December 2021

Dear SJSU Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am happy to be writing you as we welcome in the holiday season.

This has been a very busy fall semester. We welcomed our students back to campus, with over 80% of the OT classes once again offered in person. Wearing a mask and distancing when possible has become something that we just do. Students seemed genuinely happy to be on campus, interacting with professors and other students. One positive thing that resulted from the on-line learning that we needed to do during the pandemic, was that instructors became very skilled and creative at using on-line resources. These additional resources and ways of presenting material has enhanced the learning experience of our students.

Our fieldwork coordinator, Cesar Arada, along with help from Professor Alison George worked magic to find fieldwork placements for our students. This was an especially challenging endeavor given the number of sites who still have not begun taking students again. As alumni of our program, we need you! Please consider being a fieldwork educator for one of our students. We would love to have our students receive their clinical training from a SJSU alum. Your collaboration is vital to our mission of providing clinically diverse, high quality fieldwork experiences for our student. Please contact Cesar at cesar.arada@sjsu.edu for more information.

San Jose State University is well known for its excellent occupational therapy program and we are very proud to announce that we will be offering an Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree with our first class starting as of Spring 2023! We continue to offer the highly popular Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program and will add the Entry-Level OTD degree program as the first state funded program within California. Until now the only option for an OTD in California had been private institutions. We worked extremely hard through meetings with the California State Legislators, the Governor, and the California State University Chancellor to achieve this goal.

The entry level degree for an occupational therapist is at both the Master’s and OTD levels, and the faculty felt a deep commitment to maintaining access to the profession. To provide the greatest opportunity for students to become occupational therapists, the faculty voted to retain the MSOT degree in addition to offering the OTD degree.

I am happy to announce that we our recruiting for a new tenure track faculty position that will begin in the Fall of 2022. Associate Professor Dr. Carolyn Glogoski, quietly retired this year and is enjoying time with family in Michigan. We miss her and wish her the very best that retirement has to offer.
Our faculty continue to be leaders in the profession despite the travel restrictions imposed by COVID. This year our faculty had virtual presentations accepted at the following professional conferences: The Forum’s Annual Conference on Education Abroad; AOTA Inspire Annual Conference; 2nd Council of Occupational Therapy for European Countries-European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education Congress; Utah Occupational Therapy Virtual Annual Conference; OTAC Annual Conference; 8th World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress; Mountain West OT Virtual Conference and the 2021 Virtual Conference of the Society of Occupation: USA Occupation and Gender. Additionally they have been busy conducting research, writing articles and chapters and editing textbooks.

We recently went through an upgrade and re-design of our website. Please visit our beautiful, newly refreshed website at http://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy

Sadly, we also the experienced loss of our beloved colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend, Dr. Anne Macrae, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 23rd. Please read more about Anne on our website at https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/faculty/ Anne is very much missed by the many people whose lives she has touched. A grant in her name is being established through the California Federation of Occupational Therapists (CFOT). More information will be available on our website.

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. With your help we are able to support students and faculty to attend state and national conferences where they have consistently shared their research through presentations and posters. We have created donor categories and recognize donors on our website. 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.

We created a Special Donor Recognition section on the alumni page of our website https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/Alumni/. We are extremely thankful for the support you have provided to the department.

If you believe that San Jose’ State University and the Occupational Therapy Department contributed to, or were instrumental in your professional development, please help us now with a financial contribution. 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 has special meaning to the department as it reflects the pride and respect you feel toward your SJSU Occupational Therapy family and our future. Your gift will truly make a difference. Thank you for your generous support.

Warm regards,

Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chair and Associate Professor – San Jose’ State Occupational Therapy Department