

AOTF

connection

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THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOUNDATION ■ Vol. 9, No. 2 Summer 2002

New Website: Dynamic and Accessible

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is pleased to announce the posting of its new website. The address is the same, www.aotf.org – just a new, updated look and a site that is easier to navigate.

“With the development of the Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, AOTF’s website needed to reflect its new programs and focus,” says Rashid Faraby, AOTF’s Information Technology Manager. “We wanted to create a new and more dynamic structure which

encompasses the Institute as well as the Foundation.”

Visit AOTF’s updated website to learn about the Institute’s newest initiatives and to discover other Foundation opportunities. You can:

- Read about the Foundation and the priorities of its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health;
- View the most recent Annual Report and newsletter;
- Subscribe to *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*,

- Read Resource Notes and join its subscriber list;
- Join the Doctoral Network;
- Purchase OT monographs, Clinical Fact Sheets, and research conference proceedings; and
- Donate online to help support AOTF’s many programs and services.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Foundation’s new website, please contact us at aotf@aotf.org. ■

Conference Events A Success

Sunny Miami, Florida was the site of the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in May 2002. The unseasonably warm weather never wilted the enthusiasm of the attendees for the Foundation events that were enjoyed by over 700 people.

A FABULOUS EVENING — Courtesy of CHICO’S

The Fontainebleau Hotel provided the ideal venue for a highly successful fundraising event for AOTF.

CHICO’S, the Foundation’s newest corporate donor, hosted a stellar evening of fun and fashion, showcasing the latest CHICO’S collection.

Friends of the Foundation modeled a broad array of comfortable, functional, and fashionable outfits ranging from sporty crop pants to carefree travel ensembles. The pièce de résistance of the evening was a special demonstration by Sher Moeller, Vice President and National Sales Manager, and Kristi Allison, Regional Sales Manager, show-

ing how nine basic CHICO’S wardrobe items can carry you from dawn to dusk and from work to the theater.

Mori MacKenzie, CHICO’S Vice President for Stores, was on hand to present \$100 gift certificates to eight lucky door prize winners. All who attended the festivities left sporting a snazzy tote bag designed by CHICO’S as a remembrance of this FABULOUS EVENING!

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Published by the
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CORE Begins Final Year

The Center for Outcomes Research and Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago (CORE) is nearing the end of its three-year grant. For the last two years, CORE has developed leaders in outcomes research who are conducting studies to document client needs and effective service approaches to meeting those needs. CORE has also provided doctoral and post-doctoral traineeships to increase the number of occupational therapists qualified to conduct research.

In only two years, CORE has received a total of 34 funded grants totaling over \$9,000,000 in external funding, achieving an impressive return on the investment of AOTA, AOTF, and its corporate partner, Smith & Nephew - Rehabilitation Division (recently acquired by Sammons Preston Rolyan). CORE researchers are studying topics as diverse as environmental universal

design and empowerment of individuals with chronic fatigue syndrome. Other studies are looking at domestic violence and its impact on occupational functioning as well as the many barriers to work for persons with AIDS. Several agencies have sought consultation from CORE fellows on employment and AIDS and one agency has even hired a full time occupational therapist because of CORE's research.

CORE's impact is international! CORE researchers joined forces with Swedish and Canadian researchers to undertake a study of home modifications. A CORE center has been established in London to close the widening gap between academia and everyday practice and through CORE-sponsored educational programs, CORE faculty is mentoring future occupational therapy leaders around the globe. ■

*In only two years,
CORE received over
\$9,000,000 in
funding.*



Core fellows discuss independent living.

AOTF Awards Certificates of Appreciation

At the 2002 AOTA Conference, AOTF was honored to present Certificates of Appreciation to two of its top corporate donors, North Coast Medical and CHICO'S. These certificates are given to recognize the outstanding service of individuals or companies who have contributed significantly to the fulfillment of the Foundation's mission, goals, and objectives. Mark Biehl, accompanied by his parents, Frank and Lori Biehl, founders of North Coast Medical, accepted their award and Mori MacKenzie, Vice President of Stores, accepted the award for CHICO'S.

For nearly a decade, North Coast Medical, a leading supplier of occupational, physical, and hand therapy products worldwide, has been a signifi-

cant contributor to AOTF. As North Coast Medical's President and CEO, Mark Biehl has sustained the compa-

*North Coast Medical
and CHICO'S receive
Certificates of
Appreciation for
outstanding service
to Foundation.*

ny's commitment to the Foundation initiated by his parents. Through the generosity of North Coast Medical,

AOTF has provided tuition assistance and research grants to promising occupational therapy students. The Foundation salutes North Coast Medical for the important investment it has made to the future of occupational therapy.

Mori MacKenzie has been instrumental in forging a dynamic partnership between AOTF and CHICO'S, a unique women's fashion retailer. CHICO'S specializes in stylish, easy to wear clothing, exemplifying occupational therapy's focus on functional living. As AOTF's newest corporate donor, CHICO'S donates 10% of revenue generated through its store parties hosted by friends of AOTF. To date, these parties have generated several thousand dollars for the Foundation. ■

Faculty Development Initiative: Support for Occupational Therapy Education

The Faculty Development Initiative is an ambitious approach to supporting education programs. The initiative is two-pronged, consisting of the Regional Workshop Series on Curriculum Development and the Mentor's Curriculum Development Project, each designed to work intimately with occupational therapy faculty.

The Regional Workshop Series on Curriculum Development is winding down. Nine of the participating twenty schools have finished the three components of this intensive workshop series. AOTA, AOTF, and ACOTE staff members and leaders designed the workshop series to assist occupational therapy programs to meet the new Standards for an Accredited Educational Program. These new standards mandate entry to the profession at a post-baccalaureate level, a level

some programs need help in attaining. The workshops focus on the meaning of graduate education, teaching/learning strategies that promote critical thinking, options for alternative practice and community-based education, and the merging of research, evidence-based practice, and clinical reasoning as the basis for clinical interventions. Participants also explore options for curriculum design and the workshop leaders assist in tailoring these concepts to the uniqueness of each program in the series.

The Mentor's Curriculum Development Project has completed its first year. This project matched experienced educational mentors with programs striving to reach the "gold standard" for graduate education. AOTF funded this yearlong project that involved intensive work with five quite different programs

across the country. The program was designed as a pilot study to determine if a mentoring process could promote and support more innovative graduate programs for the profession. Ingrid

*Workshop leaders
tailor curriculum
design to each
program.*

Provident, a doctoral student at Duquesne University, was the principal investigator for the study and will provide a cross-case analysis of the benefits and pitfalls of mentoring long-distance. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Watch our website www.aotf.org for dates and times of Foundation events such as Breakfast with a Scholar at the AOTA Annual Conference and Expo June 6-9, 2003 in Washington, D.C.

AOTF Vision

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation promotes a society in which individuals, regardless of age or ability, may participate in occupations of their choice that give meaning to their lives and foster health and well being.

Through its dedication to scientific inquiry, education and leadership development, the Foundation pays tribute to the significance of everyday activities in enabling those who face personal challenges to realize their full potential in society.

Monograph Available

Research Across the Curriculum: A Guide for Occupational Therapy Educators edited by Elizabeth Crepeau available for \$40. Send check to Helene Ross or order online at www.aotf.org.

Occupational Therapy Honors Gail Fidler



Gail Fidler, newest recipient of the Presidents' Commendation.

analysis of everyday activities," says Fidler, who perpetually challenges occupational therapy to develop and apply rationale to practice.

She is a Fellow, an Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecturer, a recipient of the AOTA Award of Merit and served during the early 1970's as both Associate Executive Director and Interim Executive Director of AOTA.

Fidler influenced two generations of occupational therapists and continues to influence the future of occupational therapy education. For more than thirty years Fidler was a driving force behind the profession's move to post-baccalaureate professional entry. In addition, Fidler is a prolific writer and has written over 29 articles and 13 books, the latest of which was published in 2002. In 1954, Gail and her husband co-authored *Introduction to Psychiatric Occupational Therapy*, a seminal text in the field.

In her retirement, Gail has continued her ardent commitment to the profession through her writing, teaching, and consulting. ■

For only the eighth time since its inception, the Association and the Foundation awarded The Presidents' Commendation in Honor of Wilma L. West. This Commendation honors a respected leader who, in the tradition of Wilma West, made sustained contributions to occupational therapy over a lifetime of service. At the annual conference, Jane Davis Rourk and Barbara Kornblau, Presidents of AOTF and AOTA respectively, presented the award to Gail S. Fidler.

Fidler has worked in the occupational therapy profession for over sixty years and is renowned within the profession and throughout the mental health system as a masterful clinician, educator, and administrator. Her vision is a society that embraces the therapeutic use of occupation. "I believe we must become experts in the

Gail Fidler influences generations with a vision of a society that embraces therapeutic use of occupation.

Task Force Created to Join Occupation and Health in Times of Stress

In the wake of September 11th, Jane Davis Rourk, the Foundation's President, called together a group of occupational therapy practitioners from across the United States and Canada to form the Task Force on Occupation in Societal Crises. Participants Carolyn Baum, Janice Burke, Charles Christiansen, Georgianna Herzberg, Mary Ann McColl, Marjorie Scaffa, and Diana Ramsay joined Foundation staff members Martha Kirkland, Nedra Gillette, and Mary Binderman in the Task Force. Its goal is to link the occupational therapy philosophy with societal networks that help people manage stress and create a healthy balance through meaningful occupation.

Among the tangible products of the Task Force are the Resource Notes (described below) and an article by Mary Ann McColl, "Occupation in Stressful Times," published in the May/June 2002 issue of *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, vol. 56, no. 3, pages 350-353. You may read an executive summary of the McColl paper at www.aotf.org/html/mccoll.html. Later this summer two additional consumer-oriented papers written by Marjorie Scaffa and Charles Christiansen will be available on our website in the section devoted to the work of the Task Force. These papers offer perspectives on the unique role of occupation in maintaining health and well-being and may be

Task Force seeks to link occupation therapy perspective with societal networks that help people manage stress.

downloaded for your use as an educational resource. Additional consumer-oriented papers will be written for popular publications and possibly for radio or television and will reinforce how occupation influences the health and well-being of society. ■

Resource Note Expanded: Note Gives News an Occupational Therapy Spin

In the fall of 2001, Mary Binderman, our Director of Information Resources, started a new service of the Foundation's Wilma L. West Library – the biweekly Resource Note. Originally sent only to members of the Doctoral Network, the Resource Note discussed a specific article, book, or web site. With the creation of the Task Force on Occupation in Societal Crises, the Resource Note expanded its scope to provide a more in-depth look at contemporary topics, beginning with terrorism and post-traumatic stress.

Resource Note expanded to in-depth study of topics with an eye to the role of occupational therapy.

Binderman stays tuned in to the latest research in occupational therapy and

focuses the Resource Note on topics she selects from the media and professional literature. She interprets the information from a broad range of sources and applies their relevance to the field of occupation.

In order to share a significant book or article, the library now sends out a brief e-mail called *This 'n That*, in the weeks the Note is not written. View a sample Resource Note at our website, www.aotf.org and join the over eight hundred subscribers who have made the Resource Note part of their week. ■

Foundation Mourns Loss of Friend — Florence Stattel



*Florence Stattel – friend of the
Foundation*

After more than 60 years as an occupational therapist, Florence Stattel, passed away in May at her home in East Hampton, Long Island. Stattel was a descendent of 19th century German farm immigrants and learned of occupational therapy after visiting a nearby mental hospital's gift shop featuring sales of patients' occupational therapy handiwork. Stattel received her occupational therapy certificate in 1939, at a time when occupational therapists had to stand when doctors entered the room. After graduating from the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy of the University of Pennsylvania, Stattel worked for the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation.

In 1949 Stattel worked with the renowned physician, Henry Kessler, at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

She also studied architectural planning and design and helped develop an awareness of their importance to occupational therapy. Stattel taught at New York University, the University of Florida, and Texas Woman's University. The American Occupational Therapy Association designated her a fellow and she was the first honoree of the Eleanor Clark Slagle Lectureship. In 1998, Florence Stattel was awarded AOTA's prestigious Award of Merit.

Always with an eye to furthering the profession, Stattel was instrumental in establishing the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, served on numerous committees, and was a vice president of AOTA. After retiring in 1975, Stattel continued to provide pro bono occupational therapy services and was active in many charities in her community. Recently, Stattel was working on an exhibit of early farm life for the Kings Park Heritage Museum. Stattel always remembered the Foundation and appreciated the work we do on behalf of the profession. Occupational therapy and the Foundation are forever strengthened through the vision, boundless energy, and support of Florence Stattel. ■

AOTF Mission

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable, nonprofit organization dedicated to refining and expanding the body of knowledge of occupational therapy, advancing practice of the highest quality, and promoting understanding of the value of occupation in the interest of the public.

Proceedings Available

Habits I and II Conference Proceedings are available at \$12 each or \$20 for both. Order from Helene Ross or from our website at www.aotf.org.

CONFERENCE

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As further evidence of its philanthropic commitment, CHICO'S contributed to AOTF 10% of purchases made by Conference attendees who shopped at the Lincoln Road store in South Miami Beach that weekend. Thank you to the occupational therapy practitioners who helped to make the CHICO'S partnership so successful. And thank you, CHICO'S, for your continuing support of AOTF.



Heat-Moon greets Crowe and Kirkland, who are enjoying their CHICO'S ensembles.

William Least Heat-Moon: In Search of Meaningful Occupation

Over 300 people attended the eighth annual Breakfast with a Scholar. The scholar this year was the award-winning author of *Blue Highways*, William Least Heat-Moon, who told of his experiences as he journeyed across America's back roads.

The Foundation's valued corporate partner, Marsh Affinity Group Services, formerly Seabury & Smith, continued its seven-year tradition in sponsoring the Breakfast. The audience welcomed Sandra Rebholz, Assistant Vice President of Affinity Group Services, and enthusiastically acknowledged the company's commitment to continue its exclusive sponsorship of the popular Conference event through 2004.

Terry Crowe, a prominent occupational therapy scholar and leader, welcomed and introduced Heat-Moon to the capacity crowd. Heat-Moon then

shared his gift for describing how the strangers he met on his incredible adventure defined themselves by their occupations. The stories Heat-Moon told revealed people who vigorously confirmed that their occupations were central to their sense of well being and equanimity. He drew artful connections between his work and the concepts of our profession. Following Heat-Moon's remarks, the audience engaged in a lively discussion reinforcing the profession's core belief that what we do frames who we really are.

Mitcham and Mathiowetz Honored

Maralynne Mitcham was presented with an Honorary Life Membership on the AOTF Board of Directors, an award recognizing her ten years of distinguished service as AOTF Director, Secretary, and President. Mitcham's skills in faculty development and instructional design are highly regarded internationally. Her approach to integrating research across occupational therapy curricula has proved invaluable to AOTF in its mission to support the transition to post-baccalaureate professional entry.

The Academy of Research admitted its 28th member – Virgil Mathiowetz. Mathiowetz has sustained an outstanding record of research and professional publications and is a fellow of CORE. His clinical expertise is in physical disabilities, and his doctoral work in kinesiology and motor learning theory has contributed to the profession's perspective on neuroscience. The focus of his current work is measurement of rehabilitation outcomes for persons with multiple sclerosis and those who have experienced strokes.

Networking for the Docs

More than fifty members of the Doctoral Network attended its annual breakfast and meeting. Rosalie Miller, recently retired from the faculty of

Nova Southeastern University, and her protégé, Sonia Kay, graduate of the Nova doctoral program, spoke about their experiences in the program. A song Kay wrote for the occasion may have upstaged her mentor, but the humorous song was a high point of the interesting and informative morning. A short business meeting followed giving the attendees plenty of opportunity to network.

Posters Provide Inspiration

One of the most popular events is the Foundation's annual Graduate Student Research Poster Session and Social Hour. For more than ten years, this early evening session brings together occupational therapy's newest scholars with its most experienced scholars. In a casual relaxed setting, more than 25 research posters representing the capabilities of graduate students at both the master's and doctoral levels were displayed. Faculty members and other scientists circulated among the student presenters, offering consultation, constructive criticism, and sometimes, jobs! Some 87 attendees enjoyed this lively session, always a hit at conference.

Research Tea Centers on CORE

Nearly 200 members of the research and educational community enjoyed the 16th annual Research Colloquium and Tea. This year, the featured program was the work of CORE, the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Two years into a three-year grant supported by AOTA and AOTF, the CORE faculty members sought to return to the occupational therapy community the benefits of their grant and a status report on selected studies underway by the CORE fellows.

In addition to the Colloquium, CORE fellows shared their expertise in a variety of ways throughout the conference. These outstanding presentations contributed greatly to the profession's efforts to move to evidence-based practice. ■