



Occupations

Teaching, Learning, Research & Service

A Lab of Occupations



The OT Department's AT lab.

The Assistive Technology (AT) Lab is receiving rave reviews from faculty and students. The state-of-the-art center serves as a teaching and learning laboratory for Colorado State University's award-winning Department of Occupational Therapy.

The Center serves many functions, but first and foremost it was created to support the development of OT student competencies in computer-based assistive technology for school-age and adult populations with special needs. Faculty members have worked diligently to integrate AT objectives into the curriculum.

When students work with clients as part of an assignment, they frequently use the lab to assess their clients' AT needs and make recommendations that support and enhance their occupational activities. Because of the extensive nature of the lab, recommendations may include hardware or software ranging from keyboard adaptations to voice activated software to complex methods of accessing the computer such as sip 'n puff, cheek switches or head pointing and more.

Dr. Karen Spencer, OTR, Associate Professor, and Marla Roll, M.S., OTR, Director of CSU's AT Resource Center, worked together to create this one-of-a-kind demonstration and learning lab for MSOT students and CSU students

or employees who have special computer-based needs. Marla noted, "The outcome has resulted in a lab that leads the state and most of the nation in an array of computer-based equipment that meets the needs of those who have visual, learning, movement, or cognitive limitations. Because we combined OT Department, CSU resources and funds from a grant from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, we were able to create a center that provides a unique array of learning opportunities for the OT students that range from assessment of a client's hardware and software needs to training a client to successfully use the equipment.

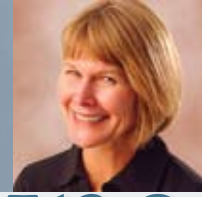
Software highlights of the AT Lab include over 24 different software packages that address adaptations such as talking word processors, screen enlarging software, Braille translation software, organizational software, word prediction and completion, screen readers, alternate input (Morse code, scanning, etc.) and voice activated software. Hardware highlights of the lab include: alternate pointing devices, adjustable tables, alternate keyboards, Closed-Caption TV, large monitors and flatbed scanners.

To learn more about the hardware and software in the AT Lab, visit www.colostate.edu/Depts/ATRC.

Colorado State
University

Knowledge to Go Places

Join the Synergy!



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It's been another great year. It is truly an honor to head a department renowned for its national and international excellence. The faculty, as you know, is a superior group. The collaborative nature and the effort and enthusiasm with which they operate is impressive. Their outcomes are even more so. Our newsletter cannot give justice to the extent of our departmental accomplishments. Our students, too, are outstanding, insightful and hard-working. They push the boundaries with their questions and definitely keep us on our toes! And last, but not least, our staff, the infrastructure of this department, has all the answers and, of course, a comforting smile. We have quite a synergy within this department. One that, if you are an alumni, I am sure you can remember.

I would like to invite you to be an active part of our departmental synergy, particularly as it relates to technology!

Each year, more technology is integrated into our curriculum. All of our courses use WebCT. Students continue to benefit from the easy access of our virtual lap-top computer lab; faculty members frequently use the lap-tops in class in order to support lecture and lab activities. When the lap-tops aren't used in class, they are available for check-out through the day. Because of our wireless capacity within the building, you'll find students in nooks and crannies working on individual and group assignments and activities.

Unfortunately some of our lap-tops purchased with our CCHE Program of Excellence grant are now 3+ years old and they are beginning to show signs of wear. That's why we are initiating a technology fund raising drive. Donations will be used to purchase laptops to keep our "virtual" lab working and accessible to the students and to update our software and hardware in the AT Lab. We are asking each and every faculty, staff, and student to make a donation - no matter how small. We are also asking each of you, alumni and friends, to support us in this very important effort. We need your support to continue to maintain and enhance the excellent reputation of the Occupational Therapy Program at CSU!

Jodie

Jodie Redditi Hanzlik, Ph.D., OTR, FAOTA
Professor and Head

Left from top to bottom: Students make and donate holiday blankets; sensory processing lab; Occupational Symposium; wireless laptop lab. Top right: adaptive keyboard. Bottom right: adapted gardening lab.





RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Keynote speaker, Temple Grandin, Ph.D.

Dr. Temple Grandin is an Associate Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Her life has been an uphill challenge, but it is one that she has successfully conquered! Diagnosed in 1950 as autistic, her parents were encouraged to institutionalize her. Nevertheless, she was very successfully raised at home by her parents. Now, internationally known, she is well regarded as an author of books and videos and a sought after speaker on the topic of autism. In addition to Dr. Grandin's success in the field of disabilities, she is also an accomplished animal scientist having created animal handling facilities that are in use throughout the world. To learn more about Dr. Grandin, visit her website at <http://www.templegrandin.com>.

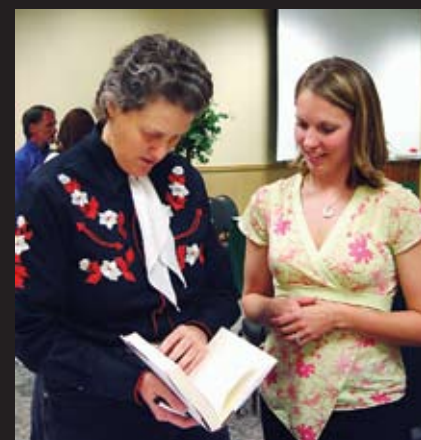
The Annual Research Symposium once again drew a large crowd of over 200 students, faculty, alumni and regional OTs. Organized by faculty and students, the symposium entitled, It Takes a Village, featured the internationally known author, Dr. Temple Grandin. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Grandin talked with the audience about the challenges, successes, support systems and mentors she experienced growing up with the diagnosis of autism.

In keeping with the theme, education sessions highlighted speakers' experiences as primary caregivers to individuals with disabilities and the importance of friends, family and professionals in the caregiving process. Special guest speaker, Dr. Christine Fruhauf, Director of the Center on Aging at CSU,

presented an overview of her research regarding caregiving across the life span.

In addition to the learning and networking opportunities, the symposium was also created to celebrate the students' research accomplishments. Devoted to evidence-based practice, a wide range of students' research projects were presented during the poster session. Projects ranged from an activity-based intervention study with the elderly to a comparative study using EEG measures to compare sensory gating abilities in children with and without sensory processing disorders.

Watch the OT website this spring for information on the 6th Annual Research symposium. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, OTR.



Dr. Grandin at the OT Research Symposium



Top photo: Students present their poster.
Bottom photo: Students field questions regarding their poster.



Community Service

Setting the pace for community service, the OT Department has created a series of activities, assignments and even a seminar that provides hands-on student learning experiences with a variety of community members with special needs throughout the entire on-campus portion of the program. The partnerships, created between the Department and community programs make the student learning process come alive while challenging them to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the profession. In addition to the enhanced student learning experience, the outreach expands OT services and supports the community individuals' occupational growth.

As part of a first semester class, Occupation and the Individual, one of Assistant Professor Karen Atler's assignments includes a series of extensive interviews and discussions with a community member, different in age, ethnicity,

ability or some other characteristic from the student. The purpose of the meetings is to learn about and understand the interviewee as an occupational being. At the end of the semester, the community members are invited to attend the annual Occupation Symposium which is held to thank them for sharing their stories with the students and helping them to learn about everyday living. The Symposium additionally provides a venue for students to showcase their community partners' "stories of doing" with fellow students, faculty and honored guests.

Another unique experience is the Fieldwork Seminar where classroom concepts and theories are integrated into hands-on practice under the mentorship of a faculty member. Students work directly with individuals who have special needs for 40 hours over the course of the semester in any one of a number of settings: preschool through university, assisted living, adult

day care and recreation. Students evaluate, plan and provide intervention programs as well as outcome assessments and recommendations for the future for the individuals they work with at the community sites. The on-campus seminar is utilized to plan and discuss issues as a group.

In the final semester of the program, as part of the Neurobehavioral Intervention course, students are challenged to work with an adult client with a neurological condition in the community. Students are paired and matched with a community member. They meet with their client to identify a goal related to enhancing his or her daily activities using a client-centered approach and work toward it over the course of the semester. Examples of client goals and related activities include quite a range - from enhancing access to a computer to enhancing access to the community to managing fatigue while cooking meals.

As can be seen from this very limited listing, student learning includes a balance of theory and application. The integration of experiential activities is the standard of practice for the MSOT curriculum at CSU!

Above: OT student participated in the Recreation Fieldwork Seminar.

External Funding Supports Faculty Research

NIH and Wallace Foundation funding were awarded to Associate Professor Patti Davies, Ph.D., OTR. Both funding sources are instrumental to her research program on sensory processing and understanding changes in the brain in relation to attention in childhood and adolescence. Utilizing electroencephalographic (EEG) measures, Patti and William Gavin, Ph.D., Research Scientist, in the OT Department, examine brain processing from sensory registration and sensory gating paradigms. They have recently reported empirical evidence that children with sensory processing disorders (SPD) display unique brain processing mechanisms that can be distinguished from typically developing children based on auditory sensory gating paradigms. These results illustrate that studies of brain processing may provide more precise diagnostic information about SPD compared to the behavioral observations currently used by occupational therapists to classify these children. Additionally, this evidence indicates that the behaviors seen in children with SPD are rooted in neurological irregularities. To learn more about Patti's research, visit: <http://brainwaves.colostate.edu/>.

Cathy Schelly, M.Ed., OTR, Director of the Occupational Therapy Department's Center for Community Partnerships, is the recipient of a three-year, \$745,000

grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education. The grant will provide technical assistance and professional development for university faculty, assisting them to teach courses in ways that are accessible to a diverse student body, including international students, students with atypical learning needs and students who have disabilities. The project will provide university educators with the skills, information and technical assistance they need to provide their course content in a manner that is usable by all students, regardless of learning style, predominant language or learning challenges. The grant will develop a training program and universal design guidelines for CSU, Front Range Community College, CSU-Pueblo and cooperative extension field offices. Cathy is also the recipient of a HealthOne Alliance grant that is developing a family-to-family mentoring project for families of children with brain injuries. To learn more about the CCP and Cathy's program, visit: <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CCP/>.

CSU joins the University of Florida and the University of Southern Carolina to study the effect of constraint induced therapy (CIT) on motor performance with individuals who have post-stroke hemiparesis. Five years of NIH funding will support three different experiments conducted to address the following questions: 1) Is CIT necessary if an equally intense therapy program is performed while encouraging use of the weaker upper extremity? 2) The traditional regiment for CIT is six hours of training a day for 14 days; will a less expensive program that includes one hour/day followed by five hours of structured home exercises with daily telephone supervision be as effective? 3) Will a follow-up CIT training program to the initial CIT training enhance participant outcomes? Matt Malcolm, Ph.D., OTR, Assistant Professor, is the site PI for the research conducted through the OT department at CSU. To learn more about Matt's research, visit: <http://www.caahs.colostate.edu/nrri/>.



Schelly, Malcolm and Davies bring a wide range of research programs to CSU.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



The OT Departments of CSU and Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences (YPUHS) Yamagata, Japan renewed a formal agreement recognizing their official academic relationship in a signing ceremony this fall. The agreement, signed by President Masahiko Hiroi, M.D., Ph.D. and Provost and Academic Vice-President, Tony Frank, Ph.D., ensures the ongoing relationship between the faculty and students of both schools. YPUHS is located in Yamagata Prefecture, Colorado's Sister State. To learn more about YPUHS, visit their website at <http://www.yachts.ac.jp/off/english/index.html>.

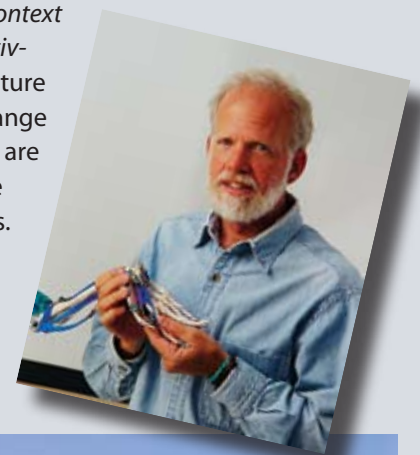
Each fall, Assistant Professor Manabu Sasaki of the OT Program at YPUHS brings students to visit the CSU OT program for a week. The Japanese students participate in OT classes and visit OT programs throughout the region. This year, YPUHS students were paired with their American counterparts for two nights of

their visit. Though language was a barrier, communication was not a problem!

YPUHS has invited a CSU faculty member as a guest instructor to their OT program over each of the last three years. Dr. Karen Spencer, OTR, Associate Professor, was invited last March. Karen's expertise, school-based practice, was the focus of a series of lectures she presented to OT faculty and students and a special lecture that she presented to regional OTs and parents of children with disabilities; the faculty at YPUHS is interested in introducing the concept of school-based practice in Yamagata.



Dr. David Greene, OTR, Associate Professor, traveled to Malta in April 2005. He was invited as a guest lecturer in the Occupational Therapy Department at the University of Malta to teach a kinesiology course to sophomore students in their four-year bachelor's program. The University of Malta's OT program has adopted David's text, *Kinesiology: Movement in the Context of Activity*. Future exchange plans are in the works.



Top left: CSU and YPUHS students in lab.
Bottom left: Karen Spencer with YPUHS students in Japan.
Top right: David Greene
Bottom right: Yamagata Prefectural University

Technology Fund Instituted

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As you can see, technology is a big part of our curriculum. From our Assistive Technology Center to our virtual lap-top lab, CSU OT students learn how to use technology as one method to support their education as well as their clients' goals and occupational activities. Unfortunately technology is an expensive luxury that is not supported through our departmental budget. The CCHE Program of Excellence Award of \$1.6 million provided us with the funds to create these resources but we are left with the daunting challenge of maintenance. Software must be updated and equipment upgraded in order for us to continue to graduate superior students that the state and nation have come to expect from CSU.

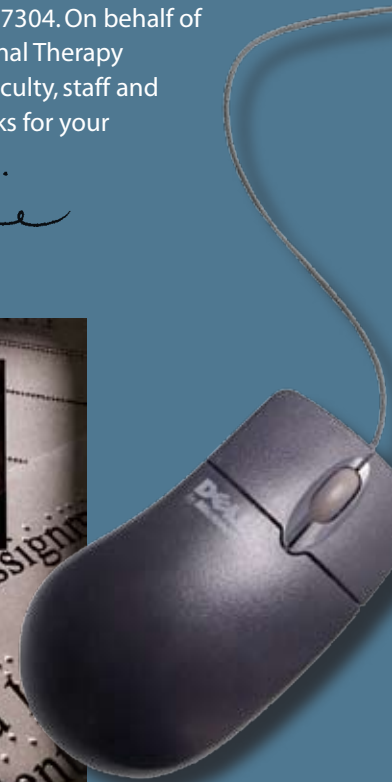
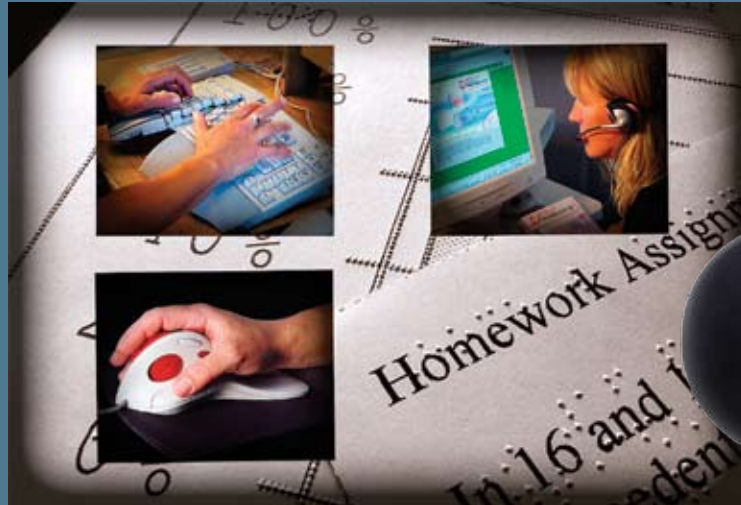
Won't you please assist us in supporting the CSU OT tradition of excellence? Please join us, the OT faculty,

staff and students in our drive, already underway, to build the technology fund and assure the cutting-edge education CSU students are known for.

Please fill out the enclosed form below and return it to us. If you have any questions regarding the Technology Fund, please give me a

call at 970.491.7304. On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Department faculty, staff and students, thanks for your support!

Jodie
Jodie



Yes, I want to support the Department of Occupational Therapy with a charitable gift!

Name: _____ E-mail address: _____ Home Work

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This gift is from Me My spouse and me My partner and me
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NEW LEVEL I FIELDWORK

PARTNERSHIP IN PUERTO RICO

Last summer was the first of many summers for CSU OT students to take advantage of a fieldwork opportunity in Puerto Rico. Patty Stutz-Tanenbaum, M.S., OTR, Fieldwork Coordinator, spearheaded a new, two-week, Level 1 experience on the island of Vieques. Wanda Figueroa-Fuentes, Ph.D., OTR, Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) worked with Patty, the Department of Education-Puerto Rico and Vieques Public Schools to help coordinate this unique initiative. Students from CSU and UPR formed a partnership with teachers and families of children with special needs under the supervision of faculty to identify and address each child's priority needs at school and home. Patty noted, "It was an amazing experience, one that pushed me and the students out of our comfort zones, resulting in both per-



sonal and professional growth – I can't wait to go back!" Patty will be returning to Vieques this summer with another group of students.



Above: OT student works with a Puerto Rican family.

Bottom: Back left to right: Marilee Boylan, M.S., OTR; Laura Olderog, OTS; Deanna Shepherd, OTS. Front left to right: Carol Chop, M.S., OTR; Patty Stutz-Tanenbaum, M.S., OTR; Wanda Figueroa-Fuentes, Ph.D., OTR



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