

THE MOTIVATOR

Online edition of the
**Occupational Therapy Alumni
Newsletter**

Winter-Spring 2006-7

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Greetings from the Director

Greetings from Washington Heights!

We have had an exciting year, with noteworthy accomplishments and significant plans for our future. As the occupational therapy profession continues to move in important new directions, we too are moving forward. This edition of The Motivator will give you a glimpse into our programs' vision.



First, we welcome two new full time faculty members. Having served on our adjunct faculty for five years, Debra Tupe has made the move back to New York City and now directs the pediatric component of our curriculum. Debra also directs an international service learning / consultation program, and has taken students and faculty with her to Cuba. You may recall reading an article about this in an earlier edition of The Motivator (2004). She is continuing this work not only in Cuba, but in other countries as well. We are very excited that she has moved this interdisciplinary program to Columbia, and will be continue to include students and faculty as she brings her expertise to other nations.

Dr. Sharon Gutman has joined our faculty as well and is directing the research curriculum for our entry level program. Sharon is well known for her work with clients with neurological conditions, and has authored a series of books that are read in curricula throughout the country (our website showcases our faculty authored texts). She also was instrumental in the development of the Bridge Program, which is a supported education program for adults with mental illness. Initiated while on faculty at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey, Sharon has brought this program to New York City and will be researching client outcomes. Our students will be involved in this program as part of their mental health coursework.

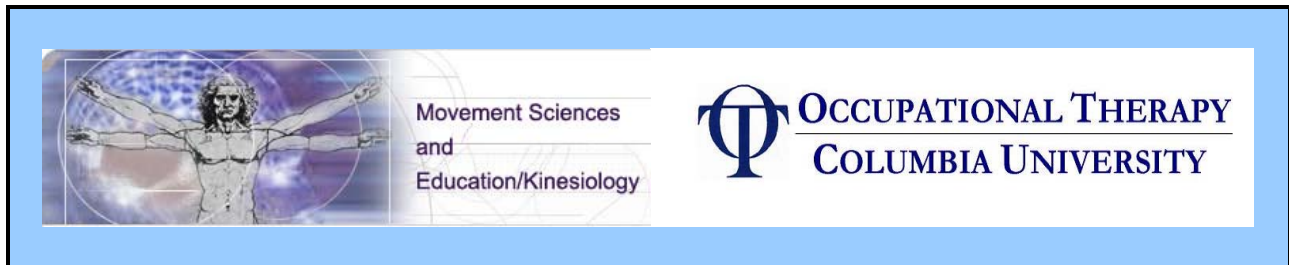
As our faculty grows, so does our program. We are very excited to announce our partnership with Teachers College as we offer the Doctor of Education in Movement Science with a specialization in Occupational Therapy. The importance of doctorally prepared occupational therapists in advancing evidence based practice cannot be overstated, and we are proud to be able to prepare talented individuals towards the research doctoral degree.

We hope you enjoy reading about our program. And please, let us know what you are up to!

Sincerely,

Janet Falk-Kessler, Ed.D., OTR, FAOTA
Director, Programs in Occupational Therapy

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION



The newly established Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Program represents a unique partnership between Teachers College and the Programs in Occupational Therapy. The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Movement Science with a specialization in Occupational Therapy is directed toward preparing the current and the next generation of leaders in Occupational Therapy with interests in movement and daily function. These leaders will assume professorial roles in Universities and Colleges within departments of Occupational Therapy. The degree may lead to:

- Tenure-track faculty position in Occupational Therapy departments emphasizing teaching and field-based research.
- Research Coordinator (university, hospital, clinic)
- Director/Administrator (university, teaching hospital)

By combining the resources of two top ranked programs, doctoral students will have the opportunity to further their expertise in neuromotor and physiological function pertaining to movement within the context of occupational therapy practice and research. Coursework in will be taken in both programs, culminating in research carried out under the supervision of Occupational Therapy faculty who have adjunct appointments at Teachers College, with the additional support of Movement Science faculty.

HOPE 2007

The New York City Street Survey

On Monday night, January 29, four students and a faculty member from the Programs in Occupational Therapy joined in the New York City's Department of Homeless Services' annual, volunteer midnight count of people who are homeless and living on the streets. The purpose of this citywide survey is to gather census data that are accurate so that the government can plan more effectively for the needs of this vulnerable population, and simultaneously, it is a consciousness-raising experience for those who do the interviewing and counting. They joined thousands of diverse citizens in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, beginning at 10:30 pm and ending by 2:30 am. One student reflected on the other volunteers she worked with that evening: "I was the only woman; we were from all walks of life." Training consisted of how to approach a person on the street respectfully and encourage their participation in the survey, to avoid stereotyping people who are homeless, and to make arrangements for transport of people who wanted to go to drop in centers in the sub-freezing temperatures. Another student shared her thoughts about encountering two people who were living on streets near the main campus: "It made me really consider the number of people who actually live on the street in a way that I had never considered before. When we spoke to the two homeless gentlemen that we encountered, I did not want to offend them by my judgmental attitude; neither of them fit the stereotype of a homeless person." All students agreed it was an important learning experience, releasing them from their normal routines as students in the classroom and broadening their education. All are planning to do it again next year!



Participants included (left to right in photograph): Gretchen Ward, Erin Williamson, Nicole Voight, Carron Logan and Instructor Emily I. Raphael.

G. Gordon Williamson, PH.D., OTR, FAOTA Retires



After thirty years on our faculty, teaching kinesiology and demonstrating “gorgeous extension” to over 900 students, Gordon Williamson decided it was time to start his new phase of life. But his mark on Columbia’s Programs in Occupational Therapy will last throughout this new century, as we have all been privileged to have worked with and learned from one of our profession’s greatest!

Gordon hails from Arkansas, and despite living in New York for many decades, his southern twang never left. After receiving a political science degree from Emory University, Gordon became a member of the first class to receive the Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy –1970 – of Columbia University. He then went on to receive his PhD in Special Education, also from this university. His work with children and his scholarship and research continues to influence occupational therapy practice.

As a ground breaker, he has had a career that has been marked by numerous awards from a variety of professional organizations. He has testified to both houses of congress at hearings related to children, and his scholarship has been recognized by the AOTF’s Academy of Research. He has served on numerous Boards of Directors; has led pediatric rehabilitation departments, and directed numerous grant-funded projects that bettered the lives of children. Gordon is *the* expert on adaptive coping in children. There is no question of how his work has influenced pediatric practice. But we have always been fortunate that his commitment and loyalty to our program and our students never wavered. We all have benefited from his wisdom, counsel, and humor.

To honor G. Gordon Williamson, we have named our annual Pediatric Award as the **G. Gordon Williamson Award for Excellence in Pediatrics.**

Distinguished Alumna Dr. Clare Giuffrida



Columbia has inducted Dr. Clare G. Giuffrida, Ph D., OTR/L, FAOTA into our Roster of Distinguished Alumni. A 1971 graduate of our program, she is currently the Chair and Associate Professor of the Occupational Therapy Program at Rush University Medical Center. Well know for her research and scholarship in the area of motor learning, her career exemplifies excellence in clinical practice, research, and education. We are proud to add her to our Roster of Distinguished Alumni.

Roster of Distinguished Alumni Awards for Professional Achievement

1991

Anne Callahan '74
Karen Diasio-Serrett '59
Nancy Ellis '55
Susan Fine '59
Adele Germain '70
Ann Grady '59
Naomi Greenberg '60
Mae Hightower-Vandamm '56
Satoru Izutzu '52
Virginia Kilburn '48 (posthumous)
Esteban Lopez '49
Ann Neville-Jan '74
Hermine Plotnick '53
Martha Schnebly '48
Anita Slominski '46
Akiko Suzuki '63
Gordon Williamson '70

1994

Jane D. Acquaviva, '69
Mary Beth Early, '74
Gerhard Mortensen, '57
Maureen Neistadt, '75

1995

Katherine Post, '76
Anne Mazur Robinson, '78

1997

Barbara Neuhaus, '52

1998

Mark Rosenfeld '73

1999

Naomi Wright

2000

Capt. Rebecca Parks, '74

2001

Hope Knutsson, '67

2003

Robin Pritkin Glass, '74

2005

Deborah Slater, '73

2006

Clare G. Giuffrida, 71

A Gift to Columbia

We have received, through the generosity of Dr. Martha Schnebly, a significant endowed gift! As many of you know, Dr. Schnebly served as the Associate Director of the Program in Occupational Therapy, and was a very active member of AOTA. Her gift to us represents her loyalty to our program, and her commitment to our profession.



Dr. Schnebly's gift is being used to establish two funds: the "Associate Director Fund" will provide seed money for faculty research; the "Scholarship Fund" will be used to specifically support our doctoral students. As Dr. Schnebly received her doctoral degree from Teachers College, students in our newly created EdD program will benefit greatly as they work on their research.

Dr. Schnebly currently lives in Arizona, but has never severed her ties with New York. We are very grateful that she will always remain an important member of Columbia's Programs in Occupational Therapy.

Loose Change

Rima Gandhi, '07, has been motivating her classmates to action. As their representative to the 2006 AOTA Association of Student Delegates (ASD), Rima designed a *loose change* campaign in order to raise money for AOTPAC. Distributing cups to every student in our program, Rima has motivated them to fill it with their loose change every day. Enlisting the help of the 2007 representative to the ASD, Gretchen Ward, '08, they have turned this into a class competition. Every few weeks, students empty their cups and tally their change. Which class will raise more funds? The total raised will be donated to AOTPAC at the 2007 Annual Conference.



Then and Now

When, in the fall of 1974, I received a tuition scholarship for OT school, I was ecstatic. There I stood at the registrar's window and WOW, there was a financial lifeline. BONUS! Five hundred dollars! I had nothing in the bank, had maxed out my student loans and knew my parents had really stretched to assist with paying the rest of my Columbia tuition. The original college plan was to go to SUNY, but who could pass up the opportunity to attend one of the top O.T. programs in the country?

The scholarship totaled a thousand dollars over two years to help offset the \$7,010 tuition. Now, in 2007, tuition is over \$60,000. That's an 850% increase – and Columbia is still one of the least expensive programs to complete! The current equivalent of the thousand dollars I was so appreciative of is now \$8,354, and that is why I consistently donate to the alumni fund.

Over thirty years later, I am still a practicing OT. Me, the very same person, who in 1975 stood in front of a mirror “freaking out” over wearing a white uniform for my Level I fieldwork. “OMG, people will think I’m competent. They will trust me to know what I am doing. I’ll never be able to live up to this,” I wrote to my closest friend. (Letters, not text messaging, were still the primary means of long distance communication.) I know for sure that I did write these things, because years later when I became the Chief OT at Mount Sinai, my friend mailed my letter back to me!

For most of us, our fondest school memories are from our undergraduate days, and that is often where our loyalty lies. Columbia's OT program is where I received my BS, but more importantly, it's where I gained a flexible, fun career. Many of the program's graduates receive tuition assistance from the alumni fund. That is often where the money goes. The amounts need to be greater.

Many of your reading this received financial assistance as well. So, if you feel like I do – grateful for the interesting, fulfilling opportunities that a Columbia education has made possible -- please help the next generation by donating, too.

With thanks,
Serena M. Berger MA, OT
Class of January '77

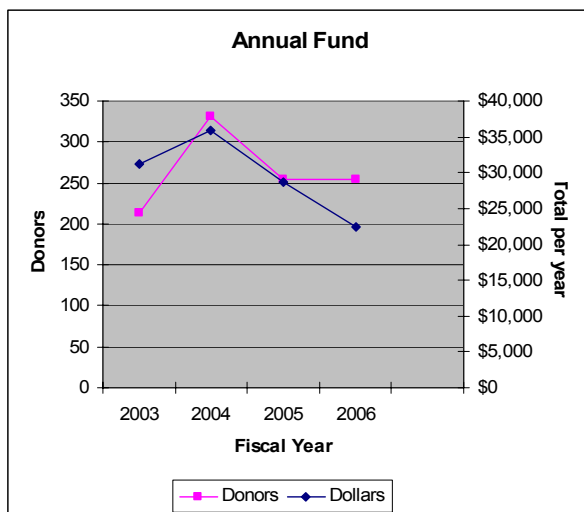
A MOVIE AND SOME POPCORN

Annual Appeal

Every year, you receive letters asking you to contribute to our Annual Fund. Your support is essential in helping students finance their education, as we receive modest assistance from the university. Current tuition for occupational therapy entry level education is now \$32000 per year; this does not include books, living expenses, and other related expenses.

While we have been very fortunate to receive endowments that do help to support selected students, our annual fund is primarily reserved to assist all students in need. Since 85% of our entry level student body is on some form of financial aid, we have always depended on your help.

We sincerely thank each and every one of you who have helped to support our students and our programs. In the past five years, contributors to the Annual Fund represent only 15% of those alumni on our mailing list. In dollar amounts, your contribution for 2006 is just over \$20,000, which we have earmarked (unless you request other use) for scholarships. If everyone on our list contributed what would be spent for a couple of movie tickets and some popcorn, we would have significantly more.



Help us turn the tide for 2007. If you have not yet made your contribution, please consider supporting our students. After all, even the cost of a movie ticket and some popcorn will help!

To make a contribution, please send your check (payable to Columbia University) to:

Office of Development Services
100 Haven Ave, Ste. 26C
New York, NY 10032

Be sure to identify the Programs in Occupational Therapy on the check's

memo and on your note to the development office.

While you do not need to specify how your donation is to be used, you may contribute to a specific fund if you would like to. The following funds are available:

- The Franciscus Fund (for student scholarships)
- The Neuhaus Fund for Student Research
- General Education and Research Fund
- Capital Improvements Fund

Alumni attend a continuing education workshop, taught by Mary Benbow.

Class Notes

1950s

Ann Petty Germano '59 I have retired from active practice. I had a private practice for 15 years working in home care and in school systems. I then joined Trumbull Public Health / United Home Care and worked in that agency for 10 years.

Susan B. Fine, '59 has retired and is living in Charlotte, NC!

1960s

Alma Drien Klindera, '60 I became a grandma – August 13, 2005. Jonah Drien Reed, 6lbs 14oz, 19in.

Linda Mann Silver, '63, continues to work in Home Care in Nassau Co. and in Eastern Queens. Her daughter Gabrielle is going to attend Lenoir-Rhyne College in North Carolina to become an OT!

Valerie Hoffman Takai, '63. Although officially retired, she is fully involved in her role as an advocate for patients on hemodialysis and human rights disability access.

1970s

Deborah Yarett Slater writes: "I am working for AOTA and staff the Ethics Commission and Special Interest Sections – very diverse and always interesting! I also work closely with our Reimbursement and Policy Departments. Our son Gabe just started Georgetown Law School and is also interning part-time in the House Ways and Means Committee. Our older son Josh is an architect in Boston and working for a large firm which does very diverse projects. Rich and I have a small vacation house on Cape Cod which we really enjoy."

1980s

Nancy Petty, '80 has been in private practice since 2003, specializing in hand therapy in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Peter Ruopp, '89 Please give my greetings to everyone. I'm still working at Putnam – Northern Westchester BOCES and spending leisure time in Maine, Florida, and traveling.

Alison Juberg, '88 has completed working three years at an SI based private OT practice in sunny southern California She hopes to become certified in dysphasia treatment.

1990s

Janine Korman-Mandel '92 has spent a good part of her career in Early Intervention, while raising her four children!

Cathy Perras Munro '96 Scott and I had our second daughter, Grace Marie, on October 5, 2005. Her big sister Emma Rose is 2 years older. We moved to New Jersey in July 05

2000s

Chris Niho '00 is living ins San Francisco, working full time at California Pacific Medical Center and moonlighting at Tahoe Forest Hospital in Lake Tahoe.

Beth Bennett, '01 writes "I live with my husband Naftali and 4 incredibly delicious children, Moshe, A.J., Leora, and Talia in Long Island, NY. I work as an OT part time in a wonderful Jewish School for special needs children and I work as a mom full time at home for my own very special children. Hope everyone is enjoying and doing well!"

Jena Morreale, '05 is working at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell in Acute care / bedside and dysphagia rotation.

Alumni at a Columbia sponsored continuing education program, directed by Mary Benbow.



Top Row: Jill Davis, '03, Greachy ARodriguez, '05, Mary Benbow, Maria Chu-Delosreyes '02, Laura Shepard, '96, Elise Henry, '94, Dulce Moche '93

Front Row: Amy Slutsky '79, Paulette Goldman Green '99, Miria Orenstein Redling '99, Rosaleen Riordan '00

Dr. Pat Miller (2nd from right) celebrates Research Day with members of the Class of 2006.

(L toR) Adam Wopshall '06, Kathleen Smith '06, Audra Majocho '06, Dr. Pat Miller Jennifer Del Corro '06



In Memoriam

Mrs. Doris L. Cutting, '46
Betty Bishop Laurie, '48 November 2005
Karen Stern, '80 May 31, 2006



Dr. Karen Stern Nimrod died tragically along with her husband on May 31, in a plane crash in New Jersey. A graduate of Douglass College, Karen entered the Columbia University Masters Degree Program in 1978, and earned her degree two years later. Always seeking knowledge, Karen continued her education and received her Ed.D. from Rutgers University in 1986. Karen's clinical and teaching career centered on serving individuals with severe mental illness.

Karen began an academic career at Kean University in the mid 1980s, and became the Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department in 1999. She successfully led her program for 7 years, bringing emerging practice areas to her students. She was also an active participant in local, state, and national efforts towards bettering the lives on individuals in need. A woman with enormous energy and an amazing gift for time management, she always made time for her avocational passions, notably ceramics and swimming.

Karen's primary focus, however, was her family. An active member in their school's activities, never missing an event, she leaves behind two teenage sons.

Email members of the **Alumni Council**..... or send an email to the
general alumni address: otalumni@columbia.edu

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