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Chair and Professor
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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 during this beautiful summer season. This has been a busy academic 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 class of doctoral students completed their capstone projects, graduated in Fall 2025 and are proudly representing SJSU as doctoral trained occupational therapists. Our MSOT graduates continue to excel and do important things in a variety of practice settings throughout the state, across the country and internationally. This past year the Occupational Therapy Department received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) for both our OTD and MSOT programs. We also wished a wonderful well-deserved retirement to Catherine Fanfa-Sullivan, Alison George, and Jeanne Koketsu. You are very much appreciated for all your contribution to the OT department and to the generations of OT students.

Thank you to our wonderful alums who help prepare our next generation of occupational therapists by taking fieldwork students. 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 for more info. We would also love to talk with you if you are interested in having an OTD student complete their capstone project with you. This is an amazing opportunity to work with a highly motivated student on an important project at your site. Please contact our Capstone Coordinator, Dr. Courtney Boitano Courtney.boitano@sjsu.edu for more information.

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 AOTA annual conference in Anaheim, SJSU was well represented with faculty and students presenting workshops, sessions, and posters. At the OTAC conference in November, SJSU faculty and students again were presenters on many different topics. SJSU alum and long-time lecturer faculty, Dr. Jean Koketsu was the CFOT Honored Lecturer, delivering a riveting lunchtime presentation to a packed audience. Dr. Heidi Pendleton received the 2025 CFOT Meritorious Service Award for their years of service to the CFOT Board. Several SJSU students received CFOT scholarships and seed money, and several faculty received CFOT research awards.

Dr. Cesar Arada received the 2025 OTAC Fieldwork Educator Award. SJSU was also very well represented at the international WFOT Congress 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand presenting papers and posters. In addition to presenting at conferences, 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.

In June, the OT Department hosted the OTAC 2026 OT Spring Symposium at SJSU. This was the first Spring Symposium held in No. Cal. In over 20 years! There were 4 practice area tracks, with 21 sessions, and 32 presenters, many of whom were SJSU alums. Please consider joining us next year, see our department renovation and meet up with old and new OT friends.

Thank you to all our very much appreciated 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,
- \$300.00 - \$499.00 is at the Gold level,
- \$200.00 - \$299.00 is the Silver level, and
- \$150.00 - \$199.00 is the Bronze level.

We created a Special Donor Recognition section on the alumni page of our website. Visit the link at <https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/about-us/alumni.php>

If San José State University and the Department of Occupational Therapy have played a meaningful role in your professional journey, we invite you to give back by making a financial contribution. Your generosity helps strengthen our programs, expand opportunities for our students, and ensure that future generations of occupational therapists graduate exceptionally well prepared to serve their communities.

Every gift, regardless of size, has a lasting impact. Your support reflects the pride, connection, and commitment you share with the SJSU Occupational Therapy community and helps us continue our tradition of excellence. Together, we can invest in the future of occupational therapy and empower the next generation of practitioners.

Thank you for your generosity and for being an important part of the SJSU Occupational Therapy family.

Warm regards,



Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA