Dr. Kay Schwartz Delivers Powerful Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture at 2009 AOTA Conference

by Anne MacRae, PhD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA
Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, San Jose State University

The many spontaneous eruptions of applause indicated the genuine enthusiasm of the AOTA Houston conference attendees listening to the 2009 Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture. Dr. Kathleen (Kay) Barker Schwartz presented a memorable speech that spoke to the hearts and minds of occupational therapists. The audience recognized that they were hearing a scholar of the highest calibre, resonated with the message and heralded the speech as “an inspiration” and “a gift”. In attendance were Dr. Schwartz’ many San Jose State University associates including students, faculty and alumni, as well as San Jose State University’s first Slagle Lecturer, Dr. Lela Llorens.

The singular honor of being awarded the Eleanor Clarke Slagle lectureship was based on Kay’s impeccable scholarship using the historical inquiry methodology that she learned during her doctoral studies at Harvard University. Her extensive list of professional presentations, as well as authored journal articles and textbook chapters, has shaped the education of countless occupational therapists throughout the world.

It was especially fitting that as the profession prepares for its 100th anniversary with our Centennial Vision, that one of the key people in our 75th anniversary celebration be honored and given the opportunity to share her vision. Dr. Schwartz was the guest editor for the American Journal of Occupational Therapy’s seminal 75th Anniversary Issue and was also the contributing editor of the “Looking Back Department” of AJOT from 1988-1998. More recently, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy as Foundation Historian, a position that was created in honor of her expertise in this area.

In Dr Schwartz’ lecture titled Reclaiming our Heritage: Connecting the Founding Vision to the Centennial Vision, she proposed that “the commonalities within the two visions create a continuity between our past and present; that the Centennial Vision does not represent a new set of values, but rather, builds on values that the profession has held since its inception in 1917.” A critical feature of all of Kay’s scholarship is how it has helped countless occupational therapists understand what unites us as a profession, the uniqueness of our discipline, and the proud accomplishments of occupational therapists from the inception of the field to current day practice.

Dr. Schwartz chose to focus on three of the founders: Eleanor Clarke Slagle, George Edward Barton, and William Rush Dunton. Not only did the audience hear about the social and political events that shaped these founders’ thoughts, Kay’s eloquent description helped the founders “come alive” as she explored the personal challenges and courage that also shaped their belief and values. The reformers of the early 20th century held “strong views about democracy and social justice, and a firm belief in the power of science to influence proposed social, educational and medical reforms. In particular, the reform movements involving arts and crafts, moral treatment, scientific management, and women’s suffrage would have a significant and direct influence on the founders of the profession of occupational therapy. … The founders displayed confidence, courage, hard work, creativity and a willingness to take risks. These characteristics are what we need to cultivate if we are going to lead our profession in implementing the Centennial Vision.”

In the conclusion of her speech Kay issued a “call to action” reminding us that “like the founders, we are confronted with inequities and disparities in society that affect people’s health, quality of life, and participation. Like the founders we have a powerful tool, the use of engagement in occupation, as both a means and end to health. … We all have the potential to be political activists, risk takers, and confident leaders. … Now it is our turn to take up the challenge as we enter a new century of occupational therapy.”

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President’s Message

Using Technology to Empower the Future of OTAC Education and Governance

Technological advances have made it possible for the world to communicate, learn and conduct business more dynamically and more cost-effectively. Recognizing this trend, the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) took several proactive steps this past year to ensure we were on the front end of this change.

OTAC now provides our OTAC newsletter in an electronic format for our members each month via e-mail blasts. In addition, we launched an OTAC page on Facebook, MySpace and OTConnections to provide social networking opportunities for our members. In addition, we have reformatted our Web site to provide 24-hour online access to the latest information on education, information and legislative updates. The OTAC Board of Directors also approved a new OTAC membership benefit in August, 2008 which allowed every OTAC member to access full-text evidence-based literature on cutting edge occupational therapy practice through a direct link on the OTAC Web site homepage. The OTAC board also held their first webinar meeting in June and plans to hold at least two meetings per year in an online webinar format.

In this next fiscal year, we envision that technology will drive the future of our membership services. We are planning to implement online occupational therapy education via webinar and podcast, as well as access to meetings with each member’s regional director via an online format. OTAC is not planning on replacing our live continuing education workshops, conferences and regional meetings. Instead, we plan on expanding access to education and governance so that every member has an opportunity to interface with the association given the challenge of on-site attendance of meetings, workshops and conferences.

In essence, our vision is that OTAC will be a “one-stop shop” for continuing education, whether you prefer to obtain your professional development units through online formats, PDU articles or in a live hands-on format. In addition, each member will have an opportunity to meet their regional director “face-to-face” without leaving their home.

As the OTAC Board of Directors begins a new phase of how we conduct business, we welcome suggestions and feedback from the membership on how to make this transition successful. Our goal is to provide a format that works for all members, recognizing the challenges of traditional education and governance formats. Please feel free to contact your regional director with suggestions on how to make our next steps successful. Also, if you have a particular skill set related to technology, we would like to request your participation on one of our OTAC committees, such as the OTAC Education Committee or the OTAC Web site Subcommittee. Together, we will actualize our goal of being the premier provider of continuing education and occupational therapy membership services in the State of California!

Understanding and Managing Visual Deficits: A Guide for OTs

Long Beach, CA - September 12-13, 2009

Designed to enable therapists to understand the complexity of the visual system and how vision deficits affect activities of daily living, to administer a vision screening battery, and to plan and implement both compensatory strategies and direct intervention techniques to manage vision problems. Appropriate for therapists working with either the pediatric or adult populations.

Serious Budget Crisis

by Jane Dressler, JD, OTR/L, OTAC Government Affairs Committee Co-chair

As everyone is aware, the Governor has announced a series of new cuts to balance the budget. The cuts include proposals to eliminate Mental Health Managed Care, as well as reduce funding to In-Home Support Services, education, SSI, Calworks, and the Early Start Program to name just a few targeted programs.

Some of the latest headlines include:

- **Budget Conference Committee Makes Big Health Cuts:** $1 Billion in Medi-Cal, Many More
- **Major Cuts, Not Full Eliminations of State $, for Healthy Families, AIDS Programs, Clinics**
- **In Order to Prevent the Worst of the Severe Cuts, Revenues and Taxes Needed**

The Budget Conference Committee of the California Legislature revisited some of the proposed cuts that they had delayed making during their first look at the Governor’s budget proposal. The legislators have made severe cuts, but rejected even worse proposals.

The Committee, chaired by Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, made significant cuts but largely rejected full-scale eliminations of Healthy Families and a variety of other programs and services. Significant reductions were made for most of the cuts the Governor has proposed.

A one-page list of all the health care cuts proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger is at the Health Access website, at: http://www.health-access.org/files/Revision%20Fact%20Sheet%2006-01-09.pdf

The decisions made included:

- **A $1 billion cut in Medi-Cal as part of “flexibility and stabilization” negotiations with the federal government, largely around “federal funds which are past due.”**
- **$700 million that the state claims were disability expenses to the state that should have been covered by the federal government, by enrolling those on Medi-Cal who are also eligible for Medicare due to disability more promptly;**
- **$75 million in redoing “clawback” calculations related to the implementation of Medicare Part D;**
- **An adjustment of Medicare Part B payments that should have been paid by Medicare, not Medi-Cal;**
- **An effort to reclaim over $400 million from provisions in the current hospital waiver that was negotiated in 2005. It is notable that the list does NOT include provider rate cuts or the eligibility reductions that were originally raised and discussed when this proposal was first floated a few weeks ago.**

Additional decisions included:

- **A $70 million cut to Healthy Families, which would establish and send children to a waiting list for coverage, unless other sources of funding or donations were made. (Last year, the First Five Commission provided $17 million to Healthy Families to prevent a waiting list from being established, but this is a significantly bigger hole to fill.) This cut is actually larger than the Governor’s original $54 million cut to roll back eligibility for over 225,000 children between 200 to 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Without additional assistance, a $70 million cut could mean the Healthy Families program bars any new children from enrolling for a long while, denying well over 200,000 children of coverage.**
- **The rejection of the elimination of Medi-Cal coverage for ‘legal’ immigrants, both legally residing and those with PRUCOL status.**
- **$34 million would be shifted from the distressed hospital fund rather than making the Governor’s cut to the state’s private Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH).**
- **A 30 percent cut to state funding of community clinic programs.**
- **An $11 million, rather than $16 million, cut to Maternal Child Adolescent programs like the Black Infant Child Program.**
- **A cut of $35.5 million cut from about $80 million provided for AIDS and HIV programs, both education and prescription drug service programs.**
- **A $26.5 million reduction in Adult Day Health Care Centers, as opposed to a full elimination as the Governor and the Republicans on the committee supported. The compromise proposal would cap the use the ADHC for three days, among other provisions.**
- **A narrower cut to small and rural hospitals than what the Governor proposed.**
- **The cutting of nearly half, rather than all, of the state’s poison control system.**

In dissent, Republican legislators voted for many of the Governor’s original proposals for full elimination of these programs, including Healthy Families, the statewide source of coverage for nearly one million lower-income children.

The Republican legislators on the Committee – notably Assemblyman Roger Niello and Senator Bob Dutton – often berated their Conference Committee colleagues for waiting to make the tough decisions, and for not making the full cuts. But Assemblymembers Evans and DeLeon and Senator Lowenthal spoke eloquently for the need for other options, and to prioritize between spending cuts. But on AIDS programs and other such efforts, they made clear, “people will die,” if the programs are eliminated.

The situation is overwhelming to everyone is California. Nevertheless, to ensure that our voice is heard and that services for people with disabilities are maintained to the highest degree possible it is necessary for each and every one of us to write to our legislators now.

continued on page 4
May 28, 2009
The Honorable Leland Yee
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Yee:

As an Occupational Therapist providing living skills training to people with chronic mental illness and a concerned voter in your legislative district, I am urging you to reject all legislative proposals that call for massive and devastating cuts to mental health programs. I understand that the governor is calling for a complete elimination of the Medi-Cal Mental Health Entitlement for Adults program. The elimination of this program may save the state money, but it would leave counties only with Realignment Funds and minor new programs funded by the Mental Health Service Act, but with no one having any entitlement. Not only is this proposal disastrous to programs in your legislative district and throughout the state, it is fundamentally inconsistent with the passing of the California Mental Health Services Act.

Without exaggeration, it is my opinion that clients will literally die on the streets without necessary mental health services. Another possibility would be the higher usage of hospital and jail and prison beds. None of these outcomes would be acceptable.

While it is clear that there are extraordinary challenges in balancing the state’s budget, the progress that our mental health system has made in recent years should not be put in jeopardy. Our clients and programs did not create this budget problem, and fixing the problem should not come at their expense. I respectfully urge you to vote “NO” on any budget proposal that fails to honor disaster to clients that you serve. I understand that the governor is proposing cuts in funds, and they are fundamentally inconsistent with the passing of the California Mental Health Services Act.

Our clients did not create this budget problem, and fixing the problem should not come at their expense. I respectfully urge you to vote “NO” on any budget proposal that fails to honor disaster to clients that you serve. I understand that the governor is proposing cuts in funds, and they are fundamentally inconsistent with the passing of the California Mental Health Services Act.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jane Dressler, JD, ORT/L
Registered Occupational Therapist/Licensed

Creative Billing Services
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Lake Forest, CA 92630
Sample letter specifically on the topic of cuts to the Early Start Program

(Date)

The Honorable (Full Name of Legislator)
California State Assembly or California State Senate
State Capitol, (Room #)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator (last name) or Assembly Member (last name):

I am writing to urge you to vote against cuts to the Lanterman system and Early Intervention programs.

As an occupational therapist I understand the value of early intervention. Let me share a story with you that demonstrates the value of early intervention and the possible consequences to not having early intervention programs. (Share a story)

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]
[Title]
[Address]
[Daytime Telephone Number]
[Email Address]

Other information on this issue you should know:

The key people to contact on this issue now are the members of the budget conference committee members:

Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, 916/319-2007
Senator Denise Ducheny, 916/651-4040
Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield, 818/904-3840
Senator Mark Leno, 916/651-4003
Senator Alan Lowenthal, 916/651-4027
Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, 916/319-2002
Senator Bob Dutton, 916/651-4031
Senator Mimi Walters, 916/651-4033
Assemblyman Kevin de Leon, 916/319-2045
Assemblyman Roger Niello, 916/319-2005

Also the IDEA website (Idea.ed.gov) is a good source of current information.

California Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Action

Do you know of an OTAC member who practices in a different, yet exciting area? Developed an innovative therapy tool? Or is just plain interesting? Let us know: contact the Editor of the OTAC Newsletter at newsed@otaconline.org.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Attention occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
California Penal Code (PC) section 11166 requires you, as a person licensed or certified under Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect to:

- Any police or sheriff’s department (not including a school district police or security department);
- The county probation department (if designated by the county to receive mandated reports); or
- The county welfare department.

For more information on the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, refer to PC sections 11164 et seq..

Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting
California Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 15630 requires you, as a health care professional, to report known or suspected elder or dependent adult abuse to:

- If the abuse occurred in a long-term care facility (except a state mental health hospital or state developmental center), the report shall be made to the local ombudsman or the local law enforcement agency;
- If the abuse occurred in a state mental hospital or state development center, the report shall be made to designated investigators of the State Department of Mental Health or the State Department of Development Services, or to local law enforcement agencies;
- If the abuse occurred in any other setting, the report shall be made to adult protective services agency or local law enforcement agencies.

For more information on the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act, refer to W&I Code sections 15600 et seq..

Failure to comply with the requirements of these acts is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in a county jail, by a fine of one thousand dollars ($1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

Source: California Board of Occupational Therapy

Earn PDUs ... Write an Article

Did you know that you can earn Professional Development Units (PDUs) for an article published in the OTAC newsletter?

Check out the requirements for continuing competency at the Board of Occupational Therapy Web site at www.bot.ca.gov/board_activity/lawsRegs/regulations.shtml

OTAC welcomes and encourages its member to submit articles on topics such as their specific areas of practice, new innovative treatments and community-based services. How are you incorporating the Centennial Vision of AOTA into your practice? We want to know.

Submit your article to the Newsletter Editors at newsed@otaconline.org. (Articles may be edited at the discretion of the newsletter editors.)

Submit your article today and earn PDUs.
OTAC Election Results

Diana Su-Erickson, OTR/L, OTAC Nominations Chair, is pleased to announce the results of the 2009-2010 elections. Please extend your congratulations to the individuals listed below. Chair Su-Erickson also expresses her appreciation to all those who voted in the elections. Our new electronic voting method garnered 100% more votes than our recent direct mail balloting on the Bylaws revisions.

2009-2010 Election Results

President: Shawn Phipps, MS, OTR/L
Vice President: Patricia Nagashi, PhD, OTR/L
Treasurer-elect: Lisa Hiestand, MS, OTR/L
Secretary: Jackie Mardirossian, MA, COTA/C
Region 1 Director: Christine Vicino, COTA/C
Region 2 Director: Heather Kitching, MA, OTR/L
Region 3 Director: available opportunity
Region 4 Director: John Goodfellow, MOT, OTR/L
Region 5 Director: Marlene Steele, COTA/C

President - Shawn Phipps, MS, OTR/L
As current OTAC President, Shawn’s first term will conclude June 2010 and he will then serve for another two-year term from July 2010 through June 2012.

CURRENT POSITION: President, Occupational Therapy Association of California

EDUCATION: Ph.D. Student, Health Care Administration, Touro University (2005-Present); Master of Science, Occupational Therapy, San Jose State University (2002); Bachelor of Science, Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California (1997).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Therapy Manager, California Children’s Services, Los Angeles County Medical Therapy Program (2008-Present); Occupational Therapy Clinical Specialist, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANC) (2004-2008); Clinical Faculty, California State University Dominguez Hills (2003-2008); Per Diem Occupational Therapist II, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (2005-2008); Occupational Therapist II, (RLANC) (2002-2004); Occupational Therapist I, RLANC (1998-2002).

LEADERSHIP: President: (2008-Present); President-Elect (2007-2008); Director, Region 2 (2006-2007); Director, South East Los Angeles Chapter (SELAC) (2002-2006); AOTA Representative Assembly Alternate Representative, California #1 (2006-2008); Chair, Los Angeles Occupational Therapy Leadership Forum (LAOTLF) (2007-2008); Vice-Chair, LAOTLF (2006-2007); Co-Chair, 2008 Local Conference Committee (LCC), AOTA Conference in Long Beach (2007-2008); OTAC Executive Committee Member At Large (2003-2006); Associate Director, SELAC (2000-2002); Government Affairs Committee (2002-2007); Education Chair, SELAC (2000-2002); Co-Chair, Occupational Therapy Practice Issues Forum (2003-2008); Co-Chair, People Power, LCC, Long Beach (2003-2005); OTAC Paper/Poter Proposals Coordinator, Conference Committee (2004).

HONORS: AOTA Cordelia Myers Writer’s Award (2008); OTAC Occupational Therapy Practice Award (2005); AOTA Service Commendation (2005/2006); CFOT Janice Matsutsuyu Memorial Graduate Scholarship (2005); OTAC Chapter of the Year (2004); CFOT Ardith Breton Memorial Graduate Scholarship (2000).

Vice-President - Patricia Nagashi, PhD, OTR/L
As current OTAC Vice President, Pat’s first term will conclude June 2010 and she will then serve for another two-year term for July 2010 through June 2012.

CURRENT POSITION: OTAC Vice President

EDUCATION: PhD, Special Education, UCLA-CSLA (joint doctoral program in early childhood special education); Master’s, Occupational Therapy, USC; Bachelor’s, Psychology, USC.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Currently working as occupational therapy specialist at Pasadena Unified School District, Hodges Center, Special Education Department and Birth to 5 Programs; Part-time instructor, California State University Dominguez Hills, Occupational Therapy Department; Member, AOTA Nominations Committee.

Treasurer-elect - Lisa Hiestand, OTR/L
Lisa will serve as treasurer-elect for the one-year term July 2009 through June 2010 and then a two-year term as treasurer for July 2010 through June 2012.

CURRENT POSITION: OTAC Active Member

EDUCATION: Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, 2004; Texas Tech University; Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, 1990; Texas Woman’s University.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Acute Care Occupational, Speech, and Pediatric Therapy Supervisor; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Los Angeles, CA (Aug. 1997-Present); Rehabilitation Director (PT, OT, ST)/Occupational Therapist; Sharon Care Center, Los Angeles, CA (May 1993-Aug. 1997); Acute Care, Skilled Nursing, Outpatient Clinic, Supervisor/Occupational Therapist Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, TN (June 1990-May 1993).

LEADERSHIP: Occupational Therapy Association of California (Chapter Director 2004-2006); Los Angeles Occupational Therapy Leadership Forum (Chair 2003-2005); co-chair Occupational Therapy Practice Issues Forum (2007-2009).

Secretary - Jackie Mardirossian, MA, COTA/C
Jackie will serve as secretary for the two-year term July 2009 through June 2011.

CURRENT POSITION: OTAC Third Party Reimbursement Committee Member since 2008.

EDUCATION: MA - Communication Management, University of Southern California, 2003; BS - Business Administration, Mount St. Mary’s College, 1999; AS - OTA, Mount Aloysius College, 1984.

Region 1 Director - Christine Vicino, COTA/C
Christi will serve as region 1 director for the two-year term July 2009 through July 2011.

CURRENT POSITION: Active OTAC Member

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: Employer, Grossmont College, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program; Member OTAC San Diego Chapter 1996-2000; Member OTAC Region 1 - 2006-current; San Diego Chapter Treasurer - 1997; San Diego Chapter Secretary - 1998; San Diego Chapter Associate Director - 1999.

Region 2 Director - Heather Kitching, MA, OTR/L
Heather will serve as region 2 director for her second two-year term July 2009 through July 2011.

CURRENT POSITION: OTAC Region 2 Director

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: Has more than 17 years clinical practice experience and more than 7 years academic teaching experience. Consistently involved in OTAC at the local level for more than 12 years with very recent experience in developing the transition from chapters to regions, welcoming and orienting our current executive director and participating as local volunteer and host during both the 2005 and 2008 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference & Exposition meetings in Long Beach, California.

Successfully supported many positive actions in OTAC over the last several months: voted in support of the ProQuest benefit for members, assisted in the design and implementation of the “student special” for the 2008 OTAC Conference, and continued the development of partnerships with the OT programs at both the University of Southern California and California State University, Dominguez Hills. Consistently support innovative and creative efforts for student recruitment and retention as student members can become career-long members. They are the foundation of an association that becomes a long-term power broker in social and political aspects of business in the state of California.

Spent the last several months expanding the functional definition of the role of Regional Director and am now beginning to collaborate more directly with committee representatives within the region for more local contact and dissemination of information to the regional membership. Started work on designing a model of collaboration that will partner OTAC with major providers of education and training for practitioners.

Region 3 Director
OTAC is currently recruiting for candidates for Region 3. If you are interested, please contact Nominations Chair Diana Su-Erickson at nominations@otaconline.org.

Region 4 Director - John Goodfellow, MOT, OTR/L
John completed one year of the two-year term for the previous region 4 director. He will now serve his two-year term July 2009 through July 2011.

CURRENT POSITION: OTAC Region 4 Director

EDUCATION: Obtained Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Degree from Samuel Merritt College in Oakland, CA in 1997. Received Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science and Health from the University of Utah in 1995.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: While at Samuel Merritt, was the Student Body President. Background in occupational therapy includes experience in pediatrics and adult neuro-rehabilitation. Certificate in Sensory Integration, including administering and interpreting the SIPT.

Started a pediatric OT practice in 1999. Goodfellow Occupational Therapy provides pediatric occupational therapy to children in a state-of-the-art outpatient clinical setting. Also provides school-based therapy and home-based early intervention via contracts with several school districts in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties.

Goodfellow Occupational Therapy currently employs 14 OTs and 3 COTAs, and has been a Fieldwork Site for several Occupational Therapy students. Goodfellow Occupational Therapy works actively with college students who need volunteer hours to apply to University Occupational Therapy programs, and many of these student volunteers have been accepted to OT programs. John is active in his community. Past Board Member for the Fresno Area Down Syndrome Society and Rainbow Ranch Equine Therapeutic Center.

Region 5 Director - Marlene Steele, COTA/C
Marlene will serve as region 5 director for the two-year term July 2009 through July 2011.

CURRENT POSITION: OTAC Bylaws Chair

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Graduated from Sacramento City College in 1992 as an OTA. Has a Bachelors degree in Health Care Administration and is working towards a Masters in Health Care Administration with a specialty in Health Education. Has been in practice for 17 years in various practice areas from skilled nursing, outpatient, inpatient hospital, home health, pediatrics in the schools, and currently working as the Admissions Manager and Clinical Coordinator for Rehab Without Walls. Has been an instructor with Sacramento City College since 1995. Previous OTAC board roles have been OTAC treasurer, bylaws chair, membership chair, and ways and means chair. When OTAC had the chapter structure, Marlene was the chapter secretary and associate director.

continued on page 12
Thank You to Our Exhibitors and Sponsors

Be sure to visit these exhibitors in the OTAC Annual Conference Exhibit Hall to learn more about the latest OT products and services.

Exhibit Hall Dates, Hours and Activities:

Friday, October 23, 2009 – 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Join us for the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Reception.

Saturday, October 24, 2009 – 11:30am – 2:00pm
Picnic lunch will be available for purchase. Enjoy a quick lunch and then visit the exhibitors you didn’t have a chance to see on Friday evening.

And don’t forget our new Exhibit Hall Bingo. Fill up your Bingo card and be eligible for cash and prizes compliments of our Bingo sponsors.

AccentCare, Inc.
Aegis Therapies
Amedisys Home Health
Brighton Rehabilitation
Broda Seating
California Board of Occupational Therapy
California Foundation for Occupational Therapy
California Telephone Access Program
Casa Colina
Catholic Healthcare West
Cedar Sinai Medical Center
Child Development Institute
City of Hope
Columbia Medical
Consortus Rehab Services
Dynatronics Corp./Rajala
Evergreen Healthcare
Every Child Achieves, Inc.
Hallmark Rehabilitation
HCR ManorCare
Innovative Senior Care by Brookdale
Mariner Health Care
National Ambucs/Amtryke
NBCOT
North Coast Medical Inc.
ONR, Inc.
Pediatric Therapy Network
PeopleFirst Rehabilitation
Preferred Healthcare Registry
Premier Healthcare Services
Progressus’ Therapy
Rehab Without Walls
RehabCare
Sammons Preston
San Jose State Occupational Therapy Department
Select Therapies, Inc
Steps Therapy Inc.
Sundance Rehabilitation
Sunny Days Early Childhood Dev. Services
Supplemental Health Care
Sutter Health
The Ensign Group
Therapy Specialists
Total Education Solutions
UCLA Health Systems
UCSF Medical Center
USC Division of Occupational Science and Therapy
Sponsors
Catholic Healthcare West
Consortus Rehab Services
Hallmark Rehabilitation
RehabCare
Zaner-Bloser

Interesting in being a Bingo sponsor?
Contact Shannon Rutledge at Shannon@otaonline.org.
Stay at Our Conference Headquarters Hotel

OTAC is pleased to bring its Annual Conference to the exquisite Hyatt Regency Sacramento. The Conference Committee strongly encourages you to consider staying at our headquarters hotel. You will be close to all of the conference activities and action affording you many opportunities to network and reap the rewards of the synergy of this premier educational conference.

We also encourage you to stay at our conference headquarters hotel for reasons that benefit the membership. You may not be aware that planning a premier educational conference such as ours involves a partnership and delicate balancing act, if you will, between the association, the headquarters hotel and convention center. In exchange for providing OTAC with the meeting and exhibit space at a discounted market rate, OTAC commits to a certain number of total sleeping room nights and food and beverage service. If we fall below our contractual commitments, then we are obligated to pay a penalty. The potential penalty would have a serious impact on the profitability of the conference. So while you might save $10 per night at another hotel several blocks from the conference headquarters hotel, OTAC’s conference profitability could be significantly impacted.

So how do we decide on the total number of sleeping rooms to contract for on behalf of our attendees? Unfortunately there is no scientific, sure-fire formula. It is part historical (looking back on the conference attendance of prior years as well as the last time the conference was in this particular location), part forecasting (because we sign contracts two to three years in advance, we try our best to anticipate what and where OTs will be interested in and at what price is in their future affordability range), part intuition from the collective knowledge and experience of the Conference Committee and part luck.

Other factors that affect how we apply our ‘formula’ include economic conditions, current practices within our profession, and how strong or weak the current market is for the hospitality industry. For example, if we commit to too few sleeping rooms and our sleeping room block sells out quickly that could affect our registration numbers. In addition, the fewer sleeping rooms we commit to with the hotel, the less meeting space we are able to reserve for our educational sessions. A hotel is in business to service its guests and clients and make a reasonable profit. If we reserved all of their meeting space, but very few sleeping rooms, they would not have the opportunity to sell those sleeping rooms to another meeting group because we had reserved all of the meeting space. There must be a reasonable ‘usage’ ratio between the number of sleeping rooms reserved compared to the amount of meeting space reserved.

We hope that you appreciate the diligent and conscientious work of the Conference Committee and that you will support OTAC and its premier Annual Conference by staying at our headquarters hotel – go ahead, treat yourself to a stay in the exquisite Hyatt Regency Sacramento.

Hotel reservations with the Hyatt Regency Hotel are now open. Make your reservations in advance as our Group Room Block sells out. Go to the OTAC Web site and click on the Hotel Room Reservation link.

Outline of Activities

Schedule is subject to change

Friday, October 23, 2009
7:30AM Registration Opens
8:30AM-11:30AM Concurrent Sessions including a special advocacy session at the State Capitol
CFOT Lunch
Concurrent Sessions including:
Keynote Address: AOTA President Penny Moyers Cleveland, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA
5:00PM-7:30PM Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Reception
7:30PM Receptions: Alumni and Students; General

Saturday, October 24, 2009
7:00AM Registration Opens
8:00AM-11:00AM Concurrent Sessions
11:00AM-2:00PM Exhibit and Poster Sessions
2:00PM-5:00PM Concurrent Sessions, including Special Interest Groups
6:00PM-6:30PM Celebration Reception
6:30PM-8:30PM Awards Gala

Sunday, October 25, 2009
8:00AM Registration Opens
9:00AM-1:30PM Concurrent Sessions
1:30PM-4:30PM OTAC Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

We have negotiated a room reduction to $138. Take advantage today of this new rate!
32nd Annual Conference OTAC Award Winners

by Judi Palladino, MA, OTR/L, OTAC Awards Chair

**Gina Ceja Receives 2008 Jan Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award**

The Jan Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award recognizes a member of OTAC who has made sustained and significant contributions to the association and its objectives. Recent recipients include Marlene Steele, Rondalyn Whitney, Patricia Nagaishi, Sarah Kelley, Linda Tank, Danielle Meglio and Luella Grangaard.

Gina Ceja is a long-time dedicated OTAC member who decided that she wanted to make a difference. She took over the daunting task of editing the OTAC newsletter, restructuring it to make it more interesting and compelling to its readers. With the support of many talented writers, she highlighted innovative OTs in California, introduced human interest stories, discussed emerging practice areas and topics of interest, and turned AOTA and OTAC information into understandable and actually interesting reads.

Gina Ceja’s commitment to produce a quality publication worth reading exemplified her sustained, significant contribution to OTAC and made her deserving of the Outstanding Service Award.

**Marilyn Noriega Receives 2008 Outstanding Fieldwork Educator Award**

The Outstanding Fieldwork Educator Award recognizes a member of OTAC who has demonstrated outstanding skills in fieldwork education. Recent recipients include Lora Woo, Deborah Bolding, Bonnie Nakasuji, Fred Snively, Jaynee Taguchi-Meyer, Katie Gundersen and Gitu Bhavnani.

Marilyn Noriega has been involved in fieldwork education for many years. She currently oversees the fieldwork education program for Masada Homes, along with her roles of chief operations officer and training coordinator. What made her an ideal candidate for this award is her recent undertaking of inviting over 50 level one fieldwork students to complete their hands-on rotation at Masada’s various community sites and provide pro bono services for high risk adolescents who would not normally be eligible for services. She convinced the CEO of Masada to provide the staffing needed to oversee these students and run the pro bono services. She successfully orchestrated the entire fieldwork experience. She organized a schedule so that groups of OT students ran groups for six weeks with a given frame of reference and appropriate topic. Each student was able to prepare and lead a one-hour group session supported by an OT and fellow group members. Students then were required to document and received detailed feedback for their professional growth. In addition, Marilyn personally oversaw one of the groups.

Marilyn Noriega’s years of experience in fieldwork education and her willingness to plan and execute an exceptional fieldwork experience for so many students is a wonderful demonstration of exemplary fieldwork education skills worthy of the Outstanding Fieldwork Educator Award.

**Tara Delaney Receives OT Entrepreneur Award**

The OT Entrepreneur Award recognizes a member of OTAC who is acknowledged by peers as a resource person, who is seen as being very knowledgeable of OT principals and practice, and who has demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial expertise and skills in marketing and development of client and or program services. This is a relatively new award for OTAC, with the first recipient in 2007 was Susan J. Harris.

Tara Delaney relocated to Sacramento from Texas more than six years ago. Since her arrival she has built an impressive pediatric business covering 12 local school districts employing many extremely satisfied occupational therapists. She is the founder and executive director of BabySteps, which provides consultative, evaluative and direct treatment services in schools and private settings. She specializes in sensory integration, autism, ADHD and learning disabilities; has developed educational programs that incorporate the developmental needs of children with their educational goals; regularly conducts seminars teaching her trademarked program called Making Sense-ory and has written a new book called Indoor Kids. She and her husband Bill, who runs the day-to-day business of their company, have also expanded BabySteps to include “Steps” therapy offering adolescent, adult and senior services. Together they also run Temair Educational and Consulting Services to assist other OTs in the development and expansion of private business.

Tara Delaney is a therapist who definitely exemplified true entrepreneurial spirit and was very worthy of the OT Entrepreneur Award.

**Make a Nomination for the 2009 Awards**

All of these 2008 recipients are great examples of outstanding practitioners within our state. Do you work with or know of an OT practitioner who has been a role model or inspiration to you or others? Please consider nominating that person for a 2009 OTAC award. We accept nominations throughout the year, but do not wait until the last moment to nominate. Honor a fellow OT this year with a nomination today. Please visit the OTAC Web site for information on the nomination process. If you have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at awardschr@otaonline.org, jpalladino@llu.edu, or at my work phone at (909) 558-8638. Thank you in advance for your nomination.
Why Should I Join My State OT Association?
A Therapist’s Dilemma
by Babak Amali, OTR

As a member of OTAC, I have been paying my dues for several years. Every year I received a membership renewal, wrote a check and mailed it back. In return, I got a new card with my name and ID number. I didn’t really know what to do with the card, so I filed it with the rest of my stuff in the “Stuff File.” Even though I had no idea where the money was going and how it was being spent, I never asked myself why I was paying the annual dues. I guess, at the time, it just felt like something I should be doing.

Last year as the economy took a dive, I, like many other people, started looking at the family expenses. “Where can I cut back?” I asked myself. I looked further into our receipts and into the “Stuff File.” “Eureka,” I could save $190 a year by cancelling my OTAC membership. “Unreasonably priced for something that I don’t even use,” I thought disappointedly. “I must have surely paid my dues to the profession by now.” I made a note on my to-do list to not renew.

Luckily, I forgot to check my to-do list. I say luckily because if I knew then what I know now, I would have never even thought about cancelling my membership. $190 per year…is that it? Many of us pay five times more a year just to buy a daily $3 cup of coffee! Then I thought, “I bet the argument will be ‘I enjoy my cup of coffee every morning’. What do I get from my OTAC membership?”

Hmmmm… “What do I get?”

I did some research. First I Googled "professional association” and found a few definitions: “A Professional Association is an organization formed to unite and inform people who work in the same occupation. …and… "Professional Associations exist for the benefit of the individuals within that organization, to look after their interests, and to provide them with information and resources to help them in their career." Well, that sounds good but is that worth what I pay? What else is there for me? I researched more: "Professional Associations offer networking opportunities, continuing education and information. They work to advance the profession through maintaining/developing standards, encouraging/providing professional development and legislative advocacy. They watch for trends, changes, advances in their industry, and help members to stay up-to-date through newsletters, conferences, seminars…”

I stopped and thought about it. I have been using OTAC’s newsletters and Web site to find out what is going on in my profession with all the federal cutbacks. I have been going to OTAC conferences and seminars to network with others and further educate myself for a very reasonable cost. In fact, I received my continuing education hours for CBOT Physical Agent Modalities Advanced Practice Approval through courses provided by OTAC. OTAC has also notified me every time a piece of legislation may potentially jeopardize my profession.

This year, I have been going to OTAC’s Board of Directors meetings, and I am not even a board member. I contacted them and asked if I could attend as a guest. They replied, “Please do.” After going to the first meeting, I gained so much appreciation for what they do. I realized what I would have missed if I wasn’t part of this association. It is amazing how much OTAC does to keep my profession moving forward.

I was so proud! My annual OTAC dues were spent in the best possible way. I found out that OTAC even has a plan allowing new or renewing members to pay in installments. Many employers offer funds for continuing education or licensure fees. Why not take it one step further and see if this money can help with OTAC dues?

All you need to do is to log on to OTAC’s Web site and click on JOIN. It’s as simple as that.

I checked my to-do list the other day. It read in bold: Get involved in your professional association! OTAC

Please visit www.otaconline.org and click on JOIN for a complete list of member benefits and details on membership categories, dues and the E-Z Pay Plan.
The Private Practice Network is now more than 50 members strong. We held our first teleconference on May 19, 2009 that focused on finding the needs and wants of our members. We also provided a recap of some of the billing and reimbursement trends over the past several months for Medicare, Medi-Cal, and private and workers compensation insurances.

Many members expressed interest in finding out more about the nuts and bolts of business practice including documentation, liability, reimbursement and employment/hiring practices. Many expressed an interest in having informal dialogs with experienced practitioners.

In order to facilitate communication, a Yahoo group site was approved to provide a venue for ongoing discussion and posting of resources and data such as a member list and areas of practice. Belinda Torrez has set up the OT Private Practice Network group site at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OTPPN. Please join the group. We will set up educational webinars in the future. And please plan to join us for a face-to-face meeting at OTAC’s Annual Conference in Sacramento on Saturday, October 24 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm.

The mission of the Private Practice Network is to help OT private practice grow. We distribute information, provide support, offer educational opportunities and facilitate communication among OT private practice members. Since our network is supported by OTAC and there is no additional fee for this membership, we encourage all OTs in private practice to join. The only requirement is to be an OTAC member.

Acknowledging Leadership Service
At the June 13, 2009 Board of Directors meeting, President Shawn Phipps acknowledged the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their dedication and contributions to the association and the profession over the past year. He particularly wants to recognize the Board of Directors’ members whose terms concluded June 30, 2009 and asks that you all thank them as well for their service. Board of Directors’ members whose terms concluded June 30, 2009: Suzanne Olah-Macek, COTA/C, Secretary; Phyllis Nayak, OTR/L, Region 1 Director; Matt Arigo, OTR/L, Region 3 Director; Lynette Beadles, OTR/L, Region 5 Director.

Sarah Bream, MA, OTR/L, OTD candidate, is the division director of OTTP, and will serve as principal investigator on the project. OTTP is one division of the nonprofit agency, Special Service for Groups.

OTAC Private Practice Network
Private Practice Network Gaining Momentum
by Laura Stewart, OTR/L, CHT, Third Party Reimbursement Committee Chair and Belinda Torrez, MA, OTR/L, CLT

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Living the Centennial Vision: Occupational Therapy Effectiveness in Improving the Lives of Adolescents to be Measured through a Department of Labor Demonstration Grant

The Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP) is a community-based mental health program, which serves disadvantaged children and adolescents at-risk of or living with mental illness. On June 2, 2009, the United States Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced that OTTP is one of only 13 providers across the nation who has been awarded a three-year demonstration grant in the amount of $750,000 targeted to improve the overall self-sufficiency of high-risk, pregnant and/or parenting mothers and fathers ages 16-24. This grant award will allow OTTP to measure the effectiveness of specific occupational therapy interventions modeled after Lifestyle Redesign®, developed by researchers from the University of Southern California Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy (Clark et al, 1997). This project is another example of how occupational therapy practitioners across the country are living the Centennial Vision.

Sarah Bream, MA, OTR/L, OTD candidate, is the division director of OTTP, and will serve as principal investigator on the project. OTTP is one division of the nonprofit agency, Special Service for Groups.

References:
OTAC Region Directors

REGION 1
Christine Vicino, COTA/C
reg1dir@otac.org

REGION 2
Heather Kitching, MA, OTR/L
reg2dir@otaonline.org

REGION 3
Available Opportunity
Contact nominations Chair Diana Su-Erickson at nomchr@otaonline.org

REGION 4
John Goodfellow, MOT, OTR/L
reg4dir@otaonline.org

REGION 5
Marlene Steele, COTA/C
reg5dir@otaonline.org

New Member Benefit
Did you know that OTAC members now have access to FREE articles, journals and data?
Checkout ProQuest via the OTAC Web site
www.otaonline.org

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Vendor and Service Ads (add $150 for color ads)

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Discounts given for multiple prepaid ads

- 10% for 6 consecutive issues
- 15% for 11 consecutive issues
- Ads are not commissionable
- Ad copyright/artwork due by the 1st of the month preceding the month of designated publication.
- OTAC is not responsible for returning artwork.

Member-Get-A-Member

OTAC Welcomes New Members

OTAC welcomes the new members listed below and expresses its appreciation to those individuals who made the referrals. Every new and renewing member makes OTAC that much more powerful. Did you know that you can earn credits towards a reduction in your annual membership dues when you refer a new member to OTAC?

For more information, e-mail Debbie Wasserman at debbie@otaconline.org.

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ProQuest Webinar: How to Use ProQuest for Everyday Evidence-Based Practice

Coming soon -- ProQuest training via a webinar. Participate in this one hour training at your leisure, from your home or office or even while travelling. The $25 course fee for members ($50 for nonmembers) allows you to repeat the training within a 7-day period. ProQuest is an online database with full-text articles. Learn how to use this database to find evidence to support everyday practice. The webinar will be available on the OTAC Web site beginning July 27.

Questions? Contact the OTAC office at info@otaconline.org.

Region 5 Members Conference Call
You are invited by the OTAC Region 5 Director Marlene Steele to participate on a conference call to explore ideas for continuing education topics and events in the region, as well as to help identify priority activities for the association. July 29, 2009 6:30pm - 8:00pm Visit the OTAC Web site home page to register. There is no fee to participate on this toll-free conference call.

AUGUST 2009

Serial Casting for the Hypertonic Upper Extremity
August 8, 2009 – Earn 4 PDUs 1:00pm – 5:00pm Center for Neuro Skills – Bakersfield 2658 Mount Vernon Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93306 Visit the OTAC Web site home page to register and/or download the registration form.

SEPTMBER 2009

8th Annual Afternoon Tea with a Scholar
Featuring Terry Peralta, PhD, OTR/L September 20, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. USC Center for Occupation & Lifestyle Redesign Visit the OTAC Web site home page to download the registration form.

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September 12 & 13, 2009

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We appreciate all the dedicated members who pay your own dues out of your own pocket. We applaud you and pledge to do our best to further occupational therapy in California.

We also want to take this opportunity to recognize those companies who pay the OTAC dues for their employees as part of their benefit package. It is a valuable way to further OT and to demonstrate commitment to employees. Furthermore, many of these firms provide funds to attend OTAC conferences and workshops. It’s good for business and it’s the right thing to do.

Special Recognition

Thanks to the following who have paid dues in recent weeks for their employees:

Advanced Therapy Center
Certification Business Meeting
Citrus Valley Medical Center, Inter-Community / Queen of the Valley
DBA LD Therapy Services
Inland Empire Occupational Therapy Services, Inc.
Loma Linda University
Skills with Occupational Therapy
Thera Bond, Inc.
Therapy In Your Home – OT, PT, ST

The San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services is seeking an Occupational Therapist to work in the Mental Health Services Psychiatric Health Facility. As a 40-bed inpatient program, the facility was designed to treat individuals in need of intensive therapeutic psychiatric services. The culturally diverse program employs four inpatient psychiatrists, four social workers, psychiatric technicians, mental health specialists, an out-reach worker, registered nurses, an occupational therapist, a recreational therapist and clerical staff to provide quality mental health care in a patient-centered, supportive, culturally sensitive milieu.

The Psychiatric Health Facility’s objective is one of community service with the focus on individualized treatment, prevention, early intervention, and rehabilitative services. The goal of the Psychiatric Health Facility is to provide short-term quality treatment in order to return patients to the community. Psychiatric interventions are provided on a 24-hour basis to assist individuals in controlling the disabling effects of mental illness or related emotional problems.

The position requires a California license as an Occupational Therapist issued by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.

We offer a comprehensive benefits package. Apply online at www.sjgov.org/hr or contact Holly Nguyen at (209)953-7326. San Joaquin County Human Resources 24 S. Hunter Street Room 106 Stockton, CA 95202. EOE.