

USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Fall 2013 Magazine



**REMINISCING
WITH THE
GREATEST
GENERATION**

Autism and Wandering
in the City of Angels

24th Symposium is Summit of
Sensory Integration Experts

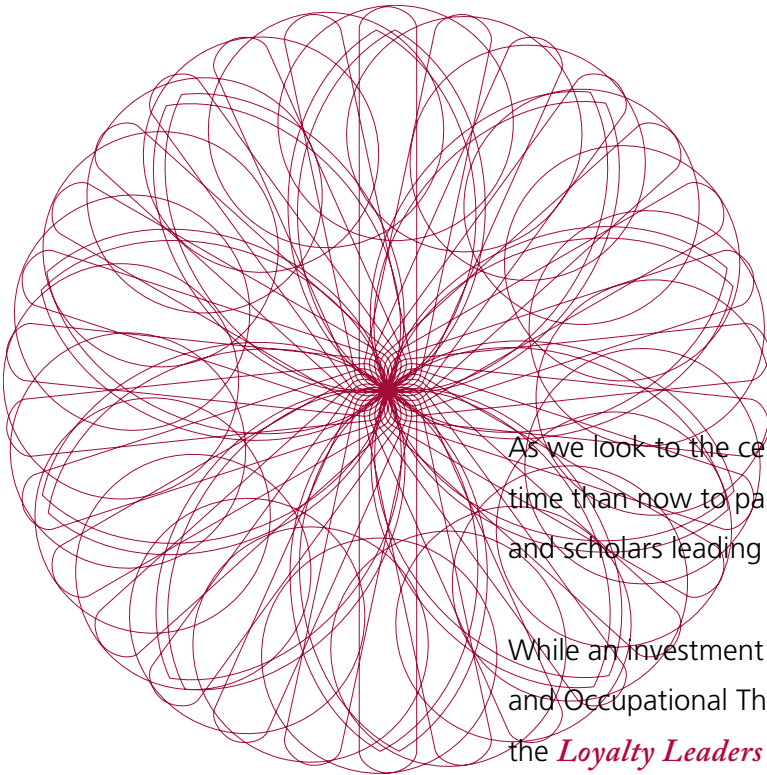
Students Get Ramped Up

*Half Century
Salute*

*The premier support group for the
USC Division of Occupational Science and
Occupational Therapy has been launched.*

LOYALTY LEADERS

of Occupational Therapy



As we look to the centennial of the profession, there is no better time than now to partner with USC and its visionaries, innovators and scholars leading the profession into this new and exciting era.

While an investment in the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy offers multiple incentives, members of the ***Loyalty Leaders of Occupational Therapy*** receive a variety of exclusive benefits acknowledging their special relationship with the Division and the University.

For more information on how you can become a member of the ***Loyalty Leaders of Occupational Therapy*** please contact the Office of Development at (213) 740-0428.

USC Division of Occupational Science
and Occupational Therapy

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and He Is Gone"
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**SALUTE:
Looking back
on 50 years
with our Half
Century Trojans**

Illustrations by Mike McNulty/ToonPaint

USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
University of Southern California

Fall 2013 Magazine

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The magazine of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is published twice yearly and is free to alumni and friends of the Division. Please send all changes of address, letters and correspondence to:

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DEAR

alumni and
friends,

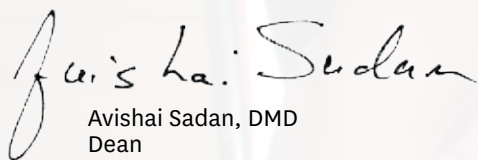
As Dean of the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, I am continually proud to include the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy as an important part of our school. This fall, I offer special congratulations to Dr. Florence Clark and the faculty, staff and alumni of the Division upon launching the Campaign for USC Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

For more than 70 years, USC has set a global standard for excellence in occupational science and occupational therapy research, education and clinical practice. The Division's drive to raise \$6 million—the most ambitious effort ever pursued by an occupational therapy academic program—will ensure that USC continues to be a place where faculty can work at the leading edge of innovative thought and practice, where tomorrow's leaders receive a world-class education, where patients can live life to its fullest, and where scientific research effectively responds to society's most urgent health issues.

The initiative will support five major priorities: faculty recruitment and retention, current and new research investments, revitalized physical facilities, student scholarships and community impact near and far. Part of the \$6 billion Campaign for the University of Southern California, the fundraising initiative will forever transform the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

Read on to learn more about this historic effort as well as other exciting news from the Division.

Fight On!



Avishai Sadan, DMD
Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery
Professor of Dentistry
Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Photo by John Skatidky



"SAY CHEESE!" Alumni of the master's class of 2008 put their best faces forward in the photobooth at the Campaign for USC Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy launch party.

Photo by Brian Miller/L.A. Photo Party®



\$6M CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF WITH SPIRITED LAUNCH

The USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy officially announced its entry into the Campaign for the University of Southern California in April before a capacity crowd of more than 400 Trojans gathered at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront hotel ballroom.

The kickoff celebration, scheduled to coincide with the annual conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association, included live entertainment, an inspiring video presentation and a rousing toast from Associate Dean and Chair Florence Clark.

“USC has an undeniable legacy of leadership to the profession of occupational therapy, and we are the founders of the occupational science discipline,” said Clark. “This Campaign will take USC occupational science and occupational therapy to an even higher level, and I am so excited to have the entire Trojan Family join together in this unprecedented adventure.”

The Division’s \$6 million campaign goal is believed to be the largest in the history of occupational therapy higher education. Primary giving objectives include faculty recruitment and retention, research initiatives, student scholarships and fellowships, infrastructure improvements and patient care programming.

ot.usc.edu/campaign





OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE PHD CANDIDATES RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH AWARDS

Two occupational science PhD candidates have received prestigious awards supporting their research agendas.

Amber Angell PhD '15 was recently awarded a Diploma in Innovation grant from the USC Graduate School with support from the USC Stevens Center for Innovation.

The grant will specifically support Angell's work to create a professional awareness curriculum and corresponding webinar designed to enhance practitioners' skills in identifying autism in Latino children. This curriculum will be developed in collaboration with Larry Yin, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and Olga Solomon, assistant professor at the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

The rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorders in the United States has



Amber Angell PhD '15 been accompanied by racial disparities in its diagnosis: Latino children, on average, are diagnosed at a later age than white children, are more likely to be misdiagnosed and are less likely to be diagnosed at all.

Angell's ethnographic study hopes

to minimize such disparities by better understanding the perspectives of Latino families who have a child with autism, as well as the perspectives of clinicians such as physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists. Her research aims to identify challenges to, and opportunities for, Latino children to receive timelier and more accurate autism diagnoses.

Angell, who is a licensed occupational therapist, has conducted research with the NAPA-OT Field School in Antigua, Guatemala, where she worked on a project examining nutrition in childhood development of young rural Guatemalans.

Michelle Elliot PhD '15 was awarded a scholarship from Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the country's federal research funding agency supporting postsecondary research and training in the humanities and social sciences, to support her qualitative research. The SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship will support the final stages of Elliot's PhD dissertation project entitled "Unpacking Experiences and Narratives of Students: Life Changing, Changing Life or Merely Taking a Trip."

Elliot is exploring experiences which have the potential to be transformative by examining the roles of expectation, reflection, immersion and travel. Many institutions offer student service learning,

study abroad and international immersion programs, often advertised as offering participants 'life changing' experiences.

Elliot is interested in understanding the impact of such programs on students' personal, professional and occupational identities. To do so, Elliot traveled with a group of occupational therapy students completing an intensive short-term immersion in a developing foreign country



Michelle Elliot PhD '15 as part of their professional training program. Her observations during the trip, as well as narrative-based interviews conducted with the students, will provide data for her phenomenological and ethnographic analyses.

Elliot, a Canadian citizen, completed her Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She has worked as an occupational therapist in various mental health settings including a dedicated eating disorder treatment program in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

PITTS APPOINTED TO STATE MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Deborah Pitts PhD '12, assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy, has been appointed to the California Mental Health Planning Council of the California Department of Health Care Services.

The CMHPC, comprised of 32 members, is charged by both federal and state mandates to advocate for adults with severe mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, provide oversight of the public mental health system, and advise the state government on priority state-wide issues. Appointments to the council are made by the director of the Mental Health Services Division of DHCS. Pitts will also be serving on the

Council's Healthcare Reform Committee.

Pitts is an expert in both the philosophy and practice of psychiatric rehabilitation, schizophrenia, psychosocial rehabilitation and community support programs for persons labeled with psychiatric disabilities. She has provided consultation to providers of community-based psychiatric rehabilitation services, served as a behavioral health surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and chaired working groups of the American Occupational Therapy Association including its Mental Health Special Interest Section.

www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/mh

RECRUITERS GO INSTAGRAM

The Division's team of Student Ambassadors, current students who act as recruitment liaisons to introduce prospective applicants to the USC Trojan Family, are now on Instagram. "Follow" them today!

Instagram @uscsoot



Student Ambassadors Ryan Thomas MA '14, left, and Kate Holford MA '14, right



USC student Colin Lenington MA '14 (fourth from left), receives the 2013 PTE President's Award from (L-R) PTE Treasurer Rachel Proffitt, PTE President Kim Schoessow, AOTA President Ginny Stoffel, PTE Vice President Emily Kringle and PTE Secretary Elect Joseph Brey.

PTE HONOR SOCIETY WINS PRESIDENT'S AWARD

USC's Alpha Eta chapter of the Pi Theta Epsilon national honor society for occupational therapy students and alumni received the 2013 President's Award at the 2013 American Occupational Therapy Association/National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy® National Student Conclave in Jacksonville, Fla.

The President's Award recognizes Pi Theta Epsilon chapters that organize and implement outstanding scholarly activities designed to increase knowledge of, develop professional skills for, and further contribute to the advancement of occupational therapy. USC's PTE chapter was recognized for its annual Occupational Therapy Extravaganza event, which it has been hosting for six consecutive years.

Trojan student Colin Lenington MA '14 was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the chapter.

DIVISION HELPS LAUNCH NEW DOCUMENTARY-DRIVEN WEBSITE ON AUTISM

Interacting With Autism, a video-based website, was unveiled at a September launch celebration at the USC School of Cinematic Arts co-sponsored by the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

Conceived three years ago by University Professor Marsha Kinder and Distinguished Professor Mark Harris, the website features documentary-style videos in a format that invites visitors to interact with the topics at hand. Kinder conceived and directs *The Labyrinth Project*, an interactive digital initiative, and Harris is an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker.

By combining their areas of expertise, the co-principal investigators created an innovative online resource that offers extensive information via videos. The site currently features more than 30 videos grouped into three sections: understanding autism, treating autism and living with autism.

Associate Dean and Chair Florence Clark and alumna Janet Gunter BS '94, MA '95, OTD '10 are featured in a six-minute

video on the website about occupational therapy's roles in treating children with autism and their families.

"Our aim was to create a video-intensive resource for families and people on the spectrum, a database they could reference when they have questions about the experience of autism and their options for treatment," said Laura Cechanow-

icz, a PhD student at the USC School of Cinematic Arts who has worked on the website for two years.

"We wanted to help them understand what their options are as they move forward toward independence," Cechanowicz continued. "We also hoped to share the experience of autism with a wider audience."

www.interactingwithautism.com



Janet Gunter BS '94, MA '95, OTD '10, right, demonstrates Sensory Integration Therapy.

ALUMNI HELP STUDENTS IGNITE OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Alumni Annie Kim BS '02 and Rowena Galam BS '01, school-based occupational therapists who treat students throughout the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Anaheim City School District (ACSD), recently demonstrated their Olympic spirit and community leadership as they helped students with special needs participate in School Games.

A partnership between Special Olympics Southern California's Young Athletes program, the Mattel Children's Foundation and school districts including LAUSD and ACSD, School Games offers sports training and athletic competitions for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The events are the finale of an occupational therapy classroom and family consultation program designed to help students develop lifelong habits of physical activity and fitness, view themselves as athletes and connect to resources for more productive and independent living.

Volunteers including Kim and Galam provided the students an early introduction to sports and the Olympic spirit, fostered the development of new skills and facilitated participation in a fun, structured community event.

"The Young Athletes program is a fun and active way to get family and community engagement with children with disabilities," Kim said. "The kids learn the motor and social skills, but I feel that, more importantly, they are learning the foundations for higher-level life skills."

Special Olympics, generously supported by the Mattel Children's Foundation, offers various programs throughout the year focusing on young athletes, both in the Los Angeles area and throughout the world. Nearly 3,000 Mattel employees in 22 countries annually participate with Special Olympics programs, some as Special Olympics athletes themselves. Kim is also a member of the Special Olympics Young

Athletes Committee and organizes trainings for parents and community organizations looking to start the program in their city.

Occupational therapists especially understand the impact of activity and social participation on the quality of life of children with disabilities. At the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, PhD candidate Amanda Foran '14 and her advisor, Professor Sharon Cermak, are using active videogames to examine the effects of physical activity and social participation in individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Their work highlights the importance of physical activity in promoting health and development, and emphasizes the need to begin active engagement in movement in early childhood in order to promote lifelong habits to prevent obesity.



Alumna Annie Kim BS '02, right, at School Games with colleague Hannah Lee, left, a special day class pre-school teacher from Paramount Unified School District. (Photo courtesy of Annie Kim).

TROJAN CLINICIANS MAKE FIRSTS WITH TWO USC AWARDS

Phuong Nguyen MA '10, OTD '11, assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy, received the Keck Medical Center of USC's Care Partner of the Year award at the 2013 Nurses Week Awards Ceremony.

The Nurses of Keck Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital annually nominate and select winners for various awards in celebration of National Nurses Week. While previous awardees have been exclusively nurses, non-nursing members of the care team were made eligible to receive this year's award. Among thousands of USC providers, Nguyen was chosen as the first non-nurse clinician to win the accolade.

"I was definitely surprised by the award," Nguyen said, "but more importantly I am honored to have been nominated and chosen by my nursing colleagues. I am truly fortunate to be able to work with some of the most amazing patients and health care providers on a daily basis."

"Having our work as occupational therapists recognized by our colleagues in nursing is a great honor," said Katie Jordan MA '03, OTD '04, associate chair of occupational therapy clinical services.

"We are all very proud of Dr. Nguyen and look forward to many more opportunities for interprofessional collaboration with the nurses of USC."

Occupational therapy also made a strong showing at USC's first Interdisciplinary Poster Symposium.

Kimberly Perring MA '12, OTD '13, assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy, won the Evidence-Based Practice Award for her poster "Behavioral Treat-

ment for Urinary Incontinence and Urinary Retention."

"I hope my recognition will raise more awareness of OT's unique roles within acute care," Perring said.

"Having our work displayed through the hospital over Hospital Week has improved awareness of our unique services and sparked new interprofessional collaborations around mutual interests," Jordan added.



Phuong Nguyen, right, with Keck Hospital of USC's Associate Administrator Theresa Murphy

ROLL'S POSTER TAKES TOP SPOT AT IMAGING CONFERENCE

Assistant Professor Shawn C. Roll received first place in the Scientific Poster Competition at the 2013 meeting of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography for his poster "Reliability & Validity of a Novel Imaging Protocol for the Male Pelvic Floor."

Roll's research aims to evaluate physical and psychosocial mechanisms underlying Chronic Prostatitis/Chronic Pelvic Pain Syndrome (CP/CPPS). CP/CPPS, the most frequent urological diagnosis for men younger than 50 years old, is present in 6-12 percent of

men. It has been shown to significantly reduce quality of life, even below that of other prevalent chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure or diabetes.

By better understanding physiologic and behavioral mechanisms related to the disorder, Roll hopes to enhance its therapeutic treatment. While physical therapy has emerged as a primary treatment for the condition, up to 41 percent of patients report little to no improvement, or a worsening of symptoms, after physical therapy treatment. Because there is currently no method for stratifying CP/CPPS patients to ensure appropriate treatments are being provided, Roll aims to identify neuromuscular biomarkers for CP/CPPS patients using sonographic imaging and to determine their use to improve clinical phenotyping.



Shawn C. Roll, left, with Charlotte Henningsen, right, President of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Foundation

24TH USC O.S. SYMPOSIUM CONVENES SENSORY INTEGRATION SCHOLARS

National experts on the sensory issues tied to autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders exchanged their respective research at the 24th USC Occupational Science Symposium, which brought together dozens of leaders from across the country to assess the field and prioritize future research directions.

Hosted by the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and its Sensory Integration, Engagement and Family Life Initiative, more than 350 researchers, clinicians and educators attended the Nov. 7 event, titled “Sensory Integration at the Crossroads: Diverse Perspectives in Occupational Therapy Research.”

“We have entered into an unprecedented era for research on sensory integration therapy,” said Florence Clark, professor and associate dean of the division. “In just the past two years, researchers featured at this year’s symposium have conducted landmark randomized controlled trials demonstrating the effectiveness of sensory integration therapy for children diagnosed with autism, so it’s quite obvious why we are excited today.”

In addition to behavioral, communicative and social deficits, children and adults with autism or other neurodevelopmental disabilities can also have central nervous system dysfunctions that affect processing of sen-

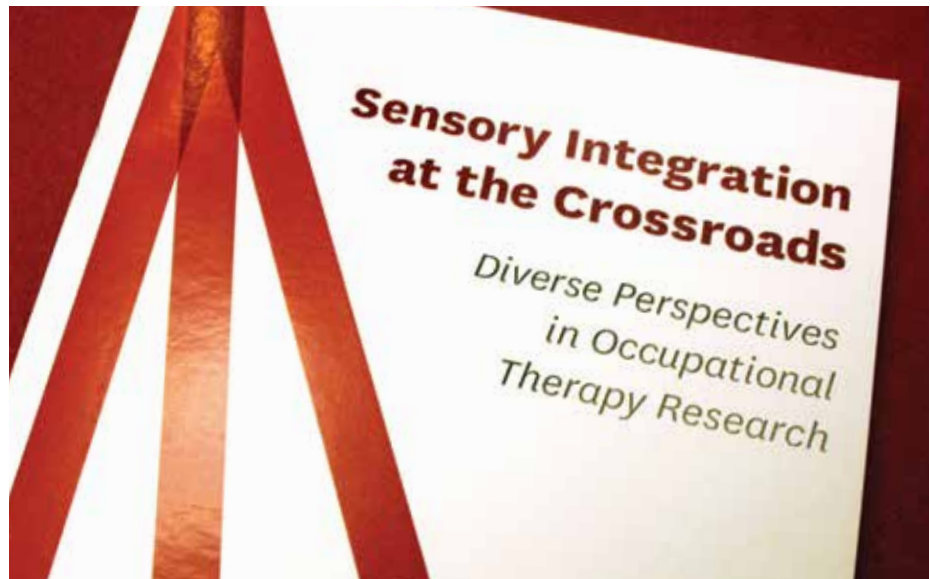


Photo by Clarissa Tu

sory stimuli such as sound, touch or motion. Because their brains atypically perceive, process and react to the surrounding environment, this dysfunction may be an underlying cause of behaviors often observed in this population such as rocking or spinning the body, inattention and hyperactivity.

The event was highlighted by the 2013 Wilma West Lecture from Ellen Cohn, interim chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Boston University’s Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Cohn stressed the importance of respecting parents’ goals, ambitions and values for all practitioners who treat

children with autism.

Established in 1988, the USC Occupational Science Symposium is the division’s premier academic event gathering leaders from various health, medical and social science professions and disciplines to propel forward the discipline of occupational science.

Notable past speakers at the symposium include former USC and National Football League quarterback and advocate for persons with autism spectrum disorders Rodney Peete, primatologist Jane Goodall and theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking.

ot.usc.edu/research/symposium

DIVISION WELCOMES HOFFMANN-GROTTHING, MATSUTSUYU TO BOARD OF COUNCILORS

Two new members have joined the Division’s Board of Councilors, the leadership group composed of distinguished professional, academic and community leaders who counsel the associate dean on matters related to the educational, research and development aims of the Division.

Kathy Hoffmann-Grotthing BS ’72 OTR/L, FAOTA practiced as a clinician for more than a decade. She has received a Service Award from the American Occupational Therapy Association, served as

a Board Member of AOTA’s Political Action Committee and was a member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. A resident of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., she is also active with the Trojan League Associates of San Diego County. Articles authored by Hoffmann-Grotthing have appeared in *OT Practice*, the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.

Keith Matsutsuyu BS ’83 (Business Ad-

ministration – Finance) founded and today manages several healthcare companies focusing on information technology, workflow and care management. A resident of Irvine, Calif., he is also an active member of USC Associates.

Matsutsuyu is the nephew of the late Janice Setsuko Matsutsuyu MA ’68, former clinical instructor of occupational therapy at USC and Chair of the Division’s Board of Councilors.

ot.usc.edu/about-us/board-of-councilors

STUDENTS HELP PEER RAMP UP SERVICE PROJECT

To many, do-it-yourself renovation projects can be a costly headache waiting to happen. But for Donna Ozawa MA '15, who can take a look at a person's home and see potential for healthier living, it's a real passion.

With two decades of experience in disciplines including sculpture, design and wheelchair engineering, Ozawa has helped people live more safely and comfortably in their residences. She received an executive certificate in home modification from the USC Davis School of Gerontology in 2012, and has worked with several professional and volunteer organizations to adapt home spaces to better fit residents' needs.

The purpose of home modification projects—such as placing non-slip backing under floor rugs, installing grab bars for easy shower entry and exit or retrofitting entire houses to be wheelchair accessible—is to make tasks easier, reduce in-home accidents and support independent living.

Now a student in USC's occupational therapy master's class of 2015, Ozawa is pursuing a career that will allow her to seamlessly combine her experiences and interests to help people lead healthier, happier lives.

"I wanted to make a connection between building and health care," Ozawa says, about why she chose to attend USC, home to *U.S. News & World Report's* No. 1 occupational therapy graduate educational program.

Once on campus, Ozawa met fellow occupational therapy student Eun Kyung Bae MA '15, a Korean native who earned her undergraduate degree in woodworking and furniture design.

As burgeoning occupational therapists, Ozawa and Kim can appreciate the impact of built environments on disability accessibility. In an effort to put their knowledge and skills into action, Ozawa and Bae, who also has a spinal cord injury and uses a power wheelchair, teamed together for a project with personal meaning.

"Donna has a lot of tools at her

house, but there are two steps to enter her house," Bae said. "I'm sitting on a wheelchair, so we decided to make a [wheelchair] ramp."

Ozawa and Bae reviewed standards for accessible design, drafted blueprints for a plywood wheelchair ramp and then, with the help of a team of USC occupational students, built it.

"We made it a potluck, and it was a very social event," said Becca Heymann MA '15, who helped. "Everyone was able to contribute to something, and Donna gave us all a tutorial on how to use the tools."

Soon, students who had never used power tools were sawing wood, snapping chalk lines and drilling screws. Bae's expertise in furniture construction was also an asset for the novice classmates.

"Donna really wanted everyone to get involved so she taught me how to use a power drill and then made me drill in screws for one side of the ramp,"

said Stephanie Dote MA '15, who also lent a hand. "She was a great teacher and gave great pointers, and once I finished my side I was actually proud of myself and it made me more interested in carpentry and using tools."

After construction, Bae tested the ramp, and other students simulated the experience using a manually-pushed wheelchair loaned from the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. After a few adjustments the team had their finished ramp, but more importantly, Bae was able to enter her colleague's home.

"It was a great bonding day for everyone who came," said Dote, "and everyone learned something new."

But the project would not be finished without one final touch from these new Trojans: they decorated the wheelchair ramp in colors matching USC's cardinal and gold.

—Jen Waters MA '14 is a student in the USC entry-level master's degree program



Donna Ozawa MA '15 works the miter saw to construct a wheelchair ramp.

ROB RUSSOW, OTS

Entry-level master's student

HOMETOWN

Brookfield, Ill.

PREVIOUS EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
B.A. in Speech Communication

PRACTICE AREA INTERESTS

Education, disability studies, and geriatrics

FAVORITE USC CLASSES

OT 401: Adult Physical Rehabilitation and Disability
OT 411: Clinical Reasoning
OT 440: Foundations: Kinesiology

MEANINGFUL OCCUPATIONS

Teaching juggling, baking, and reading

“BEING PART OF THE PROGRAM

here at USC has been a life-changing experience for me. As recently as a few years ago, I never thought I would be living in Los Angeles and pursuing a graduate degree in a health profession. After my undergrad career, I picked up and moved to Arkansas to become a fishing reporter. Though I loved performing and writing, the long weeks on the road began to wear me down, and I started looking for a change.

My friend was a pediatric occupational therapist and, knowing how much of a kid at heart I was myself, he thought occupational therapy would be a perfect fit for me. It was, and the moment I got my acceptance letter from USC I began seriously contemplating moving across the country.

I couldn't have made a better choice. The program has been a period of tremendous growth for

me, both personally and professionally. Many of the classes have challenged me to examine myself as a person, what I thought and why, and to consider my personal communication style. I've formed deeper friendships now than at any point in my life and I owe a lot of that to my experience at USC.

Another student, Alyssa Concha, and I started “Trojans Talk OT,” a student-run podcast (ot.usc.edu/news-and-events/trojans-talk-ot) where we discuss anything of interest in the occupational therapy world. I've been working with Dr. Ann Neville-Jan on an independent study looking at incorporating disability studies into occupational therapy education. Over the summer, I got to serve as a teaching assistant for the summer classes, ushering the next generation of OT students into the program. Education is an area that I hope to continue to explore over the next few years as I finish up this program and continue on to the OTD program at USC.”



“ BEFORE I HAD HEARD OF occupational therapy, I moved to Los Angeles to follow my dream to work as a professional dancer. While I was dancing, I slowly took classes towards receiving my bachelor’s degree. Once I finished school, I started to re-examine my life because I knew I didn’t want to work as a dancer for the rest of my life. I wanted to love my job, and for it to provide me with security and stability.

I started working as a behaviorist, assisting children with developmental disabilities in their home and at school. The majority of the kids I saw would also receive occupational therapy, and it caught my interest because it looked so fun and creative. I was able to volunteer at a pediatric therapy clinic and fell in love! I felt that I had finally found a career that I was passionate about like dancing!

This all brought me here to USC, to the best occupational therapy educational program in the country. Being in the master’s

program at USC is so much better than I thought it could ever be. I have been so inspired by the professors about advocacy (for the patients and the profession) and by the guest speakers who have shared amazing personal experiences making me want to be the best occupational therapist I can possibly be.

I have also made great relationships with my classmates (lifelong friendships, for sure) and with the faculty who I admire for their many accomplishments they make while providing so much classroom support (as well as outside office hours). I am so excited that I found occupational therapy, but USC has made me feel so honored that I am going to be an occupational therapist.

RYAN THOMAS, OTS
Entry-level master’s student

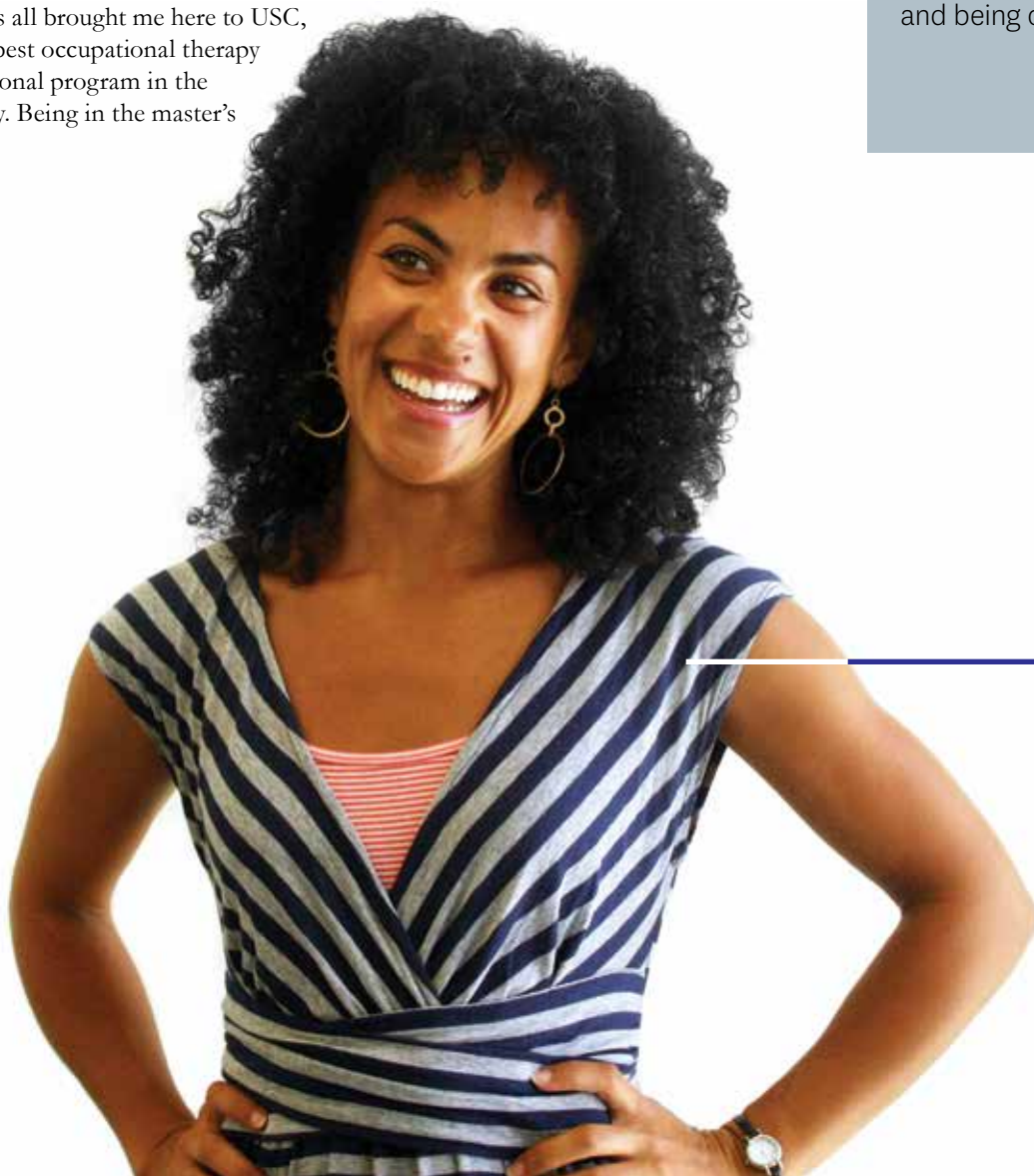
HOMETOWN
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

PREVIOUS EDUCATION
California State University,
Northridge
B.S. in Liberal Studies
Minor in Art

PRACTICE AREA INTERESTS
Pediatrics

FAVORITE USC CLASSES
Too many to list!

MEANINGFUL OCCUPATIONS
Dancing, hanging out with
family and friends, eating,
and being outdoors



**and i look
down and
he is gone**



“We

were going into the arcade and he was

right beside me,” says Noreen, whose five-year-old son, Daniel, has autism (editor’s note: to protect confidentiality all names have been changed to pseudonyms). But in a split-second, the family’s time together at a Southern California amusement park turned to crisis. “And I look down and he is gone,” Noreen remembers.

Relying on her ability to understand and anticipate her son’s actions and experiences—“what would Daniel be doing?”—Noreen backtracks to the family vehicle in the vast parking lot. Approaching the car, she spots two little feet peeking from behind a tire. “I found him in the parking lot by the car,” she recalls, “like, ‘I’m ready to go.’”

Crisis averted, at least temporarily. A month after the amusement park incident, Daniel, still dressed in his pajamas, quietly walked out of the front door of the family’s home. A stranger driving by called police after pulling Daniel away from a busy intersection, oblivious to the traffic and pedestrian crossing signals, just as he was about to cross.

Such stories are probably familiar to parents of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. ‘Wandering’ or ‘elopement,’ the generic clinical terms used to describe a child’s sudden absence from controlled environments without adult supervision, is a behavior recently identified as common in children with autism. A 2011 national survey of parents of children with autism conducted by the Interactive Treatment Network (IAN), an autism registry project of the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, found that almost half of all children with autism have wandered away from their home or school, a behavior often described by family members as ‘running,’ ‘bolting’ or ‘darting.’

Because the children have no physical features distinguishing them from their typically developing peers, strangers may not realize anything is wrong when seeing a child with autism walk alone. Combined with the social and communication deficits characteristic of autism, which could prevent a child asking a stranger for help, such episodes may turn especially dangerous.

This problem of ‘wandering’ and ‘elopement’ is explored by Assistant Professor Olga Solomon and Professor Mary Lawlor in their article recently published in the

journal *Social Science & Medicine*. The data analyzed in the article are part of a larger, comprehensive set of digital video and audio data that provides an in-depth view on the experiences of African American families of their children’s autism diagnoses, interventions and services in Los Angeles County.

The data has been collected for a mixed methods urban ethnographic project, ‘Autism in Urban Context: Linking Heterogeneity with Health and Service Disparities,’ funded by the National Institute Mental Health (R01MH089474, 2009-2012) on which Solomon has served as Principal Investigator.

In addition to Solomon and Lawlor, Professor Sharon Cermak, another faculty member in the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, participated in the project. The interdisciplinary research team also included four faculty members from the Keck School of Medicine of USC: Marie Poulsen, professor of clinical pediatrics; Thomas Valente, professor of preventive medicine; Marian Williams, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics; and Larry Yin, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics and medical director of the Boone Fetter Clinic at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

To better understand the problem of elopement and wandering from families’ perspectives, Solomon and Lawlor analyzed ethnographic, narrative-based interviews with mothers of African American children ages 4-10 who have an autism diagnosis. Of 23 families who participated in the study, nine shared stories of elopement and wandering with the research team during the data collection period.

As part of the larger Autism in Urban Context project, the research team also conducted in-person observations, collected video recordings of the children’s healthcare visits with clinicians and interviewed additional family members, friends and service providers, including occupational therapists. By applying qualitative analysis techniques based upon narrative, phenomenological and interpretive approaches, the researchers identified several themes within and across the families’ data.

Solomon and Lawlor found that some mothers often feel isolated and unprepared due to a lack of professional advice about the problem, similar to the IAN’s finding that families rarely receive advice from practitioners about (continued on page 25)

Narrating Autism, Elopement and Wandering in Los Angeles.

Solomon, O., & Lawlor, M. C. (2013). *Social Science & Medicine*, 94, 106-114. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.06.034

Lisa Aziz-Zadeh co-authored “Witnessing Hateful People in Pain Modulates Brain Activity in Regions Associated with Physical Pain and Reward” in *Frontiers in Psychology*. The study used functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) to compare brain activity when viewing likable people in pain with brain activity when viewing hateful people in pain.
[dx.doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00772](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00772)



Lisa Aziz-Zadeh co-authored “Modulating the Motor System by Action Observation After Stroke” in the journal *Stroke*. Alumna Sook-Lei Liew MA ’08, PhD ’12 was a co-author. The study used fMRI to assess how cortical motor activity during action observation—to promote motor recovery in stroke rehabilitation by observing another individual perform a motor task, thus engaging brain regions similar to action execution—is affected by stroke and by stroke-related motor deficits. The authors found that action observation activated specific motor plans in damaged motor circuits after stroke, and this activity was related to motor capability for performing the same actions.
[dx.doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.113.001105](https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.113.001105)

John Margetis and **Lisa Aziz-Zadeh** co-authored “Both Novelty and Expertise Increase Action Observation Network Activity” in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*. Alumna Sook-Lei Liew MA ’08, PhD ’12 was a co-author. The study used fMRI to examine the effects of different types and amounts of experiences on activation of the brain’s action observation network. Healthy participants without prior experience with amputees, experienced occupational therapists with varying experiences with amputees, and one individual born with below-elbow residual limbs were scanned as they viewed video of goal-matched actions performed by a person with residual limbs and by a person with hands. Results suggest a more nuanced model is needed to explain how cases of both extreme experience and extreme novelty can result in greatest activity of the brain’s action observation network.
[dx.doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2013.00541](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2013.00541)



Michael Carlson and **Flurence Clark** co-authored “Relationship of Global Self-Evaluations of Activity to Psychosocial and Health-Related Aging Outcomes” in *OTJR Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*. PhD student Ann Kuo ’14 was also a co-author. The authors tested the degree to which older adults’ self-rated judgments about the quality of their activity engagement predicted their well-being. Results suggest that two strategies for assessing activity—global evaluations and participation frequency ratings—should ideally be incorporated in future research on activity and occupational therapy practice.
[dx.doi.org/10.3928/15394492-20130712-01](https://doi.org/10.3928/15394492-20130712-01)



Sharon Cermak co-authored “Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Participate in Oral Care” in the American Occupational Therapy Association’s *Sensory Integration Special Interest Section Quarterly*. The article was co-authored by alumnae Elyse Peterson MA ’11, OTD ’12 and Leah Stein MA ’06, PhD ’13. Enhanced oral care is important for the overall health and well-being of children with autism spectrum disorders. However, atypical sensory processing contributes to maladaptive behaviors which not only create challenges for dentists and dental hygienists, but can compromise a child’s safety and care during dental cleanings. The authors review how sensory adapted environments can decrease aversive stimuli and reduce anxious and uncooperative behaviors during oral care.
aota.org/Publications-News/SISQuarterly.aspx



Sharon Cermak co-authored “Oral Care and Sensory Over-responsivity in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders” in *Pediatric Dentistry*. The article was co-authored by alumna Leah Stein MA ’06, PhD ’13. The study analyzed 396 parent questionnaires about their child’s oral care in the home and dental office to investigate the relationship between sensory sensitivities and oral care dif-

ficulties in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or typical development. Children with ASD were reported to have a significantly greater prevalence of sensory over-responsivity across all sensory domains, and those characterized as “sensory over-responders” exhibited significantly greater prevalence of oral care difficulty in the home and dental office.
www.ingentaconnect.com/content/aapd/pd



Camille Dieterle authored the chapter “Lifestyle Redesign Programs” in the second edition of *Occupational Therapy in Community-Based Practice Settings*, published by F. A. Davis Company. Designed to inspire readers to begin prevention and wellness treatment of chronic conditions in their practice settings, the chapter enables readers to understand the need for Lifestyle Redesign® and includes an overview of the history and components of this treatment intervention and describes programs for various populations and settings.
bit.ly/16BKajk



Karrie Kingsley co-authored *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Early Childhood: Birth Through 5 Years* published by AOTA Press. The guidelines address occupational therapy practice for children ages birth to 5 years old, and include early intervention and preschool practice. Other topics include prematurity, ASD, feeding disorders, obesity, neonatal intensive care, cerebral palsy, motor and praxis skills, sensory-perceptual skills, cognitive skills and communication and social skills. Interventions discussed include those promoting social-emotional development; for feeding, eating and swallowing; for improving cognitive development; for promoting motor performance; and for service delivery in early childhood.
bit.ly/HxFeOy



Karrie Kingsley co-authored “Evidence for the Effectiveness of Different Service Delivery Models in Early Intervention Ser-

vices” in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. The article was co-written by alumna Zoe Mailloux BS ’77, MA ’81, OTD ’12. The authors conducted a literature review of the evidence for effectiveness of different service delivery models and methods used to improve occupational performance for children and families who receive early intervention services. While no specific setting or method of service delivery was identified as clearly most effective, families consistently reported positive perceptions of family-centered and routine-based approaches, and parent participation and training was shown to result in positive outcomes.

[dx.doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2013.006171](https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2013.006171)



Olga Solomon and **Mary Lawlor** co-authored “‘And I Look Down and He Is Gone’: Narrating Autism, Elopement and Wandering in Los Angeles” in *Social*

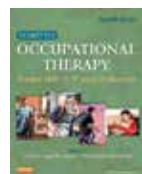
Science & Medicine. See more on page 14.
[dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.06.034](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.06.034)



Natalie Leland co-authored “Trends in Post-acute Care and Staffing in U.S. Nursing Homes, 2001-2010” in the *Journal of the American Medical*

Directors Association. The study’s objective was to document the growth of postacute care and contemporaneous staffing trends in nursing homes in the United States from 2001 to 2010 by longitudinally tracking annual changes in the levels of postacute care intensity, therapy staffing and direct-care staffing. In freestanding nursing homes, all postacute care intensity measures increased considerably every year from 2001 to 2010. In contrast, in hospital-based facilities, all but one of these measures decreased. Similarly, therapy staffing has risen substantially in freestanding nursing homes but declined in hospital-based facilities.

[dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2013.05.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2013.05.013)



Julie McLaughlin-Gray co-authored the chapter “Traditional Sensorimotor Approaches to Intervention” in the seventh edition

of *Pedretti’s Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction*, published by Mosby Elsevier.

bit.ly/HGqL7a



Elizabeth Pyatak was the lead author of “Disclosure of Psychosocial Stressors Affecting Diabetes Care Among Uninsured Young Adults with Type 1 Dia-

betes” published in *Diabetic Medicine*. To determine the disclosure rates of psychosocial issues affecting routine diabetes care, 20 young adults were interviewed regarding the impact of psychosocial stressors on their diabetes care. Interview results were compared with endocrinologists’ and case managers’ reports to determine different patterns of disclosure. High reported numbers of psychosocial stressors were associated with poorer glycemic control, while approximately half of all stressors were identified only via intensive case management and/or in-depth interviews. Identifying psychosocial stressors in routine care, and providing referrals to psychological or social services, is a significant unmet need which may improve glycemic control among certain populations with diabetes.

[dx.doi.org/10.1111/dme.12248](https://doi.org/10.1111/dme.12248)

Elizabeth Pyatak was the lead author of “Adherence Decision Making in the Everyday Lives of Emerging Adults with Type 1 Diabetes” published in *Patient Preference and Adherence*. The article was co-authored by Division research staff member Daniella Florindez. The study was designed to explore motivations underlying non-adherent treatment decisions made by young adults with type 1 diabetes. Five themes were identified as motivating non-adherence with diabetes care, and instances of non-adherence generally involved some combination of the five identified themes. Participants reporting non-adherence also described difficulties communicating with care providers, suggesting that non-judgmental communication may be particularly important in promoting positive health outcomes in this population.

[dx.doi.org/10.2147/PPA.S47577](https://doi.org/10.2147/PPA.S47577)



Shawn C. Roll was the lead author of “Longitudinal Design for Sonographic Measurement of Median Nerve Swelling with Controlled Exposure

to Physical Work Using an Animal Model” electronically published ahead of print in *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*. The study used an animal model to examine the feasibility of a longitudinal design to sonographically measure median nerve swelling caused by controlled exposure to a work task and to evaluate the relationship of changes in morphology to diagnostic standards. By measuring nerve conduction velocity and cross-sectional area, the study validates that swelling can be longitudinally observed in human populations.

[dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2013.08.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2013.08.008)



Shawn C. Roll co-authored “Establishing an Imaging Protocol for Detection of Vascularity Within the Median Nerve Using Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound”

published in the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*. The study was conducted to develop discrete sonographic instrumentation settings and safe contrast dosing that would consistently demonstrate perineural vascularity along the median nerve. Sonographic equipment settings and dosing were refined throughout to ensure consistent contrast-enhanced ultrasound imaging, successfully establishing adequate equipment settings and dosing that allowed for valid demonstration of vascularity surrounding the median nerve.

[dx.doi.org/10.1177/8756479313503211](https://doi.org/10.1177/8756479313503211)



Shawn C. Roll was the lead author of “Contribution of Positioning to Work-Related Musculoskeletal Discomfort in Diagnostic Medical Sonographers”

published online ahead of print in *WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment & Rehabilitation*. This pilot observational study obtained direct measures of the relationship of sonographers to their environment during sonographic examinations.

[dx.doi.org/10.3233/WOR-121579](https://doi.org/10.3233/WOR-121579)

Half Century Salute

To celebrate the relaunch of the Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Alumni Association, we asked Half Century Trojans, alumni who earned their degree more than 50 years ago, to reflect on their careers—and USC's impact upon them.

Marilyn Gould BS '50



"I grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, attending schools that not only offered excellent education but encouraged participation in community activities and intramural sports," recalls Marilyn Gould BS '50. "I played everything from baseball to field hockey, basketball to soccer, and at 12-years-old I became a serious golfer, winning several city tournaments by 15. In third grade I met Janis Page, who had cerebral palsy, and who inspired my first novel, *Golden Daffodils*, and its sequel, *The Twelfth of June*. Since then I have had 22 fiction and nonfiction books and stories published.

In 1946 I moved with my family to Los Angeles, received my Associate of Arts degree from UCLA, spent a summer at Columbia University and entered the occupational therapy program at USC, in which I received a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1950 I married Paul Gould, a graduate of UCLA, and we were together for 62 years. We have three children, all alums of USC, and six grandchildren, one who is a graduate of USC film school.

When our youngest child entered kindergarten, I received a teaching and special education credential, and taught kindergarten through sixth grade, high school physiology, and began writing fiction and nonfiction for children. Until last year, I visited and spoke in schools throughout the country, conducting workshops and teaching classes in "How to Write for Children." For the last 10 years I have been working on a historical novel, *Son of a Son*, which finally is nearing completion, and in my leisure time I play tennis, read, write and ski.

I feel lucky for the years spent at USC in the Occupational Therapy Department, and honored to have met and studied with Dr. Margaret Rood. Her influence made me aware of, and interested in, children with cerebral palsy, and it was my plan to work with them, as did Dr. Rood. However, marriage and children changed my direction. But from that experience I think I learned to be better skilled as a teacher, more patient as a parent, more objective as a writer and, in general, more compassionate."

Dagney Cooke

MA '57

Dagney Cooke MA '57 earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Marquette University prior to earning her Master of Arts degree in Occupational Therapy from USC in 1957, an auspicious beginning to what would become a long and distinguished career in the profession.

Cooke held the position of director of occupational therapy services at Beverly Manor Convalescent Hospital (Laguna Hills, Calif.), and was also an instructor of gerontology at Saddleback Community College (Mission Viejo, Calif.). She had the privilege of working under the legendary A. Jean Ayres while at Kabat-Kaiser Rehab Center in Santa Monica, and would start a physical rehabilitation program for patients with mental illness at the V.A. Hospital West Los Angeles.

But soon enough, this Trojan would come back to her roots, serving in what was then the USC Department of Occupational Therapy as an assistant professor with responsibilities for teaching the physical disability class and coordinating student fieldwork. Twenty years after first becoming a Trojan, Cooke became a two-time Trojan by earning her M.S. degree in Gerontology from USC in 1977.



"I had an excellent education and preparation for my long and varied career in occupational therapy. I'm proud of the growth and direction of the present OT program."

Tony Gilder

BS '48. MA '54



Tony Gilder BS '48, MA '54 grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School, where she studied art, in 1942. It was a period, she recalls, of feeling uncertain if she would even be allowed to attend, yet actually matriculate into, college.

But one day a friend told Gilder that a local college was administering an aptitude test, and encouraged her to sign up. Gilder did not think much of it but took the test anyway. Of all the students at her school, the counselor seemed most focused on Gilder and insisted that, yes, college was indeed an option for her! The counselor recommended she become either an art teacher or an occupational therapist, and because Gilder was not able to commute long distances and did not have many other local options, made her decision to attend USC.

"Studying OT at USC, with a supportive faculty, has enhanced my own life as well as that of my patients," Gilder says. "The courses and skills I learned have proven to be very useful. Occupational therapy is truly a design for living well."

Gilder spent her career in the profession working with pediatric populations including clients treated through California Children's Services, a state program that provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management and therapy to children under 21 with certain medical conditions.

Looking back on her time as an occupational therapist, one memorable experience with a boy who had cerebral palsy especially stands out.

"I told him to touch type and made him practice, even though he did not like it," she remembers. "Several years later he returned to see me and said that he was so grateful that I made him touch type. He informed me that, because I made him touch type, he later became a computer expert. I was so thrilled by his visit and it made for the most memorable experience."

After her official retirement, Gilder spent much time volunteering at a local hospital. She also learned of a California State University, Los Angeles grant working with multiple disciplines to track children from birth to 3 years old, and worked as part of the grant until she was 72 years old!

"USC is wonderful with what they have done with the profession, and I really benefited from it," Gilder fondly states. "Now I still do oil painting in my spare time."



Phyllis Hix
BS '58

"I graduated from USC with my B.S. in Occupational Therapy, did a year internship, received my OTR and have maintained it all this time," reminisces Phyllis Hix BS '58. "After that, I attended UCLA Law School, graduated, and received my Juris Doctorate degree in 1962. I have been, and still am, most fortunate because I have continued to practice both professions since graduating.

It has been my good fortune to have been the first female attorney elected to the California State Bar Board of Governors, serving a three-year term, and was elected as President of USC's Legion Lex, again the first non-USC law graduate to so serve [editor's note: Legion Lex is the fundraising support group for the USC School of Law].

I am a litigator, having had a law firm for many years in San Marino, after which I relocated to Kern County, where I am now living and am still litigating. As far as occupational therapy is concerned, I have specialized in both pediatric neurology, having been contracted to create departments by various entities, and in home health. I am currently employed by a regional hospital as an OT.

*"There are no words to express the
gratitude I feel for my alma mater."*

What did USC do for me? There are no words to express the gratitude I feel for my alma mater. I thoroughly enjoyed attending USC, albeit in another time. Dean Joan Schaeffer was Dean of Women then. Campus activities were wonderful. Long-term relationships, which are still tight, were formed.

But, as a young woman off a Midwestern farm, the on-campus experience broadened my world, my ability to think and go forward, to enjoy an education and all of the maturity, expanded knowledge and lifelong inquisitive nature that have been with me all these years. I was, and am, truly blessed by my Trojan experience."



Joy Huss
Cert. '58

A. Joy Huss Cert. '58 is a nationally recognized leader in the profession. In 1976, Huss, then a faculty member at the University of Minnesota, was awarded the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Award, the profession's highest academic honor. Her Slagle Address encouraged occupational therapists to develop greater awareness of their feelings in order to effectively use therapeutic touch with patients. She has been named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

"I must start with a feeling," begins Huss, "that someone who had a degree in another field was not satisfied and needed to look at other options. Testing at the USC Counseling Center led me to the OT Program for an interview. I was accepted immediately—so off I went, not quite sure what I had gotten into! There were seven of us in the certificate class. The program director was Angie Howard, and Miss Harriet Zlatohlavek was my advisor. What an experience I was about to have!

The program was intense with long days and some content that I was totally unfamiliar with, i.e. neurology taught on Thursday nights (two hours each) after a full day in classes. I did not do well! *Finally* it was time for 'affiliations,' including an extra one in a program for children and adults with cerebral palsy. What a disaster! I barely survived and was told, 'Never touch another [person with] CP. You are not cut out to work with them!'

To make a long story short, my first position in Sioux Falls, S.D., was in pediatrics. I was distressed to learn, the first day on the job, that three-quarters of my caseload (ages 3 to 18) were diagnosed with cerebral palsy!

Fortunately, my friend working on her master's in physical therapy at USC had taken Margaret Rood's class on neurofacilitation. Long letters went back and forth daily. My patients began to change for the better. I needed to know more! The administration gave me time off so I went back to USC for a month. Even though I typed my notes every night for clarity's sake I knew it would be a long haul to learn *why* it was working."

That certificate course would prove prelude to Huss' distinguished career in occupational therapy practice, education and leadership.

"So as you can see," Huss explains, "the University of Southern California had a major impact on my life and career!"



Anne Henderson
BS '46

Anne Henderson BS '46 is professor emeritus and founder of the doctoral program at the Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences at Boston University. Her distinguished career has witnessed multiple faculty appointments, including those of former professor and chair of occupational therapy at Boston University and coordinator of its advanced master's program in occupational therapy. She has also been an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania and an assistant professor and supervisor of occupational therapy curriculum at the University of New Hampshire.

Henderson's professional appointments are likewise impressive. She was a research coordinator at Boston's Kennedy Memorial Hospital for Children, now known as Franciscan Children's Hospital & Rehabilitation Center. She was an occupational therapy consultant at the Horace Mann School in Boston and Director of Training in Occupational Therapy at Fernald State School. She has also served as a research associate for the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Her research focuses on spatial abilities, hand function and activities of daily living of children, and her articles have been published in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.

"USC provided me with the professional education needed for my career in occupational therapy," said Henderson. "I was fortunate to study in a new occupational therapy program under the guidance of Margaret Rood."

Henderson has been inducted into Pi Theta Epsilon, the national occupational therapy honor society, and Pi Lambda Theta, the national honor society and professional association for educators. In 1974 she was named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association and received the AOTA Award of Merit in 1993. She was awarded the third Wilma West Lecture from the University of Southern California, delivering her lecture at the 1990 USC Occupational Science Symposium.

"I was fortunate to study in a new occupational therapy program under the guidance of Margaret Rood."



Rayma Casey
BS '45

Rayma Casey BS '45, artist and retired occupational therapist, was a graduate of one of USC's earliest classes of occupational therapy students. Her first job after graduating was treating veterans returning from World War II. She practiced for several years at the Beaumont General Army Hospital in El Paso, Texas, where she met her husband-to-be, a general surgeon. She later moved to work at Alaska Children's Hospital before becoming a full-time homemaker and raising her two children.

"Some of the [veterans], they must have been in their late teens or early 20s, were very depressed in addition to having physical disabilities," remembers Casey. "One boy was so depressed, I remember him throwing the shuttle back and forth, but later he began to have fun and looked forward to occupational therapy."

"Giving the boys choices of various projects in therapy such as weaving, painting, ceramics and woodwork made them feel capable again, and it even brought back laughter," Casey says.

"Some of the boys were able to get jobs and get back to work. It made me feel good to see their progress."

*"I look back on my days at USC
with fond memories—the friendships
I made, and the things I learned,
have influenced my life."*

Today, at 93 years old, Casey has golden recollections of her time as a Trojan occupational therapy student. "I look back on my days at USC with fond memories—the friendships I made, and the things I learned, have influenced my life."

All in the Family

13 NEW FACULTY MEMBERS JOIN DIVISION IN 2013

13 new members have been appointed to the faculty of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy for the 2013-14 academic year. These members fill two types of appointments: clinical faculty, who are primarily responsible for direct patient care at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice and Keck Medical Center of USC or administrative duties within the Division's educational programs, and non-tenure track research faculty, who have specialized expertise in particular fields or domains of research.

With 72 full-time members, the Division's faculty roster ranks among the nation's largest for educational and clinical occupational therapy programs.



Stefanie Bodison OTD, OTR/L, NDT > Research Asst. Professor > Stefanie Bodison is an expert on pediatric sensorimotor and neurodevelopmental interventions. Her current research uses multi-modal imaging to investigate the neural mechanisms of sensorimotor integration in children with neurodevelopmental conditions. She holds a KL2 Mentored Career Development Award from the USC Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute.



Elizabeth Carley OTD, OTR/L > Asst. Director of Admissions and Asst. Clinical Professor > Elizabeth Carley has extensive experience providing occupational therapy mental health services to at-risk, economically disadvantaged youth and their families. She has also served as coordinator for a community-based mental health agency and has co-authored a textbook chapter on adolescent mental health in occupational therapy.



Michaelann Gabriele OTD, OTR/L > Adjunct Asst. Clinical Professor > Michaelann Gabriele is an adjunct clinical faculty member involved with the development of quality tools for documentation and reimbursement of pediatric occupational therapy services. As a USC doctoral resident, she studied the impact of public legislation and insurance policies on pediatric occupational therapy services.



Scott Orr MA, OTR/L > Clinical Instructor > Scotty Orr provides clinical care services at Keck Hospital of USC primarily to patients in the critical care intensive care unit and to patients with heart failure, mechanical circulatory devices, post-cardiothoracic surgery, heart transplants and lung transplants. He is also involved with clinical documentation issues using KeckCare, USC's recently unveiled electronic medical records system.



Kimberly Perring OTD, OTR/L > Asst. Clinical Professor > Kimberly Perring is a clinical faculty member at Keck Hospital of USC, where she provides patient care to people affected by continence-related health issues in both in- and outpatient settings. As a USC doctoral resident, she increased occupational therapy's role in serving this population and improved providers' understanding of the impact of continence issues on quality of life and occupational participation.



Elyse Peterson OTD, OTR/L > Asst. Clinical Professor > Elyse Peterson is a clinical faculty member at Keck Medical Center of USC, where she works with a variety of patient populations and diagnoses. As a USC doctoral recent, she conducted research under the guidance of Professor Sharon Cermak exploring the effects of a sensory adapted dental environment on children's behaviors during oral care encounters.



Sarah-Jeanne Salvy PhD > Research Associate Professor > Sarah-Jeanne Salvy is a behavioral and social scientist trained in clinical and experimental social psychology. Her research focuses largely on eating behaviors and related issues including obesity, eating/feeding disorders, social influences and weight control programs. She previously held positions at the RAND Corporation and SUNY Buffalo, and her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health.



Barbara Gage PhD > Research Adjunct Professor > Barbara Gage is a national expert on Medicare Post Acute Care policy issues, including bundled payments, episodes of care and case-mix research. Her research has included case-mix analysis of long-term care, rehabilitation hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health and outpatient therapy patients, relative use of in- and outpatient rehab services and bundled post-acute payment demonstrations.



John Margetis OTD, OTR/L > Asst. Clinical Professor > John Lien Margetis primarily works with individuals in the medical and neurosurgical intensive care units at Keck Hospital of USC who have experienced acute neurological and cardiopulmonary decline. As a doctoral resident he authored a position paper defining the role of occupational therapy in acute care settings, and has been an invited lecturer on congenital amputations at USC and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.



Emily Ochi OTD, OTR/L > Asst. Clinical Professor > Emily Ochi provides administrative and research support for the Division's Sensory Integration, Engagement and Family Life Initiative for People with Autism and Related Disorders. She is also the Project Coordinator for the USC/WPS® Sensory Integration Certification Program. As a doctoral resident at USC, she explored the role of family-centered care in occupational therapy.



Stacey Schepens PhD, OTR/L > Research Asst. Professor > Stacey Schepens is an expert on the interrelationships between activity, mobility, chronic conditions and falls in older adults. She holds a K12 research award from the Rehabilitation Research Career Development program funded by the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders. She completed postdoctoral fellowships at USC and the University of Michigan.



Derek Snyder PhD > Research Asst. Professor > Derek Snyder is an expert on the physiology and perception of flavor sensation in animal and human populations. His publications have appeared in *Physiology & Behavior*, *Chemical Senses* and *Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology*. He was a former chair of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students.



Carey Sokol MA, OTR/L > Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Clinical Instructor > Carey Sokol joins USC as the academic coordinator of fieldwork education for mental health. She has been an occupational therapist since 1996 and has practiced in mental health, physical rehabilitation, pediatric and school-based settings. She has also previously served in management and fieldwork coordinator roles at various clinical sites.

(continued from page 15) wandering, even after an instance has occurred. Services that might mitigate elopement and wandering were likely to be absent from children's treatment plans. Other mothers described facing an uphill battle with public agencies that authorize or deny services when advocating on behalf of their child who has a tendency to wander.

Solomon and Lawlor's findings bring to light many complex issues located at the intersections of autistic symptomatology, healthcare and human services delivery, inequities in access to these services experienced by many African American families, personal safety, society's responsibility, and family and community life in urban environments. They hope their research becomes a step toward helping families and clinicians better understand one another in an effort to develop care plans and programs that are more considerate of, and responsive to, children's and family's needs. By listening to, and learning from, the mothers of children with autism, the very people who best understand the motivations and needs of their children, this research can empower families, clinicians and agencies to develop and deliver more individualized, comprehensive and family-centered services in the near future.

The study also points to an urgent need to understand elopement and wandering not as only the family's problem and responsibility, but as an issue that requires family-centered approaches throughout educational, healthcare and human services systems.

"What is especially evident from our data," Solomon said, "is that this is a problem not only for the families in our study but for others involved in caring, educating and providing services for the children—their teachers, their healthcare providers, the administrators who authorize their services and interventions, the law enforcement personnel who are called during an elopement incident and the community members who act on a moment's notice to bring the children back to safety."

"We hope that this research contributes new, useful information to address this complex and urgent problem." ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shan-Pin Fanchiang MA '88, PhD '99, chair of the Medical Consumer Health Information Program and education coordinator of occupational therapy and recreational therapy at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Downey, Calif.), was awarded the Staff-Level Patient Safety Leader Award from the Los Angeles County Dept. of Health Services. Arun Patel, DHS director of quality improvement, patient safety and risk management, and Mitchell Katz, DHS director, presented the award.



Shan-Pin Fanchiang, center, with (L) Arun Patel and (R) Mitchell Katz.

Assistant Clinical Professor Samia Rafeedie MA '05, OTD '06 and husband Ramez Ethnasios welcome a daughter, Jana Elyse, born October 23.



Anthony J. Gallegos BS '06, MA '07 and wife Mirza C. Gallegos welcome a son, Anthony Esteban, born April 4. He is eagerly awaiting his first USC football game!



COLLABORATION IS THE KEY FOR USC PROGRAM

Filomena Flores, 91, recently welcomed a group of USC students into her home. Though her visitors represented seven different professional programs across the university—dentistry, medicine, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant practice and social work—they arrived as a team.

Under the guidance of an accompanying faculty mentor, this was the first in a series of meetings aimed at teaching students to work collaboratively as they dealt with the health issues facing Flores and identified ways to improve her care.

In a bid to accelerate optimal patient outcomes, schools across the university work together to provide USC students with the education and experiences needed to become experts both in their own fields while collaborating with other specialists. The Interprofessional Geriatrics Curriculum (IPGC)—the program that brought the students to Flores' home—achieves that while helping low-income senior citizens suffering from chronic illness.

"Comprehensive geriatric care is best given by an interprofessional team," said Jo Marie Reilly, co-director of the Keck School of Medicine of USC's Primary Care Community Medicine Program.

"It's also a great way to teach students how to function on an interprofessional team, and to understand the expertise from each discipline and how they inform each other," added Brad Williams, professor at the USC School of Pharmacy.

Reilly and Williams are among the IPGC faculty mentors who advise students

as they prepare to interact with patients and obtain the information necessary to create a management plan that meets the multilayered health needs of the elderly.

Phuu Pwint Han, assistant professor of clinical dentistry at the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, described the IPGC as "our future healthcare model."

Other faculty members spearheading the program include Ashley Halle MA '11, OTD '12, assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy, and Maria Aranda, associate professor of social work.

Like the other schools at USC, the Ostrow School provides a number of off-campus opportunities for interdisciplinary care, including service at the Hollenbeck Palms Skilled Nursing Facility, the Union Rescue Mission and the JWCH Institute's Center for Community Health Downtown.

"Medical care is now too complex to be handled by just one provider," said gerontologist Freddi Segal-Gidan, assistant clinical professor in the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program at the Keck School.

Segal-Gidan also mentors students assigned to clinical rotations at the USC-affiliated Rancho Los Amigos National



Asst. Clin. Prof. Ashley Halle

Rehabilitation Center, where she serves as a staff physician associate. She said students enjoy "getting to know each other as future health professionals and developing not only an understanding of their various roles, but also personal connections that they can use beyond the IPGC."

Pharmacy student Brian Chou agreed: "This is really a great way to understand what other professions provide," he said. "Each team member is able to elicit certain information that pertains to their respective profession, which collectively reveals pertinent medical and occupational issues."

IPGC is one of many programs at USC supplying students with firsthand understanding of the importance of cross-disciplinary teamwork and the value each specialty brings to patient care.

"All health professions are pushing toward the interdisciplinary care team model," Han said, "and it is now a teaching requirement for most of us."

The program's benefits go far beyond the invaluable professional preparation it provides.

"We're reaching out to some of our most vulnerable citizens here," said Cheryl Resnik, associate chair and director of community outreach for the Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy. "These students' service to the community gives them an education nearly as vital as the techniques of working together to optimize people's health."

As students completed their first session with Flores, one of the many elderly and disabled people helped by IPGC over the past year, she held the hands of two team members.

"I look forward to our next meeting," she said.

—Kukla Vera is Director of Communications at the USC School of Pharmacy. Reprinted with permission.

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JIM PLUMTREE, 77

Jim Plumtree MA '78, member of the Board of Councilors of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, died July 1, 2013 at his home in Garden City, Idaho. His wife, Pat, their family members and friends were at his side.

James S. Plumtree was born Nov. 8, 1935 in South San Francisco to Sani and Leona Farrell Plumtree. After high school he enrolled at San Francisco State College, and in 1955 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, becoming a Navy Occupational Therapy Technician. After being honorably discharged he returned to study at San Francisco State and also held several positions in the banking and retail industries.

In 1968 he married Patricia Volland in Reno, Nev., and subsequently moved to Reno to complete his undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada.

Plumtree continued his career as an occupational therapy technician at the Nevada Mental Health Institute in Sparks, Nev., now known as Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. He earned his Master of Arts degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern California in 1978 with his thesis entitled "An Exploratory Study of Crafts in Occupational Therapy."

He was hired as assistant chief of occupational therapy at Saint Francis Hospital in Lynwood, Calif., and in 1979 became director of occupational therapy at Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital in Boise, Idaho. He was soon elected president of the Idaho Occupational Therapy Association and also served on the American Occupational Therapy Association's Council of State Association Presidents. In 1984 he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and in 1987 was elected the foundation's secretary, serving in that position until 1996. In 1996 the foundation named him its Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

In 1989, Plumtree was hired as the director of occupational therapy at Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Ind. In 2002 he and his wife, Pat, were appointed to the Board of Council-



ors of the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and he remained an active member through 2013.

"Jim Plumtree epitomized the essence of occupational therapy—always exuding optimism, positivity and love of our profession," said Florence Clark, associate dean of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

"In his presence, his colleagues, friends and patients were always motivated to be the best that they could be, not only in terms of stretching one's capacities and productivity, but especially in ethics and caring," Clark said. "He touched us all

profoundly, and his spirit will remain deep within our hearts as we strive to do good work in these complicated times."

Together, Jim and Pat enjoyed many wonderful times with friends, no matter where they lived. Travel, music, theater and gardening were especially favorite pastimes. His love for, and service to, the profession of occupational therapy and the University of Southern California will be fondly remembered.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests a gift to the Plumtree Art for Rehab Project, c/o Saint Alphonsus Foundation, 1055 N. Curtis Rd., Boise, ID 83706.

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ot.usc.edu/alumni/magazine

EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH

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2014 USC Women's Conference
Women Making an Impact
USC University Park Campus
alumni.usc.edu/womensconference

15 - 16

2014 Spring Symposium
Occupational Therapy Association of California
Paradise Pier Hotel & Disneyland Resort, Anaheim, CA
www.otaconline.org/index.php/spring-symposium

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2014 USC Alumni Day of Service
Worldwide
alumni.usc.edu/scservice

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USC Half Century Trojans
Going Back to College Day
USC University Park Campus
alumni.usc.edu/hct

APRIL

3 - 6

94th Annual Conference and Expo
American Occupational Therapy Association
Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD
www.aota.org/conference

7

USC Inter-Professional Education Day
Center for Health Professions
USC Health Sciences Campus
ot.usc.edu/news-and-events

12 - 13

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
USC University Park Campus
events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks

ONGOING

USC Life Management Series
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