

# AOTF

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THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOUNDATION ■ Vol. 10, No. 2 Summer 2003

## North Coast Creates Scholarships

North Coast Medical joined AOTF's Corporate Leadership Corps this year and established the two largest scholarships ever available through the Foundation's scholarship program. Mark Biehl, North Coast President and CEO, pledged two annual \$5,000 awards for three years, beginning in 2003.

In funding these new scholarships, North Coast is helping AOTF to achieve one of its principal goals — promoting excellence in occupational therapy. This latest endeavor is especially close to the hearts of Mark and his parents, Frank and Lori Biehl, the company's founders, who have supported AOTF for over a decade. "We

want to recognize and encourage the most deserving students, and it is both a pleasure and a privilege for us to be able to provide financial assistance for their educations. It's a wonderful way for us to give back to the field of occupational therapy."

North Coast, a premier supplier of rehabilitation products, is dedicated to all facets of occupational therapy. In addition to assisting promising students, North Coast offers continuing education courses and workshops for professionals through their Educational Program, and works to increase the public's understanding of the value of



*Mark Biehl, President and CEO of North Coast Medical.*

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## AHRQ Funds International Conference On Evidence-based Occupational Therapy

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality recently notified the Foundation that funding was approved for a conference on evidence-based practice. The Foundation and AOTA will co-host this international conference which will determine the state of the art in evidence-based occupational therapy practice and support the development of knowledge into this field.

A group of esteemed occupational therapy colleagues from the United States, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Israel, and South Africa will convene July 11–14, 2004 at the William F. Bolger Center for Leadership and Development located in the Maryland countryside near Bethesda. Leaders in evidence-based occupational therapy will develop an international consortium to share

information and results of evidence-based research initiatives underway around the world and prioritize needs based on those results. During this three-day conference, participants will establish a set of consensus guidelines for evaluating and reporting research evidence, as well as a specific series of outcomes to be accomplished internationally.

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## AOTF connection

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# The Meaning Makers: Folk Art and the Construction of the Self Through Time

## Folklorist Leads 2003 Breakfast with a Scholar

The Foundation's ninth annual Breakfast with a Scholar held at the AOTA Annual Conference in Washington, DC featured Executive Director and co-founder of City Lore, Dr. Steve Zeitlin. From his perspective as a folklorist, Zeitlin gave poignant examples of how people intertwine their occupations into a cohesive whole throughout their lifespan. From quilt making to wood carving, Zeitlin documented countless examples of how occupations are important factors in creating memory, mastery, and meaning in life.

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*"I felt they were all  
kindred spirits."*

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As is our tradition with Breakfast with a Scholar, AOTF invites a scholar from within the profession to introduce our guest and cast the work of the scholar within the context of occupational therapy. Dr. Virginia Dickie, Associate Professor in the Division of Occupational Science at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, was masterful in providing a platform from which to appreciate Zeitlin's work. Dickie's doctorate in anthropology enabled her to weave together the concepts of occupational therapy and anthropology and provided a conceptual bridge between the domains of occupational therapy and folklore. Through her own research, Dickie is studying quilt making in rural North Carolina. She seeks to understand why people quilt and what meaning it brings to their lives. In this way, Dickie explores

how quilt makers use their occupation as a way of passing on their legacy to future generations.

The 2003 Breakfast with a Scholar was a uniquely energizing and delightful experience for the 350 people who participated. Following his remarks Zeitlin was surrounded by a throng of occupational therapists eager to share their experiences with him. Upon his return to New York, Zeitlin wrote the following:

*I just wanted to let you know how delighted I was to be the "breakfast with a scholar" scholar at the conference. I loved meeting the wide range of occupational therapists that I had the chance to talk with. I felt they were all kindred spirits. It was great to discover such a humanistic field with many of the same concerns and passions as folklore. I benefited enormously from the reading I did in the occupational therapy field in preparation for the talk, and plan to do more in the years ahead. ■*

## 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.

# In Memoriam: Robert Kendall Bing

The Board of Directors and staff of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Robert Kendall Bing. Known by his many friends as Bob, Dr. Bing passed away at his home in Galveston, Texas on May 15, 2003 after a lingering illness.

Bob dedicated his lifetime of service toward advancing the profession, which he so dearly loved. He gave generously of his wisdom, leadership and personal integrity in promoting the highest standards of education and research as well as developing future leaders of the profession. Bob's legacy to occupational therapy will never be forgotten.

The Wilma L. West Library and the AOTA Archives are the grateful recipients of most of Dr. Bing's collection of professional papers, photographs, and books. They will provide invaluable resources to affirm the history of occupational therapy and support the continuation of its scholarship.

Following is an excerpt from the obituary prepared by Bob's long-standing friend, Dr. Charles Christiansen.

*Robert Bing completed his degree in occupational therapy at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, under the direction of his mentor, Beatrice Wade. Following military service, Bob matricu-*

*lated at the Institute for Child Study, University of Maryland, College Park and received the Master of Arts and, later, the Doctor of Education degrees.*

*He joined the faculty and staff of the School of Allied Health Sciences, UTMB in 1966 and became the founding Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences in 1968. He remained in this position until late 1980. He stepped down to return to his first love, teaching and research.*

*Subsequently, Bob left Galveston and taught for a brief period at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, then returned to Galveston to retirement in 1987. He remained active as Visiting Professor, Occupational Therapy, University of South Dakota for several years and wrote chapters for various texts. He retained his extensive interests in history, particularly in medicine and health care.*

*During his extensive career he practiced in Virginia, Connecticut, Illinois, and Texas. He held academic appointments at Virginia Commonwealth University, Towson (Maryland) University, the Universities of Nebraska, Florida, Illinois, Colleges of Medicine, and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Western Australia in 1979.*

*Bob was very active in professional organizations: president of two state societies; a member or chair of numerous*



**Robert Kendall Bing**  
Professor and Dean Emeritus, School of Allied Health Sciences, University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston

*national committees and councils; President of the American Occupational Therapy Association; and the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecturer in 1981. He was cited in 1986 with the AOTA Award of Merit. Because of his volunteer work in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, he was named Honorary Citizen of Hidalgo, Texas in 1977. During his retirement, he served as an active volunteer with the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas. In 1991, Bob was named an Unsung Hero by the Galveston County Daily News. ■*

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## NORTH COAST

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occupational therapy. Mark Biehl adds, "North Coast strives to provide innovative products and services that meet the changing needs of therapists and their patients. We look forward to joining efforts with AOTF in their commitment to the development of occupational therapy professionals."

The two charter recipients of the North Coast scholarships are: Marcella McGee, a professional doctorate student in occupational therapy at Creighton University who has worked with at-risk youth for five years, and Joanna Spangenberg, enrolled in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program in San Jose State University, whose interest in occupa-

tional therapy began with her work with autistic children. Spangenberg describes the core philosophy of occupational therapy in her scholarship application: "Having structure in our days and a feeling of purposefulness is what gives us a sense of self." ■

# An Evening to Remember

AOTF President Jane Davis Rourk welcomed over 150 friends of the Foundation to a reception held at the Woodrow Wilson House during the AOTA Conference. The Woodrow Wilson House was an especially meaningful venue for this gathering of our most valued friends. Our guests stepped back in time to the era of the 1920s experiencing the fashionable life of a former president in the intimacy of his own home. Docents were on hand throughout the evening to share personal stories about the Wilsons and to guide people through an appreciation of the impressive collection of gifts of state and personal items.

The Woodrow Wilson House is the only presidential museum in Washington. Furnishings and artifacts throughout the house, its intimate library,

photographs from his days at Princeton, and the first League of Nations' flag document President Wilson's life as an educator, statesman, and founder of the League of Nations. Wilson's second wife, Edith Wilson, continued to live in the house after his death in 1924 and participated actively in the Washington community. Her last dinner party, hosted in 1961, honored First Lady Jackie Kennedy.

Woodrow Wilson's first wife, Ellen Axson Wilson, died in 1914 during his first presidential term. Knowing that Ellen Wilson was an avid supporter of the arts and crafts movement in this country provides an intimate connection with occupational therapy. She renovated the third floor of the White House using fabrics and floor coverings

handwoven by women from the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee.

Ellen Wilson created public interest in the work of Appalachian women by decorating with mountain crafts and developed a robust market for their patchwork quilts, counterpanes, and rugs. During her brief time as first lady, Ellen Wilson served as honorary president of the Southern Industrial Association and promoted events of the association in Washington to benefit the Pine Mountain School in Kentucky.

The Foundation extends a special thank you to CHICO'S and FBA Inc. for their generous corporate contributions. Their support helped to make the evening one of the Foundation's most memorable and successful fundraising events. ■

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## Conference Panel on Sensory Processing and Social Participation Overwhelmed with Support

AOTF sponsored a panel on research related to sensory processing and social participation at the AOTA 2003 Annual Conference. The panel focused on occupational therapy's unique contribution to understanding the impact of sensory processing on social participation in desired occupations.

Dr. Winnie Dunn, the chair of occupational therapy education at the University of Kansas and a researcher in sensory processing for over 20 years, moderated the panel which brought together experts from across the country. Dr. Roseann Schaaf, from Thomas Jefferson University, described nervous system functions in children with hyper- or hypo-responsiveness to sensa-

tion and their relation to participation in functional activities. Dr. Grace Baranek, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, focused on categorizing patterns of sensory experiences in children with autism through newly developed parent-report and observational instruments. Dr. Patti LaVesser, from Washington University, presented a proposed measurement model for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Dr. Ellen Cohn, from Boston University, then wrapped up the panel by reporting findings of a qualitative study that identified strategies that parents of school-aged children with acquired brain injury used to promote their children's social participation at home, in

school, and in the community. Cohn emphasized the value of practitioners who strive to understand what factors influence strategy use and how families use and integrate strategies to gain insights into their children's social participation.

The research presented provides a basis for understanding sensory processing and for developing and testing the effectiveness of interventions to enhance participation for people with sensory processing challenges. The high popularity of this panel was underestimated and the room overflowed with occupational therapists. Plans are underway to continue study into sensory processing at the 2004 Conference in Minneapolis. ■

# Workshop Series Enhances Occupational Therapy Programs

The Foundation recently completed its series of regional workshops designed to assist the profession's educational programs to meet the new (1998) Standards for an Accredited Program in Occupational Therapy. In collaboration with the Accreditation Council (ACOTE) and with AOTA, Foundation staff and volunteers created a program that directly responded to the challenges faced by many of our educators as they revise and upgrade curricula which would qualify graduates at the post-professional level.

The workshops were presented as a series of three learning experiences, with approximately four months between workshops allowing faculty to work intensively on specific aspects of curriculum design and then come together for a review and critique process leading to the next phase of curriculum changes. In addition, there were online assignments that faculty were expected to complete prior to each workshop.

Workshop # 1 addressed issues of graduate education, explored the concept of strategic planning for a curriculum, and focused intensively on the theories that would be used by each individual program to support the integration of occupation across the curriculum.

Workshop # 2 was concerned with leadership and change, the development of threads that tie the curriculum together, theories of transformative

learning, and the development of alternative fieldwork sites that were congruent with the use of occupation as central to occupational therapy practice.

The final workshop addressed the considerable challenge of incorporating research into the curriculum, primarily through learning experiences centered on evidence-based practice. These final workshops also reviewed strategic plans, curriculum designs, and the strength of the links between academic and fieldwork environments, vis-à-vis principles of graduate education, transformative learning, and the incorporation of occupation as a central focus.

Workshop evaluations from the twenty-three schools that participated were extremely positive, but the true test of the effectiveness of this program will be in the quality of their graduates. This will be difficult to measure, but we'll get some sense of how successful we've been as these schools complete their own accreditation procedures.

The workshops were organized and directed by Nedra Gillette, AOTF Director of Research. She was supported by a most talented group of therapist-educators who helped design the program and then served as facilitators for the workshops including: Elizabeth (Beth) Cada, Terry Crowe, Lou Ann Griswold, Debra Holscher, Joyce Engle Knowles, Paula Kramer, Gerry Nichols, Karin Opacich, Virginia (Ginny) Stoffel, and JoAnne Wright. These

## 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.

superb educators gave countless hours in preparing for each workshop and in reviewing the curriculum documents "their schools" created as the result of the workshop series.

While the regional workshop series has finished, one of its legacies is this corps of trained and dedicated curriculum consultants. Undoubtedly the profession will continue to benefit from their services. Our thanks to all of them! ■

## CONFERENCE

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We are most fortunate to have Dr. Wendy Coster, Director of Programs in Occupational Therapy at Boston

University serving as the principal investigator for this project. She is working closely with the Planning Committee members, Mary Law of McMaster University in Canada,

Deborah Lieberman, AOTA Practice Associate, Jessica Scheer, consultant to AOTA on evidence-based practice, and Nedra Gillette, AOTF Director of Research. ■

# AOTF Announces 2003 Scholarship Winners

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is pleased to announce that 32 scholarships were awarded to deserving occupational students this year. The Foundation congratulates all scholarship winners and gratefully acknowledges the unwavering dedication of the Scholarship Selection Committee who reviewed and rated the many applications this year.

AOTF 2003 scholarship awardees by category:

## Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy

North Coast Medical Scholarships – \$5,000 each

- Marcella McGee  
Creighton University
- Joanna Spangenberg  
San Jose State University

Carolyn Kohn Memorial Scholarship – \$2,000

- Stacey Markham  
New York University

Willard and Spackman Memorial Scholarship – \$2,000

- Mary Overman  
Virginia Commonwealth University

Kappa Delta Phi Scholarships – \$2,000 each

- Erica Ahlgren  
St. Ambrose University
- Julie Bezold  
University of Tennessee

Janice McGraw Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

- Beth Martin  
Belmont University

Assembly of Student Delegates Scholarship, formerly ASCOTA – \$450

- Briana Rusiski  
University of Pittsburgh

## Associate Degree in Occupational Therapy

Carlotta Welles Honorary Scholarship – \$500

- Emily Simpson  
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences

Kappa Delta Phi Scholarships – \$500 each

- Cynthia Griffith  
Lake Michigan College
- Luz Rodriguez  
LaGuardia Community College

## AOTF/State Association Scholarships

Arizona Occupational Therapy Association – \$1,000  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Sara Treanor  
Midwestern University

The Florence Wood Scholarship of the Arkansas Occupational Therapy Association – \$500  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Kelley Lewis  
University of Central Arkansas

Kansas Occupational Therapy Association – \$500 each  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Alyson Pleviak  
University of Kansas Medical Center

*Baccalaureate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Sarah Johnston  
Newman University

The Jean Steffan Smith Memorial Scholarship of the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association – \$500  
*Baccalaureate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Julia Rust-Jones  
Eastern Kentucky University

The Karen Jacobs Scholarship of the Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Association – \$500  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Gabrielle Gaudreau  
The Boston School of Occupational Therapy – Tufts University

Michigan Occupational Therapy Association – \$500  
*Baccalaureate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Megan Anderson  
Western Michigan University

The Mary Eileen Dixie Scholarship of the New Hampshire Occupational Therapy Association – \$2,000  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Meaghan Reilly  
University of New Hampshire

The Julia D. Sweeney Scholarship of the New Mexico Occupational Therapy Association – \$500  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Nancy Rawcliffe  
University of New Mexico

New York Occupational Therapy Association – \$1,000 each  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Judith Lapidus  
Columbia University

- Rozi Weinberg  
Touro College

*Baccalaureate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Leslie Meistrich  
Keuka College

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# Plenary Session Draws Attention to Disaster Planning

AOTF and Pi Theta Epsilon, the Honor Society for Occupational Therapy, joined forces and offered a plenary session about occupational therapy's role in disaster preparedness and response at the AOTA Annual Conference. Panelists Diana Ramsay (Sheppard Pratt Health Systems), James Stanton (Maryland Institute for Emergency Services Systems), and Marjorie Scaffa (University of South Alabama) described the federal, state, and local systems and resources in place to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Panelists urged occupational therapy practitioners to get involved in the development of disaster plans in their local communities and work environments. One logical place for occupational therapy to contribute is the

logistical planning for the special needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly, needs that are often overlooked.

Occupational therapy brings a unique and valuable perspective to the disruption of people's lives by an unexpected event such as a hurricane, flood, or an act of terrorism. During stressful times people seek the reassurance of their familiar habits and routines. Engaging in "occupations" helps people restore meaning to their lives and cope with stress thereby gaining control over seemingly uncontrollable circumstances and reinforcing their competence.

AOTF is working with the AOTA Commission on Practice to write an official Concept Paper on the profession's role in disaster planning and response. This paper is predicated on information gleaned from focus groups

of practitioners and resources developed by the AOTF Task Force on Occupation in Societal Crises. AOTF plans to develop a network of practitioners within the states who are prepared to respond to disasters and who are willing to share their experiences with others.

The Foundation received a generous contribution from Bristol-Myers Squibb Company to sponsor the Plenary Session and to produce a commemorative bookmark to promote occupation as a bridge to health. The mission of Bristol-Myers Squibb "to extend and enhance human life" is in concert with the Foundation's priority to promote participation in society for people, regardless of their age or ability, and to choose occupations that give meaning to their lives. ■

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

*continued from page 6*

**North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association – \$300**  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Rebecca Iverson,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Ohio Occupational Therapy Association – \$1,000**  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Lori Dallacheisa  
University of Findlay

**Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Association – \$500**  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Callie Acree  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

**Oregon Occupational Therapy Association – \$500**  
*Associate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Donna Remmick  
Mount Hood Community College

**The Reba M. Sebelist Scholarship of the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association – \$500**  
*Baccalaureate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Alisha Kowalecki  
Duquesne University

**Rhode Island Occupational Therapy Association – \$1,000**  
*Associate Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Courtney Crone  
New England Institute of Technology

**Texas Occupational Therapy Association – \$1,000**  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Leyla Hedayati  
Texas Woman's University

**Utah Occupational Therapy Association – \$350**  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Amy Nielsen  
University of Utah

**The Charlotte Prudich Scholarship of the West Virginia Occupational Therapy Association – \$600**  
*Professional Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy*

- Diana Carter  
West Virginia University