Greetings Amazing Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

The Occupational Therapy Department at San José 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 serve as the Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department and have exciting news — the San José State University Occupational Therapy Department will celebrate 75 years of amazing students, alumni, programs, and faculty in Fall 2018! We plan to have a wonderful event with a continuing education program during the afternoon of October 5, 2018 followed by a reception to honor all our amazing students, alumni, and faculty! A more formal invitation will be sent closer to the time of the event but we take great pride in being the oldest public occupational therapy program in the West!

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 (FLP) included traveling to 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 required courses 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 occupational therapy students and faculty. All students complete a master’s project and this project is carefully guided and supported by the faculty. This year, close to 40 students submitted and were accepted to present their respective research projects at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia! Faculty were also well represented with presentations on topics ranging from sensory processing, fall preventions, school based practice, dysphagia, and the life of Dian Fossey who was a SJSU Occupational Therapy alumna! This conference also celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the profession of Occupational Therapy and Dr. Gigi Smith, a faculty member and a SJSU graduate, received the FAOTA Award! Of further pride is the fact that close to 30 of our current students completing their fieldwork level II experience presented research projects at the Occupational Therapy Association of California Annual Conference in Sacramento in October 2017! At that conference, I was honored to receive the CFOT Humanitarian Award for my pro bono work with homeless families.
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 at professional conferences, and then raise funds to 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 declining that honor. I truly hope you have the opportunity to attend their presentations – I think you will be amazed at their professionalism and commitment – 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 have always been clear leaders in the profession with publishing major textbooks, research articles, and with service at the state and national level. We have faculty serving on the California Foundation of Occupational Therapy, the Occupational Therapy Association of California, on AOTA Committees, and on many editorial boards of prestigious journals. If you want to know more about the accomplishments of our students and faculty, please visit our website at: [http://www.sjsu/occupationaltherapy](http://www.sjsu/occupationaltherapy).

As a friend or graduate of the Occupational Therapy Department at San José State University you have much to be proud of with the accomplishments 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. As we approach our 75th Anniversary we would like to challenge all alumni and friends to consider being recognized as a designated donor at our 75th Anniversary reception. A donation of $500.00 and above will be recognized at the Diamond level honoring the 75-year Anniversary! A donation of $300.00 - $499.00 will be recognized at the Gold level, $200.00 - $299.00 is the Silver level, and a donation of $150.00 - $199.00 is the Bronze level.

**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 make to your profession than to support the school and program of which you can be proud. Please contact us if you want information about including our program in your will or trust.

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