The Occupational Therapy Department has been awarded $1.6 million over a five-year period from the Colorado General Assembly and distinguished as a “Program of Excellence” by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE).

“To be recognized by leaders of the state reaffirms our program’s extraordinary achievements. We’re proud of our outstanding program and our exceptional graduates and faculty who do so much to benefit people regionally, nationally, and internationally,” said Dr. Jodie Hanzlik, head of the Occupational Therapy Department and author of the proposal. “The funding from this award will allow us to take this already ground-breaking program to a new level of innovation and excellence.”

Hanzlik added that the increased funding would also allow the program to enhance its technological capabilities and community-based services while extending its resources to other departments at the university and other educational and health-related institutions throughout the state. “We will be preparing our students to be leaders in the field through a program grounded in technology- and research-based competencies,” said Hanzlik.

“These curricular changes will allow us to provide students with a host of new skills necessary for the challenges of the 21st century, thereby increasing their employment opportunities and enabling them to work in a variety of healthcare arenas within and beyond OT.”

“The Occupational Therapy Department truly epitomizes the goals of a land grant institution,” said Dr. Nancy Hartley, Dean of the College of Applied Human Sciences. “An innovative curriculum, significant research, and community outreach are the foundation of the program taught by an internationally recognized faculty.”

Dr. Karen Spencer, long-time faculty member, will be spearheading the CCHE enhancement project. Under her leadership the project’s initiatives have begun to take shape. Initiatives are aimed at 1) integrating technological experiences into core OT courses, 2) expanding community-based fieldwork and seminar efforts – jointly supervised by faculty and local fieldwork supervisors, 3) creating coursework to provide interdisciplinary team training in classroom and community-based settings, and 4) promoting statewide interdisciplinary opportunities for students and professionals to address healthcare and professional issues.

Because of the visionary framework of the CCHE enhancement plan, the OT Department will be uniquely positioned to strengthen the Master’s program beyond its current standard of excellence. Watch for specific program enhancements in future newsletters.
Welcome to the annual edition of the Occupational Therapy Department’s newsletter. We are excited to share with you the accomplishments of the faculty and the many program innovations that have occurred or are in process.

I am very pleased to report that the OT Department’s latest accomplishment, the $1.6 million CCHE Award, will make a lasting contribution to the continued and enhanced excellence of our program. As a recipient of the state of Colorado’s highest educational award, our new designation as a “Program of Excellence” is only fitting.

Our long-term excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and program development has earned us the CCHE Award. Typically, we have not reported to you the varied accomplishments of our faculty. But at this time, I would like to share with you just a few honors we have received that have served to position us as a flagship program for the state of Colorado.

We are not new to the award process, known nationally and internationally for our excellence, the Department is ranked among the top 10 programs in the nation by US News and World Report and is recognized by CSU as a Program of Research and Scholarly Excellence.

Our faculty members are known individually for their leadership, research, scholarship, and outreach as are our students. Just a few of our accomplishments in this area are listed below:

- Faculty has served as president of AOTA and received honors such as the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Award (AOTA’s highest academic honor), the Award of Merit (AOTA’s highest service award), AOTA’s A. Jean Ayres Award, membership in the AOTF Academy of Research, and fellowship status in AOTA.

- At a state level, many faculty members have served as president and vice president of the Colorado state association and received honors such as Colorado’s highest OT merit award, and a variety of service awards.

- CSU has bestowed its highest honor, University Distinguished Professor, on one of our faculty; other CSU honors include Scholarly Excellence, Superior Service, and Cermak Advising Awards and a variety of teaching awards from students and alum.

- Faculty sit on national and international editorial boards such as Scandinavian Journal of OT, Journal of Learning Disabilities (UK), AJOT, Journal of Outcome Measurements, OTJR, Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, and PT & OT in Pediatrics. They also serve on advisory boards at national, state, and local levels serving OT and health-related interests.

- Over the past year faculty published approximately 20 articles in refereed journals; provided about 35 state, national, and international presentations; and received over $2 million in grants and contracts from agencies such as NIH, OSERS, and a variety of Colorado funders.

- Since 1999 faculty has published seven textbooks. Faculty members are also responsible for assessment such as AMPS, ToPS and ToES.

- Students are also known for their outstanding accomplishments. Many have received acknowledgements such as CSU’s Graduate School Research Grant, AOTF’s student research grant, CSU and AOTA scholarships, authorship of refereed articles, chapters in texts, and national and international presentations.

If you are interested in learning more about our “program of excellence” and the accomplishments of our faculty, remember to visit our website at www.cahs.colostate.edu/OT or stop by to see us when you can. We all hope to see and hear from you soon.

Sincerely, on Behalf of the Faculty, Staff, and Students,

Jodie Redditi Hanzlik, PhD, OTR, FAOTA
Professor and Head
Congratulations to Dr. Anne Fisher, Professor, who was named a University Distinguished Professor during spring 2001. This is the highest honor the university can bestow upon its faculty and is an honor reserved for only 12 faculty members who have achieved national and international distinction in their academic careers. Dr. Fisher is also the first and only woman to receive this honor. To obtain the rank of University Distinguished Professor, faculty members are nominated through an extensive review process and must be approved by the current University Distinguished Professors with the final approval resting with CSU President, Dr. Yates. This prestigious honor is a permanent designation.

Dr. Fisher’s work has focused on three areas: 1) She has developed, expanded and refined major existing OT theories. 2) She has developed the AMPS, an international cross-cultural assessment of people’s abilities to perform daily life tasks safely, effectively and independently. The AMPS is used by OTs in over 20 countries with clients of all ages. 3) She recently created the OT Intervention Process Model (OTIPM) in response to the need for cost-effective client-centered intervention strategies. The OTIPM is being taught in OT curricula worldwide. Please join us in congratulating Anne on this outstanding recognition of her scholarship and her hard work.

Did you know...

- Lisa Stauffer (’99), was the recipient of the Cordelia Myers First Contributor Award for the year 2000. This award is presented once a year to a person who is a first-time single or first author in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy. The award was presented to Lisa at the AOTA Conference in Philadelphia in April.

- Patricia Atherly (’83), was the recipient of the Fieldwork Supervisor of the Year award presented at the Fall 2001 OTAC Conference by the OT Department at CSU. Trisha works for the Poudre School District.

- Suzy Balliet (BS ’87), Lois Hickman (MS ’81), Debra Paul (BS ’85), and Judith Sanborn (BS ’90) have been honored as the first affiliate faculty in the OT Department for their service to the fieldwork program.

- Do you have news that you would like to share with fellow alumni and faculty members? Send us an e-mail at otinfo@cahs.colostate.edu, or drop a note: Colorado State University, Department of Occupational Therapy, 219 Occupational Therapy Building, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1573. Look for it in the next issue of our newsletter!
FIELDWORK SUPERVISORS BENEFIT FROM FIELDWORK PROGRAM

Congratulations to Suzy Balliett, Lois Hickman, Debra Paul & Judith Sanborn, Affiliate Faculty

The CSU OT program and the profession have been strengthened by dedicated practitioners that have supervised Level I and Level II fieldwork students year after year. Preparation of students to be occupational therapists would not be as successful as it is without such dedicated commitment. To acknowledge the commitment of fieldwork supervisors who accept CSU students, the OT Department has created a three tiered benefit program.

- Complimentary Annual Fieldwork Educator Workshop
- Discounted Assessment of Motor and Process Skills Workshop (AMPS) Opportunity
- Occupational Therapy Affiliate Faculty Appointment

Patty Stutz-Tanenbaum, MS, OTR, Fieldwork Coordinator, has been instrumental in developing and coordinating the Fieldwork Benefit Program. “I am pleased that we are finally able to demonstrate our appreciation for the support and expertise that our supervisors have given us year after year” stated Stutz-Tanenbaum.

To learn more about the details of each option, visit the OT Department web site at: http://www.cahs.colostate.edu/ot/fieldwork.htm.

STUDENT GROUP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Amy Clausen, Dr. Davies, Pepper Lee Soon, Michele Young

Student Group Awarded $1500 in Local and National Grants

The new Master of Science degree program offers graduate students a choice in the manner in which they complete their research requirements. Students choose to participate in either a group research project or a thesis, an individual research project. The group project is completed under the supervision of a faculty member within the course of the on-campus program before beginning the Level II fieldwork experiences. Students will present their projects at the OT Department’s first Research Symposium held Spring 2002.

Under the supervision of Dr. Patti Davies, one group of students, Amy Clausen, Pepper Lee Soon, and Michele Young, went beyond the requirements of the research project. They submitted research proposals to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) and the CSU Graduate School; the proposals were favorably reviewed and the group received a total of $1500 to fund their research project, Construct Validity of School Function Assessment and Professional Judgment of Function of School-aged Students.

Graduate students from past classes may take advantage of the research project option to fulfill program requirements. Contact David Greene, Graduate Coordinator for more information (greene@cahs.colostate.edu, 970.491. 3810) or call your advisor today!

REUNION

Members of the class of ’81 who attended were: Jackie Armstrong, Barbara Brittain, Martha Roebuck Bliss, Sue Clay, Patti Davies, Linda Erhardt-McGrenaghan, Kelly Gillingham, Lori Kennedy, Kathy (Leiker) Martin, Debbi (Datteri) McMillan, MaryKaye Pierce, Sally Reed Thomas and Pamela Withington.

This was the first OT class reunion that has been held at CSU. The CSU Alumni Center and the Department of Occupational Therapy sponsored the event.

If any OT alumni are interested in organizing a reunion for their class, contact the Alumni Center for assistance at (970) 491-6533 or 1-800-286-2586.
Louise has had an impressive 35-year career at Colorado State University beginning in fall of 1967. She has held the position of Assistant Department Head since 1995, and served as Acting Department Head from 1981 to 1983.

Over the years, Louise has taught many of the courses offered in the Department, but her primary courses have been related to the theory and practice of occupational therapy with adults with physical disabilities particularly, in recent years, those with neurobehavioral problems. Louise has continued her clinical practice as an OTR during her tenure at CSU in a variety of settings.

Her very first task as a faculty member was to advise a junior level student who was waiting for her when she arrived at her new office her first morning on the job. Fortunately, the student (Jeannetta Burpee) knew what advising she needed, and Louise managed to get through the session. Perhaps that experience provided the catalyst for Louise’s strong interest in advising. Louise has been the designated Key Adviser for the OT Department for more than 17 years, served as a PREVIEW adviser for seven years, was a PREPS adviser, and was active in the minority-mentoring program. She is recognized at Colorado State and nationally as an outstanding adviser; she has received the Cermak and Pennock Advising Awards and a Certificate of Merit from the National Academy of Academic Advising. Her reputation as an excellent adviser resulted in an invitation to be one of three faculty members across campus to provide support for freshman students as part of a special retention program.

On a personal level, during her 35-year tenure at Colorado State, she married, helped raise two stepdaughters, and earned a master’s degree. She and her husband, Andy, became interested in antiques and began collecting them. They planned to travel across the US and abroad buying antiques and selling them to “support their habit” following Louise’s retirement. Andy’s unexpected illness and subsequent death (in July of 2000) changed the plans, but Louise has begun exploring a modified version. Since her transitional retirement years began in fall of 2000, she has made progress toward the “selling” part of the original plan at local antique malls and shows. When retirement is full-time, she plans to garden, continue her antique business, and sing with Laudamus, a local choral group as well as with church groups. She also plans to play more bridge, spend more time with friends and family, and enjoy the BUSY life of a retiree.

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Occupational Therapy Fund Drive

Yes, I’d like to support the continued excellence of the Occupational Therapy Department!

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☐ This gift is from me. ☐ This gift is from my spouse and me. Spouse’s name: _______________________________

Please apply my/our gift:

☐ To the Wanda Mayberry Scholarship Fund (51515)

☐ To the Occupational Therapy General Improvement Fund (12983)

Payment Options:

☐ Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of $____________________ (Please make check payable to the Colorado State University Foundation.)

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Send payment to: Colorado State University Foundation, P.O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870
Outgoing OTAC President, Karen Spencer presents the Marjorie Ball Award to Anita Bundy.

Keynote speakers, Anne Grady and Ellie Gilfoyle compare notes.

Faculty and students play major role in success of conference

Senator Peggy Reeves leads a round table discussion.

Department Head, Jodie Hanzlik, presents Trish Atherly with the CSU Fieldwork Supervisor of the Year Award.

CSU Student Poster Session is the back drop for the students representing Pi Theta. Pepper Lee Soon, Deepa Thimmaiah, Pamela Muneto and Long Qi were available to answer questions.
How do you explain a life-changing experience in a few paragraphs? Spring 2001 I accompanied a group of five CSU OT students and a team of professionals and OT Assistant students from Arapahoe Community College (ACC) on a fieldwork experience like no other. Although our students have traveled to Nicaragua for the last 7 years with ACC, Wanda Figueroa-Rosario, MS, OTR, and Lois Hickman, MS, OTR, this year was unique in that we were doing a needs assessment in a new community on the Caribbean coast. Eighteen of us stayed in a small school room, washed our clothes on a cement washboard, gathered all water from a well, and flushed the toilet by throwing bowls of water into the toilet bowl.

Existing in very “primitive” living conditions, we worked with some amazing teachers and therapists in the Bluefields community serving children with disabilities. The children were each very special; each student made connections with different families and their children. We provided a variety of services during our week-long stay: adapting equipment, providing information about positioning, and educating children and their families about adaptations they could make to ease the strain of their activities. We also consulted with two separate schools on activities for the children as well as recommending adaptive changes to their classroom environments. Two of the days on the coast we spent taking boats or “pangas” to other communities, some even poorer than Bluefields, again going from home to home to provide whatever we could in terms of intervention, education and supplies.

Talking with the OT students that participated gives you a sense of the learning they experienced, from OT treatment planning and goal writing, to making toys and splints from suitcases and water bottles with sand, understanding poverty, hunger, illness and death. The biggest eye opener for many of us was realizing the lack of awareness so many here in the United States have of what goes on in a large part of the world. We left tired, appreciative, and regretful to leave our new friends. We were full of thoughts and sometimes tears as we transitioned back to our busy comfortable lives, still thinking of our new friends struggling in Bluefields, at the same time feeling admiration for the spirit and care they have for each other. These words don’t describe what we all carry now as humans and as OTs, but they hopefully give a sense of the enriching experience we had. Sadly, due to the state of the world these days, our trip will not occur this year. We hope to continue our work and connections in Nicaragua in 2003 and look forward to your continued support through contributions as we prepare to return at that time.

—Bev Kovalenko, M.A., OTR, CSU Fieldwork Coordinator
EARN YOUR POST-PROFESSIONAL MASTER’S DEGREE IN ONE YEAR!

Do you have an undergraduate degree in occupational therapy? Are you interested in expanding your practice competencies, your understanding of occupational performance, research, consultation...? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are interested in CSU’s new Master’s program in occupational therapy.

Nikki Smith, OTR, who has continued to work part-time at the Greeley Medical Center while registered full time in classes, is the first BSOT to enroll in our new program. She has created an individualized program of study with her advisor, David Greene, PhD, OTR, Graduate Coordinator.

“The coursework is challenging and exciting. It’s incredibly meaningful to participate in this program as an OTR. The content I am learning has already enhanced my practice skills and school has only been in session for five weeks!” said Smith, an alum of the CSU BSOT program.

“Our new MSOT program has much to offer a practicing clinician. Between the new courses that have been developed and the opportunities available through independent studies, students can create a program to move them forward in their careers wherever they would like to go,” said Greene. “The flexibility of the curriculum combined with our exceptional faculty makes this program a perfect match for OTRs looking to enhance their knowledge and skills.”

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For more information: (970) 491-6299;
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