About the Awards Luncheon and Symposium

Recipients of the 2018 CFOT scholarships, research grants, and awards will be announced at the annual CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium on Friday, October 26, 11:30am–1:00pm. Following presentation of the awards, attendees will be inspired to build upon their capacity with Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, this year’s CFOT Honored Lecturer.

Honored Lecturer – Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

The Power of Selective “Yes”

Our professional and personal tapestry is woven by the opportunities and experiences in our lives that we either embrace or pass by. Saying “yes” (and selectively saying “no”) gives us the power to create our unique occupational performance pattern of living, which can lead to realizing and participating in a life fully lived.

Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for over 35 years. She received her bachelor’s and post professional master’s in occupational therapy from San Jose State University (SJSU) and earned her PhD in health sciences from Touro University International. Smith is highly regarded in her roles at the SJSU Occupational Therapy Program where she is an associate professor and teaches courses in practice areas, professional development, and research. She also serves as a faculty advisor for student research projects. Smith is the graduate admissions coordinator and advisor for the Occupational Therapy Program and she sits on multiple committees at the university, college, and departmental levels. She has written several chapters in well-respected occupational therapy textbooks. She has lectured locally, nationally, and internationally on various topics, but most extensively on occupational therapy’s role in dysphagia intervention. Smith has been an active member of both the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) since the time she was a student, serving on many different committees and in multiple leadership roles. Currently she is serving in the elected officer position of secretary on the OTAC Board of Directors. Her clinical experience includes working with adults with neurological disorders in a variety of practice settings and she currently works with children, birth to three years old, in early intervention home care.

Humanitarian of the Year – Vijay Gupta

Vijay Gupta is a violinist, speaker, and advocate for the power of music to change lives. Gupta joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 19 after completing a master’s in violin performance from the Yale School of Music and a bachelor’s in biology from Marist College. As a 2011 TED Senior Fellow, Gupta founded Street Symphony, a non-profit organization dedicated to placing music at the heart of social justice by engaging communities in greater Los Angeles experiencing homelessness and incarceration through musical performance and dialogue.

In 2017, Gupta was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement award by the Longy School of Music of Bard College, and was named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow. Gupta believes that musical engagement reconnects us to our shared humanity across vast divides, and ultimately impacts social justice.

CFOT Silent Auction

The CFOT booth in the OTAC Expo Hall will be buzzing with activity. Your support is encouraged and appreciated both as bidders and donors of auction items. CFOT annually awards thousands of dollars for scholarships and research grants. Help CFOT meet, and exceed, its goal.

Donations of auction items valued at $25 or greater are needed. Please contact CFOT by email at silentauction@cfot.org.