October 2016

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. I am honored to introduce myself, Winifred Schultz-Krohn, as Professor and Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department as of May 2016. I served as the Interim Chair last year and I have the privilege of letting you know about some of the highlights from this past year!

During the 2015-2016 academic year, our program underwent the careful and comprehensive process of reaccreditation. This required us to submit evidence that our program met the 189 standards established for occupational therapy academic programs. I am very happy to report that the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) awarded us a 10-year accreditation based on the strength of our academic program! This is the longest accreditation period awarded and we are very proud of the accomplishment!

We continue to strongly believe in building a sense of community and have wonderful faculty and students in our department. All occupational therapy students are expected to have an international experience to broaden their understanding of the profession from a multicultural perspective. During this past summer, several faculty led programs designed to enhance this multicultural perspective. These Faculty Led Programs included traveling to Grenada, Taiwan, Finland, Malta, and Vietnam. These programs are also available 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 understands the real occupational needs in the community. Two of the courses in our 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! Local agencies such as homeless shelters, inclusive playgrounds designed for children with various needs, and even the dorms on campus have benefitted from our students’ efforts, under the guidance of skilled faculty, to improve occupational engagement!

As a point of pride as a Spartan, I would also like to share some amazing information about the students and faculty. All 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 Pasadena! Of further pride is the fact that most of these student research projects were also accepted by the
American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference to be held in April 2017 in Philadelphia! All of these activities are made possible because of the generous contributions of our proud alumni and friends. Students devote long hours to their studies, are encouraged to submit their scholarly accomplishments for presentation, and then fund raise to help themselves and their fellow students attend various conferences and leadership events. It gives me great pleasure to use the funds you have contributed so generously to help them defray some of their expenses. Just a few hundred dollars makes the difference for a student being able to present his or her work at a professional conference or having to decline the honor. I truly hope you have the opportunity to attend any of their presentations – I think you will be amazed at the professional presentations – and you will know that the future of Occupational Therapy and the excellent reputation of OT at SJSU are in very capable hands with these enthusiastic, bright and kind-hearted students.

Of course the SJSU faculty is well represented at both conferences with presentations ranging from dysphagia to professional development, from falls prevention to the patterns of play behaviors. 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, the Occupational Therapy Association of California, on AOTA Commissions, and on many editorial boards of prestigious journals. If you want to know more about the students and the accomplishments of your faculty please visit our website at www.sjsu/occupationaltherapy. Online donations can be made through this website.

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.

**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
Professor and Chair of San Jose Occupational Therapy Department