

California Foundation for Occupational Therapy

www.CFOT.org



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Electronic Newsletter

December 2014

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy celebrated its 33rd Annual Awards Ceremony at the CFOT luncheon on October 17, 2014. The luncheon was held in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) in Pasadena, CA. The CFOT presented scholarships and traineeships to occupational therapy students, research grants and monies for seed projects to occupational therapists, and CFOT awards. The CFOT also paid tribute to Frank Joseph Biehl. Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L was the 2014 CFOT Honored Lecturer and the recipient of the 2014 CFOT Humanitarian Award.

The CFOT engaged in fundraising for future scholarships and grants through a silent auction and matching challenge. The CFOT board engaged in all these activities despite the unplanned absences of several key individuals due to illness. We thank all those who helped and carried out the many important functions in seamless fashion to make the events a success!

2014 OTAC Annual Conference



TRIBUTE TO FRANK

JOSEPH BIEHL



Frank Joseph Biehl died in Santa Rosa, on May 17, 2014 at the age of 87. He was an entrepreneur and pioneer in the development and sales of products for the medical, occupational, hand therapy, and physical therapy fields. In 1974, he and his wife, Loretta (Lori) started North Coast Medical, now a leading supplier for the occupational and physical therapy professions. From the onset, North Coast Medical was dedicated to humanitarian core values and commitment to community and is to this day under the leadership of son Mark Biehl.

Frank was a friend to all of us. He was a big man not only in physical stature, but in his generous and commanding presence. When he walked into a room, his quiet smile and warm manner filled the room. Frank was a special friend to CFOT and he inspired all of us. He was the heart and soul of CFOT. Frank initiated the first CFOT graduate student scholarship as the North Coast Medical Scholarship which was first awarded in 1985 and every year thereafter.

Frank and Lori had a basic desire to help therapists gain access to state-of-the-art products to enhance their practice and to provide opportunities for advancement for all their employees, regardless of skill level or abilities. Their commitment was based on a strong philosophy of “giving back” to the organizations and people that made their company a success. Frank was a pioneer in his support for people with disabilities. North Coast Medical forged a strong and nurturing relationship with HOPE Rehabilitation, built on the founding principle “to help people experiencing difficulties in daily living flourish in their everyday environments”. It was stories about the underlying philosophy of North Coast Medical and commitment to this philosophy that inspired Evie Jaffe, then President of CFOT, to establish the CFOT Humanitarian Award. Frank and Lori Biehl were the first awardees - they epitomized the principles that formed the criteria for the award.

To honor and pay tribute to this very special man, the CFOT is establishing a permanent Frank J. Biehl Opportunity Scholarship in memory of Frank who gave so much to so many everywhere. His son Mark, the current CEO of North Coast Medical said “providing opportunity for others, that is what my father was all about”. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2015.

Please join us in contributing to this special scholarship in honor of this special man. Send contributions to:

Sue Knox, CFOT Treasurer at 3458 La Sombra Drive, Hollywood, CA 90068.

CFOT AWARDS

The 2014 CFOT awards included the Humanitarian Award and the Honored Lectureship. Both awards were given to Heather Javaherian-Dysinger! This is only the second time in CFOT history that we have given the Humanitarian Award and the Honored Lectureship to the same person. The first was in 2009 honoring the work of Bonnie Nakasugi, OTD, OTR/L in Ghana. Both of these women have done outstanding humanitarian activities and are accomplished lecturers.

2014 Humanitarian Award

The purpose of the Humanitarian Award is to honor individuals or groups who, through their humanitarian activities, have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the philosophical principles of occupational therapy. The CFOT was honored to present the 2014 CFOT Humanitarian Award to Dr. Heather Javaherian-Dysinger for her efforts in working with individuals who have encountered and survived domestic violence.



Pictured above: Dr. Heather Javaherian-Dysinger

Heather has always had a strong commitment to serving her community. As a traveling occupational therapist, her last assignment was in her home town in Pennsylvania. After working several months she asked her mother about volunteer opportunities in the community and her mother suggested that she call the women's abuse and crisis center. She found that individuals who wish to volunteer had to undergo training and she began training. She then moved to Ohio and continued her commitment to helping those who have encountered domestic violence. As each state has its own training requirements, she began training there. In Ohio, she was on call once every month from 6 PM to 6 AM as a runner to several hospitals and if called, met with the victim of DV or she sat with women undergoing a rape kit. She had firsthand experience with survivors of Domestic Violence and could foresee the value of occupational therapy intervention in their lives. These women and most of the victims were women, were traumatized, isolated from support systems, responsible for caring for their children, lacked many skills, and had few positive role models. At Creighton University, she pursued her interest in this area and the focus of her OTD was in domestic violence. She conducted a qualitative study on survivors of DV and published in OT mental health; she developed groups for a nearby shelter and implemented the groups weekly as part of her doctoral work. When she was recruited as faculty at Loma Linda University and she told the director that in addition to her academic responsibilities, she was committed to continuing her work in domestic violence and envisioned involving Level I and II fieldwork students at nearby shelters. Heather continues to volunteer at nearby shelters, has established program development projects at the shelter in parenting, life skills such as budgeting, time management, social participation, has obtained a service contract for occupational therapy at a shelter, connected a physician to the shelter in which he provides pro bono services every 2 weeks. She established Family Night at her home in which she hosts a monthly dinner for survivors of DV and their children.

At family night, she invites some of her friends who serve as positive role models - for these individuals.

She has established Level I and II fieldwork experiences for occupational therapy students. She supervised an OT graduate student in developing a curriculum for school age children at the shelter. Based on her experiences she has co-authored a white paper on DV for the AOTA. In May of this year she established Roots Down, a non-profit focused on working with families who have experienced domestic violence and are living abuse free in the community. The goals are to empower, teach life skills, and promote health through a family garden.

2014 Honored Lectureship

The CFOT Honored Lectureship was established to recognize occupational therapists in the state of California who have demonstrated leadership and promoted ideas and visions in occupational therapy for the profession and to provide the occupational therapy community to hear them speak at a public gathering.

Dr. Javaherian-Dysinger is currently the Program Director of the Masters in Occupational Therapy and is Associate Professor at Loma Linda University.

She earned her MS in occupational therapy at D'Youville College in Buffalo NY, and her OTD from Creighton University in Omaha, NE. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings and has treated individuals with neurological conditions, head and physical injuries, and those in long term care facilities. In addition to her clinical work, she was assistant professor of occupational therapy at Xavier University in Cincinnati Ohio.

She has co-authored publications in the Journal of Gerontology and Geriatric Research, Journal of Allied Health Professions, Occupational Therapy in Health Care, Journal of Occupational Science, Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, Journal of Religion, Health, and Disability and Journal of Family Violence. She has co-authored book chapters in "Conditions of Occupational Therapy", "Living Life to its fullest", and "Best Practices in Occupational Therapy Education."

She has made presentations at The Ohio Occupational Therapy Association, the Scientific Meeting of the Obesity Society, OTAC annual and spring conferences and AOTA. In both her publications and presentations, she has addressed a wide range of topics which speak to her range of interests both clinically and professionally. Topics include orthopedics, the discharge process and transitioning, preparedness in working with individuals who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual, online learning benefits, mental health parity, childhood obesity and surviving domestic violence. Her passion lies in delineating the role of occupational therapy in assisting survivors of domestic violence. She has been an invited lecturer on this topic, is co-author of a position statement on Domestic violence for the AOTA, and co-chairs the Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Task Force for Loma Linda University.

Dr. Javaherian-Dysinger has been involved in professional service to occupational therapy organizations. She served as Chair of the Cincinnati District OT Association, has been a conference proposal reviewer for OTAC, a reviewer for two occupational therapy textbooks, and a reviewer for the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Dr. Javaherian-Dysinger has received the “Young Investigator’s Research Award” from Loma Linda University and was named Faculty of the Year School of Allied Health Professions, Loma Linda University. It was a distinct pleasure to have her as the 2014 CFOT Honored Lecturer. Her topic was “Roots Down: Occupational Therapy and Domestic Violence”. It was a moving and inspiring tribute to acknowledging the importance of occupational therapy principles and intervention with this vulnerable population.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

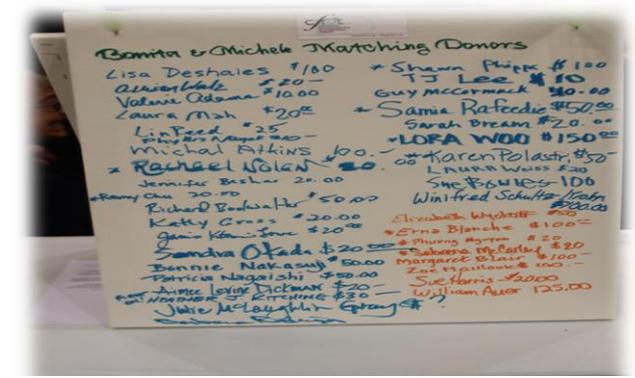
The CFOT added two new scholarships this past year. The CFOT Board of Directors established a scholarship to honor Dr. Martin Shaperman, a behind the scenes but ardent supporter and champion of CFOT. Julie Shaperman, MSPH, OTR/L will maintain the scholarship in years to come.

Michele Berro MA, OTR/L established a permanent scholarship in memory of Mary Ann Epstein a colleague and leader at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. The CFOT thanks both Julie and Michelle. This year the CFOT instituted a reduced rate for students for the CFOT luncheon. We wanted to give students an opportunity to honor their fellow students receiving scholarships, to hear the CFOT Honored Lecturers, and to learn the accomplishments of our Humanitarian awardees. We encourage anyone to sponsor tables for our students!



Pictured above: Guy McCormack, Sarah Kelly and Luis Arabit

In 2014, the CFOT awarded \$14,500 in scholarships, \$2800 in traineeships, and \$4605 in research grants and \$500 in seed money projects! In conference fundraising we generated monies through the silent auction and through matching the fundraising we generated through the challenge board worn throughout the exhibit hall. Thank you Bonita Kraft and Michele Berro for matching the money from the challenge board! Thank you everyone for contributing auction items and contributing to our fundraising efforts.



2014 CFOT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Janice Matsutsuyu Scholarship

Daniel Pezel - Samuel Merritt University

Jaffe Graduate Scholarship

Kate Lee - University of Southern California

Knox-Hirsch Scholarship

Damien Kristopher Meadows - Samuel Merritt University

Ardith Breton Scholarship

Caitlin Chaney - University of Southern California

Fred Sammons Scholarship

Brittany Thompson - Cal State Dominguez Hills

North Coast Medical Scholarship

Amber Bennett - University of Southern California

Fred Sammons Scholarship

Jenna Jue - San Jose State University

Wilma West Scholarship

Allyssa Concha - University of Southern California

Jan Matsutsuyu Scholarship

Carol Haywood - University of Southern California

Dr. Martin Shaperman Scholarship

Adrienne LeBlanc - Dominican University

Bonita Kraft Scholarship

Samantha Itaya - Cal State Dominguez Hills

Michele Berro Scholarship in memory of

Mary Ann Epstein

Puja Gohel - Loma Linda University



Pictures above: Front row: Amber Bennett, Kate Lee, Puja Gohel, Damien(Kris) Meadows Back row: Caitlin Chaney, Samantha Itaya, Jenna Jue, Brittany Thompson

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

ASSISTANT TRAINEESHIPS

Janice Matsutsuyu Traineeship

Laura Mah - Sacramento City College College

Los Angeles Consultants Group Traineeships

Amy Moore - Santa Ana College

Janine Hardman - Grossmont College



Pictured Above: Laura Mah

CFOT RESEARCH AWARDS

Joyce Cabrera, MOT, OTR/L - Loma Linda University

"Perspectives of Elementary School Teachers Regarding the Sensory Needs of Students"

Teresa Shaffer, MOT, OT/L - Loma Linda University

"The Emotional Intelligence Needs of Children in a Mental Health Setting"

Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L - Loma Linda University

"Health Profiles and Lifestyle Promotion Among Survivors of Domestic Violence"



Pictured Above: Left to right Teresa Shaffer, Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, Joyce Cabrera

SEED MONEY AWARDS

Kati Winkle, Emily Moor, Esther Ortega, Emiloy Prendergast, Eugene Tabingo, and Kyle Welsh - Loma Linda University (Pictured below)

"Health Profiles of Loma Linda University Allied Health Students"



Sara Pro, Adrienne LeBlanc, April Wastjutin, Robert Williams, - Dominican University

"PediApp Finder: Creating a Pediatric Application Database for Occupational Therapists"

ATTENTION STUDENTS AND FACULTY

The deadline for applications for both the Entry Level and Post Professional CFOT scholarships is March 31st.

For more information, students should feel free to access the CFOT web site at www.cfot.org or feel free to call or write:

Laura Weiss, MS, OTR/L

CFOT scholarship co-chair

818-700-5648

Laura.Weiss@DignityHealth.org

Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

CFOT scholarship co-chair

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SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks to Katie Gundersen, MS,OTR/L, Bonita Kraft,OTR/L, Diana Su Erickson, OTR/L and the entire CFOT board and volunteer helpers for organizing a successful conference event despite the absence of several key CFOT helpers!

Thank you OTAC for your continuing support both philosophically and financially. Thank you to our scholarship donors, to the reviewers of scholarship and research award applications and to all of you for your donations to the silent auction, fundraising efforts and your continuing support of CFOT. We couldn't do it without all of you.

CFOT BOARD MEMBERS

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Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR, FAOTA

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