (ESP), Dr. Parham explained. This test was geared strictly for rating of a child in his or her home environment by parents or caregivers. The tool developed through over a dozen reliability and validity tests and other analyses conducted within the Division of OS and OT at USC, including a study that looked at theoretical relationships among sensory systems. A number of Master’s theses and one dissertation by USC students were conducted, under Dr. Parham’s guidance, to advance the development of the ESP and the eventual SPM. Among these students was Ms. Ecker, who started on the project as a Master’s thesis student and continued working on it with Dr. Parham after graduation. “One of the exciting things about SPM is seeing work I’ve done with graduate students come to fruition,” Dr. Parham enthused. “USC students were critical to building the instrument.”

The ESP evolved into the SPM in 2005, when the standardization process took place. At that time, Dr. Parham’s team was joined with a team working on the East Coast (SPM co-authors Heather Miller Kuhaneck, MS, OTR/L, Diana A. Henry, MS, OTR/L, and Tara J. Glennon, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA) who were developing a questionnaire for teachers. Other important contributors to the creation of the SPM were the staffs, clients and parents of PTN, Therapy in Action and Therapy West. These occupational therapy providers tested the SPM in the context of clinical practice. “The SPM is a product of an extensive collaboration,” Dr. Parham noted.

For more information about the SPM, visit the test’s website at www.sensoryprocessingmeasure.com, or to order the test, go directly to www.wpspublish.com/spm.
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, from April 2006 to March 2007. Those who contributed to The 100% Challenge are indicated with an asterisk (*).

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!

We are also pleased to report recent gifts to the Division of a collection of antiques for the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign, and a donation on behalf of the Trojan League of Orange County (see related articles, page 15).
OTAC Forum Explores Current Trends, Future Directions

by Shawn Phipps, BS '97, MS, OTR/L

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center joined forces to host the 5th Annual Occupational Therapy Practice Issues Forum in Los Angeles on February 8th. This annual event is designed to unite a network of occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy students from various clinical practice areas to increase awareness of issues affecting OT, discuss current trends, emerging market areas and future directions for OT practice. The evening was attended by 214 OT practitioners and students from throughout the state.

In her capacity as Vice President of AOTA, Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, discussed AOTA’s Centennial Vision for the OT profession in 2017. Shawn Phipps, MS, OTR/L, OTAC Director of Region 2, described the OTAC reorganization, the OTAC Strategic Plan, and encouraged members to get involved in shaping the future of OT practice in California. The audience then engaged in an interactive dialogue on these and other issues.

Following these presentations, facilitators led 6 breakout sessions to explore trends and regulatory issues affecting hospital-based practice (facilitated by Mr. Phipps and Pam Roberts, Ph.D. (Cand.), OTR/L), community-based practice (facilitators Cheryl Finkel Ratnoff, OTR/L, and Tammy Richmond, MS, OTR/L), hand therapy (Chris Sorrells, OTR/L, CHT, and Laura Stewart, MA, OTR/L, CHT), pediatric therapy (Patricia Nagashi, Ph.D., OTR/L, and Joan Surlus, OTR/L), mental health (Linda Florey, Ph.D., OTR/L, and Deborah Pitts, MBA, OTR/L) and occupational therapy assistants (Laura Deary, COTA/C, and Bobbi Jean Tanberg, COTA/C). Each breakout session developed a list of practice issues, concerns and trends and discussed strategies and solutions.

The 5th Annual Occupational Therapy Practice Issues Forum was sponsored by OTAC, the Los Angeles Occupational Therapy Leadership Forum and Sammons Preston Roylan. The next Forum is planned for February, 2008.

Shawn Phipps, MS, OTR/L, is Director, Region 2, of OTAC, AOTA Alternate Representative for California, Chair of the Los Angeles Occupational Therapy Leadership Forum, and Occupational Therapy Clinical Specialist at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.
Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to the following faculty on their outstanding achievements!

Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, Ph.D., was cited in a *Time* magazine story which described for a broad consumer audience Dr. Aziz-Zadeh’s studies of prosody and mirror neurons. The article is available online at http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1580423,00.html. Dr. Aziz-Zadeh also presented a poster, “Aha!: The Neural Correlates of Verbal Insight Solutions,” at AOTF’s Habit and Rehabilitation: Promoting Participation conference.

Nancy Bagatell, Ph.D., OTR/L, has agreed to transition into the position of Director of the Professional Program. Dr. Bagatell will be mentored in her new role by Linda Fazio, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA, who will continue to serve as Assistant Chair until the end of this academic year.

Erna Imperatore Blanche, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, published the article “The Expression of Creativity through Occupation” in Volume 14, No. 1 of the *Journal of Occupational Science*. She recently taught courses in sensory integration in Janakpuri, New Delhi, India, and at the Instituto de Terapia Ocupacional in Mexico City, Mexico. Attendees included OTs, PTs, STs, physicians, nurses and educators.

Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Jeanne Jackson, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA, and Mike E. Carlson, Ph.D., were among members of the USC/Rancho Pressure Ulcers Grant study team who authored the article “Data-Based Models of How Pressure Ulcers Develop in Daily-Living Contexts of Adults with Spinal Cord Injury,” which was published in the November 2006 issue of *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. Dr. Clark also authored the paper “One Person’s Thoughts on the Future of Occupational Science,” based on her 2005 Ruth Zemke Lecture in OS for SSQ:USA. The article was published in Volume 13, No. 3 (October 2006) of the *Journal of Occupational Science*. Additionally, Dr. Clark presented the Keynote Address, “A Synthesis of Habit Theory: Taking the Taken-for-Granted Seriously,” at AOTF’s Habit and Rehabilitation: Promoting Participation conference.

Lela Llorens, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA, and Mary Reilly, Emerita Professor, received an Honorary Lifetime Membership certificate at the 2006 OTAC Awards Dinner. Dr. Reilly recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Harold Slavkin, D.D.S., Dean of the USC School of Dentistry, was the recipient of the William John Gies Award, the highest honor accorded by the American College of Dentists at the group’s annual meeting in October.

Susanne Smith Roley, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, authored the article “Occupational Therapy Practice Framework Revision Update” in the “Practice Perks” section of *OT Practice* online at the AOTA website. Ms. Roley is Chair of the Commission on Practice (COP). She also co-wrote, with lead author L. Diane Parham, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, and Susan Spitzer, et al., the article “Fidelity in Sensory Integration Intervention Research,” and, with Dr. Parham, et al., the article “The Issue Is: Goal Attainment Scaling as a Measure of Meaningful Outcomes for Children With Sensory Integration Disorders,” both published in Volume 21, No. 2 (March/April 2007) of *AJOT*.

Ruth Zemke, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA, has completed her tenure as Chair of the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA (see related article, page 8).

Two Receive New Posts in USC Division of OS/OT

The USC OS/OT faculty and staff recently grew with the addition of two new colleagues to our family. Please join the Division in welcoming them to USC.

Megan Potter joined the staff of the USC Division of OS/OT in October 2006 as a Budget/Business Technician. In this position, she is responsible for processing purchase orders, reimbursements, honorariums and book orders. In addition, Ms. Potter handles travel arrangements, enters and tracks student financial aid awards and reconciles various division accounts. Prior to coming to USC, Ms. Potter was an administrative assistant with an accounting firm in Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Cynthia Strathmann has joined the USC OS/OT faculty as a Research Assistant Professor, and will serve as the Project Manager for Boundary Crossings, a longitudinal and ethnographic study of disabled and chronically ill African American children in Los Angeles. Dr. Strathmann received a BA in Anthropology and Biology at UC Santa Cruz and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from UCLA. Her dissertation focused on gender and media audiences. She has taught anthropology classes at UCLA and local colleges and worked on applied projects focusing on labor issues in the Los Angeles area. More recently, Dr. Strathmann was a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Culture and Health in UCLA’s Geffen School of Medicine, working on a project examining the effects of Internet use on doctor-patient communication.
1965: The old two-story “cottage” that housed OT and PT is torn down.

1968: Faculty member Mary Reilly’s insights into occupational behavior gain national attention for the Department’s work in research.

The 1970s

1972: The OT Department relocates to Rancho Los Amigos Hospital.

Ms. Cromwell: I became Acting Chair of the Department when Harriet retired in 1974. We were quite famous for our excellence; I inherited what Miss Harriet and Mary Reilly built, so I don’t take credit for their work.

Dr. Yerxa: When I returned to USC in 1976 as the new Chair, enrollment had increased markedly in the years since I graduated with my BS in OT in 1952. There was an emphasis on graduate study, and USC was requiring that every department have a strong program of research and publication.

Now, there was a viable Master’s of Arts in OT started by Mary Reilly and Harriet Zlatohlavek. Another major difference from earlier decades was that the curriculum was much more theoretically based as well as clinically relevant. My own education was primarily technical, like most programs at that time – learning by doing without a strong theoretical base – but by 1976 there was a strong theoretical base embedded into the curriculum. We had very few faculty members when I came, so I had a lot of searching to do to fill the positions! I’m proud to say I hired Dr. Clark. It was one of my best decisions as Chair!

The 1980s

1988: The OT Department moves to the Health Sciences Campus, and Florence Clark becomes Chair. Jane Goodall is keynote speaker of the first Occupational Science Symposium.

1989: USC initiates the world’s first Ph.D. program in Occupational Science.

Dr. Yerxa: We had to make our own commitment not only to teach, but also to engage in research to contribute to the program, and I’m happy to say we did that. From that commitment to research was the beginning of the development of the Ph.D. program. We put a lot of energy into developing a community of scholars. We wanted to make sure we involved not only the academic faculty, but clinicians and students as well in our research. I’m also particularly pleased about creating a relationship with the independent living movement in greater Los Angeles and being able to engage in collaborative research with members of that community. We were certainly proud of the recognition of the Ph.D. program by the USC Graduate School as worthy of a Ph.D., which is a scholarly, rather than applied, degree.

Dr. Clark: The 1990s were the years of nurturing occupational science, which was an emergent discipline at the time. This meant undertaking studies to show the value of doing basic research on occupation and also demonstrate its potential payoffs for cost-effective OT intervention. It was when the Division received its first large-scale federally funded research grants, perfected the tradition of holding annual OS symposia, recruited distinguished senior research faculty such as Dr. Cheryl Mattingly and Dr. Mary Lawlor, established the Faculty Practice as an incubator for innovation in practice by applying occupational science to OT, and mentored a decade’s worth of budding Ph.D.s in occupational science who would eventually assume leadership roles on the national and international landscape.

The 2000s

2001: The Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy establishes the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program.

2006: To create new interdisciplinary synergies, the Department of OS/OT and the Department of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy become aligned with the USC School of Dentistry as Divisions.

2007: The USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy enters its 65th Anniversary year.

Ms. Cromwell: I think it’s marvelous that we have 65 years from that humble beginning. We’ve had wonderful people like Jean Ayres and Mary Reilly and Betty Yerxa, and on and on you go. We share knowledge and help them grow. A few years ago, I was invited to speak about our USC OT history to students at a tea at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign, and it was kind of a treat. Someone remarked that they had never seen the students so excited about having chosen OT! I’ve always considered USC to be friendly and ambitious and interested in the people who come there, and they’re good mentors, and that’s awfully important.

Dr. Yerxa: I’m very proud to have been associated with the Division for over 55 years, and in spite of all the changes in society and in the University itself, we have become stronger and made a significant contribution to the profession worldwide.
USC OS/OT Sponsors International Think Tank

To advance occupational science through formation of an international society as well as discuss issues that affect researchers and clinicians all over the world, the 2nd International Occupational Science Think Tank will meet on Catalina Island following the 19th Annual OS Symposium. This 2-day forum, which is preceded by a day for arts and leisure exploration in Los Angeles and a day for sports and other activities on Catalina, is hosted by USC OS/OT.

Alison Wicks, Ph.D., Australasian Occupational Science Centre (AOSC) Director and Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong in Australia, is one of the organizers of the event. Dr. Wicks, who has lectured at USC OS/OT this year, hosted the inaugural Think Tank at the AOSC in 2006 on behalf of International Society of Occupational Scientists (ISOS), an organization for which she is Executive Assistant. Coordinating the event for USC OS/OT is Associate Professor Diane Parham, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA.

“The first Think Tank provided an opportunity for occupational scientists from around the world to meet face to face, to share their national perspectives, to discuss similarities and differences in the development of occupational science in each country and to establish a global connection of occupational scientists for research and scholarship,” explained Dr. Wicks. “At the second Think Tank, we shall be exploring ways ISOS can represent the various national groups and effectively make occupational science much more visible to the mainstream.”

“USC has a unique role in occupational science because our Ph.D. program has generated scholars since the 1990s, which shows our longevity in leadership in this area,” stated Dr. Parham. “In this Think Tank, we are inviting others to speak about perspectives in their countries. I would hope that ultimately this would lead to a global synergy of efforts in occupational science, and a shared understanding of what the priorities are for advancing public awareness of OT and the science that supports it.”

Sessions for the conference in Catalina will address the following topics:

USC Scholars, Faculty Present at Annual SSO Meeting

The 5th Annual Research Conference of the Society for the Study of Occupation-USA (SSO), “Spanning a Community of Scholars: Occupational Science Research from the Heartland,” was held last fall in St. Louis, under the leadership of outgoing SSO Chair and USC OS/OT Professor Emerita Ruth Zemke. Once again, the Conference provided an opportunity for a number of USC’s faculty members, students and alumni to present papers and participate in panel discussions.

“As I leave the position of Chair of the Society, I want to share my enthusiasm and hopes for that group,” Dr. Zemke stated. “I’ve heard positive feedback about the Conference and know that a major part of that success is because of contributions from USC faculty and students. The support of Florence Clark, leader in AOTA, the leadership of Gelya Frank in our outreach to anthropologists, and the participation of Mary Lawlor, Jeanne Jackson, Diane Parham and Erna Blanche all provide a long-term stability as well as status of their seniority in support of membership in the society. The excitement of participation of some of our more junior faculty such as Nancy Bagatell and, of course, my favorites, our doctoral students, has provided new energy.”

Among the USC OS/OT students and alumni who presented papers were Eric Asaba, Cristine Carrier, Beth Crall, Bryant Edwards, Don Fogelberg, Stacy Frauwirth, Etsuko Odawara, Melissa Park and Pollie Price. Alumni who were elected to positions on the SSO Board were Dr. Price (Chair Elect), Esther Huceker (Treasurer), Linda Buxell (Chair, Communication Committee) and Dr. Park (Chair, Research Committee). USC alumna Terry Peralta-Catipon continues on the Board as Chair, Legal Committee.

For more information, visit SSO’s website at http://www.sso-usa.org.
19th OS Symposium Explores Mind/Body Connection

Combining themes of wellness and internationalism, the 19th Annual Occupational Science Symposium was presented by USC OS/OT in March. In introducing the Symposium, Associate Dean and Chair Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, noted that obstacles to psychological well-being, such as depression and stress, are issues around the world that challenge health practitioners to explore prevention. This sentiment was echoed by Eugene Sekiguchi, D.D.S., Associate Dean for International, Professional and Legislative Affairs at the USC School of Dentistry, who pointed out that prevention is preferable to cure.

Keynote speaker Carol Ryff, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, called herself an occupational scientist and spoke about physical health and psychological well-being, which she defined as the courage to keep going, and to find meaning, in the face of adversity. She identified six components (self-acceptance, purpose in life, environmental mastery, positive relationships, autonomy and personal growth) as well as sociodemographic and neurobiological correlates of psychological well-being. Shane J. Lopez, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Kansas, spoke on “Hope and Its Transformational Power.” Dr. Lopez presented scales for measuring level of hope, and described hope as consisting of goals thinking, pathways thinking and agency thinking. After lunch, the Wilma West Lecture was given by Hans Jonsson, Ph.D., Reg. OT, the Director of Master Courses in the Division of OT at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. He described the power of language in constructing reality, as illustrated by findings in his study of perceptions of time use by older adults before and after retiring. The next presenter was USC professor C. Anderson Johnson, Ph.D., on challenges in creating effective school-based anti-smoking campaigns, based on sociocultural and individual differences observed among students in southern California and in China. Jeanne Jackson, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA, and Dr. Clark presented respectively on the USC Well Elderly Studies and the USC/Rancho study of pressure ulcer risk for people with spinal cord injury (SCI). This was followed by a Q&A panel for all the presenters, and a reception at Dr. Clark’s home.

The second day of the Symposium alternated talks and panels. Cathy Lysack, Ph.D., OT (Canada), associate professor at Wayne State University, presented her current study on perceptions of environmental barriers and community integration among people with SCI. Next was a panel on aging with Susan Corr, Ph.D., University of Northampton (UK); Clare Hocking, Ph.D., Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand); Debbie Rudman, Ph.D., University of Western Ontario (Canada); and Alison Wicks, Ph.D., University of Wollongong (Australia). The afternoon session began with a discussion of personal, social and global wellness by Rachel Thibeault, Ph.D., OT (Canada), associate professor of OT at the University of Ottawa, who illustrated her talk with examples from her work with people physically and psychologically damaged by wars in Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia. The final panel, on community development of OT, featured Sandra Galheigo, Ph.D., Universidade de Sao Paolo (Brazil); Jin-Ling Lo, Ph.D., National Taiwan University; Claudia Munoz Masini, MS, Universidad de Chile; and Lana van Niekerk, Ph.D., University of Cape Town (South Africa).

“This has been unprecedented,” Dr. Clark observed of the conference. “Students at 19 take a year abroad. Today, at 19, our Symposium became a globe-trotter!” She also offered thanks to conference organizers Diane Parham, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Dr. Wicks and Peter Wittrock.

OS and OT Develop Synergy with Anthropology

Thanks to efforts by Gelya Frank, Ph.D., a professor in both the Department of Anthropology and the Division of OS/OT at USC, two leading organizations of anthropologists are exploring new opportunities for teaching, research and scholarly presentations in conjunction with occupational scientists and occupational therapists.

Following an informative panel featuring Dr. Frank and other USC OS/OT faculty members at last year’s joint meeting of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) and the Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA), SMA President Marcia Inhorn called OS one of 10 fields with which medical anthropology “can most profitably intersect.” In March, Dr. Frank presented a proposal for an OS/OT Interdisciplinary Interest Group to the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology at the annual SFAA meeting. Dr. Frank spoke at length about such avenues for synergy in the “Molly Asks” column in the March 19, 2007 issue of OT Practice.

Dr. Frank has also contributed a chapter to the forthcoming book Working Anthropology in the 21st Century describing her work on The Tule River Tribal History Project. Several USC OS/OT graduate students participated in the Project as staff (see related article, page 13).

For more information, Dr. Inhorn’s speech can be downloaded from http://medanthro.net/history/address06.html.
USC Professor to Head OT Program at U of NM

USC OS/OT Associate Professor L. Diane Parham, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, has accepted the position of Chairperson of the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of New Mexico beginning July 1, 2007. During the remainder of this academic year, Dr. Parham is teaching and working with her thesis and dissertation students, as well as overseeing the coordination of the 19th Annual OS Symposium (see related article, page 9).

Dr. Parham arrived at USC nearly 30 years ago to pursue a post-professional degree in occupational therapy. In the 1979-1980 academic year, she began teaching Medical Lectures, and even that early on, it was clear that she would develop into an extraordinary faculty member. Upon completion of her Ph.D. from UCLA, Dr. Parham returned to USC as a faculty member and soon secured a full-time position. In her 22 years of continuous service on the faculty, she has been instrumental in growing the advanced sensory integration course (OT610) and in strengthening the pediatric elements of the curriculum. She also coordinated the development of the Ph.D. program in Occupational Science and played a crucial role in securing graduate school approval for the program. Dr. Parham later went on to develop the curriculum of the OTD program at USC, now in its fifth year.

In addition to her success in the classroom, Dr. Parham has consistently published scholarly papers of the highest quality that are frequently cited because of her ability to clarify complex and important concepts in accessible terms. She has also produced research that has significantly advanced understanding of sensory processing disorders. Dr. Parham is known as an outstanding mentor of thesis and doctoral students and as an extraordinary teacher who not only covers vast intellectual territory with exactitude, but also remains very responsive and sensitive to students’ needs.

“This post will offer new challenges to me to utilize the skills I’ve developed over 22 years teaching at USC,” Dr. Parham commented. “My experiences have been invaluable – teaching classes, guiding student research, interacting with colleagues inside the Division and outside, and working on curricula. This will allow me to take the OT program at the University of New Mexico to the next level.”

“In every way, Dr. Parham has been an outstanding citizen in our USC community,” observed Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Associate Dean and Chair of the OS/OT Division. “Although Dr. Parham will be leaving us next summer, her legacy will continue to thrive as we invest in the many departmental initiatives she spearheaded and rely upon the thinking we have internalized that was guided by her strong moral compass, piercing intelligence, decency and student-centeredness. I know the Division will feel her loss, however, on behalf of the faculty, students, and staff, I want to wish her much success in her new role as well as a bright and wonderful future for her and her entire family.”

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Alumni News

Linda Florey, MA ‘68, Ph.D. ‘98, received OTAC’s Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing “a member of OTAC who has made a sustained and significant contribution to occupational therapy. The recipient is viewed as a role model and inspirational example.”

Marianne P. Hilliard, MA ‘81, continues to work with geriatric clients, clients with neuropathically based disorders and clients with low vision since her own diagnosis with multiple sclerosis.

Sarah Field, MA ‘83, taught a 5-day course in Lisbon, Portugal on sensory integration in the schools. She is based at Redwood Pediatric Therapy Associates in Santa Rosa, CA.

Valerie Adams, BS ‘83, MA ‘90, Heather Kitching, MA ‘02, and adjunct faculty member Pamela Roberts represented Region 2 of OTAC at its first Advisory Council Meeting in October. The Council presented its recommendations to OTAC’s Board of Directors at its December meeting.

Drew Gottheardt, MA ‘00, passed the exam for qualification as a Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) in December.

Zoe Mailloux, BS ‘77, MA ‘81, was lead author of “The Issue Is: Goal Attainment Scaling as a Measure of Meaningful Outcomes for Children With Sensory Integration Disorders,” and co-author of “Fidelity in Sensory Integration Intervention Research,” both in AJOT Vol. 21, No. 2 (March/April 2007). Janice Burke, MA ‘75, was a co-author of both articles.

Laurie Nelson Eallonardo, MA ‘95, was one of three recipients representing the Mariposa Women and Family Center of the Seed Money for Program or Research Projects award from CFOT. She married Chuck Eallonardo in June, 2006.


Etsuko Odawara, MA ‘98, Ph.D. ‘06, presented the poster “Reconstruction of Habitual Occupations in an Old Japanese Woman,” at AOTF’s Habit and Rehabilitation: Promoting Participation conference. Also presenting was Melissa Park, MA ‘95, Ph.D. ‘05, whose roundtable discussion was “From Habituation to Habitus: Habit Formation and the Narrative Structure of Experience.”


Births


Stephanie Mielke, MA ‘00, OTD ‘06, gave birth to daughter Elizabeth Ryan Mielke in February, 2007. Elizabeth weighed in at 7 lbs., 6 ozs., and measured 20 inches tall.

Losses from the USC OS/OT Family

Roselyn Van Benschoten Armstrong passed away on January 20, 2007 from cancer. She created an OT program in Brazil while in the Peace Corps and was in private practice before eventually becoming department chair of the COTA program at Pitt Community College in Greenville, NC. Ms. Armstrong is survived by husband Lee, daughter Ozanne, and brothers Lynniel and Eric. Donations can be made to the Roselyn Armstrong OTA Scholarship Fund at Pitt.

Jacqueline Burgum passed away on September 26, 2006. She was an OT for over 25 years, specializing in working with geriatric clients. Jacque is survived by her husband Dan. A memorial fund has been established in Ms. Burgum’s name at the USC Division of OS/OT; to contribute, please contact Jackie Mardirossian at 323-442-2811, or e-mail jmardiro@usc.edu.

Lorna Jean King passed away on November 4, 2006 from complications of a spinal tumor. A native of Denver, Colorado, Ms. King worked with Margaret Rood, Jean Ayres and others in developing sensory integration theory. She was honored with the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture by AOTA in 1978. The same year, she founded the Children’s Center for Neurodevelopmental Studies in Glendale, AZ; donations can be made to a scholarship fund in her name at CCNS. Ms. King was eulogized in the March/April 2007 issue of AJOT.

Leonard Virgil Wendland passed away on January 28, 2007 from congestive heart failure. Prior to retirement, he was Associate Vice President of Health Affairs at USC. Dr. Wendland is survived by a brother, a sister, eight children and his wife, Dr. Carroll Jean Wendland. He donated his body to USC’s Anatomical Gift Program for teaching and research purposes. The Drs. Carroll and Leonard Wendland Scholarship Endowment Fund has been established at USC; to contribute, please contact Cathy Goldinger at (310) 394-3060.
OS/OT Students Earn Town and Gown Scholarships

By Megan Potter

Three USC OS/OT Master’s degree students have been awarded Town and Gown Scholarships for the 2006-2007 school year. This honor, which guarantees academic assistance each semester until graduation for students who maintain their grades, is accorded to students who meet the requisite 3.5 GPA, as well as combining outstanding records of academic achievement and community involvement.

Heather Beckman was encouraged to apply for the Town and Gown Scholarship by a sorority sister who had received the honor in 2005. Ms. Beckman recalls that, after meeting with the Town and Gown interview panel, “I walked out of the room with a really good feeling!” Her passion for OT stems from working with people and experiencing the opportunity “to have such a profound effect on the life of another human being. I love to build close and meaningful relationships with patients, knowing that you have positively affected their lives and left an everlasting imprint.” As a professional, Ms. Beckman hopes to start a private practice in her hometown of Palos Verdes, with an emphasis on community outreach for elderly adults. “Currently there are no OT programs out there,” she notes, “and I hope to start the first!”

The large number of scholarships awarded by Town and Gown propelled Michelle Man to apply. When Ms. Man discovered that two of her three Town and Gown interviewers knew very little about occupational therapy, she viewed it as a “test of how well I was able to demonstrate my knowledge of OT to others.” Ms. Man observed that helping others achieve their goals in life has enriched her own. “I’ve not only been able to meet new people and learn their stories, but I have also been able to take their stories with me, adapt my knowledge base, and learn more about myself and my goals,” she enthused. Interested in contributing to research in the field, Ms. Man is applying to the OTD program at USC.

Praising Town and Gown as “a great organization within the USC family,” Karissa Rode was delighted to learn she was selected for a scholarship. “It is fulfilling to be recognized for your hard work,” she shared. “It seems extra special since this is my last year at USC and USC has been such a large part of my life for the past 6 years.” A highlight of Ms. Rode’s Master’s degree education was her fieldwork in Ghana, “an invaluable experience” during which she and fellow students worked with children with physical disabilities. After graduating, Ms. Rode hopes to work as a school-based occupational therapist, helping children to “become the best students they can be, because education is a strong component of the basis you need to succeed in life.”

The three honorees each hope that other Division scholars pursue Town and Gown scholarships in the future. “Not only are [OS/OT students] academically successful, but we are very involved in the community and various organizations on campus,” and thus meet the criteria for application, Ms. Beckman noted. Ms. Man sees the scholarship as a two-fold opportunity, pointing out that, “in addition to being awarded for our academic achievements, we have the power to help people become more aware of the benefits of OT.”

Founded in 1904, Town and Gown had originally been known as the Women’s Club of USC and was mainly composed of faculty wives and friends. It has since evolved into a dynamic group committed to philanthropic endeavors, focusing on raising funds for its scholarships. This year, Town and Gown will award $1.1 million to 320 students throughout USC.

Students Honored by Division, CFOT for Excellence

In addition to the scholarships given to outstanding USC OS/OT students by Town and Gown (see above), recognition was also given by the Division itself and the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) for the achievements of six other accomplished scholars.

The Leadership Committee within the Division announced that its first Leadership Awards were given to first-year MA-II students Ashley Short and Jazmin Treadway, and second-year MA-II students Julie Boterenbrood and Stefanie Piekutowski. As recipients of this award, the students will be funded to attend the AOTA Conference in St. Louis.

At its annual awards luncheon, CFOT announced that its 2006-2007 Janice Matsutsuyu Scholarship recipient was USC second-year MA-II student Camille Dieterle, and the recipient of its North Coast Medical Scholarship for Post-Professional Graduates was USC OTD student Bonnie Nakasuji.

Please join the Division in congratulating all these fine students for their honors!
OS/OT Students Win Awards at Research Day 2007

The excellence of USC OS/OT students was recognized at the USC School of Dentistry’s Research Day 2007 in February. The purpose of the one-day conference, which included lectures and a poster session, was to highlight outstanding research by students and faculty in the School of Dentistry, the Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy and the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, as well as to provide an opportunity for members of these allied programs to learn more about one another’s fields.

Honored with the first place Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Award was Heather Kitching. Ms. Kitching’s poster subject was “The Tule River Tribal History Project: Collaborative Interventions through Occupation to Achieve the Goals of a Sovereign Nation.” Her advisor was Dr. Gelya Frank. Second place in this category was awarded to Laurel Sakai, whose poster was “The Role of Caretakers in the Medical Care of the Child.” Ms. Sakai’s advisors were Dr. Mary Lawlor, Dr. Cheryl Mattingly and Dr. Cynthia Strathmann. The third place poster winner was Etsuko Odawara for “Culturally Accepted Occupation and Occupational Place: Occupational Therapy for Good Aging.” Dr. Odawara’s advisors were Dr. Mattingly and Dr. Ruth Zemke.

Several members of the OS/OT faculty also participated in Research Day. Judges of the student award competition included Dr. Florence Clark, Dr. Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Lawlor. Poster presenters were Dr. Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, Dr. Nancy Bagatell, Dr. Clark, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Katie Salles-Jordan OTD, Dr. Bonnie Kennedy, Dr. Tomoko Kondo, Dr. Nicolas Lori, Dr. Ann Neville-Jan and Dr. Susan Spitzer. Coordinating poster design and production for USC OS/OT was research instructor Faryl Saliman Reingold, MA, OTR/L.

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In accordance with AOTA’s Centennial Vision for occupational therapy to be “globally connected,” USC OS/OT has been hosting many international guests. These distinguished visitors have been in the Division during the current semester.

Sissel Alsaker is an OT from Norway who has been teaching at Sør-Trøndelag University College for the past 15 years. Her article, “Creativity and Order in Communication: Implications from Philosophy to Narrative Research Concerning Human Occupation,” was published in the Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy. During her visit from January 8 to April 1, Ms. Alsaker has been sitting in on occupational science classes while working on her Ph.D. project on the topic, “Everyday Activities as possible Narrative Resources When Living with Chronic Rheumatic Diseases.”

Yu-Lun (Jasmine) Hsieh is an OT from Taiwan who was sponsored by a stroke foundation (Top Notch Center) in Taiwan. She earned her bachelors degree in OT from Kaoshung Medical University Occupational Therapy, and works at Taipei Medical University Hospital in the area of mental health. Ms. Hsieh came to USC to learn more about occupational science and occupation-based practice. During her visit from January 9 to April 6, she has been learning about Lifestyle Redesign® with the intention of helping prevent strokes in well-elderly and general populations in Taiwan. She also hopes to help patients adjust emotionally after a stroke and to teach them to return to desired activities.

Katie Robinson is an OT from Ireland. She is a lecturer at the University of Limerick currently developing a Ph.D. proposal to research the effectiveness of occupation-based interventions for people with chronic pain. During her visit from January 15 to 27, Ms. Robinson attended classes and meetings regarding occupational science, Lifestyle Redesign® and chronic pain.

Julie Piegrossi is an OT from Italy, where she is a professor teaching occupational science at the University of Milan. She is the WFOT Program Coordinator for Standards and Quality, and is involved with clinical research dealing with the development of a model with a psychoanalytic theory base called MOVI (the Vivaio Model of Occupation in the relationship). While visiting family in Grass Valley, Ms. Piegrossi came to USC on January 23 to take a tour of the Division and meet with Dr. Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Florence Clark.

During the fall semester this year, 21 students enrolled in OT650, the initial course in the USC Division of OS/OT’s OTD program. Most of them are currently at work on their innovative projects, which include:

Debbie Allen — “ATTACH: A Post-Adoption Assessment Program for Internationally Adopted Children and Their Families”
Arameh Anvarizadeh — “Project ACT-IVE: act + live: Lifestyle Redesign® for the Sandwiched Generation”
Suzanne Baruch — “Evidence-Based Practice for the School-Based Occupational Therapist”
Elizabeth Cabrera — “From Doing to Becoming: Discovering Identity through Occupation, a Program for Junior High Students”
Sarah Cunningham and Carlin Daley — “USC Lifestyle Redesign® Office Wellness Program”
Lauren Francis — “Active for Life: Growing Up with Arthritis”
Patricia Gonzalez — “Mujer a Mujer: A Lifestyle Redesign® Program for Homemakers”
Brittney Heinrich — “Infusing Occupational Therapy into the 4-Year University Experience”
Miju Kim — “Lifestyle Redesign® for Families of Children with Autism”
Karrie Kingsley — “Moving to Make Friends: A School-Based Social Skills Group”
Janelle Kurtenbach — “Empowering Women: Fostering the Strength and Skills to Rebuild Lives after Domestic Violence”
Christina Law — “Occupational Life Enrichment (OLE) Mentoring Program”
Nimita Patel — “Mi Cultura: Educating Students to Better Meet the Linguistic- and Cultural-Needs Clients”
Vibha Pathak — “Increasing Early Identification and Inclusion of Children with Special Needs in Child Care Settings”
Cherylins Sadsad — “Occupational Therapy Credentialing in California Schools”
Rachel Steiner — “Move to Learn: Incorporating Movement into the Elementary School Classroom”
Jennifer Stokely — “Strategic Plan for Increasing Diversity in Higher Education”
Sunaina Subhagan — “Home Program Developer: A Tool for Home Program Intervention Development (online webpage)”
TLOC Generously Supports OS/OT

At the Holiday Tea held at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign, the Trojan League of Orange County (TLOC) presented the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy with a donation of $40,000. This sizable contribution was the result of the group’s annual fundraiser, which benefits a different USC department, division or school each year. Pictured are, left to right, front row, Suzanne Baruch, Associate Dean and Chair Florence Clark and TLOC Benefit Chair Melanie Salata-Fitch; back row, Sue Knox, Julie Bissell and Zoe Mailloux. We thank TLOC for choosing the OS/OT Division as the recipient of their outstanding efforts!

Lillian Rosenthal (pictured at right, wearing a symbol of her Trojan spirit), a nonagenarian and lifelong supporter of USC, recently donated a collection of antiques, Persian rugs and prints to the OS/OT Division’s Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign. These lovely items have been in her family for decades. The Division is very grateful to Ms. Rosenthal for her generosity!

Center Receives Gift of Antiques

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 Division 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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Volume 1, 2007
What do politics have to do with my role as an Occupational Therapist? How can I get involved in helping shape health policies that affect many aspects of our profession? Do OTs have a voice in health policy? These are questions I began thinking about shortly after hearing Frank Kronenberg speak during my first year as an OT student. Friends from the UC Irvine Medical School encouraged me to pursue an opportunity to explore the answers.

The event was Lobby Day 2007, held January 16th and organized by the California Alliance Legislative Action for Universal HealthCare (CALAUHC), a group of health professions students from throughout California interested in lobbying for a revitalized health care system serving all people.

I noticed the registration form had a box for “Physical Therapists,” but occupational therapists would have to write in their title in the “Other” category. I mentioned to a CALAUHC leader that we would need our own “Occupational Therapy” box in order to sign up and attend. And to my surprise and excitement, they changed the form to include OT. At that moment, I realized we do have a voice, and there is value in using it.

I learned first-hand about lobbying and advocacy with approximately 200 other students in Sacramento. We held hand-made signs at a rally on the Capitol steps and met with the staff members of many political representatives, utilizing our collective knowledge of the current health care system and its impact on our professions. It turned out I was the only OT student there, so I made sure that by the end of the trip each person I spoke with knew what occupational therapy was and how we worked in conjunction with others in the health care community. In one day, I experienced the power and influence that can result when a group of unique individuals come together for a common cause.

By Julie Boterenbrood, MA, OTS

Julie Boterenbrood (right) was joined in Sacramento by her friend Dave Miller, a 2nd year medical student from UC Irvine (and student representative for the American Medical Association), to rally for improved health care for all Californians, including access to occupational therapy and preventative medicine.

OS/OT Student Rallies for OT in Sacramento

By Julie Boterenbrood, MA, OTS

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