Greetings Amazing Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

Thank you to all our wonderful donors who continue to support the San Jose State University Occupational Therapy program as we prepare occupational therapists to meet the needs of California and beyond. We created a Special Donor Recognition section on the alumni page of our website. Please visit this page for updates and exciting opportunities. We are so grateful for the support you have provided to the department. I am truly honored to serve as the Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department and will highlight some of the amazing accomplishments over the past year.

The entry level degree for an occupational therapist has been a significant national discussion during the past several years. The latest decision by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) was to continue with both an entry level Master’s and the entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree. San Jose State is part of the California State University (CSU) and is authorized to offer baccalaureate and master degrees but not doctorates. The few doctorates offered by CSU campuses have received special permission through the California Assembly, Senate, and the Governor. The Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University is committed to provide students access to a degree in occupational therapy and argued that students would not have access to an OTD degree at a public institution if this permission was not granted. During the past year a very successful letter writing campaign and discussions with legislators resulted in the passage of a bill allowing the CSU campuses to offer an OTD degree! We will continue the Master’s degree and offer an entry-level OTD as an opportunity to access to both degrees at a public institution! We are very thankful to all who wrote letters of support to allow the SJSU OT department to offer both the entry-level MS and OTD degrees!

Our program offers a variety of international experiences to foster a multicultural understanding of occupational therapy and healthcare. All occupational therapy students are expected to have an international experience and many of the occupational therapy faculty are involved in Faculty Led Programs to various countries such as Finland, Vietnam, and Taiwan, to name a few! These Faculty Led Programs are also available to all alumni and friends who might be interested in travel. Details can be found on our website: http://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/about/

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 that is carefully guided and supported by the faculty. This year, over 40 students submitted and
were accepted to present their respective research projects at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in New Orleans in April 2019! Faculty were also well represented with presentations on topics ranging from sensory processing, sleep, school based practice, dysphagia, international experiences, and low vision. Of further pride is the fact that close to 40 of our current students completing their fieldwork level II experience presented research projects at the Occupational Therapy Association of California Annual Conference in Pasadena in October 2019! At that conference, Dr. Shawn Phipps, alum and former SJSU faculty member, presented the Honored Lecture at the California Foundation of Occupational Therapy Luncheon. Our own Master of Science OT graduate student, Colleen Nunn, received the Outstanding Student Award from OTAC and former faculty member, Dr. Anne MacRae, received the OTAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

All of these activities are 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 to 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 defray some of their expenses. Just a few hundred dollars makes the difference for a student to present his or her work at a professional conference. 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.

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. We have created donor categories and recognize donors on our website with the following designation:
A donation of $500.00 and above is recognized at the Diamond level, a donation of $300.00 - $499.00 is 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