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Dear SJSU Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am delighted to be writing you as we welcome in the holiday season. This has been a busy year, and I am thankful for our wonderfully curious students, outstanding faculty, and incredible staff.

San José' State University is well known for its excellent occupational therapy program, and we are proud to offer both the MSOT program and the entry level OTD program. The inaugural doctoral students who began the program in 2023 will be going out on their internships this Spring and will then move on to their capstone projects and graduation in Fall 2025. We are extremely proud of this group of pioneer doctoral students, and we are excited to accept our 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort this Spring semester. Our MSOT graduates continue to excel and do important things in a variety of practice settings throughout the state, across the country and internationally.

I am pleased to announce that we are currently recruiting for lecturer faculty positions. If you are interested or know anyone who is interested in this opportunity, please see <https://jobs.sjsu.edu/en-us/job/527969/occupational-therapy-lecturer-pool> or contact me directly at [gigi.smith@sjsu.edu](mailto:gigi.smith@sjsu.edu). We are also always looking for new Level I and Level II fieldwork sites. If you do not currently have students at your work site, please consider providing our students with the opportunity to learn from you as the experiences provided during fieldwork are crucial to their education. Contact Dr. Cesar Arada [cesar.arada@sjsu.edu](mailto:cesar.arada@sjsu.edu) for more info.

The Occupational Therapy faculty continue to be exemplary leaders in the profession. This past year faculty had multiple presentations accepted at state, national and international professional conferences. At the recent OTAC annual conference in Pasadena, SJSU was well represented with 10 faculty presenting 12 different workshops and sessions. Faculty and students also presented 7 posters. Lecturer Alison George received the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition for her outstanding contributions to the profession at the Awards Ceremony. Emeritus faculty Dr. Winifred Schultz-Krohn was the co-chair of the well-attended OTAC conference. Dr. Schultz-Krohn also received the 2024 Distinguished Educator Award and the AOTA 2024 Retired Educators Commendation Award. Dr. Luis Arabit received the AOTA 2024 Award for Excellence in the Advancement of OT. For more details about these prestigious awards please go to: <https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/about-us/faculty-staff/index.php>  
This year Dr. Lynne Andonian received a prominent Fulbright Specialist award to develop a curriculum at JAMK University in Finland where she is currently completing a sabbatical.

Additionally, this impressive faculty have been busy conducting research (often with our students), authoring articles and chapters and editing textbooks. Please see <https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/about-us/faculty-staff/faculty-research-publication.php> for more information about the exciting and timely scholarship of the faculty.

Sadly, on November 12, 2024, the Occupational Therapy profession lost one of its legendary pillars, Lorraine Williams Pedretti, a 1964 graduate of then San José State College. Emeritus Professor Pedretti was a beloved SJSU OT Department faculty member from 1968-1994 and was the San Jose State University OT Distinguished Alumna of the Year for 2004. She demonstrated influential leadership through the creation of one of the first (now 9th edition) and most highly regarded national/international textbooks devoted to occupational therapy for persons with physical disabilities – Pedretti’s Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction. She was also one of the 100 most Influential people in Occupational Therapy’s 100-year history

We also lost a dear distinguished alumna (1997) and former faculty this year, Dr. Alice Kibele, who made tremendous contributions to the profession and community with her expertise in pediatric occupational therapy. She authored many articles and given numerous professional presentations in her lifetime.

Thank you to all our wonderful donors who continue to support the San José’ State University Occupational Therapy program as we prepare occupational therapists to meet the needs of California and beyond. With your help we can support students and faculty to attend state and national conferences where they consistently share their research through presentations and posters. We also hope to further enhance our faculty led clinics to provide an even richer experience for our students. 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/about-us/alumni.php> We are extremely thankful for the support you have provided to the department.

**If you believe that San José’ State University and the Occupational Therapy Department contributed to, or were instrumental in your professional development, or you wish to help with the enrichment of our programs, 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 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 Professor – San José’ State Occupational Therapy Department