November 2015

Greetings Amazing Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

The Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University remains strong and vibrant. We thank our past donors for supporting our efforts to prepare occupational therapists to meet the needs of California and beyond.

We have seen several changes over the past year and I am honored to introduce myself, Winifred Schultz-Krohn, as the Interim Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department as of Fall 2015. The previous Acting Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Cara, entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program as of the Fall 2015 semester.

We continue to strongly believe in building a sense of community and have a wonderful faculty and students in our department. I have the privilege of letting you know about some of the highlights! As of Fall 2015, students are expected to have an international experience to broaden their understanding of the profession from a multicultural perspective – the community of occupational therapy is not limited by geography! We are planning several faculty led programs that are designed to enhance this multicultural perspective in areas such as Grenada, Taiwan, Finland, Malta, and Vietnam. I would also like to extend the invitation to all alumni and friends who might be interested in joining these wonderful experiences! But our department does not only consider the distant community of other countries. Our department, with the new curriculum, understands the real occupational needs in the community. Two of the courses in our new curriculum have students going to community agencies where no occupational therapy services exist. These students design and implement programs with the guidance of our skilled faculty. They are true “trailblazers” of the profession!

As a point of pride as a Spartan, I would also like to share some amazing information about the students and faculty. Students complete a master’s project and this is carefully guided and supported by the faculty. This year over 50 students submitted and were accepted to present their respective research projects at the Occupational Therapy Association of California Annual Conference in Sacramento! They all did an amazing job of discussing their projects. Of further pride is the fact that most of these research projects were also accepted to the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference to be held in April 2016!

Our faculty have always been clear leaders in the profession with publishing major textbooks, research articles, and with service at the national level. We have faculty serving on the California Foundation of Occupational Therapy, on AOTA Commissions, and on editorial boards of prestigious journals.
As a friend or graduate of the Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University you have much to be proud of with the activities of the Occupational Therapy Department!

So how can you help us with our goal of educating the future occupational therapist?

In order to provide the level of educational excellence you received at SJSU, the Department must purchase and upgrade equipment for classrooms and provide travel funds for faculty and students to represent our wonderful program by presenting at conferences. Basic teaching materials and office supplies must be maintained. We understand that all of you have undoubtedly experienced similar budget crises and we particularly appreciate your considering your level of support at this critical time.

If you believe that San Jose State University and the Occupational Therapy Department contributed to, or were instrumental in your professional development and ultimate financial success please help us now with a generous financial contribution. If as a student you received a department scholarship, emergency fund grant or no interest fieldwork loan - please consider how beneficial that was to your success at school - and give generously to help our current students. There is no more important time to give than now and there is no more important investment you could be making in your profession than to give back to the school and program of which you can be proud.

With your generous financial help we will be able to ensure that the Occupational Therapy Department continues to excel and to graduate exceptionally prepared occupational therapists. Each and every contribution means so much to the department as it reflects the pride and respect you feel toward your SJSU Occupational Therapy family and our future.

Thank you for your generous support. Your gift will truly make a difference.

All the best to you!

Winifred Schultz-Krohn PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA