



San José State
UNIVERSITY

College of Applied
Sciences and Arts

*Department of
Occupational Therapy*

One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0059
Voice: 408-924-3071
Fax: 408-924-3088
Internet: [http://www.sjsu.edu/
occupationaltherapy](http://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy)

Heidi McHugh Pendleton, Ph.D.
OTR/L, FAOTA
Professor and Chair

October 6, 2009

Dear Valued Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

It has been an exciting and challenging year for all of us in the Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University. Fall 2008 saw us initiating a new department chair as well as welcoming several new part-time faculty (some of the finest clinicians in Northern California) to teach the over 230 students currently enrolled in our campus program. Our highly regarded Post Professional On-line Master's program welcomed an incoming cohort of students representing occupational therapists from all over the United States and the World seeking further study. In Spring 2009 the department traveled to the AOTA Conference in Houston, where SJSU OT Department's own Dr. Kathleen Barker Schwartz delivered a stellar Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture. It was inspiring and an unparalleled honor to celebrate both Dr. Schwartz and the former Chair of the Department and previous Slagle Lecturer, Dr. Lela Llorens, who have brought such universal renown to our highly regarded program. Those of us alums who were there experienced a palpable and overwhelming sense of pride which I wanted to capture and communicate to those of you who were unable to join us. Despite the looming budget cuts and poor economic outlook we were able to hire a new tenure track faculty, Dr. Sheama Krishnagiri. Please visit our newly revised and accessible website (www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy) for more news about the faculty, Slagle Lecture, and the OT programs at SJSU including our excellent and growing professional development and continuing education opportunities.

We want to thank all of you who generously donated to us in our annual fund drive last year. Because of you, we are continuing to advance into the 21st Century and able to make up for some of the budget cuts we have endured! With your help we were able to support students and faculty to attend both the state and national occupational therapy conferences where they shared their research results through presentations and posters. We purchased several new pieces of equipment for our clinics. Thanks to your generosity, scholarships and Fieldwork Loans were made available to worthy students. These were exceptional accomplishments which enhance the mission of the Department and the University.

Our Department is strong but we need your help to meet the unprecedented challenges facing us today. You are our treasured family and friends and as such we are requesting from you a financial contribution to your Occupational Therapy Department. The devastating financial situation across the country is serious and the state of the economy in California has hit an unprecedented low. Due to the budget crisis San Jose State University is impacted. The faculty and staff voted - choosing furloughs and the concomitant 10.8% salary reduction for the year in order to avoid faculty and staff layoffs. Though we have a supportive new Dean for our College of Applied Sciences and Arts, Dr. Charles Bullock, the OT Department faces

The California State University:
Chancellor's Office
Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico,
Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Hayward,
Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles,
Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge,
Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino,
San Diego, San Francisco, San José,
San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma,
Stanislaus

large cutbacks and possible or very likely reductions in student enrollment. Student tuition was raised over 10% just this Fall and we anticipate another substantial increase in tuition for next year. Given a national shortage of occupational therapists to fill the 37% vacant positions for OT* we are more committed than ever to providing quality OT education to as many students as possible. In that pursuit, we are employing our most clever and creative strategies to sustain quality for the students while reducing expenditures deemed less crucial.

In order to provide the level of educational excellence you received at SJSU, the Department must purchase and upgraded 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 (one of the highest ranked state funded OT program according to US News and World Report Graduate Program Rankings) 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.

Kindest regards,



Heidi McHugh Pendleton, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Professor and Chair

*Bureau of Labor Statistics estimate.