THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
SHP 50th Anniversary

O C T O B E R  2 0 ,  2 0 1 8

The University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas
Acknowledgements

Special Thanks

We would like to give special thanks to the following people who were instrumental in providing historical information for the writing of this commemorative booklet.

Janet Burke  Kelly Caldwell  Sharon McEachern  Diane Collins
Robert Marlin  Michelle Conley  Deborah Cooper

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Ashbel Smith Building, a.k.a. "Old Red" taken by Sangeeta Patel, OTS

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The UTMB School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS), now known as the School of Health Professions (SHP), was the first allied health school in the Southwest U.S. when it opened its doors in 1968.

It established the first clinical residency in Texas (one of only 7 nationwide) in neurological Physical Therapy in collaboration with Memorial-Hermann The Institute of Rehabilitation and Research and Texas Woman’s University.

In response to the serious shortages of health professionals, the school persists on an ambitious expansion in enrollment and developing innovative new programs. SHP continues to provide outstanding opportunities in community outreach, global health, and interprofessional learning for students.

In partnership with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, SHP has created a doctoral curriculum in Rehabilitation Sciences, the first of its kind in Texas and among just a handful in North America.

The four-story School of Health Professions/School of Nursing Building, which opened its doors in 1986, houses classrooms, laboratories, multipurpose auditorium, a Learning Resource Center, student lounge, and faculty and administrative offices.
Establishing OT at UTMB

Occupational Therapy first started as a certification program at UTMB. In 1955, the director of the program, Rose Marie Wells, became an integral part of the story of getting the program accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association. Historical documents depict Wells' correspondence with Mary Frances Heermans of AOTA to transfer OT from a certification to a Bachelor's degree program.

Rose Marie Wells, OTR
director of occupational therapy & school of occupational therapy

(front row: second from left)

Mary Frances Heermans
American Occupational Therapy Association
250 West 57 Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Miss Heermans:

I thought that our problem of the certificate course for undergraduates was settled but after reading over our correspondence, I find that it is vague and does not absolutely settle anything.

Our brochure states that after 2 years of satisfactory college work with the required prerequisites must be presented and then they will be allowed to take the certificate course. This course as I understand it is from 17 to 20 months training, 7 months academic work and 9 to 12 months affiliating work. This consists of approximately 4 years training. In this certificate course set up at other schools they require one year college then they have so much time doing academic work and so much time in affiliations. This is of what I am not so certain. But as it has been pointed out this consists of about the same length of time, this is where Mr. George Crosby confused me and he could not be convinced differently. He is no longer here and I am in full charge therefore I want to be absolutely certain I am correct.

I am enclosing our brochure and underlining the things of which I am uncertain. Please see if my problems can be solved. May the New Year be a happy one for you.

Sincerely yours,

Rose Marie Wells, OTR
Director, School of Occupational Therapy
Rose Marie Wells became the director and chair of the school of occupational therapy in 1955. She continued to shape the program at UTMB for the next eight years, helping it thrive. She was the forerunner of the program and an integral part of its formation and presence today.

Above: Ruben Curtis Huffstetter and Martha Anna Griffin were the first class of occupational therapy at UTMB!
During the years between the world wars Galveston exploited the prohibition of liquor and gambling by offering illegal drinks and betting in nightclubs and saloons.

This, combined with the extensive prostitution, which had existed in the port city since the Civil War, made Galveston the sin city of the Gulf.

The citizens tolerated and supported the illegal activities and took pride in being "the free state of Galveston."

In 1957, however, Attorney General Will Wilson, with the help of Texas Rangers, shut down bars, such as the famous Balinese Room, destroyed gambling equipment, and closed many houses of prostitution.

As the vice industries crashed, so did tourism, and the rest of the Galveston economy declined with it. The economy stagnated during the 1950s, and after 1957 the Free State was effectively gone.

Fort Crockett, which had been used as an Army recreation center following the war, was shut down in 1955. Many of the island's most important entertainment business leaders left the city and set up shop in Las Vegas. Neither the economy nor the culture of the city were the same afterward.
For your newsletter, don’t just rely on listings and pictures of properties to make it interesting. People want newsletters, so they can stay informed. Add articles that will help homeowners and property buyers make the most of their investment. You can also update them on the state of the market, so they have an idea of what to do next.

Another type of content you can include in your newsletter is a column offering tips and advice on how to take care of properties. This could include home improvement, landscaping, or maintenance that people can do to increase the value of their properties.
Robert K. Bing, EdD, OTR, FAOTA

In 1966, Robert K. Bing agreed to reorganize the Department of Occupational Therapy in the hospitals of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Here he established the first school of allied health in the Southwest. In 1968, he was named dean of the School of Health Professions, the first occupational therapist to receive such an appointment.

Dr. Bing contributed to education, research, administration, recruitment, and public relations for occupational therapy. In 1981, the American Occupational Therapy Association awarded him its highest honor, the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship. While holder of the lectureship, Dr. Bing wrote "Occupational Therapy Revisited," a thorough, thoughtful, and inspiring history of occupational therapy, from its philosophical origins in seventeenth-century England forward.

As professor emeritus, Dr. Bing maintained active involvement with the School of Health Professions, where he was a frequent lecturer for the Department of Occupational Therapy and a mentor to faculty members and students alike.
The 60s

The 1960s saw the expansion of higher education in Galveston. Already home to the University of Texas Medical Branch, the city got a boost in 1962 with the creation of the Texas Maritime Academy, predecessor of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

By 1967 a community college, Galveston College, had been formed to help provide affordable education to the community.

Beginning in 1957, the Galveston Historical Foundation began its efforts to preserve historic buildings.

The 1966 book The Galveston That Was helped encourage the preservation movement. Restoration efforts financed by motivated investors, notably Houston businessmen George P. Mitchell, gradually created the Strand Historic District and reinvented other areas. A new, family-oriented tourism emerged in the city over many years.
Gretchen Schmalz, OTR

Robert Bing, EdD, OTR
Acting Chair 1978 - 1979

Charles Christiansen, EdD, OTR
OT Dept. Chair & Clinical Director 1979 - 1983

Donald Davidson, OTR
OT Dept. Chair 1984 - 1994
John G. Bruhn, PhD

Dr. Bruhn earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Nebraska, and his Ph.D. in Medical Sociology from Yale University. At Yale, Dr. Bruhn was a Commonwealth Fund-Yale Fellow and a U.S. Public Health Service Fellow. After graduation he received a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was also a John E. Fogarty Health Science Fellow to Poland and a World Health Organization Fellow to Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Bruhn served as professor, Dean, Vice President and Provost at several universities including: UTMB, The University of Oklahoma, and The University of Texas - El Paso. He most recently served as Provost and Dean and Professor of Sociology at Penn State University-Harrisburg.

Dr. Bruhn is known for his outstanding contributions in the areas of leadership and management of complex organizations during periods of growth, downsizing, and reframing. He has well-honed skills in strategic planning, development of partnerships and networks among organizations, and business ethics. Dr. Bruhn is an expert in assisting organizations in the use of trust as a tool to maintain healthy and productive organizations through teamwork, delegation, unified efforts and streamlined decision-making.
The 70s & 80s

The Balinese Room
This famous Galveston attraction thrived during this decade. It hosted headliners such as Frank Sinatra, Gene Autry, and Peggy Lee, and is said to be where the margarita originated.

George Mitchell
This Galveston-born oilman (1st from left), led the efforts to revitalize the Historic Downtown District in the 70s to help preserve the Victorian architecture of the city.

The Historic Strand
In the 1970s, preservation efforts were made to reclaim historical landmarks in Galveston, including The Strand.

Mardi Gras
As the city of Galveston began to thrive, city leaders took the next step to revive Mardi Gras celebrations in the Historic Downtown District. The world's most famous architects were commissioned to design the famous Mardi Gras arches that span the streets of The Strand district. More than half a million people now visit Galveston during the city's annual Mardi Gras celebration.
1877 Tall Ship Elissa

The pride and joy of Galveston, the Elissa was brought to dock in her new home in December, 1981. A dedicated team sailed this old beauty home and began work on restoring it to its former glory. Tall Ship Elissa now resides on the waterfront of Pier 21 and has become the symbol of the new Galveston.

Industry & Commerce

Once known as the "Wall Street of the South," Galveston was the industrial hub of South Texas.

The county economy was divided chiefly into five sectors: waterborne commerce, petroleum and petrochemical products, medical services, financial services, and tourism.

Industry included oil and gas extraction, petroleum refining, shipbuilding, construction, and food packaging.

Although Houston remained the regional import center, Galveston excelled in exports, chiefly container shipping and the export of grain and cotton to foreign countries.

“The Wall Street of the South.”

Hurricane Alicia

In 1983, Galveston was devastated by Hurricane Alicia which destroyed a good part of the island as well as nearby cities such as Houston. This, however, didn’t stop the expansion of the city as Galveston was soon rebuilt to thrive once more.
Jackie Low, OTR
Acting Chair
1994 - 1996

David Cordova, PhD
Kenneth Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR, FAOTA
Acting Chairs 1996 - 1998
Charles Christiansen was Dean and George T. Bryan Distinguished Professor in the School of Health Professions from 1993-2006. Prior to his roles at UTMB, he was Professor and Director of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

He earned an undergraduate degree in Occupational Therapy from the School of Medicine, University of North Dakota. He was a commissioned officer during the Vietnam era serving in the USAF Biomedical Sciences Corps. He earned a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University and a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Houston. He completed a postdoctoral administrative residency through Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, focusing on education in the health professions.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including selection as Occupational Therapist of the Year in 1984 by the Texas Occupational Therapy Association, and recipient of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship by AOTA in 1998, the association's highest academic honor. In 1997 he was presented with the Leone Award for Administrative Excellence at UTMB and is the inaugural holder of the first endowed distinguished professorship established in the college he leads. In 2004, Dr. Christiansen accepted appointment as an honorary (adjunct) Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation at The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. In September, 2005, he was honored as an outstanding alumnus of the University of North Dakota during its Centennial homecoming celebrations.
Loree Primeau, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Loree Primeau was a tenured Associate Professor, as well as, the chair of the Occupational Therapy department from 1998 to 2004.

Originally trained in Canada, Dr. Primeau earned a Masters of Arts degree in Occupational Therapy and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Occupational Science from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA.

While working at UTMB, Dr. Primeau was also the Executive Director of Autism Community Network in San Antonio, TX. While in San Antonio, she also managed a private multidisciplinary therapy program for children with autism and served on a Preschool Assessment Team for a local school district.

OT Dept. Chair 1998 - 2004

Gretchen Stone, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Gretchen Stone is Associate Professor Emeritus and was Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department at UTMB from 2005 to 2011.

Dr. Stone earned a BS in Occupational Therapy at Indiana University and MEd and PhD degrees in Special Education and Educational Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin.

She worked to expand educational opportunities for students in cross-cultural environments, helping to establish the first occupational therapy program in Izmit, Turkey in the aftermath of an earthquake and serving with the UTMB interprofessional health care team at the Maria Luisa Ortiz Womans Co-Op in Mulukuku, Nicaragua.

Dr. Stone was also a member of the steering committee for the Collaborating Center for Training in International Health at UTMB and continues to serve as a consultant for curriculum development at Kocaeli Medical University, Izmit, Turkey.

OT Dept. Chair 2005 - 2011
Dr. Elizabeth Protas served as the Senior Vice President, George T. Bryan Distinguished Professor, Ruby Decker Endowed Professor, Senior Fellow of the Sealy Center on Aging, and Dean in the School of Health Professions.

She received her B.S. in Physical Therapy in 1968 and her Ph.D. in Education in 1981 from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Under Dr. Protas' leadership, SHP has significantly expanded through new programs, as well as steadily increasing student enrollment. From 2006 to 2016, enrollment increased by 77 percent, from 464 to 822. While serving as Chair, Dr. Protas worked with the Texas Higher Education Board to establish a doctor of physical therapy degree program at UTMB. Most recently, as Dean, she oversaw creation of the Department of Nutrition and Metabolism, as well as two new doctoral programs in the clinical laboratory sciences (DCLS) and occupational therapy (OTD).

During her tenure as Dean, the School of Health Professions has also maintained competitive national standing for NIH funding; the school was ranked 9th, 10th or 12th out of 69 institutions.
In 1990, the production area of Moody Gardens opened, which included two greenhouses used to propagate most of the plants seen on the ground for our Medicinal Plant Program. Opening in January 1986, Hope Therapy became the cornerstone of Moody Gardens, an internationally recognized program that offered rehabilitative horseback-riding (Hippotherapy) to cognitively and physically disabled individuals.

In 1993, the famous Rainforest Pyramid opened its doors, featuring over 1,700 exotic plant and animal species from all over the world. The Garden Restaurant also started serving delicious food to customers this year, and America’s first IMAX 3D Theater started showing films in the MG 3D Theater Complex.

In 1997, the Discovery Pyramid debuted with NASA-inspired exhibits.

In 1999, the family friendly accommodations and tranquil services of the Moody Gardens Hotel and Spa opened. The hotel is an architectural masterpiece featuring 428 rooms and over 22,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, dining, and a full service salon and spa. The 1.5 million-gallon Aquarium Pyramid opened as one of the largest aquariums in the world.
Port City

For several years in the 1990s, port officials attempted to lure modern cruise ships to Galveston. Their efforts paid off in 2000. On September 30, the Carnival Cruise Lines ship, Celebration, debarked from the port of Galveston. Over the next 16 years, the port invested more than $85 million to build and improve facilities to accommodate these ships.

From 2014 to 2015, the cruise business expanded substantially, adding an additional 400,000 passengers.

As of 2017, Galveston is the 4th busiest cruise ship homeport in North America and one of the top 10 homeports in the world.

Over the years, the port has welcomed ships from major cruise lines including Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Princess Cruises, Disney Cruise Lines, and Norwegian Cruise Lines. In 2017, three Carnival ships and two Royal Caribbean ships call the port home year-round, while Disney operates one ship for limited sailings. An estimated 946,000 cruise passengers sailed from the port in 2017, a ten percent increase over 2016. A 2015 economic analysis estimated that cruise passengers injected $56 million per year into the local Galveston economy.
On September 13, 2008, the eye of Hurricane Ike approached the Texas coast near Galveston Bay, making landfall over the east end of Galveston Island.

People in low-lying areas and single-family one- or two-story homes, who had not heeded evacuation orders, had been warned by the weather service that they "faced certain death" in the overnight storm surge.

In regional Texas towns, electrical power began failing, leaving more than 3 million people without power. In addition, grocery store shelves in the Houston area were left empty.

In Galveston, the rising storm surge began overtopping the 17-ft Galveston Seawall, which faces the Gulf of Mexico. Although Seawall Boulevard is elevated above the shoreline, many areas of town slope down behind the seawall to the lower elevation of Galveston Island.

The historic Balinese Room, which had withstood many serious storms, was swept away as Ike's eye crossed over the eastern half of Galveston Island.

Afterward, an estimated 100,000 homes had been flooded in Texas, and numerous boats washed ashore. Galveston was declared uninhabitable, and Houston imposed a week-long nighttime curfew due to limited electric power. Widespread flooding in downtown Galveston consisted of 6-ft deep inside the Galveston County Courthouse and flooding of UTMB.
Historic Pleasure Pier

The new Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier was built 1,130 feet out over the Gulf of Mexico waters. It had its "soft" opening on May 25, 2012. It has one roller coaster, 15 rides, carnival games and souvenir shops.

The new pier complex is located where the original Pleasure Pier stood from 1943 until 1961, when it was destroyed by Hurricane Carla. The original Pleasure Pier featured rides, an arcade, an aquarium, concessions, a large ball room, named the Marine Ballroom, and fishing at the end of the pier. It was also the site of the USS Flagship Hotel, an over-the-water hotel built in 1965 that was demolished after Hurricane Ike in 2008.
Dr. Patricia Fingerhut is a Robert K. Bing Distinguished Professor and current Associate Professor and Chair for the Department of Occupational Therapy.

She earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Alberta, Canada. She received her PhD in Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman’s University.

Prior to joining UTMB in 2004 as an assistant professor, her practice and research were primarily in pediatrics both in the US and Canada.

Her extensive clinical experience involving children and families gives her the background to guide students in providing effective, compassionate, and culturally sensitive services to this population.

In 2005, she developed the Life Participation for Parents (LPP) to evaluate and measure outcomes in family-centered practice. A number of studies are now using the LPP to investigate family-centered questions in a variety of countries and languages.
Vicki S. Freeman, PhD

Dr. Vicki S. Freeman is the Chair and Professor of the UTMB-SHP Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Dr. Freeman currently serves as interim dean for the School of Health Professions.

Dr. Freeman received her PhD in Community and Human Resources and a MA in Adult and Continuing Education from University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as a BS in Medical Technology and a BA in Biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin.

She first joined UTMB in 1996 as chair of the school’s clinical laboratory sciences department and is responsible for leading the program into becoming one of the largest and most dynamic in the country. In 2016, she established the Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree program, the second of its kind in the nation. She also has served as Associate Dean for faculty development within SHP since 2014.

Dr. Freeman has been the recipient of numerous honors including Outstanding Contributions to Continuing Education Awards in the School of Allied Health Sciences at UTMB and was previously the Director of the Academy of Master Teachers.
Helping Others
Island Transportation

The Galveston Island Trolley is a heritage streetcar in Galveston. As of late 2006, the total network length was 6.8 miles with 22 stations. Operated by Island Transit, the trolley has been suspended since September 2008 due to heavy damage from Hurricane Ike. Subsequently the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Transit Administration have agreed to fund repairs. In January 2017 a contract was approved to restore three of the trolleys at a cost of $3.8M. The trolleys are expected to be completed in 2018.

Initially, the Galveston Island Trolley connected the historic Strand District on the north side of Galveston Island with the Seawall beach area. It was mainly used by tourists. In the 1990s planning for an extension of the line began and it was extended in 1995. A new branch to the University of Texas Medical Branch opened on March 14, 2005. This line was popular among UTMB staff, students and patients.

The Galveston Island Trolley cars look like vintage electric trolleys, but actually they are a modern build and diesel-electric powered, with no overhead wires to obstruct the view. This means that the vehicles are not rightfully referred to as "trolleys", since they do not "troll" for power from overhead wires, but are "streetcars".
Galveston Island has one of the largest, well-preserved and historically significant concentrations of Victorian architecture in the United States. Over 60 of Galveston's structures are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The city has managed to preserve its historic buildings in spite of some significant storms - an impressive feat which shows the dedication and perseverance of its residents throughout history and today.
On August 23rd, 2017 Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas. Governor Greg Abbot declared a state of emergency for 30 counties and people were advised to find shelter on higher ground as the coast and city of Houston began to flood.

The widespread and catastrophic effects of Hurricane Harvey resulted in one of the costliest natural disasters in United States history. An estimated 300,000 structures and 500,000 vehicles were damaged or destroyed in Texas alone.

Throughout Texas, approximately 336,000 people were left without electricity and tens of thousands required rescue. Throughout the state, 103 people died in storm-related incidents: 68 from its direct effects, including flooding, and 35 from indirect effects in the hurricane's aftermath. By August 29, 2017 approximately 13,000 people had been rescued across the state while an estimated 30,000 were displaced.
Island Festivities

The island hosts hundreds of festivals, big and small, from January to December including Mardi Gras, Summer Fest, and Dickens on The Strand, just to name a few!

Mardi Gras! Galveston

Dating all the way back to 1867, this annual event features colorful parades, lavish balls, spectacular concerts and family events. Enjoy all the sounds and sights of Mardi Gras in downtown Galveston at the end of February.

Galveston Food & Wine Festival

Thanks to its wealth of high-end restaurants and local breweries, Galveston is a foodie’s delight. Headlined by world-class chefs, the festival includes food and wine tastings, and a 5K run.

AIA Houston Sandcastle Competition

More than 60 talented teams carve up the sand on Galveston’s East Beach as they vie for the top prize (the Golden Bucket). Months of planning and preparation go into these astounding creations that are judged by originality, execution, and difficulty.

Island Octoberfest

Don your Alpine hat and lederhosen for Galveston Island’s annual Oktoberfest celebration at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church during the fourth weekend in October. Fill your stein with German beer which will go great with a pretzel or plate of knackwurst, bratwurst, and red cabbage.

Dickens on The Strand

The charm and exuberance of Victorian London comes to life in Galveston’s Historic Downtown District as part of the long-running Dickens on The Strand event. Watch festive parades, listen to the strolling carolers, and watch non-stop entertainment on the six stages in The Strand.
The Move To A Doctorate

Class of 2019 students attending the 2018 AOTA Conference.

"In response to the changing demands of higher education, the health care environment, and within occupational therapy, it is the position of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Board of Directors that the profession should take action to transition toward a doctoral-level single point of entry for occupational therapists, with a target date of 2025. Support of high quality entry-level doctoral education for occupational therapists will benefit the profession, consumers, and society."

- AOTA, 2015

"The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) has mandated that the entry-level degree requirement for the occupational therapist will move to the doctoral level by July 1, 2027."

- ACOTE, 2017
The Next 50 Years

"Brain plasticity research and dynamic systems theory has shown that the OT way of doing meaningful and functional tasks is the ‘best way to develop skill’. In the next 50 years, let us make ‘doing our chosen occupations with meaning’ central to all healthcare outcomes."

- Patricia Fingerhut, PhD, OTR
  Associate Professor & Chair

"In 50 years, I think occupational therapists will play a tremendous role in the daily health of people. I hope that occupational therapy will be as far-reaching as doing ergonomic evaluations for astronauts on distant planets, and as science based as the profession of physics. However, I pray we never lose our ability to connect with clients and use ourselves therapeutically to give them hope, no matter on which planet they reside."

- Diane Collins, PhD, OT
  Assistant Professor

"In the next 50 years, I envision that the Department of Occupational Therapy at UTMB will continue to promote health and wellness across the life span, with an increased focus on facilitating optimal occupational performance in at-risk infants, toddlers, children, and youth. We will play a unique role in interprofessional education and scholarship, locally, nationally and globally."

- Joanne Flanagan, ScD, OTR
  Assistant Professor
"I have several thoughts about how the growth and development of the occupational therapy (OT) profession will be impacted within the next 50 years. Certainly, I see the profession as essential and believe that the demand for clinicians will not lessen. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2016) predicts a shortage of OTs in the state of Texas between now and 2030. From a faculty standpoint, a shortage of clinicians will keep UTMB’s OT program viable. Additionally, the public is becoming more health-conscious overall; and in that vein, there will be greater interest in the profession of OT and the different skill sets that OTs bring to the healthcare environment. Geriatric therapists will be needed for the aging population. Hand therapists, like myself, will be needed to deal with a myriad of upper extremity conditions. I anticipate that other specialty practice areas will come to the forefront and that AOTA will likely expand specialty certification options to promote stronger clinical skills and increased efficacy of OT interventions. All OTs will have access to improved technologies that will promote increased innovation, inter-professional collaborations, and creativity in the healthcare arena. Research opportunities will abound, and personnel will be needed to carry out the studies, as well as, disseminate the findings. I think it is a great time to be an OT and I do not see that changing within the next 50 years!"

- April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT
Associate Professor & Program Director, Post Professional Doctorate in OT

"In 50 years, I think that we will be able to administer therapy virtually in a way that we will be able to have a distance hands-on intervention with the clients. We will be able to feel muscle tone and test muscle strength and range of motion using the device. We will also be able to administer exercises, sensory input, muscle facilitation, postural and safety support, and other types of interventions that require touching. This will allow for better access to care for clients who live in areas that do not have proximity to occupational therapy services."

- Claudia Hilton, PhD, OTR, MBA, FAOTA
Associate Professor
"Swami Vivekananda said, 'Our duty is to encourage everyone in their struggle to live up to their own highest ideal, and strive at the same time to help them make the ideal as near as possible to the truth.' I feel this is exactly what our noble profession of occupational therapy is. Proud to embody this role and practice this noble cause as my profession. Proud to be an Occupational Therapist!"

- Kshitija Kulkarni, PhD, OTR, MSOT, MPH
  Assistant Professor

"An inspiration to heal soul, mind and body. A combination of science and art to optimize patient outcomes."

- Chih-Ying (Cynthia) Li, PhD, OTR
  Assistant Professor

"Occupational therapy will continue to expand in areas focused on prevention and wellness. This will create opportunities to advocate for our profession and educate other disciplines on the holistic nature of occupational therapy."

- Loree Pryor, MOT, OTR
  Assistant Professor; Fieldwork Coordinator
"In 50 years, OT will be engaged in more telehealth and community practice and we will be the best, most valuable healthcare profession."

- Karen Ratcliff, MS, OTR
  Assistant Professor

"UTMB OT will a global leader in providing expanded education and mentoring to occupational therapy students."

- Ickpyo Hong, PhD, OTR
  Assistant Professor

"My deepest hope for occupational therapy here in the School of Health Professions and elsewhere is that we will act on our unique calling to embrace meaningful occupation as a healing agent. Our focus on the holistic needs of those who seek our help transcends the exclusive use of modalities and exercise. I believe that our future lies in reclaiming our authenticity as occupational therapists. Those practitioners who collaborate with clients imaginatively by occupying them during interventions exemplify best practice for us all."

- Suzanne Peloquin, PhD, OTR, FAOTA
  Professor Emeritus
Class of 2019

Class of 2020
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