USC OS/OT Students Create “Occupational Extravaganza”

Take the seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm of USC’s Alpha Eta Chapter of OT student group Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), mix in 36 people presenting occupation-based projects, blend with 30 student volunteers (and 5 friends who said they’d help serve food), and the result is the Occupational Extravaganza, a day of festivities that was recently held at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign. Not only did the event bring together 200 students (including a group from the Cal State-Dominguez Hills OT program), faculty, clinicians, friends, family and community members to celebrate learning by doing, but also resulted in the Alpha Eta Chapter being honored by the national PTE organization with the President’s Award, to be presented at the AOTA Conference and Expo in Long Beach.

The Occupational Extravaganza day began with a variety of hands-on activities that attendees could take part in at locations throughout three levels of the Center. These 22 occupation-based projects included: origami; sushi-making lessons from the middle school students of Engage, a program created by MA student Jesus Diaz to get adolescents living in the neighborhoods around USC involved in meaningful and novel activities; laughter yoga, presented by Kim Selbert, MA, OTR/L; short films created by the students of ABI Connections, an OT-led course at Santa Monica College for individuals with acquired brain injury; a poster session with faculty research and student projects including Believe & Achieve (see related story, page 10) and a program by MA student Lisa Durow to enable residents of a skilled nursing home to create autobiographical albums; and a “visual timeline” of the 65 years of USC OS/OT, made literally tangible by MA students Emily Areinoff, Alii Boissevein and Julie Werner, who assembled albums of pictures that documented the Division’s history. During a mid-day break, students and friends entertained with personally meaningful activities such as singing, Mbira (a musical instrument from Zimbabwe), Capoeira dance and OTD student Akira Funahashi’s demonstration of his DJ skills, which he terms “turntablism.” Next was a panel discussion taking a retrospective look at USC OS/OT’s history and a prospective look at its future, moderated by faculty member Gelya Frank, Ph.D., and featuring Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, Linda Florey, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Mary Foto, OT/L, FAOTA, Sue Knox, Ph.D., OTR/L and Shawn Phipps, MS, OTR/L.

Inspiration for creating the award-winning Extravaganza came from assigned readings by Hull House’s Jane Addams about her notions of uniting a community centered around meaningful occupation. “We wanted to honor the original purpose of our Center by bringing together students, faculty and community members to celebrate occupation by doing,” commented MA student Kimberly Rice, PTE co-president and one of the event co-organizers. The complexity of planning required help from student committees, valued feedback from PTE faculty advisors Nancy Bagatell, Ph.D., OTR/L, and Ann Neville-Jan, Ph.D., OTR/L and other faculty (including Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Linda Fazio, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA and Stephanie Mielke, OTD, OTR/L), support from OS/OT staff members Kimberly Kelton, Jackie Mardirossian, Megan Potter, Robin Turner and Peter Wittrock, and many long hours of work by the event organizers. “Coordinating this event became such a big part of my life, I began to feel like it was my job,” observed MA student Tessa Milman, another co-organizer. “It became a part of me, so that spending time coordinating didn’t even feel like an ‘option’ anymore. This event helped me to realize that coordinating things by bringing people together is an occupation I really enjoy!”

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Message from the Associate Dean and Chair

In this space in Fall 2005, I wrote about the “life cycle” of a thriving academic program, comparing occupational science and occupational therapy to healthy, symbiotic living organisms. Briefly described, in this cycle, demand for highly skilled practitioners drives enrollment, which helps fund research, which helps universities grow through attracting funding, which creates larger and better-funded departments that can provide more students with a top quality education. At the heart of this cycle are outstanding students, coming into a university such as USC where they excel academically and go on either to become gifted practitioners or to help advance the field through diligent research. I’m very pleased to note that, in this issue of our Division newsletter, we are shining a spotlight on the accomplishments of our students.

You will see several articles describing honors accorded to students in our programs. We also profile students who have already gone into the community to create new interventions, based on the principles of occupational science and occupational therapy and designed to benefit both individuals and their communities. I offer my sincerest congratulations to each of these gifted young people, but I hasten to point out that these individuals’ successful combination of intelligence, creativity and enthusiasm is far from rare in our Division. In fact, each of our students has a story of unique experiences and accomplishments that brought them to USC. Because they all strive for excellence, they were a natural fit for our program, giving rise to another cycle: having the number one ranked occupational therapy program in the nation attracts the top students from home and abroad. Their high standards, in turn, are a factor in maintaining our top rating.

As I write this, another group of students is on my mind. They are not students in our Division, but their presence at USC is going to have great meaning for us nonetheless. On February 28th, the Daily Trojan featured a story on the situation facing the approximately 175 veterans returning from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan who are now enrolled at the University. While these students are typically assisted with enrollment and financial issues by the campus Office of Veteran Affairs, they typically do not access other services. The relationship of occupational therapy and veterans of war goes back to the origin of our profession; accordingly, I began contacting officials here at USC to see what the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy can do. I was pleased to learn that these students can use their student health occupational therapy benefit to obtain services. Our OTD students Karen McNulty and Camille Dieterle are already building bridges to make such access happen. I was further made aware of the needs of vets when I was in Washington DC earlier this month, and went on a tour of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I was amazed by its state-of-the-art facilities for prosthetics and simulated living and driving facilities. My guide was USC alum Captain Sarah Mitsch, MA ’01, with whom I had the honor of reconnecting. Spending time with her that day, I couldn’t help but reflect for a moment about Fran Kelley, one of the valued members of our Board of Councilors. She went to work for VA facilities even before she graduated the USC Department of Occupational Therapy in 1946, and spent her entire career at the VA. We look forward to collaborating with Captain Mitsch in the future, and with Joan Abrahamson, with whom we are developing programs for VA facilities. Stay tuned!

Additionally, my colleague Dr. Erna Blanche was part of an elite group of health care leaders and educators that attended the Army Medical Specialist Corps’ Educator Tour in San Antonio, TX. This tour showcased training and career opportunities for occupational therapists, physical therapists, dietitians, and physician assistants in the Army Medical Specialist Corps. The group had an opportunity to visit the Army’s Doctor of Science in Occupational Therapy Training Program, the U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy, the U.S. Military Graduate Program of Nutrition, and the Interservice Physician Assistant (Master of Science) Program. They also visited Brooke Army Medical Center, the world renowned Burn Center, and the “Center for the Intrepid,” the brand new and most comprehensive amputee treatment facility in the world. The tour was a exceptional opportunity to learn about the Army’s occupational therapy programs and their contribution to the care of soldiers.

Like Captain Sarah Mitsch today, like Fran Kelley in 1946, some of our USC students will take their place in VA facilities across our nation, helping the men and women of the military to rebuild lives that have been irrevocably changed during their service to our country. I am so proud of what they will accomplish. I am equally proud of the many students highlighted in this publication for their achievements in academics and in creating programs that show how our field helps improve lives in diverse settings and for all populations. In fact, I take great pride in each and every individual in our exemplary student body. I can’t wait to see what they all bring to our profession in the future.

[Signature]
USC OS/OT Student Receives Top Fellowship Awards

Sook-Lei Liew, MA ’08, has been recognized with two highly esteemed fellowships. She has been selected by the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) East Asian and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI) for an award to conduct research in China with a leading social cognitive neuroscientist. EAPSI received 537 competitive applications for 195 slots. “I’m really excited to go to Beijing and study how culture affects our everyday occupations by looking at the neuroscience behind concepts like empathy and theory of mind from the Chinese perspective,” Ms. Liew enthused.

Additionally, Ms. Liew has received a USC Provost Ph.D. Fellowship. This 2 year award includes a stipend, 12 units of tuition and payment of health insurance and other student fees. She will use the fellowship to begin Ph.D. studies in occupational science in the Division. “This award really gives me a sense of confidence as I begin my research, and shows me the growing importance society is placing on occupational science and neuroscience research,” Ms. Liew observed. “I think there are so many possibilities for applying these research findings to improving our clients’, and our own, quality of everyday living.”

“I offer wholehearted congratulations to Sook-Lei Liew on both her awards,” commented Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Associate Chair and Dean of USC OS/OT. “This is the first time a graduate student in our Division has received a prestigious NSF award in this category. I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to Professor Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, who served as Ms. Liew’s mentor in developing the NSF application.”

Ph.D. Program Update

USC OS/OT has received a 2008-2009 Block Grant for an innovative partnership with the Department of Occupational Therapy at Howard University in Washington. It will support USC and Howard faculty and students in developing an academic partnership to recruit and retain highly-qualified students, training them to become career scientists who can focus on socially responsive, health-related research. USC OS/OT will support Master’s level OT students from underserved populations at Howard, one of the nation’s top historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU), to transition into the Ph.D. program in OT at USC. Additionally, funds will be used to explore how to expand this unique partnership.

“Progress in reducing health disparities requires recruitment and training of scientists from groups directly affected by the conditions that create health disparities,” asserted Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA. “Block Grant Fellowships will fund pre-entry Ph.D. program preparation, tuition for doctoral studies and living costs. Fellowships will additionally support the cost of attending NIH-sponsored career scientist training programs as well as professional meetings, at which Fellows will be expected to present research papers and posters. We are pleased this grant will enable the occupational science community to increase diversity and thus better meet societal needs for the 21st century.”

“This is a great opportunity for the nation’s number one OT program and the nation’s number one HBCU with an OT program to collaborate to develop minority researchers in our field,” commented Felecia Moore Banks, PhD, OTR/L, Chairperson and Associate Professor of the Department of OT at Howard. “We look forward to working with USC and are excited about this partnership.”

“People who experience health disparities can be well-served by people from their own group,” explained Asst. Professor Bonnie Kennedy, Ph.D., OTR, who coordinates USC’s Ph.D. program. “We are also exploring the notion that research questions generated by people from groups who experience health disparities provide more information, so this grant will in fact build research infrastructure by diversifying the cadre of researchers.”

Faculty and students from Howard attended USC’s recent OS Symposium (see related story, page 9). “It was wonderful to have our students at the Symposium and participate in the Post Symposium Doctoral Research Day,” Dr. Banks remarked. “I would like to thank Dr. Clark for making this possible, and Dr. Kennedy and others who provided us with such a warm and heartfelt welcome. The Howard-USC Partnership is off to a great start!”

“The Symposium was a memorable experience. It was motivating and enlightening to be surrounded by so many professionals from various disciplines who contribute to the growing field of OS,” observed visiting Howard MSOT student Ifetayo Blissett. “The proposed partnership between USC and Howard encourages minorities to further their education and commitment to the field. This relationship provides the opportunity for students to contribute to the field through research and to strive to become exemplary educators in OT and OS.”

“Attending the OS Symposium on Autism and the Post Symposium Day was a wonderful experience,” added Howard MSOT student Tenisha Y. Evans. “I look forward to exploring educational opportunities at USC.”

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OT Recalls Its Roots as It Serves Needs of New Veterans

With a new generation of men and women in the military undergoing conditions that leave some with physical wounds, and others with experiences that affect mental health, it is appropriate that USC OS/OT respond by increasing efforts to train students and practitioners to develop effective treatments and programs for veterans. This echoes the founding of our profession in the World War I era, and the birth of our own Division at USC 65 years ago, which came in response to an urgent need to provide OT services to World War II vets. Collaborating with USC OS/OT is Joan Abrahamson, a past MacArthur Prize Fellow who is President of the Jefferson Institute and of the Jonas Salk Foundation, as well as Founding Chair of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Ms. Abrahamson is creating a model-program for community-based occupational therapy, mental health, and educational services to returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan at the West Los Angeles VA campus. She will work with Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, on innovative programs that link our Division to the needs of veterans. Additionally, Ms. Abrahamson will guest-lecture our students in all programs on leadership. Recent visits by OS/OT faculty to VA facilities have helped to highlight the advancements made in therapeutic services, and areas for future attention. Dr. Clark toured the OT Department of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington DC, while Erna Blanche, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, saw Army medical centers in Texas (see related story, page 2). “One of the most valued moments was conversing with soldiers wounded in Iraq,” Dr. Blanche noted. “The hours spent with them were informative as well as emotional. Our tour combined opportunities to share experiences in a formal and informal way with the OT staff as well as with other program participants.”

Alumni News

The Honor Roll of Donors that has appeared in the Spring newsletter will move to the Fall newsletter, in order to coincide with the USC fiscal year.

Nancy Hoffman, BS ’54, was named “Super Senior” by the Pasadena Senior Center in recognition of her career as an OT and her volunteering.

Mary Foto, BS ’66, received the Award of Merit and the Lindy Boggs Award at the 2008 AOTA Conference.

Grace Ho, MA ’82, has published her fourth book in Japan, where it sold 32,000 copies in one week and was number one on Japanese Amazon.com in Business, Investment-Finance and Lifestyle, and peaked at number two in overall popularity. Ms. Ho was interviewed by several publications, including Nikkei, the Japanese equivalent of the Wall Street Journal, and conducted a seminar on balanced lifestyle for the Bank of Japan.

Esther M. Huecker, MA’93, Ph.D. ’05, was named to the Roster of Fellows at the 2008 AOTA Conference in Long Beach, CA.

Shawn Phipps, BS ’97, received the Cordelia Meyers Award at the 2008 AOTA Conference in Long Beach.

Jeremy Seip, BS ’96, MA ’97, presented two papers at the Society for Applied Anthropology, one of which he was the sole author and the other co-authored with fellow Ph.D. student Donald Fogelberg and faculty member Dr. Erma Blanche.

Gene Hurwin, MA ’99, was invited with his Big Fun Gymnastics Demonstration Team to perform at UCLA and Cal State Fullerton women’s gymnastics meets. The young athletes of Big Fun have developmental and physical disabilities.

Faryl Saliman Reingold, MA ’04, co-authored, with faculty members Dr. Florence Clark and Dr. Katie Salles-Jordan, Obesity and Occupational Therapy, a position paper on weight management that was adopted by the AOTA Representative Assembly. It was published in the November/December 2007 issue of The American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

A number of USC OS/OT Ph.D. students and alumni presented at SSO:USA’s Sixth Annual Research Conference, held in Albuquerque, NM in October. Among current students, Cristine Carrier presented on “Rockets” and “Rocket Scientists”: How Technology and Collective Perspectives on Occupation Shape Body Practices and Embodiment of Athletes; Claudia Dunn presented a paper co-authored with faculty members Dr. Mike Carlson, Dr. Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Florence Clark on Response Factors Surrounding Progression of Pressure Ulcers in Community-Residing Adults with Spinal Cord Injury; and Abby L. Marterella presented on Situating Dignity in Occupational Science. Among alumni, Pollie Price, MA ’94, Ph.D. ’03, presented on How Occupation Emerges in the Practices of Occupational Therapists Across Settings; Phyllis J. Meltzer, Ph.D. ’97, presented on The Effects of the Perception of Critical Events upon Younger and Older Adults; Etsuko Odawara, MA ’98, Ph.D. ’06, presented on Power of Occupation for Death with Dignity; and Alice Kibele, Ph.D. ’06, presented a poster on At Play with Meaning: Toys and Other Favorite Objects in the Everyday Lives of Young Children.
Fieldwork Update

The USC OT Fieldwork Coordination team, headed by Jaynee Taguchi-Meyer, OTD, OTR/L, and Robin Turner, Fieldwork Assistant, has been extremely busy and highly productive this year, coordinating Level I and Level II fieldwork assignments for over 200 entry-level OT students per year. Karen Park, MA, OTR/L, and student assistant Mary Ann Bailey provided critical assistance to the team’s success this year.

Exciting new developments in our International Fieldwork program abound this year. A student exchange program relationship with the occupational therapy program at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) for provision of fieldwork experiences was just finalized. Cheryl Li, USC’s first HKPU Level I OT fieldwork student, traveled to Hong Kong and experienced care delivery in medical settings in March. Adley Chan, a graduating student, will travel back home to Hong Kong for his final Level II fieldwork experience in a pediatric practice this summer. We look forward to hosting and facilitating the fieldwork experiences of HKPU OT students in the future.

USC OS/OT alum Renee McDaniel, Ph.D., OTR/L, hosted Level I fieldwork students in and around Bucharest, Romania again this spring. Students experienced medical and community-based practice settings with neonates, children, and adolescents. Angela Lynch, OTD, OTR/L, and Desiree Go, MA, OTR/L, both USC OT alums, traveled to Romania and provided supervision and assistance during the students’ Romanian experience. Once again this spring, current OTD student Ebi (age 5), Eric Calvario and Ben (age 16) at the Ghana fieldwork site

USC OS/OT students join children with disabilities in their Ghanaian classroom

OT student Lourina Oamar with young clients at camp in Cataloi, Romania

USC Campus Activities Will Celebrate “OT Week”

To raise awareness of OT to the USC community and provide information on programs offered at USC, the Division of OS/OT will sponsor varied activities on University Park campus from April 21st through April 24th, in conjunction with OT Month. These “OT Week” programs will spotlight accomplishments of OS/OT students and “demonstrate why we have consistently been ranked the number one program in one of the fastest growing fields nationwide,” according to Kimberly Kelton, Admissions Counselor for the Division.

Among planned activities are a Career Fair on April 21st, a dance group performance, an inflatable obstacles course and outdoor yoga sessions. Each day, there will also be tables with brochures and student volunteers providing information about OT and promoting wellness. Student organizations Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) and the Occupational Therapy Student Council (OTSC) are helping to coordinate volunteers, set up information tables and conduct events.

Working with Ms. Kelton to plan and coordinate activities are Katie Salles-Jordan, OTD, OTR/L, of the USC Faculty Practice; OT Student Ambassadors Eric Calvario, Sarah Ernst, Michelle Lee, Katie Roever, and Jazmin Treadway; Kimberly Rice (for PTE), Shannon Wendorf (for OTSC) and OT BS student Varand Musakhanyan, president of the USC Pre-OT Club.
A talk by a distinguished USC OS/OT alumna, campus tours, and a holiday tea at Town and Gown were highlights of the 65th Anniversary Celebration held by the Division in December. The afternoon of events was attended by 200 students, current and retired faculty, and alums and their families.

Mary Foto, OT/L, FAOTA, presented *A Call to Action!: Using and Generating Evidence in All Practice Areas*. This analysis of using evidence-based practice to resolve dilemmas that arise when balancing the sometimes conflicting needs of satisfying payer standards and restrictions, following traditions of customary service provision and meeting each client’s personal health needs carried 1.5 contact hours of credit. Ms. Foto emphasized that we must develop best practice guidelines by thinking about individual client outcomes, and that “we have many myths about what works, but when we look at the evidence, the evidence might even be to the contrary.” She suggested practitioners even initiate a single case study in order to gain insight into how interventions do or don’t produce clinical results, and to grasp issues that affect the quality of evidence, such as researcher bias, results that conflict with other studies, and so on.

Attendees had the opportunity to view the Ayres Archive, which has been part of the Doheny Library’s Archival Research Center since 2003. The Archive houses Dr. Ayres’ papers, making it a valuable resource for studying the development of sensory integration theory. Later, USC OS/OT staff member Megan Potter led a tour of the sculptures of J. Seward Johnson on display on campus, depicting various individuals engaging in daily activities (see Fall 2007 newsletter).

At the tea, recognition plaques were given to the Trojan League of Orange County, for fundraising efforts; Dan Burgam, for the Jacqueline Burgam Scholarship, funded through a gift his late wife willed to USC OS/OT; and to the Buehler family, for the late Patricia Buehler’s bequest to the Division. The new, annual Patricia Buehler Legacy Award for Clinical Innovation was also announced. Ms. Foto received a Commitment and Service Award for her lifetime of achievements. “I was very pleased to accept the award,” she commented. “I’ve always really enjoyed being an OT, and the profession has given me so much more than I’ve given it.”

Find friends (and friends of friends) with similar interests or careers via the USC Alumni Association’s social networking program. Just log in to and create your InSCircle profile!

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OTD Program Update

USC “Going Green” through OTD Student’s Program

Lifestyle Redesign® can take many forms, for many positive outcomes. For OTD student Camille Dieterle, working with Lifestyle Redesign® principles for Weight Management with clients at the USC Faculty Practice gave her an unique inspiration: to use a Lifestyle Redesign® approach to help people adopt a more eco-friendly way of everyday living. “Sustainability and caring for the environment has been a personal passion of mine for many years,” explained Ms. Dieterle. “As I was helping people redesign their lives, changing daily habits and routines and making healthier choices, I began to think, ‘Well, if you’re making healthy changes, why not make them sustainable as well?’ The environmental situation has become a crisis threatening our health and well-being, so we really have to address these issues if we want to stay healthy and happy in the coming century.”

As her OTD project, Ms. Dieterle has created “Green Lifestyle Redesign,” a wellness initiative that raises awareness and enables participants to become environmentally sustainable in everyday life, thus benefiting their health. The target population is the USC community itself, educating faculty, staff and students on making environmentally sound choices in daily life and providing opportunities to experience the connection between “going green” and healthy living. An example is to buy fresh, local food from farmer’s markets. The result is better individual health and a more sustainable, cleaner world for the entire community.

The central component of Ms. Dieterle’s program is the workshops she has developed and now leads. “Going Green” is a free, hour-long workshop that equips attendees with the tools to get started on a greener lifestyle. A more in-depth program, “Green Lifestyle Redesign,” is an 8-week series exploring greener choices for food, waste, happiness, chemicals, transportation and time use, energy and water, and nature as stress relief.

Ms. Dieterle offers these programs at various USC campus locations for students, clubs, faculty and staff. “I designed each of the topics based on two guiding principles: how to make the best impact environmentally, based on research from environmental fields; and how to make things as easy, enjoyable and health-promoting as possible for people, based on OT, occupational science, environmental health and conservation psychology,” she noted. OS themes incorporated include habit, self-efficacy, identity, transcendence and tempo.

For more information on upcoming workshops, contact Ms. Dieterle directly at dieterle@usc.edu.

OTD Student Teaches At-Risk Teens Skills for L.I.F.E.

USC encourages members of its academic community to be mindful that its campuses, where so many resources are available to young people, are surrounded by neighborhoods where people of the same age lack opportunity. OTD student Denver Eriğuel Niño addresses this with “L.I.F.E. (Learning In Full Effect): An Occupation-Based Youth Enrichment Program.” Mr. Niño’s program is offered at the Santana House Youth Action Center, one of many services of the Violence Intervention Program (a program of LAC+USC Medical Center), which is located adjacent to USC’s Health Sciences Campus.

L.I.F.E. originated when Mr. Niño followed through on a suggestion from his USC OTD mentor Nancy Bagatell, Ph.D., OTR/L, who knew of his interest in developing interventions for teens, by meeting with Ellen Sanchez of the Santana House. He subsequently conducted a needs assessment that revealed many teen clients of Santana House wanted to learn specific skills of daily living that would help them identify and pursue alternatives to the risk-taking behaviors commonly found in their neighborhoods, such as gang involvement, substance abuse and violent behavior. With this in mind, Mr. Niño developed L.I.F.E., a 12-week youth enrichment program that offers participants the opportunity to acquire mastery of daily living tasks, housing and community resources, money management, self-care, social development, and work and study habits. Using occupation-based group activities, L.I.F.E. gives participants first-hand exposure to novel, positive and health-promoting behaviors.

The mascot and logo of L.I.F.E. is a tortoise. This symbol was chosen and drawn by teens in the program. “The premise comes from the story of The Tortoise and the Hare,” Mr. Niño explained. “By taking your time and having a lot of perseverance and determination, you will be able to accomplish whatever you dream. According to the teens, ‘You can’t run before you walk.’ You need to be prepared with a variety of skills before you can tackle the world and accomplish your goals. My goal is to help the teens have a successful future without resorting to or being influenced by high-risk activities.”
Inspired by the recent gift left to the Division by the late Patricia Buehler, BS ’49, USC OS/OT has established the Legacy Society. The Society is an honored designation for donors who wish to inform USC OS/OT of their plans to leave a gift of any amount (or of property) to the Division in their will, insurance policy, trust or retirement plan. In addition to tax benefits to donors and their heirs, privileges of joining the Legacy Society include an invitation to the Trojan Founders Circle luncheon with the President of USC, an annual reception with the Associate Dean and faculty of the Division at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign, and commemoration on a permanent roster of honor at the Center. For more information on joining the Legacy Society, call Julie Bissell, MA, OTR/L, at 323-442-2149.

In addition to the late Ms. Buehler, five other supporters of USC OS/OT have stepped forward to be founding members of the Legacy Society. We are pleased now to profile one of these benefactors, Richard J. McCauley, MA, OTR, FAOTA. A Florida resident, Mr. McCauley retired at age 70 after decades of work as an OT, researcher, instructor, administrator and consultant, and continues to pursue his lifelong passion for travel. His association with USC began when he entered the OT Master’s degree program on the GI Bill following his service in World War II and undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota. Mr. McCauley recalled that the OT Department at that time was in two-story bungalows and frame buildings facing the athletic field, and that the campus was graced by open spaces and blossoming magnolia trees. Supporting himself as a part-time truck driver, Mr. McCauley earned his MA in 1953, and quickly found a position as head of the OT department at Highland View Hospital in Cleveland. “They wanted someone with a graduate degree for the prestige, and they also wanted a male — this was before equal rights,” Mr. McCauley observed wryly. “I think there were only 33 people with graduate degrees [in OT] in the country at that time. Now there are probably that many doctorates in this city alone!”

Mr. McCauley moved from Cleveland to Johnstown, PA to become Director of OT and later coordinator of all therapeutic services at a state rehabilitation center that was then the largest facility of its kind in the world. Next, he went to Chicago, where he held positions and researched at the Easter Seals Society, University of Illinois and its medical center, Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, Mount Sinai and Rush University. Mr. McCauley also became a United Nations scholar, hosting visits from researchers studying blindness and learning disabilities, his primary areas of expertise. He moved to Sarasota at age 54 and became a consultant. This afforded him time to take two trips abroad and two in the U.S. every year.

Mr. McCauley has now been around the world four times, visiting every continent, including Antarctica this past December. Asking him about travel revealed his love of learning and of meeting people that is part of going to new places. “Usually, when people ask me what my favorite trip is, I say my next one!”, he quipped. “I’ve been to Timbuktu [twice]. I enjoy the culture of Third World countries, the basic simplicity of some of the people and being able to meet and talk to them. I’ve gone on private tours so that I can do some things I couldn’t do with a group, like go into the chief’s house and meet his four wives and see how they live. The wealth of women is gauged by the number of pots they own — that is still happening. I’ve seen kids trying to make soccer balls out of burlap. I enjoy getting away; I get enough glitz and fancy things at home. I enjoy seeing the world in totality. I’m looking for new things to find and to do, such as going to Great Britain and Spain this coming summer, and then to an island of the southern coast of Thailand called Kohsumai on the way back. That would be a fun place to stop; it’s warm!”

Mr. McCauley humorously recalled how he became involved in helping to fund the purchase of the Victorian mansion that has become the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign. “When Florence Clark calls, you should never answer the phone; what you should really watch out for is if she invites you to lunch!”, he joked. “I looked at [the mansion before its restoration], and Florence asked, ‘What do you think?’ And I said, ‘I think you should call in a bulldozer!’ It was a wreck at the time. But we went back and thought about it, and then agreed to make the donation. I am so pleased with the way the Center is used. [Fellow Center donor] Carlotta Welles and I hosted a dinner for the students, and it was so wonderful to meet and talk with them. I always enjoy the students the most. They have had a great stewardship of the building, and have taken care of it, and I’m very proud of that. They know the Center is theirs, and I think they feel that. They have a proprietary relationship with it, and I enjoy hearing them talk about it and their classes there.”

When asked about the Legacy Society, Mr. McCauley responded, “I think giving is fun. Give something now, because it will make you feel good while you’re still alive, then leave something as a legacy that will make it better for someone who comes after you. Get out of yourself, you know?” He also looks forward to coming to USC on May 16th to be the commencement speaker for the Division of OS/OT. “Stay tuned for May 16th,” he laughed, “and I’ll tell you the rest of my stories!”
20th USC OS Symposium Examines Autism

Addressing one of the most pressing health issues facing families and society today, USC’s 20th Occupational Science Symposium was titled “Autism in Everyday Life: An Interdisciplinary Venture.” In her welcoming remarks, Division Associate Dean and Chair Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, noted, “at this Symposium, we will have the opportunity to share interdisciplinary perspectives and experiences on many aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders, which will lead to new insights, broadening perspectives and ultimately doing better on the part of all of us in meeting the needs of children with autism and their families.”

Keynote speaker Sally Rogers, Ph.D., a professor at the M.I.N.D. Institute at UC-Davis Medical Center, posed the dilemma of drawing children with autism into everyday life: is it better to pull them aside to focus on teaching skills, or use the highly motivating occupations of everyday life to involve them? Explicating the Denver Model of curriculum and the process of manualizing teaching methods, Dr. Rogers expressed preference for an occupational focus, which brings young children into family and social relationships that in turn support further developmental breakthroughs.

Pauline A. Filipek, M.D., of the UC-Irvine School of Medicine reviewed the history of the diagnosis and definitions of Autism Spectrum Disorders, as well as the sharply rising statistics for prevalence. She pointed to preliminary studies that indicate Autism markers might be discernible in children as young as 6 months, and discussed new studies to explore possible links between assisted reproductive technology and Autism, as well as incidence in younger siblings of children with Autism.

Wilma West Lecturer Grace Baranek, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, a professor at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, noted the legacy of A. Jean Ayres as a basis for her current study, the Sensory Experiences Project, which also emphasizes early detection of Autism. She described theories from diverse disciplines that seek to describe the sensory challenges seen in Autism Spectrum Disorders, including ideas from neurophysiology and findings reached by working with adults with Autism.

A very moving account of living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder was offered by Diane Prince-Hughes, Ph.D., a primatologist with Western Washington University. She vividly portrayed the internal experience of sensory encounters that appear disordered to people not diagnosed with Autism, and shared her life-changing journey of immersion into the nation of gorillas at the Seattle zoo.

USC Professor Elinor Ochs, Ph.D., and Asst. Professor Olga Solomon, Ph.D., defined “autistic sociality” as a systematically observable, widespread phenomenon. They demonstrated an algorithm defining methods that enhance communication between people with and without Autism.

A reception followed at Dr. Clark’s home. A second day of discussions geared to Ph.D. scholars took place at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign.

Intensive 3-Day Program to Train OTs as Life Advisors

A course in health promotion, wellness and disease prevention topics designed to equip OTs to be effective advisors to clients concerned with reducing lifestyle-related health risks will be offered by USC OS/OT April 28th-30th. The training, to be led by Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Katie Salles-Jordan, OTD, OTR/L (Director of the USC Faculty Practice) and Elahe Nezami, Ph.D., is based on the OT intervention developed at the USC Executive Health and Imaging Center which helps clients to create a strategic plan for lifestyle changes and healthy habits and routines, and the LifeAdvisor training subsequently developed by USC OS/OT for the California WellBeing Institute (see Fall 2006 newsletter).

“I look forward to working with participants in the growing area of health and wellness, where these Life Advisor skills are readily applicable,” stated Dr. Salles-Jordan. “Other areas that I believe would dovetail nicely with the training are mental health, ergonomics and adult rehab. I’m really excited to discuss the possibilities for OTs to stretch the boundaries of their practice.”

Student Leadership Award Winners Attend AOTA

The USC Division of OS/OT has recognized 11 Master’s degree students with Leadership Awards. These awards provide sponsorship for the group to attend the AOTA Conference in April. To be eligible for consideration, students submitted an essay outlining their leadership experiences and skills. The award honorees are: Lorie Brinkman, Keri Bronson, Alexis David, Michael McNulty, Denver Niño, Dipika Ratnaphat, Belinda Torrez, Shannon Wendorff, Lauren Winslow, Tritia Woo and Julia Young.

Congratulations to these outstanding USC students!
Students Help At-Risk Youth to “Believe & Achieve”

Growing out of a first-year MA-II class project to create a community-based OT project, Believe & Achieve empowers at-risk youth at the City of Angels Children’s Home in Tijuana, Mexico to gain “a strong sense of identity and self-efficacy, as well as provide them with opportunities for growth and attainment of developmental skills to thrive in the world,” according to the group’s mission statement.

One Saturday a month, up to a dozen USC OS/OT students carpool across the border to spend 4 to 6 hours with the 50 children who live at the home, exposing them to novel activities that build their repertoire of skills and encourage appropriate social skills.

Inspired to work with children in another country by their experiences doing fieldwork in Ghana, program organizers Kimberly Rice and Jody Santoro credit classmate Jesus Diaz with helping them to conduct a vital on-site needs assessment at City of Angels. This revealed that the children’s basic needs of food, shelter and education were provided, but that they lacked opportunities to help develop their sense of selves. The director of the home also expressed a desire to improve their social skills, fine motor skills and English communication skills. The team then wrote a proposal for the project for Skills III professor Linda Fazio, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, who encouraged them to pursue the project further. Next, they submitted a budget to the Division of OS/OT and received funding for gasoline and car insurance costs for 1 year (donations cover other costs). The program began in August, at the start of the students’ second year in the MA-II program.

“In creating and implementing this program, we received incredible support from the Division,” Ms. Rice shared. “This experience has helped me realize how much the faculty truly cares about us and the future of the profession. The faculty has instilled in us a sense of empowerment by helping us believe that we are capable of creating OT programs, bringing OT to new areas of practice and new locations, and using our passions to make a difference in the world.”

Following are anecdotes shared by various students, anonymously, about their experiences as volunteers for Believe & Achieve. These tell the story of the connection made between the USC MA students and the young children they work with, as well as how they are being shaped as OT practitioners.

“I always enjoy these children so much. I sometimes think I don’t have the energy to make it down here, but as soon as I arrive, I am flooded with joy!”

“We play for the afternoon and join the children for a meal. A memorable time with the children was painting small maracas. The salient feature of this event was the process-oriented nature in which they enjoyed the craft. The children would take their time painting the maracas with precision, then to our surprise they would wipe off the paint and start over. This was not due to any imperfections in their initial work. Instead, it was their appreciation of the opportunity to participate in the activity. The end product was not the meaningful part; it was the enjoyment they gained along the way. They just did not want the experience to end.”

“Driving into a small neighborhood, winding up a dirt road, I was excited to see the City of Angels. I saw happy faces, I also saw disappointed and sad faces. I saw sharing…I saw taking and I saw grabbing, I saw playful fighting and I saw spiteful fighting. I noticed abrupt, fast movements, never slow moving, impeccable balance and fearlessness of heights.”

“I loved how engaged and enthusiastic the kids were to engage in the activities. I noticed that many of the kids I worked with seemed to very easily grow frustrated with their mistakes and/or frustrated with others who did not give them materials and/or have a difficult time waiting for their turn. It is difficult for me to say whether this behavior is problematic because I don’t have a very good understanding of their social/cultural context, but I do think that consistently providing them activities in which they may need to wait their turn or share supplies will help them feel more patient within the activity and able to share and slow down. Also, as they continue to participate, maybe they will realize that they will all get a chance and a turn, and that might make it easier to wait too. I tried to be supportive of the kids if they seemed disappointed with their work, but felt I was missing the nuances of what they were feeling because I couldn’t understand all they were telling me, and so couldn’t support them as much as I wanted to.”

“That is the really special part of the project: that it provides both the kids and the students with this very special experience they wouldn’t otherwise get to have.”
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Vice-Chair of AOTA Student Assembly is USC Student

by Laura Sturza

Michelle Lee, a USC OS/OT student who will earn her MA degree this year, has been elected vice-chairperson of AOTA’s Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD). In her new post, Ms. Lee will be responsible for facilitating communication between schools offering OT programs, delegates and steering committee members, as well as responding to student questions and helping to plan ASD conference meetings. Her goals are to encourage student involvement, increase communication among schools, and promote advocacy and public policy awareness for students.

“I hope that through communication and new friendships, I will be exposed to current and novel issues and I can help my fellow students at USC also be aware and involved,” Ms. Lee commented. “For example, the new program that the ASD is implementing, Active as Advocates, is a great mentoring program for students. I hope to aid the promotion and growth of this program.”

Ms. Lee was inspired to run for the office while attending AOTA’s national student conclave in November (see related story, this page). “It was my first experience of coming together with other OT students, and I noticed that West Coast schools were not really represented,” she explained. Taking advantage of the networking opportunities afforded by the conclave, Ms. Lee campaigned by sending e-mails to representatives of each of the 150 schools that comprise the student delegate assembly. She also contacted individual students she had met at the conference to seek their support for her candidacy.

As a USC student, Ms. Lee, who holds a BS in Human Development from UC-Davis, overcame her previous fear of public speaking through many small group discussions and class presentations that have been part of her USC OS/OT education. Added to this was encouragement during her campaign from her fellow students and her professors, including Nancy Bagatell, Ph.D., OTR/L and Deborah Pitts, MBA, OTR/L, who invited Ms. Lee to talk to their classes to about her goals in running for office. “I believe that my classmates’ support and attentiveness has helped me grow,” she explained. “It wasn’t just me believing that I could do it; it was someone else believing that I could.”

In addition to her studies, Ms. Lee is a Student Ambassador for USC OS/OT. Kimberly Kelton, Admissions Counselor for the Division, praised Ms. Lee’s organizational skills and creativity. “Because she is so personable, she is able to motivate people,” Ms. Kelton remarked.

Ms. Lee’s 1-year term as ASD vice-chairperson begins in April at the AOTA Conference and Expo in Long Beach, CA. After graduation, Ms. Lee hopes to earn an OTD at USC, and eventually practice in the area of neurorehabilitation.

USC Represented at AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave

With a welcome from NBCOT Chair and USC OS/OT Board of Councilors member Linda Florey, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, and a keynote address by Associate Dean and Chair Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, the four USC MA students who attended the first-ever AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave felt right at home. The 2-day event was attended by over 550 OT and OTA students from across the country.

Lyndsay Price, one of the four USC leadership award winners at Conclave (see Fall 2007 newsletter), observed that “it was a great experience being surrounded by so many other OT students. There was a familiarity in being with people who knew and believed in the merits of OT, and were going through similar student experiences. We also had the opportunity to hear from many leaders within the field on a diverse array of topics. It was cool being a part of the first-ever conclave, as it really was an historic event.”

First-year MA student Emilia Dewi added, “It was amazing to meet OT practitioners, educators and students from all over the U.S. I liked the fact that the Conclave had students as its focus, so speakers and other OTs were very accessible to talk to. It refueled my energy and reminded me why I wanted to become an OT.”

“I think the Conclave was a chance to see what the profession would be like, and we got a feel for how good our education is in preparing us,” described 2nd year MA student Lauren Ferriera. “I think we felt really ‘there.’ It motivated us to go branch out and do new and different things in our own careers. Seeing all these students, faculty, and clinicians doing new programs inspired us to come back to USC and move outside of traditional practice boundaries. I think that’s why we felt so happy to be at USC. We were coming up with all these ideas, and we felt that USC had prepared us to go out and pursue them.”

Ms. Price, Ms. Dewi, Ms. Ferriera and Michelle Lee gave a presentation to their fellow USC students about the Conclave when they returned to campus.
Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff on their outstanding achievements!

Linda S. Fazio, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, is the author of two books that have recently been updated in second editions. The 2nd edition of Developing Occupation-Centered Programs for the Community is published by Prentice Hall Health (www.prenhall.com/healthprofessions), and the 2nd edition of Play in Occupational Therapy for Children (co-authored with Dr. L. Diane Parham) is published by Mosby Elsevier (www.us ELSEVIERHEALTH.COM).

Gelya Frank, Ph.D., co-chaired six panels on occupational therapy/anthropology/chronic illness/disability studies/occupational science for the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) meetings in Memphis, TN, in March. Dr. Frank is also the co-chair of the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA) OT Special Interest Group with Dr. Karen F. Barney.

Jackie Mardirossian, MA, COTA, ROH, is serving as Vice President on the USC Staff Assembly for a second term. The Staff Assembly is an officially recognized part of the USC governance system, contributing to the success of USC and the growth and welfare of its staff employees.

Katie Salles-Jordan, OTD, OTR/L, discussed an innovative Lifestyle Redesign® weight-loss program that emphasizes the relationship of eating to doing, and how knowledge of this, in combination with healthy habits, contributes to weight loss at the CDC’s National Prevention and Health Promotion Summit (see related story, below). She is also the co-author, with Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, and Faryl Saliman Reingold, MA, OTR/L, of Obesity and Occupational Therapy, a position paper on public policy issues and interventions related to weight management that was adopted by the AOTA Representative Assembly in 2007. It was published in the November/December 2007 American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Dr. Clark Represents USC OS/OT in Presentations

Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Associate Chair and Dean of the USC Division of OS/OT, has made a number of presentations in recent months. In October, Dr. Clark was the keynote speaker at the Barbara A. Rider Colloquium at Western Michigan University. Her topic was Lifestyle Redesign®: How to Sculpt a Meaningful and Healthy Life in Older Adulthood.

In November, Dr. Clark was the keynote speaker at the AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave, as well as lunchtime speaker and a panelist on Health and Wellness (see related story, page 12). Her topics were How to Be Part of the Centennial Vision; The Tipping Point: Image, Identity and the Future of Occupational Therapy, and The LifeAdvisor Training Program. Also that month, Dr. Clark represented AOTA as its Vice President at the National Prevention and Health Promotion Summit sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Nine practicing OTs presented at this summit on their work to advance AOTA’s Centennial Vision focus on health and wellness, and Dr. Clark presented the findings of the USC Well Elderly Studies.

On April 19th, Dr. Clark will present at the USC Health for Women conference at Davidson Conference Center. Her topic will be Ingredients of a Healthy Lifestyle Just for You…in the Age of Hyper-speed. For more information on this event, go to http://usc.edu/events/hfw.

Two New Members Named to Board of Councilors

The USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the School of Dentistry has announced two new additions to its Board of Councilors. Grace Ho, MA ’82, MPH, OTR, is an accomplished best-selling author who has been featured in numerous publications worldwide for her work in promoting wellness of the general public (see related story, page 11). Born in Japan, Ms. Ho created her own web log, “Madam Ho’s Happiness Lifestyle,” to discuss the important balance of “love, health, and prosperity” and also serves as an interpreter for U.S.-Japan government conferences on a variety of topics.

Also joining the Board is Collette Nagami, MA ’76, a specialist in hand and upper quadrant therapy. Ms. Nagami is currently a Contract Medical Specialty Review Consultant with The Foto Group, Inc., and has previously held positions such as Director of Therapy Services at Hands-On Physio Therapy and Manager of the Life Advisement Program at the California Well-Being Institute and as a specialist in rehabilitation services. A qualified speaker and long standing member of AOTA, Ms. Nagami has teaching experience as a clinical instructor at several institutions, including the Medical School at the University of Southern California, Irvine.

Ms. Ho and Ms. Nagami are warmly welcomed additions to the USC OS/OT Board of Councilors.
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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:

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**Why Give to the Annual Fund? An Explanation in Verse by Fran Kelley**

**USC OS/OT** has set a goal to double alumni participation in the Annual Fund drive, which ends June 30th. At USC, the number of alums connected to a department by giving *any amount* is a key marker of its strength. The Annual Fund adds to our Endowed Scholarship Fund, which helps recruit students. To give, simply use the envelope in this newsletter, or go to [https://giveto.usc.edu/](https://giveto.usc.edu/) and click the box by OS/OT on the second page of the form. This whimsical poem by Board of Councilors member Frances Weiss Kelley, OTR, encourages all our alums to support the Division.

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"Much" doesn’t count  
It’s not the amount  
Just join in...is what you ought’er

My starting year was ‘43  
I’m sure you came after me  
But we can all show that we care  
By anything small  
From us all  
Responding back from everywhere.

I’ve always been glad I became an OT,  
And even gladder to be from USC! ■

(Fran Kelley, BS ’49, entered USC OT when Margaret Rood headed the department; Jean Ayres was a classmate. Ms. Kelley was affiliated as a student OT at the naval hospital at Mare Island, working with soldiers recently returned from World War II battlefields, and made her career working at VA hospitals. At Mare Island and VA facilities, Ms. Kelley used her talent for poetry as a means of communicating with patients playfully, encouraging veterans who were reluctant to express themselves through talking directly with staff to reply to her in verse at their next session. She encouraged the men in her care to write poems, which she then helped to get published. In addition to her work as an OT and as a member of USC OS/OT’s Board of Councilors, Ms. Kelley is also proud to have received OTAC’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1990.)

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OS/OT Students Present Posters at Research Day

A total of 140 posters submitted by students in divisions allied with the USC School of Dentistry were the focus of attention at Research Day, held at the USC Galen Center on February 13th. The event featured a poster session, luncheon and presentations on advances in dentistry. Poster presenters were eligible for awards in a number of categories, including three awards for outstanding research by a student in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. First place, with a cash prize of $300, was awarded to a team of investigators led by Julie Werner (and including OS/OT student Sook-Lei Liew) for their poster, *Individual Differences in Empathy Correlate with Activity in the Inferior Frontal Gyrus*. The team’s advisor was Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, Ph.D.. Second place, with a prize of $200, was awarded to a team led by Jeremy Seip for their poster, *Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment in Adults with Spinal Cord Injury: The Need to Incorporate Daily Lifestyle Concerns*. The team’s advisor was Florence Clark, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA. Third place, with a prize of $100, was awarded to Beth Pyatak for her poster, *Disability and Bioethics — The Problem with “Prevention.”* Ms. Pyatak’s advisor was Ann Neville-Jan, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA.

Other OS/OT student presenters were: Amy Andersen (advisor: Dr. Shanpin Fanchiang), *Assessing Readiness-to-Do*; the team led by Lucy Barnett (advisors: Mary Lawlor, Sc.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Cheryl Mattingly, Ph.D. and Cynthia Miki Strathmann, Ph.D.), *Boundary Crossings and Re-Situating Cultural Competence: Parental Roles and Perspectives in a Parent-Health Practitioner Relationship*; the team led by Maureen Benedict (advisors: Dr. Lawlor, Dr. Mattingly, Dr. Strathmann), *Perceptions of African American Health Disparities in Social and Clinical Settings: Practitioner and Parental Viewpoints*; the team led by Donald Fogelberg (advisor: Dr. Clark), *The Impact of Habit on Pressure Ulcer Risk in Adults with Spinal Cord Injury*; Jennifer Glover (advisor: Dr. Clark), *Occupational Science as a Growing Discipline: Analysis of Peer-Reviewed Publications from 1996 through 2006*; the team led by Jess Holguin, reporting findings on behalf of Aaron Eakman (advisor: Dr. Clark), *Reliability and Validity of a Measure of Meaningful Activity Participation in Older Adults*; the team led by Deborah Mandel (advisor: Barbara Cherry, Ph.D.), *Diurnal Cortisol in Well Older Adults*; and Thomas Mernar (advisor: Jeanne Jackson, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA), *Occupation as a Modifier to Stress and Health: Research Opportunities for Biomarker Use and Institutional Place Integration of Skilled Nursing Facility Residents: The Interplay of Occupational Participation and Occupational Injustice*.

Dr. Clark remarked, “I want to congratulate all of our students and faculty who displayed their research in the poster session. All of the posters were extremely impressive. Thank you to the faculty, staff, and students who contributed to this successful event.”