

AOTF

connection

Contents

Message from the Executive Director	1
AOTF/CHICO'S Partnership	2
North Coast Medical Renews Scholarship Commitment	3
AOTF Strategic Plan Approved	3
Burstein Endows Scholarships	3
AOTF Events in Charlotte	4
Reatha Clark King Joins Board	5
Renee Achter Remembered	6

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Letter from Martha Kirkland, Executive Director of AOTF

Dear Friends,

June 2006 will mark my twentieth year as Executive Director of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. These 20 years reflect significant growth and accomplishments for AOTF and the most exciting and rewarding years of my professional life.

AOTF is well positioned today with strong and dynamic leadership from its committed Board of Directors and staff. We enjoy close collaboration with our colleagues at AOTA and NBCOT, and together we have pledged to work as partners on professional issues of mutual concern. AOTF is fiscally sound, with growing assets to support current programs, as well as an endowment reserved to address the future needs of the profession.

During the past year I have worked hand-in-hand with the Board and many of you to create a bold new vision for the Foundation. Our focus is on research and education to develop the science and scientists who will continue to study and document the impact of occupation on health and the capacity of occupation to help people live their lives and equalize social participation.

AOTF is entering an exciting, new phase of its life designed to strengthen the profession and those who dedicate their lives to it. With this course set, the time is right to transition to a new leader who will help to make the Foundation's vision a reality. It is now time in my life to travel, hike with my husband, and enjoy my family and grandchildren. With these goals in mind, I have informed the AOTF Board of Directors that I will retire on December 31, 2006.

I look forward to facilitating the transition to the new executive director of this thriving organization. And, I will continue to be involved with the Foundation to provide counsel to the Board and the new director. I will remain forever committed to occupational therapy and to AOTF's remarkable vision for the 21st century.

Martha Kirkland



Photo: Herman Farrer

Ruth Ann Watkins, AOTF President, Carolyn Baum, AOTA President, and Martha Kirkland share a moment after Martha received the AOTA/AOTF Presidents' Commendation in Honor of Wilma L. West at the 2005 AOTA Annual Conference.

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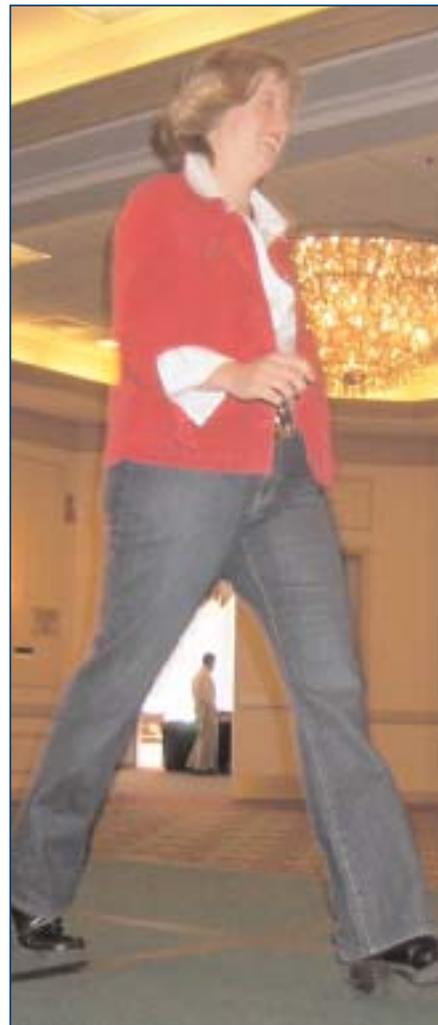
AOTF/CHICO'S Partnership Provides Winning Opportunity

Give Lady Luck a chance to visit you and your closet! Watch your mailbox in February for an opportunity to enter the AOTF/CHICO'S sweepstakes and win a \$4,000 CHICO'S gift certificate.

CHICO'S, the women's clothing retailer, created this sweepstakes especially for occupational therapy practitioners and their friends. No purchase is necessary. Simply complete the entry form on the postcard you receive in the mail and take it to any participating CHICO'S retail store between February 20 and March 24, 2006. Give the other entry form marked "Friend of OT Practitioner" to a friend so she can also have a chance to win.

The sweepstakes is the culmination of a national public education partnership known as *The Smart Traveler* which made its debut last year at the AOTA Annual Conference in Long Beach, California. AOTF and CHICO'S have joined to promote safe, convenient, and easy traveling as one of the most meaningful and frequent occupations for women of all ages and abilities. Last year, AOTF distributed over 100,000 brochures featuring tips from occupational therapy practitioners on how to reduce the physical and emotional stress of traveling and including selections from CHICO'S easy-to-wear travel fashions.

During the fall, AOTF and CHICO'S hosted fashion shows based on *The Smart Traveler* at the New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois state association conferences and the Mountain Central regional conference in Texas.



NYSOTA Conference Treasurer, Michelle Barrisi, models CHICO'S fashions at the state conference.

At these conferences, local occupational therapy practitioners and students modeled the CHICO'S Travelers™ Collection and emphasized their occupational therapy stress-reducing and comfort-enhancing tips.

For more information on the AOTF/CHICO'S partnership, please call Debra Goldstein at AOTF (301) 652-6611 ext 2552 or dgoldstein@aotf.org.

Photo: Courtesy of a NYSOTA member

North Coast Medical Renews Three-Year Commitment to Scholarships

Mark Biehl, President and CEO of North Coast Medical, recently renewed North Coast's sponsorship of two scholarships for a three-year period. In the past, North Coast's support has enabled the Foundation to award scholarships to six students pursuing careers in occupational therapy.



North Coast's corporate leadership not only benefits the recipients of these scholarships but also sets a new standard for the Foundation by moving towards larger awards and diversifying our scholarship program. This expansion of the scholarship program helps to fulfill the Foundation's focus on advancing education and is critical

to the growth and development of the profession.

Biehl's commitment to the next generation of practitioners is an extension of the support AOTF consistently received from his parents, Frank and Lori Biehl. Under the leadership of the Biehl family, North Coast Medical has firmly established itself as generous supporters of the Foundation and a valuable resource for the advancement of occupational therapy.

Mission Accomplished – the AOTF Strategic Plan Approved

Three cheers and abundant thanks to our many friends and colleagues who contributed to the creation of AOTF's bold, new strategic plan for 2005-2008. Over 15,000 occupational therapy practitioners and colleagues from the aging, mental health, and developmental disabilities communities received the plan as a work in progress. They were invited to provide comments on the plan prior to its adoption by the AOTF Board of Directors in November 2005.

This Strategic Plan is the roadmap that guides the Foundation's work in four priority areas: research, education, leadership development, and the promotion of occupational therapy. You may visit our Web site at www.aotf.org to view the final plan. It supports AOTF's vision of a just and equitable society in which people, regardless of their age or ability may participate in occupations that contribute to their health and well-being. The Foundation will invest its resources to develop our science and expand the profession's corps of scientists and educators. As the profession expands its body of knowledge we not only generate important evidence to inform practice but also contribute to the interdisciplinary understanding of the beneficial relationship between occupation and health.

Ethel Beard Burstein Endows Two Scholarships

Last year, Ethel Beard Burstein, presently of Scottsdale, Arizona, endowed two scholarships to be offered in perpetuity. Ms. Burstein is funding these scholarships as a way of expressing her gratitude to Helen Willard and Clare Spackman. These two leading educators, clinicians, and humanitarians had considerable influence on Ms. Burstein's occupational therapy education and career.

"My hope is that the scholarship recipients will view occupational therapy with dedication to improve the quality of life for our patients. In return, we as therapists, have the rewards of challenging work, and training students to be creative, diversified and honorable professional clinicians. I cannot think of a better legacy than to try to continue the work of Helen and Clare and the many occupational therapists now practicing" wrote Ms. Burstein.

Ms. Burstein's particular interest is in rewarding students intending to be occupational therapy clinicians. In order to continue the legacy of Helen Willard and Clare Spackman in Philadelphia, Ms. Burstein would like one scholarship to go to a student from a Philadelphia school.

AOTF is honored to offer the Ethel Beard Burstein scholarships and continue Ms. Burstein's commitment to clinical practice and the infinite contributions occupational therapy makes to quality of life.

Foundation Highlights at the AOTA Annual Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina

Music as Voice for Occupation

Treat yourself to an extraordinary sensory and intellectual feast at the AOTF 12th Annual Breakfast With a Scholar. Preeminent music scholar, Dr. Rae Linda Brown will provide insights from the lives of two amazing African-American composers, Florence Beatrice Price and Undine Smith Moore, whose music is an eloquent metaphor for occupation and social justice. Dr. Brown will interpret the work of these incredible women using recorded excerpts from their compositions to demonstrate how music transmits values and culture, breaks down social barriers, promotes shared experiences, and both soothes and stimulates the senses.

Florence Beatrice Price was a concert pianist and organist, composer, arranger, and teacher who graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1906. Undine Moore, often referred to as the "Dean of Black Women Composers," received the first scholarship from the Juilliard Graduate School to study music at Fisk University in 1926. These women's lives are as moving as their music. Their work is compellingly vital and rich in symbolism and gives artistic voice to the power and significance of occupational roles as

expressed through music. Join us for a delicious breakfast and a rare learning experience, Saturday, April 29 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Research Events Support the AOTF Vision and Mission

The AOTA Annual Conference of 2006 offers several opportunities to support the Foundation's major focus of promoting research and building the faculty expertise needed for the future. The first of these events is a two-day pre-conference institute, co-sponsored by AOTA and AOTF, **Building Academic and Practice Careers Around Science**. This institute is the second in a series called *Linking Science, Education and Practice: an Ongoing Series to Foster Scholarly Work in Occupational Therapy*. Participants in these institutes are therapists whose career agendas lean towards productive research and teaching responsibilities, and who are eager to understand academic systems, opportunities for mentoring, and mechanisms for succeeding in the world of research funding. Seventy-five people attended the institute in 2005; more than 100 are expected to register in 2006. Teams of highly skilled mentors, mid-career scientists, and early-career researchers will

continued on page 5



Photo: Courtesy of Photographic Elegance

The Mint Museum of Art will host the AOTF 2006 Conference Gala, Friday, April 28 from 8 to 11 p.m.

Gala Celebrates the South at the Mint Museum of Art

This year, the festive AOTF Gala will be at Charlotte's historic Mint Museum of Art, a building reborn from mint to North Carolina's first art museum. The Museum now has extensive collections in American fine and decorative arts, pre-Columbian art, historic and fashion costumes, African art, contemporary art and photography, and a world-famous collection of American and English ceramics.

The AOTF gala will offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Mint Museum of Art's collections and a special exhibit by photographer Wendy Ewald.

A sumptuous array of hors d'oeuvres featuring delicacies from both the "old" and "new" South will flavor this special evening at one of Charlotte's finest cultural achievements. Come party with us on Friday, April 28 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

AOTF Welcomes Reatha Clark King to Board

Dr. Reatha Clark King was elected to our Board of Directors in November 2005 bringing with her a long history of both corporate and non-profit leadership. Dr. King is a Senior Advisor of the Council of Foundations. She is former president and board chair of the General Mills Foundation and vice president of General Mills, Inc. She previously served for eleven years as president of Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities.

Dr. King is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and mathematics. She earned the master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry from the University of Chicago and the MBA degree from Columbia University. Dr. King's experiences in philanthropy, chemical research, education and academic administration also include employment as a professor of chemistry and associate dean at York College of the City University of New York at the time the occupational therapy

department was developed. Reatha Clark King has received numerous honors and awards, including fourteen honorary doctorates. Among her many honors is the citation by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* as one of the 100 most influential Minnesotans of the last century, the Civic Leader Award from the League of Women Voters for her pioneering efforts to affect social change, and the 2005 award for Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy by the National Center for Black Philanthropy.



Photo: Lee Prohofscky Photography, Minneapolis, MN

Research Events continued from page 4

present their work and discuss the structures and human resources in their universities which make research careers successful. The institute begins Wednesday April 26 from noon to 6:30 p.m. and will continue on Thursday April 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pricing for this event can be found on www.aota.org.

Health Disparities and Social Justice: Empowering clients to facilitate participation is co-sponsored with Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), the national honor society for occupational therapy and will be Sunday, April 30, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. This is the fifth year PTE has sponsored a conference event designed to enlighten not only their members but all conference attendees about current societal and ethical issues that influence occupational therapy practice. The workshop will be moderated by Frank Kronenberg, co-founder of Occupational Therapists without Borders, an international group that is active in promoting social justice through the provision of occupa-

tional therapy in non-traditional settings. Four research papers will be presented and discussed on occupational deprivation and other social/political situations which deny citizens, particularly the disabled, the right to participate in the occupations of their choice. Speakers will include Dr. Julie Bass-Haugen, from the College of St. Catherine, Dr. Brent Braveman, University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Cynthia Hughes Harris, Florida A&M University, and Dr. Karen Opacich, University of Illinois at Rockford. This event is free and open to all.

The Research Colloquium and Tea, **Health Disparities: Research Promoting Social Justice**, will be held on Friday, April 28 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. It will continue our tradition of including a high tea, providing time for the intellectual debate and networking that has become so popular at this event. Dr. Terry Crowe of the University of New Mexico will serve as moderator, and five scholars will present their

research. They are Drs. Brenda Beagan and Reg Urbanowski from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Dr. Anne Blakeney and Amy Marshall from Eastern Kentucky University, and Dr. Bonnie Kennedy from the University of Pennsylvania.

And finally, AOTF continues to sponsor the very popular **Graduate Student Research Poster Session**. Posters will be presented by 39 student teams covering a wide range of topics. Last year over 300 attendees received continuing education credit for the posters viewed. This year, the time of the event has been increased giving everyone a chance to meet more of the student presenters and discuss their posters. The AOTF Graduate Student Research Poster Session will be on Friday April 28, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and is open to everyone.

Registration information for these and other AOTF events can be found on the AOTA Web site, www.aota.org.

Ilse Renee Achter Enriched Occupational Therapy

The Foundation mourns the loss of Ilse Renee Achter on January 6, 2006; a woman who enriched the profession of occupational therapy with her extraordinary service and life experiences. Last summer, Ms. Achter expressed a desire to make a lasting imprint on occupational therapy education by endowing a scholarship. The Achter Scholarship of \$1000 will be given for the first time this spring to an occupational therapy student who represents Ms. Achter's ideals of working with under-served populations and especially those at risk of losing their independence.

Renee, as she was known by her friends and colleagues, was born in 1924 in Czechoslovakia and escaped the Nazi terror on the Kindertransport. She was educated in England where she earned an occupational therapy degree and a teaching certificate. After the war, she became chief occupational therapist for the United Nation's International Refugee Organization. In that position, Ms. Achter started eight occupational therapy hospital programs in the U.S. zone of Germany. In 1951, Renee came to the U.S. as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and studied the neuromuscular disorders of children. She was the Chief of Occupational Therapy at the District of Columbia General Hospital in the 1950s and 1960s and the Coordinator of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from 1968 until her retirement in 1981. After retirement, Renee remained active in her community and continued her passion for the occupational therapy profession.

Memorial contributions to the Renee Achter Scholarship Fund can be made by sending a check to AOTF and writing Achter Scholarship on the memo line.

AOTF

Reinstates Doctoral

Dissertation Awards

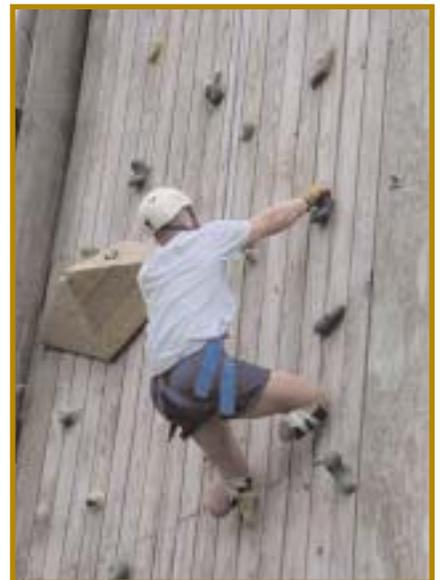
Dissertation Research Grants are now available. Go to www.aotf.org for more information and the application.

Queen Mary Hosted 40th Anniversary Celebration

The Queen Mary was the perfect venue for the Foundation's anniversary festivities held at the 2005 AOTA Annual Conference.

The winning photographs from the AOTF photo contest, Images of Participation and Health, surrounded the restored art deco ballroom. The highlight of the evening was the fashion show featuring occupational therapists showing off the latest CHICO'S styles. They strutted and danced down the "runway" doing their high-fashion model impressions for their cheering friends and colleagues.

Participants strolled the deck of the Queen Mary and imagined life at a more elegant time. It was a night to remember.



Overcoming a Challenge by Suzanne Krenek of Pearland, Texas, winner of the How We Play category, AOTF Photo Contest. Contest photographs are available for your use and can be accessed from our Web site.