



CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michele Berro, CFOT President



Dear Colleagues & Friends,

CFOT closed out 2024 with an outstanding presence at the OTAC Conference in Pasadena! We were able to reach hundreds of OTs and share our mission to advance OT knowledge and practice in California by providing scholarships, traineeships, seed money and research grants to deserving OT students and clinicians. I am pleased to

announce that we awarded over \$63,000 in scholarships and research grants at our CFOT Annual Awards Luncheon & Symposium, the largest sum ever!

Whether at our table in the registration area, at our luncheon & symposium, or at our booth in the exhibit hall it was clear CFOT was “in the house”! Our strategic branding of all CFOT materials was noticed and appreciated by attendees, from the sharpness of our handouts - to our signage - to our giveaways, everything was on point and on brand with our logo and colors. Our Board proudly donned teal-colored pashmina scarves so we could be easily recognized as we moved about the conference. Our efforts to promote CFOT and our mission paid off as we were able to raise \$12,000 through very generous large and small dollar donations!

I was honored to accept the OTAC Vision Award on behalf of CFOT at the OTAC Awards Ceremony. In my remarks I acknowledged and thanked OTAC for our decades-long collaboration. OTAC has consistently and generously supported the CFOT by elevating and showcasing our work. Our Board humbly does its work because we are dedicated to our mission and devoted to a profession we love. To be acknowledged for our contributions by OTAC was an unexpected, yet truly heartwarming, affirmation of our efforts and our collaboration over the past 43 years!

Spring is a season of new beginnings, and I am pleased to announce 5 newly endowed CFOT awards:

- Linda Florey Scholarship
- Evelyn Jaffe Scholarship
- Susan Knox-Hirsch Scholarship

- Bonita Kraft Research Grant
- Julie Shaperman Research Grant
in Memory of Dr. Martin Shaperman

These endowed awards are in recognition of sustained donations made over many years that have met or exceeded the \$25,000 endowed giving level. We would like to honor and recognize Linda Florey, Evelyn Jaffe, Susan Knox, Bonita Kraft, and Julie Shaperman for their outstanding contributions to the occupational therapy profession and to CFOT through their extraordinary leadership and generosity.

I would like to close by recognizing our dedicated Board and our amazing donors who through their gifts make it possible for CFOT to fulfill the promise of our mission and ultimately benefit the patients we serve. Simply put, the Foundation raises funds so that we can give it away! Thanks to everyone for your continued support of CFOT.

Warmly, Michele

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CFOT ENDOWED DONORS

(DONATION OF
\$25,000 OR MORE)



MICHELE BERRO
IN MEMORY OF
MARY ANN EPSTEIN

LINDA FLOREY

MAUREEN
CUNNINGHAM
HERWOOD

EVELYN JAFFE

SUSAN KNOX

BONITA KRAFT

JANICE
MATSUTSUYU

NANCY SCOTT
IN HONOR OF
LISA TEST

JULIE
SHAPERMAN

CFOT LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

(DONATION OF \$2,500)

MICHELE BERRO

LINDA FLOREY

JOYCE FRIES

EVELYN JAFFE

SUSAN KNOX

BONITA KRAFT

BONNIE NAKASUJI

JUDI PALLADINO

HEIDI MCHUGH
PENDLETON

SHAWN PHIPPS

WINIFRED
SCHULTZ-KROHN

JULIE SHAPERMAN



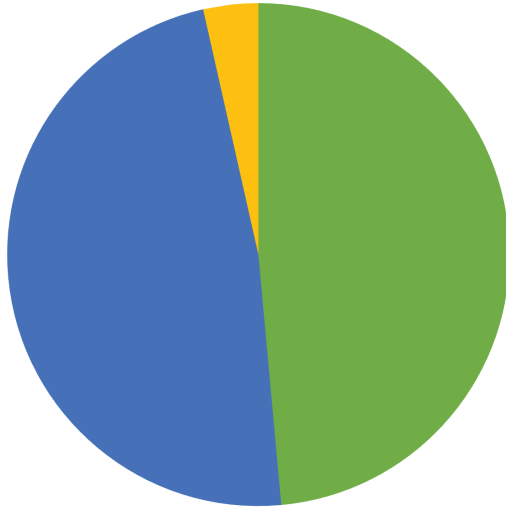
CFOT Donors

OCTOBER, 2023 - SEPTEMBER, 2024

CFOT MAJOR DONORS			
DIAMOND (\$25,000)	GOLD (\$20,000–\$24,999)	SILVER (\$10,000–\$19,999)	BRONZE (\$5,000–\$9,999)
Perry Herwood Trust			Bonita Kraft Julie Shaperman
CFOT DONORS			
LEGACY (\$2,500–\$4,999)		BENEFACITOR (\$250–\$2,499)	
Ascend Rehab Services, Inc. Linda Florey Evelyn Jaffe	Susan Knox Heidi McHugh Pendleton Pat Nagaishi	Michele Berro Erna Blanche Deborah Bolding Richard Bookwalter Lisa Deshaies Bryant Edwards Mary Evert Susan Fisher Mary Kay Gallagher Lela Llorens	Stephen Lofy Matra Majmundar Rajesh Mashruwala Norma McCormack Terry Peralta-Catipon Samia Rafeedie Winifred Schultz-Krohn Susan Schwartz Jerilyn Smith Yuriko L. Yasuda Trust
PATRON (\$100–\$249)		DONOR (\$5–\$99)	
Sharon Cermak Cheryl Ecker Alison George Kathleen Gross Paul & Shelly Iwamasa Christine Jackson Heather J. Kitching Jean Koketsu Diane Laszlo	Jacalyn Mardirossian Arline Mayeda Chinn Bonnie Nakasuji Kerry Onishi Jill Peck-Murray Elizabeth Russel Alexis Sobel Laura Weiss	Kenzie Butts Bianca Callier Gordon Giles Kelly Gorton Kathryn Gundersen Xin Guo Allison Hershberg Tammy Hitchcock Heather Javaherian Grace Jeng Ashly King	Janis Kitsuwa-Lowe Ethel Lai Hailee Litchfield Madysen Magbanua Sheryl Ryan Amber Schwartz Swati Shah Vivian Siu Susan Spitzer Lillian Sun Kathryn Wise

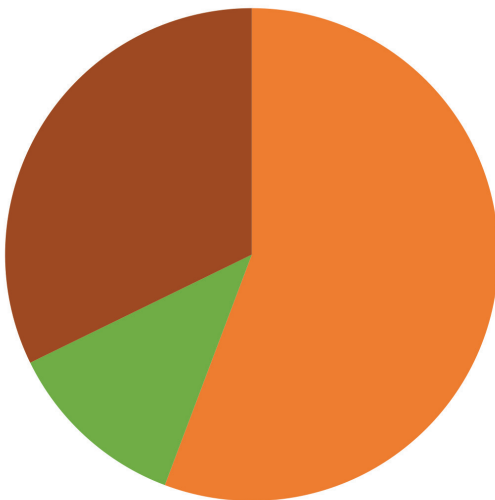
Where Do Your CFOT Contributions Go?

REVENUE



- 32% Endowment - income from investments and interest
- 61% Designated Gifts - endowed scholarships and research grants, donations for scholarships, research grants, seed money, and traineeships
- 7% Annual Fund Drive - funds raised from OTAC Conference activities

EXPENSES



- 12% OTAC Conference activities
- 26% Staff
- 62% Program Services - scholarships, research grants, traineeships, and seed monies

These two charts show our revenue and expenses for 2024. Our Board of Directors and members are all volunteers. They give generously of their time, money, and effort to support the development of the profession, the education of students, and cutting-edge research.

We appreciate your support through your time, contributions, and gifts. THANK YOU!

WHERE DO YOUR CFOT CONTRIBUTIONS GO?



To people like Kelsey Bowles, an occupational therapy assistant student at Sacramento City College, who was recently awarded a 2025 \$1,000 OTA Traineeship and sent this letter of thanks...



My name is Kelsey Bowles, and I would like to thank everyone involved at the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy for generously granting me the Traineeship Award. Words cannot describe how grateful I am for your generosity and willingness to afford me the opportunity to fulfill my education goals. By receiving this, I can wholeheartedly focus on my passion of becoming the best Occupational Therapy Assistant that I can be!

Again, I am deeply honored that you chose me as a recipient and I promise to proudly serve my community in all my future endeavors.

*With sincerest gratitude,
Kelsey Bowles, OTAS*



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Transforming lives through individualized, innovative strategies for everyday living.

COULD YOU BE ONE OF CFOT'S *Scholarship Recipients?*

CFOT IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
more than 15 available scholarships
UP TO \$3,000 EACH

California Foundation for Occupational Therapy is offering scholarships to assist students who are pursuing either of the following degrees:

ENTRY-LEVEL DEGREES

Students enrolled in entry-level graduate degree OT program leading to a Master's degree in OT or Doctor of OT degree.

POST-PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE DEGREES

Occupational therapy practitioners seeking graduate education beyond entry-level degree with goals of furthering service, education or research in OT.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
MARCH 31

APPLY NOW!





OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Transforming lives through individualized, innovative strategies for everyday living.

COULD YOU BE ONE OF CFOT'S

Occupational Therapy Assistant Student Traineeship Recipients?

CFOT IS AWARDING TRAINEESHIPS TO
OTA STUDENTS TO SUPPORT THEM DURING
THEIR LEVEL II FIELDWORK EXPERIENCES
\$1,000 EACH

*1 Traineeship is Allocated for Each
OTA Program in California*

Nominations are submitted by the program director where the student is enrolled.

For more information, visit [cfot.org/
scholarships-traineeships/traineeships](https://cfot.org/scholarships-traineeships/traineeships)

MORE INFO





OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Transforming lives through individualized, innovative strategies for everyday living.

COULD YOU BE ONE OF CFOT'S *Research Grant or Seed Money Recipients?*

CFOT IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR
more than 10 available Research Grants
RANGING FROM \$1,000-\$10,000
and Seed Money
UP TO \$300

California Foundation for Occupational Therapy is offering
Research Grants and Seed Money to OT Practitioners, Faculty and Students:

RESEARCH GRANTS

GENERAL FUND GRANTS

- ☐ Up to \$10,000 each
- ☐ Reviewed and funded annually
- ☐ OT outcome studies are a priority

SPECIALLY FUNDED GRANTS

- ☐ \$1,000 - \$3,000 each
- ☐ For research in areas of Women's Health, Physical Dysfunction, Mental Health, Pediatrics, Occupation-Centered Practice, Fieldwork, and more

SEED MONEY

- ☐ Up to \$300 each
- ☐ For research or project/program development
- ☐ Can be submitted throughout the year and will be funded quarterly

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
MAY 1

SUBMIT NOW!





OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Transforming lives through individualized, innovative strategies for everyday living.

CFOT is looking *for you!*

We are looking for volunteers to take on tasks large and small. Maybe you are available once a month, or just once a year. We need everyone's help to grow CFOT and support OT students, clinicians and researchers in California. We would love for you to join the CFOT team!



CFOT.ORG

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS AND ABILITIES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- ☐ **FUNDRAISING**
- ☐ **DONOR OUTREACH**
- ☐ **MARKETING**
- ☐ **SOCIAL MEDIA**
- ☐ **PROMOTING OT**
- ☐ **OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS**
- ☐ **PHOTOGRAPHY**
- ☐ **WRITING ARTICLES**
- ☐ **PROOFREADING/EDITING**
- ☐ **RESEARCH GRANT REVIEW**
- ☐ **SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW**

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

For more information please contact
PRESIDENT@CFOT.ORG

CFOT AT THE 2024 OTAC CONFERENCE



CFOT Board Members in attendance, sporting our signature teal scarves



CFOT President, Michele Berro, accepting the 2024 OTAC Vision Award



Some of CFOT's 2024 Scholarship and Traineeship Awardees

2024 CFOT Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS

Michele Berro Scholarship

(in memory of Mary Ann Epstein)

Darcy McPherson – West Coast University

Frank J. Biehl Scholarship

Catheline Phan –

California State University Dominguez Hills

Ardith Breton Scholarship

Brigid Connelly – University of Southern California

Linda Florey Scholarship

Monica Ribeiro – West Coast University

Maureen Cunningham Herwood Scholarship

Nathan Burke-Tan – San Jose State University

Evelyn Jaffe Scholarship

Nicole Conyers – Dominican University

Susan Knox-Hirsch Scholarship

Stacy Sanchez – University of Southern California

Bonita Kraft Scholarship

Tess Zapalac – San Jose State University

Janice Matsutsuyu Scholarship

Kathleen Jayne – University of Southern California

Taylor Kamemoto – University of Southern California

Jayne Taguchi Meyer Scholarship

Vanessa Wilder –

California State University Dominguez Hills

Margaret (Meg) Mitani & Gaylord E. Moss Scholarship

Maria Nicole Sombillo –

University of Southern California

Karen C. Polastri Scholarship

Emily Canigiula – San Jose State University

Fred Sammons Scholarship

Samantha Leggis –

California State University Dominguez Hills

Chuck Strauch Scholarship

Alessandra Velasquez – Samuel Merritt University

Lisa Test Scholarship

Haley Michaels – Stanbridge University

Wilma West Scholarship

Alex Lee – University of St. Augustine

Dorothy (Dottie) Wilson Scholarship

Amanda Vasquez – Loma Linda University

Ascend's Future OT Leaders Scholarship

Ariel Appel – San Jose State University

Ascend's OT Excellence Scholarship

Kimberly Ancheta – San Jose State University

CFOT In Memoriam Scholarship

Hannah Schmid – Boston University

2024 REVIEWERS

Deborah Bolding

Sue Bowles

Sarah Bream

Cindy Burt

Megan Chang

Lisa Deshaies

Marianne Estournes

Stephanie Foster

Heather Javaherian-Dysinger

Katrina Long

Grace Lopez

Bonnie Nakasuji

Harold Neuendorf

Wendy Nitsche

Kay Simmons

Andy Whalley

Kathryn Wise

2024 CFOT Traineeships

TRAINEESHIPS

Maureen Cunningham Herwood Traineeship

Gisele Pereira – Santa Ana College

Janice Matsutsuyu Traineeship

Jenna Marshall – CBD College

Jayne Taguchi Meyer Traineeship

Brooke White – Sacramento City College

CFOT Traineeship

Beatrice Gonzales – Clovis Community College

Wen Min (Mina) Ho – Grossmont College

2024 CFOT Research Awards

We are very grateful to all those individuals who have established grants to support the research of practicing occupational therapists, academicians, and post-entry level students engaged in independent advanced practice, doctoral level, or post-doctoral level research.

RESEARCH AWARDS



**KAITLIN LILLYWHITE,
OTD, OTR/L, CSRS**

*OT Unlocked: Cognitive
Rehabilitation*

Funding for this grant comes from the Luis Arabit Research

Grant in Memory of Consuelo & Marialuz Arabit, the Julie Shaperman Research Grant in Memory of Dr. Martin Shaperman, the Dorothy (Dottie) Wilson Research Grant, and the CFOT General Research Fund



**KAREN M. KEPTNER,
PHD, OTR/L**

*The Development of an
Assessment Tool: Occupations
in Higher Education Transitions
Inventory (OHETI)*

Funding for this grant comes from the Bonita Kraft Research Grant, the Margaret (Meg) Mitani & Gaylord E. Moss Research Grant, and the CFOT Legacy Research Grant



**SIDNEY JOHNSON, OTD,
OTR/L**

*Identifying How Diverse Abilities
Are Depicted in Children's
Literature*

Funding for this grant comes from the Lisa Test Endowed Research Award

2024 CFOT Seed Money Awards

Seed monies of up to \$250
are awarded to occupational
therapy practitioners, faculty,
and entry-level occupational
therapy students
(individually or in groups)
for pilot studies, needs
assessments, or developing
new interventions, client
education programs, or
projects.

SEED MONEY AWARDS

San Jose State University

- *The Impact of Simulation-Based Education for Interprofessional Collaboration to Improve Student Self-Efficacy*
- Student Researchers: Anne Decker, OTS; Clarisse Fulgado, OTS; Kate O'Neill, OTS; Jonathan Wong, OTS
- Faculty Advisor: Jerilyn Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

San Jose State University

- *The Experience of Parents Learning Sensory Processing Strategies in a University-Based Pediatric Occupational Therapy Clinic*
- Student Researchers: Paula Gomez, OTS; Yovanna Gonzalez, OTS; Michelle Macias, OTS; Sondra Stilwell, OTS; Ashley Thigpen, OTS
- Faculty Advisor: Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L

San Jose State University

- *Exploring the Relationship Between Access to OT Services with Physical Activity and Quality of Sleep in Adults with Parkinson's Disease*
- Student Researchers: Jennifer Howard, OTS; Gloria Hsu, OTS; Samantha Krestchmer, OTS; Dayana Rangel, OTS
- Faculty Advisor: Katrina M. Long, EdD, MS, OTR/L

San Jose State University

- *Political Astuteness Among SJSU Occupational Therapy Students*
- Student Researchers: Cara Mamola, OTS; David Ranit-Mauro, OTS; Inessa Owen, OTS
- Faculty Advisors: Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Luis L. Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dominican University of California

- *The Synergy of Executive Functions and Sensory Processing in Shaping Occupational Participation*
- Student Researchers: Sophia Zertuche, OTS; Kaitlin Mulvaney, OTS; Isabella Aguirre, OTS
- Faculty Advisor: Julia Wilbarger, PhD, OTR/L

2024 CFOT Seed Money Awards

CFOT RESEARCH GRANT REVIEWERS

CFOT has a large community of volunteers who wholeheartedly support OT research and are willing to lend their expertise to the Foundation to assure that worthy studies are supported. Our list of reviewers includes a wide variety of outstanding academicians and clinicians across California. The Research Advisory Board depends upon their willingness to contribute in such a meaningful way to assure that CFOT's precious resources are distributed fairly and ethically.

We would like to thank these occupational therapists who enthusiastically gave of their time, energy and expertise to review the 2024 research grant applications and assist in selecting deserving research for funding: Courtney Boitano, Michelle Tipton Burton, Megan Chang, Chiao-Ju Fang, Kitsum Li, Bonnie Nakasuji, Terry Peralta, Sheryl Ryan, Winifred Schultz-Krohn, with additional support from Linda Florey and Domenique Embrey.

If you are interested in contributing as a reviewer, please email the CFOT Research Advisory Chairs and indicate your area of expertise. We will be delighted to call on you when an appropriate research grant application is submitted.

RESEARCH CHAIRS

Judith Palladino
Heidi McHugh Pendleton
Research@cfot.org

San Jose State University

- *Getting Into Your Zone*
- *Student Researchers: Tal Shay, OTD (Cand); Linda Crabtree, OTD (Cand)*
- *Faculty Advisor: Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L*

California State University Dominguez Hills

- *Giving Voice to POTS Patients: A Qualitative Investigation into Perspectives on Exercise Protocols and Aquatic Therapy*
- *Student Researcher: Kalavanya Dhruva, OTS*
- *Faculty Advisor: Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L*

California State University Dominguez Hills

- *Experiences of Sexual Health, Sexuality, and Intimacy Among Individuals with Acquired Physical Disability*
- *Student Researchers: Elizabeth Kearney, OTS; Samantha Nugroho, OTS; Stephanie Flores, OTS; Hanna Lagman, OTS*
- *Faculty Advisor: Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L*

California State University Dominguez Hills

- *Suenos Amenazados: An Investigation of Doing, Being, Belonging, and Becoming in DACA Recipients in Higher Education*
- *Student Researchers: Lyneia Neri, OTS; Nancy Ascencio, OTS; Samantha Leggis, OTS*
- *Faculty Advisor: Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L*

California State University Dominguez Hills

- *The Essence of Naginata: A Case Study of Practitioners in Southern California*
- *Student Researchers: Tamaki Hozumi Trexler, OTS; Ingo Gabriel Ocampo, OTS*
- *Faculty Advisor: Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L*

2024 CFOT Humanitarian Award

Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop



The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) honors individuals/groups who, through their humanitarian activities, have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the philosophical principles of occupational therapy and to the mission and vision of CFOT.

CFOT is pleased to present our 2024 Humanitarian Award to the Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop for their significant humanitarian activities: helping people with severe physical disabilities make a successful transition to becoming productive and contributing members of the community.

Following a devastating life change, adjustment to disability and community reintegration are serious challenges that patients face. The Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop is an innovative initiative within the Occupational Therapy Work Rehabilitation Continuum at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, California. As a non-profit business selling freshly prepared food, beverages, and handcrafted novelty items, it provides a vital platform for former patients to build essential job skills and habits in a real-life supportive work environment that prepares them for community employment. Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop Workers learn a variety of transferable work skills such as food preparation, stocking shelves, monitoring inventory, cashiering, and customer service. Graduate workers have found long term employment with businesses including Sodexo, Servicon, and Home Depot. Of note is that the origin of Rancho Works dates back to 2012 with partial start-up funding from a CFOT Seed Money award.

CFOT Salutes you and is pleased to present you with our 2024 Humanitarian Award!

CFOT Humanitarian Award

Purpose: To honor individuals or groups who, through their humanitarian activities, have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the philosophical principles of occupational therapy and to the mission and goals of CFOT.

HUMANITARIAN AWARDEES

Frank and Lori Biehl	1993
Fred Sammons	1994
Aerial Gilbert and her guide dog, DeeAnn	1997
Patsy and Hal Hollister	2000
Barbara Phillips	2001
Dr. Ernie Bodai.....	2002
Tom Hale.....	2003
Nancy Somerville	2004
Foster N. Anderson	2005
Debra Uhles Tanaka	2006
Judith Gail Rodgers.....	2008
Bonnie Nakasuji.....	2009
Fr. Gregory J. Boyle	2010
Joan Surfus	2011
Diane Mayfield	2013
Heather Javaherian-Dysinger.....	2014
Michelle Craft	2015
John Hwang	2016
Winifred Schultz-Krohn.....	2017
Vijay Gupta	2018
Elyse Gordon	2019
Steven Rubin.....	2020
Laguna Beach Assistance League.....	2023
Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop.....	2024

CFOT Award of Appreciation



Awarded to an individual, agency, business, or other institution in recognition of consistent significant service or other contributions to CFOT.

Shannon Rutledge, CMP

CFOT is pleased to present Shannon with our Award of Appreciation for her unwavering support and invaluable guidance that has continually ensured the success of our Awards Luncheon & Symposium at the OTAC Annual Conference.

Shannon is a Certified Meeting Planner (CMP) who has served the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) for 16 years. She is the Senior Membership and Events Director at OTAC and works closely with their executive director and board of directors to service its members, plan and organize its annual conference, and support its strategic plan. In this role at OTAC, Shannon has been a tremendous help and resource to CFOT over the years, mitigating both foreseen and unanticipated issues, allowing our signature annual event to thrive.

OTAC Executive Director Karen C. Polastri shared that“From her first day with OTAC, Shannon has been an invaluable asset utilizing her people and technology skills, resourcefulness, and can-do spirit. We are all fortunate to have her on the OTAC team.”

We couldn't agree more, and for that, CFOT is deeply grateful.

HONORED LECTURER



*We'd like to thank our
2024 Honored Lecturer,
Heather J. Kitching.
Your talk, "Loyalty in
the Face of Adversity:
Sustaining Ourselves,
Each Other, and the
Profession" was inspiring
for all in attendance.*



Announcing the
**2025 Honored
Lecturer**

— ◆ —
Jean Koketsu

OTD, MS, OTR/L



CFOT Honored Lecturers

HONORED LECTURERS

Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1983	Marcia Goodman-Lavey, Esq, OTR/L.....	2005
Lois Barber, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1984	Marti Southam, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2006
Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1985	Y. Lynn Yasuda, MEd, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2007
Florence Cromwell, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1986	Kathleen Barker Schwartz, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2008
Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1987	Bonnie Nakasuji, OTD, OTR/L.....	2009
Mary Reilly, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1988	Mary Lawlor, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2010
Claudia Allen, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1989	Pam Richardson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2011
Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1990	Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA.....	2012
Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1991	Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2013
Linda Florey, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1992	Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L.....	2014
Carlotta Welles, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1993	Deborah Bolding, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2015
Mary Foto, OT/L, FAOTA.....	1994	Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/Ret., FAOTA.....	2016
Diane Parham, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1995	Ada Boone Hoerl, MA, COTA/L.....	2017
Ruth Zemke, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1996	Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2018
Susan Knox, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1997	Shawn Phipps, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2019
Sandra Greene, MA, OTR/L.....	1998	Luis Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2020
Heidi Pendleton, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1999	John Goodfellow, OTD, OTR/L.....	2021
Dorothy Wilson, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2000	Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM.....	2022
Guy McCormack, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2001	Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT.....	2023
Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2001	Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2024
Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2001		
Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2002		
Diane Hendricks, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2003		
Mary Margaret Evert, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA ...	2004		

CFOT LUNCHEON SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

We are eagerly anticipating the 2025 OTAC Annual Conference in Pasadena CA November 6-9, 2025, where we will have the opportunity to celebrate, support, and inspire occupational therapy professionals in California and beyond.

Our annual CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium has grown into a crucial fundraising event. For this year's luncheon on November 7, 2025, we are formalizing the sponsorship process to enhance its impact. In previous years, many of you have generously sponsored tables through donations or by purchasing individual lunch tickets to gather your colleagues together.

To express our gratitude and recognize our dedicated sponsors, we are introducing two levels of sponsorship this year: The deadline for these opportunities is **October 1, 2025**.

RESTORE

Event Sponsor at \$3,500

This sponsorship includes recognition as one of the major CFOT luncheon sponsors in both general conference and luncheon materials. Additionally, the sponsor will receive ten luncheon tickets.

VISION

Sponsors at \$1,500 per table

Sponsors at this level will receive six meal tickets, acknowledgment displayed on their table, and inclusion in the promotional materials for the luncheon.

Individuals interested in purchasing groups of tickets can reserve seating for their group. Individual tickets will cover the cost of the meal and overhead, with any surplus funds donated directly back to CFOT.

Thank you for your unwavering support and generosity. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the field of occupational therapy.

PLEASE CONTACT

Rachel Meyers

(916) 567-7000

rachelm@4arc.com



IN MEMORIAM

*Please
join us in
honoring the
remarkable
contributions
and enduring
legacies
of these
dedicated
individuals.*

MICHELLE CRAFT

By Winifred Schultz-Krohn



Michelle Craft was an amazing individual and the recipient of the CFOT Humanitarian Award in 2015. She died after a valiant battle with breast cancer on February 22, 2025.

Throughout her life, Michelle always had a cheerful smile and quick laugh, whether working with children as an educator, owning her own business

focused on fabrics and quilting, or volunteering as an organizer of the Pad Project in Vacaville. When Michelle heard about the Pad Project, she immediately knew it was a great fit for her commitment to community, especially the world community, and women's health.

The Pad Project was started to address a pressing need to help girls remain in school in Kenya. As school age girls reached menarche, they were often missing a week of school every month due to the limited availability of feminine hygiene products. Achieving a high school graduation can make a substantial difference in the future for these girls in terms of employment and supporting their family.

The Pad Project makes washable, re-usable feminine pads to distribute directly to girls in Kenya, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, & Sri Lanka. The fabric is purchased or donated, and the pads are made by individuals who donate their time to this project.

The Pad Project has been in existence since 2013 and the Vacaville group, under Michelle's leadership, has been active for the past 12 years. Michelle and her "sewing sisters" (and several sewing brothers!) created numerous kits to support this non-profit organization. Michelle volunteered her time and skills to this organization in addition to providing workshops at San Jose State University where the graduate occupational therapy students would create and assemble the kits.

Michelle Craft truly embodied the humanitarian spirit of the CFOT Award. The Vacaville group will continue but Michelle Craft will be greatly missed.

GUY MCCORMACK

By Michele Berro



Guy McCormack, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor Emeritus at Samuel Merritt University, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2024.

Guy practiced as an occupational therapist for over 47 years.

He was a clinician, professor, researcher, program director, and beloved colleague to so

many. Throughout his career, Guy was active in state and national occupational therapy associations holding multiple positions. He published many journal articles and chapters in peer reviewed publications and presented over 70 papers at state, national and international conferences. He was an advisor for 67 thesis and master's projects for graduate students in occupational therapy.

Guy received numerous awards including the prestigious induction into the American Occupational Therapy Roster of Fellows for "Scholarly Excellence in the Mindbody Therapeutic Approach." He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Occupational Therapy Association of California for his countless contributions to the profession. Guy was also selected as CFOT's Honored Lecturer for the CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium in 2001.

Guy enjoyed his retirement (2021) in Seaside, California where he became a prolific painter and displayed his work at the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation. He enjoyed walks on the beach with his wife Norma and Kaia (his miniature Australian shepherd), travels and visits with family and friends. Guy was a mentor for many faculty and students over the years and his skillful teaching and interest in deeper knowledge will be carried forward by all those who had the chance to work and learn from him. His character of gentle kindness and humbleness was ever present and will be missed.

ELIZABETH YERXA

By Lisa Deshaies



Elizabeth June Yerxa, EdD, OTR, FAOTA passed away in December 2024 at the age of 94.

Beginning in 1956, Betty served as an OT Instructor at Rancho Los Amigos for 11 years. Her role was to develop an education and research program to assure that the quality of care continued to

improve, and that Rancho OT be in the national forefront for advancing the knowledge and skills for the treatment of chronically disabled patients. After returning to school to obtain her graduate and doctorate degrees, Betty rejoined Rancho in 1971 as the OT Research Coordinator with a joint faculty appointment at USC. In 1976 she was selected as the chairperson of the USC Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Yerxa spent her OT clinical and academic careers committed to promoting the healing power of engaging patients in productive and meaningful activity.

When the OT profession celebrated its Centennial in 2017, Dr. Yerxa was honored as one of "The 100 Influential Persons" who impacted occupational therapy's 100-year history, stating "Elizabeth is highly regarded for her contributions to the philosophical base and values of occupational therapy, for her research on life satisfaction of people living with severe disabilities, and for her work initiating and advocating occupational science research. It was through her scholarly leadership that USC initiated a doctoral program to support the study of occupational science. She was awarded the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Award in 1966, was named an AOTA Fellow in 1973, and received the AOTA Award of Merit in 1987."

Betty is one of the four "founding mothers" (a term she herself coined) of the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy. She twice (1983, 1990) was selected as CFOT's Honored Lecturer for the CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium.

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