Greetings Amazing Alumni and Friends of the Occupational Therapy Department,

Thank you to all our wonderful donors who continue to support the Occupational Therapy program as we prepare occupational therapists to meet the needs of California and beyond. We have created a Donor Recognition section on the alumni page of our website. We are so grateful for the support you have provided to the department. I am truly honored to serve as the Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department and will highlight some of the amazing accomplishments over the past year.

The Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University celebrated 75 Years of Excellence on October 5, 2018! As the oldest public occupational therapy program in the West we have much to celebrate! Highlights of this event are posted on our department website. In preparation for this event, Dr. Heidi Pendleton provided a brief history of the department and created a display for attendees. Here are some of the highlights! Did you know when the San Jose State University Occupational Therapy Department started in 1943 there were only 27 programs in the entire United States and we were the first and only program to offer faculty-run clinics on campus? This has been a hallmark of excellence in our program and we were the first in the nation to offer faculty-run clinics! A focus on graduate education has a long history in the program and in 1961, San Jose State University awarded its first Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy. This interest in advanced education for occupational therapists continued when San Jose State University offered the first online advanced Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy in the United States with the first graduating class in 2001. Continuing as innovators in the profession, we will be offering the first Advanced Certificate program in Mindfulness-Based Occupational Therapy. This program is designed for the occupational therapy practitioner to gain the skills needed to include mindfulness as a service provided to support client’s occupational engagement.

Our program offers a variety of international experience to foster a multicultural understanding of occupational therapy and healthcare. All occupational therapy students are expected to have an international experience and many of the occupational therapy faculty are involved in these Faculty Led Programs to various countries such as Finland, Vietnam, and Taiwan, to name a few! These Faculty Led Programs are also available to all alumni and friends who might be interested in travel! Details can be found on our website: http://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/

As a point of Pride as a Spartan, I would also like to share some amazing information about the occupational therapy students and faculty. All students complete a master’s project that is carefully guided and supported by the faculty. This year, over 40 students submitted and were accepted to present their respective research projects at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Salt Lake City in April 2018! Faculty were also well represented with presentations on topics ranging from sensory processing, sleep, school based practice, dysphagia, international
experiences, and low vision. Of further pride is the fact that close to 40 of our current students completing their fieldwork level II experience presented research projects at the Occupational Therapy Association of California Annual Conference in Pasadena in October 2018! At that conference, Dr. Gigi Smith presented the Honored Lecture at the California Foundation of Occupational Therapy Luncheon. At the College Health and Wellness week, Alison George received the Outstanding Service Award as a Lecturer and I was honored to receive the Outstanding Service Award for a faculty member.

All of these activities are possible because of the generous contributions of our proud alumni and friends. Students devote long hours to their studies, are encouraged to submit their scholarly accomplishments to professional conferences, and then raise funds to attend various conferences and leadership events. It gives me great pleasure to use the funds you have contributed so generously to help defray some of their expenses. Just a few hundred dollars makes the difference for a student being able to present his or her work at a professional conference or declining that honor. I truly hope you have the opportunity to attend their presentations – I think you will be amazed at their professionalism and commitment – and you will know that the future of Occupational Therapy and the excellent reputation of OT at SJSU are in very capable hands with these enthusiastic, bright, and kind-hearted students.

As a friend or graduate of the Occupational Therapy Department at San José State University you have much to be proud of with the accomplishments of the Occupational Therapy Department! So how can you help us with our goal of educating the future occupational therapist?

In order to provide the level of educational excellence you received at SJSU, the Department must purchase and upgrade equipment for classrooms and provide travel funds for faculty and students to represent our wonderful program by presenting at conferences. Basic teaching materials and office supplies must be maintained. We have created donor categories and recognize donors on our website with the following designation: A donation of $500.00 and above is recognized at the Diamond level, a donation of $300.00 - $499.00 is at the Gold level, $200.00 - $299.00 is the Silver level, and a donation of $150.00 - $199.00 is the Bronze level.

If you believe that San Jose State University and the Occupational Therapy Department contributed to, or were instrumental in your professional development and ultimate financial success, please help us now with a generous financial contribution. If as a student, you received a department scholarship, emergency fund grant or no-interest fieldwork loan - please consider how beneficial that was to your success at school – and give generously to help our current students. There is no more important time to give than now and there is no more important investment you could make to your profession than to support the school and program of which you can be proud. Please contact us if you want information about including our program in your will or trust. With your generous financial help, we will be able to ensure that the Occupational Therapy Department continues to excel and to graduate exceptionally prepared occupational therapists. Each and every contribution means so much to the department as it reflects the pride and respect you feel toward your SJSU Occupational Therapy family and our future. Thank you for your generous support. Your gift will truly make a difference.

All the best to you!

Winifred Schultz-Krohn PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA
Professor and Chair of San Jose Occupational Therapy Department