

**Sixth Annual Research Conference  
SSO Abstracts**

**PAPERS**

**Sissel Alsaker, Staffan Josephsson**

*Narrativity in everyday activities of four women affected by chronic rheumatic diseases.*

Narrative theory and methods are increasingly featured in qualitative research relating to human occupation, both according to stories told and stories created. In this ethnographic study, the researcher participated in the everyday activities of four women living with chronic rheumatic diseases, aiming at locating if and how narrativity, here understood as meaning making, took place in such activities. Narrative analyses were conducted, based on data from extensive field notes and reflective journals, together with theoretical resources regarding everyday occupations, chronic diseases and narrativity. The results of this hermeneutic interpretative process show how the actual doing of ordinary everyday occupations provided opportunities connected to several possible plots. The occupational encounters facilitated talk and interaction, characterized by fluctuations and crisscrossing between place, space and the sociality of the moment. Going shopping, having a coffee break, feeding the fire or clearing the dishwasher, provided links to significant issues in the participant's lives. By doing such activities, the participants enacted the "if's" of ordinariness, the still not configured stories, connected to their chronic conditions, their relationships, choices, womanhood, agency and politics. All this trying out or enactment through everyday occupations pointed towards several overall plots, like; living with a chronic disease felt like having an additional partner which one could not get rid of. Another possible plot was that they always had to do things in the moment when the body felt good, or the possibility would disappear due to symptoms of the disease. Also significant was never to know how and if one is as good as everyone else, as normality was not an option. These everyday enactments provided opportunities for the individual woman to tap into significant issues, but also to establish her own agency concerning how she chose to deal with them. Some issues could come close to a configured story, others were left open to future interpretation, and others stayed preconfigured. Such knowledge of everyday occupations as sources for possible meaning making or narrativity is valuable both for occupational science and occupational therapy by extending the understanding of everyday activities both conceptually and clinically.

**Julie Baltisberger, Karen Adler, Doris Pierce, Twilla Parr, Somaya Malkawi**

*The First Five Years: A Thematic Analysis of Presentation Abstracts of the SSO: USA*

This qualitative study of the first five years of presentations of the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA (SSO: USA) yields important information about the development over time of occupational science as a disciplinary body of knowledge. A thematic analysis of the abstracts of peer-reviewed presentations at the annual meetings of the SSO: USA was separately and then collaboratively completed by a group of eight researchers. Through coding the abstracts, the researchers discovered themes and trends in knowledge discovery. The analytic process, coding categories, and trends in the topical, methodological, theoretical, and population group foci of occupational science research presented between 2002 and 2006 will be described. Implications of the study for the future of occupational science will be discussed. Possible implications of the study to be discussed are the following:

- Constant strong themes spanning the first five years
- Evident gaps in the study of occupation
- Methodological trends and needs
- Recommendations for education

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**Christy Billock***Women's Lived Experience of Spirituality through Occupation*

As a fundamental reality of life, the nature of spiritual experience through occupation interests occupational scientists desiring to develop an increase in knowledge about occupation. Spirituality is conceptualized as a deep experience of meaning different from religion. Occupational scientists contend that "individuals are most true to their humanity when engaged in occupation" (Yerxa et al., 1990, p. 7). Occupation creates meaning in life and helps answer larger existential questions of the meaning of life (Christiansen, 1997). Being true to one's humanity and making meaning in life are spiritual and metaphysical phenomena which seek expression through occupation (Peloquin, 1997). Although spirituality and occupation interconnect, limited research exists within occupational science on the nature of spirituality as experienced through occupation. This qualitative study provides insight into three Episcopalian women's lived experience of spirituality through occupations in everyday life. The research employed a phenomenological approach to in-depth interviewing, participant observation, and participant journaling over a 15-month period. Through recursive coding and interpretation, relevant themes emerged which help to better understand the women's lived experiences of spirituality through occupation. The purpose of this paper will be to present the findings of the research by reviewing the model developed to understand the participants, experiences of spirituality through occupation. The women's lived experiences of spirituality through occupation appeared dependent upon several factors including contextual environments, central ideologies, and a system of doing, reflection, and intention. Participant types of lived experiences of spirituality through occupation included embodied experiences, emotional experiences, being present at the center, and mystical experiences. A schematic representation will help illuminate the findings. These findings highlight the necessity of viewing spiritual experience through occupation as a process thereby challenging notions of spiritual or religious occupations as categorical. The process, both transactional and transformative in nature, vitally depends upon occupation to make intangible aspects of life tangible. The research emphasizes the importance of viewing spirituality not as an immaterial phenomenon, but as a tangible reality made possible through one's lived experience of occupation. The presenter will invite the audience to dialog about the findings of the study and future directions for research and publication.

**Salvador Bondoc & Lauren Bonacci***Pain and the Meaning and Temporality of Occupation*

In healthcare, pain is conceived as a major barrier to function. In occupational therapy, it is assumed that management of pain could lead to improvements in participation and occupational performance. Despite this widely-held assumption, the relationship between pain and occupation especially in individuals with rheumatoid arthritis is not well-established in the literature. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to elucidate the link between pain and occupation. More specifically, this paper explores how pain as experienced by individuals with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) co-effect occupational performance, the meaning ascribed to the occupations and how occupations are organized over time. Through experience sampling (ESM) and mailed-in questionnaires, the authors followed two active older females with RA and documented their participation in daily occupations at random times of the day over 1 full week. Participants were also asked to report which occupations they find most meaningful, and the meaning ascribed to them during engagement, pain experiences, and adaptations made to the physical and temporo-spatial context/s of the occupations. Descriptive and narrative analysis of data from the ESM and interviews, suggest that pain and occupations do interrelate and are co-effectual. From the results, three themes emerged all pertaining to the co-effectual relationship between pain and occupations: 1) reduction in pain may have allowed the person to engage, with greater efficacy, in occupations that held the most meaning; 2) pain despite its unpredictability and varying intensity does not always inhibit engagement in the most meaningful occupations but rather facilitates the individual to adapt the contexts of occupations including its temporality; and 3) actual engagement in the most valued occupations could lead to a reduction or suppression of pain and subsequent improvement in the quality of occupational experience (e.g., my pain suddenly disappears when I do). We conclude that the study illustrates and further

reinforces the Profession's belief that despite pain (and disability), humans find ways to engage in occupations because of their meaning and intrinsic benefits. The study also lends support in the belief that engagement in occupations is not only an end but a powerful means to overcome barriers to performance including pain.

### **Elizabeth Cara**

#### *Example of Occupational Coherence: The story of Dian Fossey, Occupational Therapist and Primatologist*

Dr. Dian Fossey was the primatologist and occupational therapist who is famous worldwide for saving the highland mountain gorillas from extinction. She successfully sustained her research center for 18 years in an inhospitable physical and political climate before her murder in 1985. Prior to moving to Africa, Dr. Fossey enjoyed a successful ten-year career as a pediatric occupational therapist in Louisville, KY at a well-known hospital where she treated orthopedic clients, including children from the Appalachian Mountains. She was known for being a creative, resourceful, playful, and protective therapist. This paper identifies connections between her lives as an occupational therapist working with children and a primatologist studying the highland mountain gorilla culture. These connections suggest that there is an occupational coherence throughout life that sustains one's identity in spite of the pursuit of apparently different careers in very different contexts. Occupational coherence consists of occupations that are imbued with value and meaning and convey and sustain a cohesive identity throughout a person's life. A theoretical structure for analyzing occupations and activities focusing on the meaning and value attached to them (Persson, Erlandsson, Eklund, Iwarsson, 2001) is used to interpret the occupations that Fossey consistently manifested in both careers. A spectrum of values, based on concrete, symbolic, and self-reward dimensions ascribes meaning to individual maintenance, work, play, or recreation occupations. This paper will introduce the concept of occupational coherence using Fossey's occupational therapy and primatology life as an example. The research method used to research her life, psychobiography, will be delineated including steps to write a psychobiography, strategies for analysis, and the markers of a good psychobiography. The topic is significant because it will: 1) introduce research related to the study of occupation, 2) further the knowledge of occupation by introducing a new theoretical concept, and 3) introduce a novel, interdisciplinary and cross-theoretical research methodology.

### **Christine Carrier**

#### *"Rockets" and "Rocket Scientists": How Technology and Collective Perspectives on Occupation Shape Body Practices and Embodiment of Triathletes*

Historically, most investigations into occupation have focused on individuals and their unique phenomenological experiences with an emphasis on reflective, narrative experience. This work hopes to contribute to the recent branching in focus to the social nature of occupation by extending this consideration to not just reflective experience but also body practices and embodied experience. Drawing from the works of occupational science scholars including Frank, Dickie, Cutchin, Humphrey, Jackson and Neville-Jan, and the works of Mauss, Bourdieu, Merleau-Ponty and Csordas, I will present a theoretical basis for considering the collective nature of embodied experiences. Analysis and examples from ethnographic field data from a six month pilot study of members of a recreational triathlon club underscore the collective and technology-infused nature of the meaning of training occupations, body practices of those occupations, and interpretations of somatic experience.

### **Anne Cronin**

#### *Bullying and Sibling Exchanges*

The relationship between brothers and sisters is often the first and most intense peer relationship children experience, and it incorporates both conflict and companionship (Koontz-Lowman, 2005; Sharpe & Rossiter, 2002). Siblings act as a teacher, friend, follower, protector, enemy, rival, companion, confidant, captive audience, role model, and measuring stick (NICHCY, 1988; Poe, 2005). The permanent nature of the existence of relationship between brothers and sisters has major influence on many aspects of personal

development (Cate & Loots, 2000). Inclusion, group membership and meaningful participation are all impacted by sibling occupations and sibling pair co-occupations. Bullying, the intentional tormenting of others through verbal, physical, or other methods of harassment, is a concern in school environments. Social interactions in school environments, including bullying interactions are a common OT focus for students with autism. Families with a child with autism sometimes describe sibling interactions that resemble bullying, with the child with autism as the bullier. The same behaviors that interfere with students' social exchanges in the school, interfere with social exchanges within the family. Using the theoretical lens of occupational science to consider sibling interactions in terms of occupations and co-occupations, this research study was designed to look at the interactions between sibling pairs that are typically developing as compared to matched pairs that include one sibling with autism. A focus on individual self-efficacy and measures of bullying in interactions will be included to assist in characterizing these interactions. The primary goals of the presentation are (1) to expand ways in which research, theoretical perspectives and interdisciplinary collaboration can support improved understanding of sibling influences on occupation and participation, (2) to generate discussion that will contribute to our understanding of how occupation and social participation manifests in bullying and in more supportive relationship styles, and (3) to present current findings of this research project in progress.

### **Malcolm Cutchin, Rebecca Aldrich, Antoine Bailliard, Sue Coppola**

#### *Action Theories as a Basis for Occupational Science*

If occupation is indeed some "chunk" or other form of activity that is meaningful to individuals and society (Yerxa et al., 1989), then action must be a central part of understanding occupation. We believe it is fair to suggest that the edifice of occupational science is unstable until an adequate foundation of action theory is constructed. That is the challenge we seek to take up in this paper—the beginning of a rigorous development of that foundation of occupational science thought and thereby an essential part of occupational science's continuing development. Because action theory is a diffuse area of knowledge crossing many centuries and disciplines, our coverage is by necessity selective. We utilize works by philosophers and social theorists primarily, and focus more on the work of John Dewey and Pierre Bourdieu than others. This bias is based on the compatible and complementary nature of the two theorists, work and the realization that their combined action theories provide a metatheoretical basis for usefully understanding and investigating occupation. Our focus also allows us to build on recent attempts to re-theorize occupation from a less individual-based orientation (Dickie, Cutchin, & Humphry, 2006) and extend and deepen that understanding with additional theoretical material. We begin the analysis with a summary assessment of occupational science's position on action and related concepts. In that section, we suggest where weakness in occupational science exists vis-à-vis action and why those weaknesses need addressing now. From there, we begin the discussion on action theory. We structure our analysis into three phases, each focusing on a different key element of action theory: habit, context, and creativity. We conclude the argument with an example of occupation viewed through action theory, and we aim to explain in summary form what potential these particular action theories hold for occupational science. In the end a new definition of occupation is offered: occupation is a type of relational action through which habit, context, and creativity are coordinated toward a provisional yet particular meaningful outcome; the type of occupation is defined by the particular combination of habit, context, creativity, and provisional outcome.

### **Claudia Dunn, Mike Carlson, Jeanne Jackson, Florence Clark**

#### *Response Factors Surrounding Progression of Pressure Ulcers in Community-Residing Adults with Spinal Cord Injury*

Adults with spinal cord injury (SCI) are at high risk of developing medically serious pressure ulcers due to decreased mobility and reductions in skin sensitivity (Correa et al., 2006; Garber, Rintala, Hart, & Furhrer, 2000; Maklebust, 2005). Many ulcers exacerbate to require surgical repair resulting in extensive, occupationally debilitating hospitalization. Beyond their medical consequences, pressure ulcers impact functional ability to pursue occupations that contribute to a person's sense of independence, control,

productivity, and quality of life (Tate & Forchheimer, 2002). Currently there is little occupational science literature conceptualizing how occupational opportunities and obstacles affect responses to low grade ulcers. This qualitative study is a secondary analysis (Clark et al., 2006) that aims to offer deeper insight into the ulcer response process and draws attention to that critical window of time following the onset of early skin breakdown. Action taken during this crucial period often determines ulcer progression. This presentation explores how occupational lifestyle issues affected pressure ulcer risk in adults with SCI who responded to an early ulcer that progressed to a medically serious level. Through analysis of individualized profiles developed in the parent study from participant observation field notes and in-depth interviews, emergent occupational patterns were identified. A typological framework of responses was then created to elucidate the complex interplay between occupational decision-making and the associated health consequences. Results revealed the most common emergent response to be Distraction, the decision to engage in everyday occupation or a pressing life event versus attending to healing a newly discovered ulcer. This confirms that individual daily life occupations and contexts are not only inextricably intertwined but oftentimes at odds with health-related actions. Discussion topics stimulated by these findings include: 1) how occupational science might conceptualize negotiating engagement in meaningful occupation versus a prescribed risk-reducing regime that challenges full participation in daily life; 2) how occupation has the potential to affect participants, responses to potentially debilitating health risks; and 3) the importance of a preventive occupation-based approach to structured follow-up interventions within one's everyday life setting.

### **Mona Eklund, Christel Leufstadius**

#### *Relationships between Occupational Factors and Health and Well being in Individuals with Persistent Mental Illness Living in the Community*

Occupational science and occupational therapy presuppose a relationship between occupation and health, but far from all empirical studies have been able to show this. The reason for inconsistent findings could be that the relationship is contingent on the facet of occupation studied, and also on whether subjective or interviewer-rated aspects of health and functioning are investigated.

**Aim:** The aim of this study was to identify how occupational factors, actual doing as well as subjective perceptions, were related to aspects of health and wellbeing, self-perceived as well as interviewer-rated, among individuals with persistent mental illness.

**Methods:** The study included 103 subjects who were assessed regarding time spent in different occupational categories, activity level, satisfaction with daily occupations, and experienced occupational value. The health-related variables were self-rated health, quality of life, self-esteem, sense of coherence, self-mastery, psychosocial functioning, and psychiatric symptoms. These were set as dependent variables in a series of correlation and regression analyses with the occupational factors as independent variables.

**Results:** The results indicated that subjective perceptions of occupational performance were closely and consistently related to both self-rated and interviewer-rated aspects of health and functioning. While variables pertaining to actual doing showed weak or no associations with self-rated health-related variables, they exhibited moderate relationships to interviewer-rated health and functioning.

**Implications:** The results of this study indicate that the health-promoting ingredients in occupations are determined by the way occupations are perceived, rather than the doing per se. This finding gives empirical evidence that perceived meaning and satisfaction ought to be prioritized when setting goals in occupational therapy practice. This type of more precise knowledge about the nature of the link between occupation and health suggests that existing occupational therapy theory needs to be updated.

**Daniel Fok, Lynn Shaw, Mary Beth Jennings, Margaret Cheesman**

*An occupational perspective for the development of universal hearing accessibility: Implications for health professionals and consumers*

Hearing loss is the most prevalent and fastest growing sensory-related chronic disability in North America. The prevalence of hearing loss increases with age and is becoming more of a problem for older workers in workplaces and for seniors who use public or community buildings. A technological approach comprised of personal hearing instruments such as hearing aids and cochlear implants are typically used to accommodate individuals. However, a technological approach does not consistently consider the realm of occupations conducted in public spaces nor does it adequately address the diverse needs of individuals and groups for community participation. Thus, many places in the built environment still impede the choices and participation of persons aging with hearing loss in work, daily and social occupations. Traditionally, accessibility and universal design guidelines for the built environment address physical access for individuals with mobility impairments. Individuals that are hard of hearing, who may or may not use personal hearing instruments, face relatively fewer barriers gaining physical access to public buildings. However, they face greater obstacles in gaining information and communication access and usability (ICAU) in the built environment. More efforts are needed to understand how the built environment might create more hearing accessible public spaces to include the equitable participation in occupations and in society for all individuals. An interdisciplinary group of researchers, health professionals and consumers, comprised of hearing and occupational scientists met to investigate this problem. Researchers critiqued the hearing and built environment literature for trends and evidence on creating hearing friendly spaces and then used a critical occupational perspective to review and develop a more holistic set of universal design for hearing (UDH) guidelines. These new guidelines were then tested for coherence and applicability in different public places by researchers and consumers. In this paper, the process of developing and testing these guidelines along with the potential implications for audiologists, architects, acoustic engineers, ergonomists and occupational therapists will be shared. Participants will be invited to engage in a dialogue on practice implications, improving hearing accessibility in public places and to offer insights into the future research of the universal design guidelines.

**Moses Ikiugu, Lynne Anderson, William Anderson**

*Occupational Science in the Service of GAIA: A study of the Impact of Human Occupational Behavior on Global Issues of our Time*

do Rozario (1997), Townsend (1997), and Wicks (2005) proposed that occupational science can contribute to the process of social transformation to enable humans from all over the world to realize their full occupational potential, experience happiness and a sense of well-being, and act in ways that are consistent with a healthy earth's ecology. Ikiugu (2007) suggested that in order to apply occupational science in this broad sense, there was need to develop a conceptual framework to help individuals learn to reflectively make occupational choices and pursue daily occupations in ways that are consistent with melioration of pertinent global issues such as poverty, material inequalities, dysfunctional social institutions, overpopulation, etc. In order to develop such a framework, there is a need to understand the extent to which individuals are aware of the power they wield in impacting such global issues through their occupational choices and performance. The purpose of the study reported in this paper was to find out if there was a relationship between attitudes held by individuals towards selected global problems of concern to humankind and their willingness to change their occupational performance patterns to influence those issues positively. We also sought to establish whether there was a relationship between attitudes towards human responsibility in causing those issues and the extent to which occupational performance was perceived to affect them positively or negatively. This was a non-experimental study with a survey design. A survey questionnaire was used to obtain information about respondents' perceptions regarding various global issues, their engagement in occupations, and their perception of how their occupational performance affected those issues. The sample consisted of 250 respondents derived from a pool of occupational therapists and occupational scientists obtained from the American

Occupational Therapy Association (OTA) and the Society for the Study of Occupation (SSO): USA. In this paper, the findings of the study will be presented, and their implications for creating the proposed conceptual framework for the use of occupations to address broader social issues will be discussed.

**Heather Javaherian, Esther Huecker, Liane Hewitt**

*Self-Perceived Strengths and Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence: An Exploratory Study*

Domestic violence impacts the lives and occupations of millions of women each year in the United States. Whether domestic violence involves physical, emotional, financial or other types of abuse, it affects the survivor's participation in daily occupations and roles including mothering, work, leisure, home management and social participation. It also impacts the survivor's sense of self and well-being. In the spirit of occupational justice it is essential that we understand the strengths that have led them to be a survivor and the needs experienced from individual to societal levels. Five female survivors of domestic violence from southern California participated in this study to explore their self-perceived strengths and needs. Semi-structured interviews were conducted using the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure. Three main themes emerged to describe their complex experiences, strengths, and needs: "Surviving Domestic Violence: It Feels Like I,m on a Roller Coaster, "My Children: We're All or Nothing", and "Starting Over." Several sub-themes evolved that further clarified the experiences. Surviving the domestic violence entailed: Fear & Anxiety, Depression & Decreased Motivation, Isolation & Withdrawal, and Ambivalence. The women's children were a source of strength and motivation as seen in the sub-themes of: Fear of Losing Children, Time with Children, Children as Motivators, and Awareness of Children's Needs. Starting over was a difficult and complex process unique to each woman's situation. All the participant's however, spoke of shaping their identity as a survivor, establishing goals, engaging in soul-searching and self-reflection, and participating in support groups. The women specifically identified several strengths which guided them thus far in their journey including love for their children, support from family and friends, work and volunteering, and their domestic violence support groups. The greatest challenges and needs included decreased motivation, disorganization, instability, time management, and necessary interaction with the abuser because of the children or legal issues. This study demonstrates the complexity of the occupational challenges these women faced as survivors of domestic violence. Understanding their perceived strengths and needs, and how participation in occupation influences health and well being is fundamental to empowering survivors of domestic violence to live a meaningful and productive life.

**Karin Johansson, Staffan Josephsson, Margareta Lilja**

*Place integration among older persons experiencing barriers in the physical home environment.*

There is an agreement within occupational therapy, occupational science and environmental gerontology that persons in context should be understood as a continuously transaction of multiple aspects. However empirical studies of such transactions are rare. The concept of place integration has been developed by Cutchin to cover this gap. Place integration can be defined as the actions taken to reintegrate person and place when the place is experienced as problematic. This paper presents an empirical study on aging in place using Cutchin's concept of place integration as an analytic tool. In line with Cutchin's reasoning aging in place can be understood as a process of place integration that is never complete. The amount of older people with functional limitations living in their own home are increasing in many countries as a consequence of the policies of ageing in place and a demographic change towards an ageing population. People ageing in place often experience environmental barriers in their home which has to be handled in order to manage daily life activities. In Sweden home modification services are provided to make it possible for persons with functional limitations to live independently in their home. The aim of this study was to explore the process of place integration mediated by home modification services in four older persons. Data was collected with open ended interviews and observations in the participant's home environment at repeated occasions. The studied period lasted from before the modification had been installed until there was some stability in the situation that varied from eight to seventeen months. Preliminary findings show that the participants struggled to perform everyday activities in accordance

with their values in the continuum of their everyday life. To be able to execute everyday choices was highly valued by all the participants. Further the participants adjusted their actions and expectations to unpredictable events in the service organization. The findings highlights that persons ageing in place are actors in their ongoing spiral of place integration. Furthermore the findings stress the importance of recognizing persons' values to understand human occupation.

### **Sheama Krishnagiri**

#### *Dating and Mating Occupation of Older Adults: Activities and Routines*

Societal changes and trends lead to changes in the occupations that people engage in. The aging of the American population has led to a reoccurrence of some activities in later life as well as the development of some new occupations. Dating and mate selection, an occupation typically associated with younger adults, is recurring with increased frequency in older adults. The literature contains information on some aspects of the occupation such as dating web sites for seniors but is meager with respect to the typical process, the activities and routines involved, the time it takes and the meaning it holds for this age group. This study examines the dating and mate selection processes of senior adults, 62 and above, who live independently in the community and do not have medical issues that interfere with their activity levels. Individual interviews and focus groups conducted provide the qualitative data regarding this occupation as part of phase one in a larger study. Methods of analysis for the qualitative data are those typically described for grounded theory approaches. Emergent themes of this occupation, specifically with respect to the activities and routines and the meanings these hold will be presented. Emergent theoretical concepts regarding this occupation will be the focus of the discussion time. Two previous studies conducted by author on this topic based on two other populations will likely generate interesting comparisons and stimulate further discussion.

### **Louise Kirby & Katie Robinson**

#### *Leisure Time: In the words of women from a traveling community*

The traveling community of Ireland are historically a minority cultural group who share nomadic, linguistic, work and leisure traditions (Moore, 2004). Irish travelers represents approximately 0.6 per cent of the total national population and are widely recognized as a marginalized group who experience high levels of social exclusion, poverty, deprivation, illiteracy, unemployment, prejudice and deprived health when compared to the non traveling or settled community. Evidence suggests that women living in a traveling community engage in limited leisure occupations (St.John, 2006). Wilcock and Whiteford (2003) identified that there is a need to consider what injustices or disadvantages occur which might restrict groups or individuals such as women from the traveling community engaging in occupations such as leisure. Furthermore it is essential to consider the values and beliefs based on culture that prevent people from engaging in what they want and need to do (Wilcock and Whiteford, 2003). An understanding of the traveling communities, cultural identity and heritage has the potential to eliminate social exclusion and inform occupational science. This paper will report on the findings of a qualitative study of the leisure experience of 5 women living in a traveling community in Ireland. Semi- structured interviews based on an amended version of the Occupational Performance History Index version two (OPHI-II) (Kielhofner et al., 1998) and an Interest Checklist (Kielhofner and Neville, 1983) augmented by field notes were completed. Following analysis informed by grounded theory a substantive theory regarding the enfolded nature of leisure occupations for women from the traveling community was generated. Analysis revealed mothering occupations, work and place of residence had an impact on the time available for leisure occupations for participants; enfolding leisure was a process which enabled participants to successfully balance their occupations and experience health and well being. This study illuminates the complexities of leisure and the intersection of culture and occupational performance through presenting the leisure experiences of women from the traveling community in their own words. Further research which acknowledges and identifies the highly cultural nature of occupational experiences is proposed along with research which has transformative potential for marginalized groups within society.

**Christel Leufstadius, Lena-Karin Erlandsson, Tommy Bjorkman, Mona Eklund**

*Meaningful events in daily occupations among individuals with persistent mental illness*

The purpose of this study was to investigate how people with persistent mental illness (PMI) representing three different occupational groups experience and describe the meaningfulness of their daily occupations. One hundred and two randomly selected individuals were interviewed regarding the occupations they performed during one day, and their perceived meaningfulness, using a “yesterday activity diary”. We found five main themes of meaningfulness: *connection with others and the world around them; enjoyment and fun in life; being productive and having a sense of achievement; being occupied and having routines and projects in the stream of time and taking care of oneself to maintain health*. Connection with others and the world around them was the theme of meaningfulness most frequently reported, and there were some differences concerning how frequently the different facets of meaningfulness occurred within the three groups. Due to the diversity of the facets of meaningfulness found in the present study of a fairly large sample of people representing different types of daily occupational structure, the results of this study provide an important contribution to the body knowledge within occupational science and occupational therapy. This knowledge and understanding of meaningfulness within daily occupations can be used by various professionals to assess and plan interventions together with patients/clients.

**Daniel Molke, Debbie Laliberte Rudman**

*Occupation, Power & International Development*

Increasing attention within occupational therapy and occupational science has been focused on how practice aimed at optimizing occupational justice might contribute to wide spread social justice through participation in international development projects. Occupational therapists in a variety of contextual locations have underlined the importance of international development work and the unique contribution that a focus on occupational justice might bring to these efforts. At the same time, many have criticized the foci of knowledge development within occupational therapy and occupational science; arguing that the expertise that is constructed in our educational and research programs is bounded within Western epistemological values and the analysis of individual level concerns. Questions arise about how occupational therapy and occupational science, and the knowledge and expertise that is associated with these communities, will affect the majority world. It can be argued that all scientific activities are couched within particular value systems that shape what kind of scientific discoveries occur and how knowledge is interpreted and put to use. A science governed by a justice-based agenda and guided by ameliorative aims operates within a particular frame of reference, a political location, which is inherently value based. Within the literature much attention has been focused on the importance of reflexivity as a means to maintain vigilance regarding one’s work and its locations. Within the occupational literature, some authors have challenged students, professionals, and academics to think critically about power relations, including the ways in which power is embedded within knowledge construction and use. Thus, it is imperative that we continually examine the foundations of our thought and practice. This paper presents an historically oriented textual analysis of literature pertaining to occupational justice and international development. Foucauldian analytical tools will be drawn upon to explore the taken-for-granted assumptions embedded in such literature and critically explore the ways in which power operates through occupational therapy’s and occupational science’s concern with occupational justice. This paper contributes to the criticalization of the occupational discourse through a demonstration of the utility of Foucauldian genealogical exploration and, as such, adds to efforts to build a politically and culturally sensitive knowledge base regarding occupation.

**Abbey L Marterella**

*Situating Dignity in Occupational Science*

Dignity is an important concept in the everyday lives of human beings, yet its meaning remains elusive in occupational science and related scientific discourse. Occupations are believed to promote dignity and the humanistic nature of our science compels us to preserve it (Peloquin, 2005; Yerxa et al., 1989). For

continued success in defining our discipline as one committed to human flourishing and social justice, we must clarify the significance of our basic concepts and communicate these to the broader scientific community. Although dignity remains tacitly accepted as a pillar of the discipline and the profession, the concept of dignity itself remains largely under-theorized. This inquiry explores the concept of dignity to elucidate its value for the science of occupation. Two conceptualizations of dignity, innate versus conditional, are postulated to create a clearer understanding of the distinction between the concepts and their relationship to occupation. Through discussion of medical ethics, philosophical review, differentiation from related constructs (e.g., respect, self-respect, self-esteem), and critical analysis of nursing research and theory, a connection between human occupation and dignity is shown and potential theoretical consequences are illuminated. The objective of the presentation is to invite discussion about developing models linking conceptualizations of dignity to occupation, exploring research questions and methods that further our understanding of the topic, and integrating with or contributing to the knowledge base of related disciplines. This presentation aims to strengthen the platform for socially responsible, collaborative occupational science scholarship and reinforce the foundation of the discipline.

### **Phyllis Meltzer**

#### *The effects of the perception of critical events upon younger and older adults*

This poster seeks to increase knowledge of occupations possibly affected by important world events. Analysis of responses to a question regarding global historical events is presented using responses completed in group settings by university students as well as older adults.

The questionnaire, the Self-Discovery Individual Summary, is used in conjunction with the Self-Discovery Tapestry form. The Self-Discovery Tapestry kit is widely used by group leaders and instructors of life-span development to encourage students and participants to recall and reflect on their personal histories. Following completion of the Self-Discovery Tapestry form, a paper instrument that utilizes occupational science principles and gerontology theories, individuals were asked to complete the accompanying Individual Summary questionnaire that contains five questions. Responses to the question, "What, if any, historical or political events affected your life" were analyzed.

The Individual Summary questionnaires, a two-sided, single sheet of paper, were sent free of charge to group leaders who purchased the Self-Discovery Tapestry kits. Leaders were asked to have their participants complete the Individual Summary questionnaires and return the original or copies. Since 2001, more than 600 completed forms have been returned. Analysis of the spreadsheet using Excel includes demographic data, types of events and behavior outcomes. Events and outcomes were coded and conclusions presented.

Responses ranged from "not affected" to individualized responses that indicated long-term effects upon emotions that affected current occupations. Most marked were responses related to involuntary emigration, loss of loved ones during armed conflicts and, currently, friends and relatives serving in the armed forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Analysis reveals younger participants' responses indicate greater unawareness of global events. Older adults' responses range from not being affected by global events to resolutions to appreciate family to becoming more involved in politics and patriotic acts.

### **Etsuko Odawara**

#### *Power of Occupation for Death with Dignity*

Pollard offers some evidence for a positive answer to the question Is dying an occupation?, (2006, p.149). First, he suggests that dying people are intensely living, preparing for death and resolving the final life crisis (Despelder & Strickland, 1996). Second, he suggests that dying is social. Preparation for death is carried out based on decisions made by the dying and people closest to them, decisions and activities influenced by their cultural values and beliefs (Despelder & Strickland, 1996). Last, Pollard stresses that a "good death requires that the dying person's occupational and social being is affirmed by themselves and by people around them." This presentation shares the case of Hana (pseudonym), a 93-year-old Japanese woman who had resolved a life crisis after a stroke when she was 76 years old, but later had to deal with

her approaching death. This was a part of larger ethnographic study of good aging, investigating the therapeutic experience both of the old woman Hana, those close to her, and her occupational therapist, Mari (pseudonym). Hana's bodily functions declined gradually. Eventually, when further medical problems arose, she refused further medical treatment which would have required transfer to a hospital, choosing to remain in the geriatric facility. The people closest to her, her daughter, her occupational therapist and her social worker, discussed her decision and, assuming she was beginning to prepare for death, respected her choice. During resolution of her previous life crisis after her stroke, Mari assisted Hana in developing a lifestyle consistent with her previous one as a high status lady, through introducing and adapting role-appropriate traditional craftwork in occupational therapy. When the dying Hana wanted to finish some of her craftwork, which embodied who she was, Mari understood her choice and helped her to do so. Through preparing for death socially and spiritually, Hana was satisfied with her last days, as were the people closest to her, including her occupational therapist. This paper discusses how Hana and these people shared the Japanese concept (Eisagiyo shi, (death with dignity) and collaborated to make possible Hana's good death.

### **Margaret Perkinson**

#### *The lived experience of an occupational intervention: An anthropological study*

While it is important to evaluate outcomes of an occupational intervention through the use of rigorous research design and standardized measures, that approach is not sufficient to fully understand the impact of a given program and develop valid and reliable evidence-based practice. Pivotal components of the social and physical contexts of an intervention and the meaning that participants ascribe to the experience of that intervention can impact the way a program or treatment is carried out in unanticipated and, using traditional methods of assessment, unnoticed ways. Narratives of participants' lived experiences of an intervention can provide critical insight into the process of implementation of that intervention and should be included as an essential component of program evaluation. Thirty older adults with dementia and their primary family caregivers participated in a three-month home-based, family-supervised physical activity program designed for persons with mild dementia. Evaluation of outcomes employed a traditional, quasi-experimental design: participants were randomly assigned to one of two exercise groups and given baseline and follow-up standardized assessments of balance, flexibility, strength, and endurance. Analyses indicated that most participants showed clinically significant improvement at follow-up compared to their performance at baseline. This "pre-post-only 'black-box' design" (Patton 2005), focusing on the end result or impact of the intervention, was supplemented by ethnographic process evaluation (Butler 2005). Implementation of the program was not assumed as a given, but as a process to be examined. Follow-up focus groups and in-depth interviews with the family exercise supervisors elicited the ways participants translated the training that they received into practice or action and the ways they negotiated that translation within specific social and physical contexts. Rather than passively replicating the program as it was given to them, family members had taken active measures to change it and to adapt it to fit their individual needs. Family members also identified barriers and facilitators to implementing the program and criteria they used to determine successful implementation. An anthropological focus on context, meaning, and process provides necessary insights into the way interventions are operationalized, complementing traditional assessments of outcomes and contributing to enhanced validity of evaluation research.

### **Janet Poole, Kelly Willer, Cindy Mendelson**

#### *Challenges to mothering occupations for women with chronic rheumatic diseases*

Mothering is one of the most important occupations of women. Thomas states that "A mother is expected to be self-less, ever-nurturing, and indefatigable, and she feels tremendous guilt if unable to achieve this ideal" (Thomas, 1997, p. 546). In the presence of a chronic disease, women who are mothers have to balance the demands and activities of being a mother with medical, social, physical, and emotional management of the disease, furthering challenging mothers to achieve the ideal goal. Two chronic rheumatic diseases, scleroderma and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) primarily affect women during

the child bearing and child rearing years, yet little research has been done about women's parenting experiences and challenges. The purpose of this study was to identify the challenges to parenting experienced by mothers with scleroderma and SLE. This study used a mixed methods research design in which qualitative and quantitative techniques were used in a single study. On-line focus groups were conducted with 27 women with these two diseases who had children under the age of 18 living in their homes. The mothers identified several limitations that affected parenting: limitations on energy available for their children, limitations on types of activities they could do with their children due to intolerance to the cold or sun, and physical disability such as skin ulcers and joint limitations. A supportive network was deemed necessary to be an effective mother. In the quantitative part of the study, an additional 75 mothers were scleroderma completed survey questionnaires regarding parenting, fatigue, occupational performance abilities, and pain. The results from the survey part of the study revealed that mothers who had children 5 years and younger and children over 5, reported more fatigue, difficulties with occupational performance and pain than mothers who only had children 5 years and under or only had children between 6 and 18 years of age. The specific parenting activities that were difficult for the mothers to perform differed depending on the age of their children. Adaptations made by the mothers to manage both parenting and a chronic disease will be discussed.

### **Pollie Price**

#### *How Occupation Emerges in the Practices of Occupational Therapists Across Settings*

In current literature, the emphasis of the various definitions of occupation-based practice center on intervention forms and contexts. Some scholars suggest occupation-based practice is when an individual's occupations are used as therapeutic interventions within one's natural context (Fidler, 2000; Hocking, 2001; Pierce, 2003). Other scholars assert that powerful occupational outcomes have been achieved by employing a variety of procedures and activities in a variety of contexts (Gray, 1998; Jackson, 1998; Jackson et al., 1998; Price, 2003, 2005, in press; Price & Miner, 2007). Preliminary findings from an ongoing continuation study of peer-nominated occupation-based therapists suggest that current definitions do not represent the complexity of occupation-based practice and support the finding that occupation is both a concrete observable form, and a process of becoming that emerges in narrative meanings that are created in the therapeutic process (Price, 2003, in press; Price & Miner). The author will present findings collected with six therapists from a variety of settings: neonatal ICU, acute cardiac rehabilitation, community-based after school club, hospital-based outpatient rehabilitation, and community-based outpatient rehabilitation. The addition of therapists adds to the complexity and depth of the data and analysis regarding aspects of occupation-based practice that are similar and different across settings, thus increasing the overall generalizability of the findings. Data are collected through in-depth observations of and semi-structured interviews with each therapist and each client working together over the course of service. Narrative micro-analysis (Mattingly, 1998) is employed to consider approaches, processes and features that illuminate occupation as an idea within and across cases. New findings have emerged from analysis of additional cases; one is the tensions that can arise between the desire to address a person's occupational life and the commitment to addressing the client's priorities. A second aspect is that forms of occupation often look different in acute settings than in community-based settings, e.g. in biomedical settings, occupation often emerges in the more abstract narrative meanings that are generated in and through the therapy process. The presenter will facilitate a discussion on the complexities of occupation-based practice and the relevance of the research to the mission of the SSO.

### **Lynn Shaw, Ann Schweitzer, Alison Jones, Erin Knight**

#### *Exploring women's ways of doing through the occupation of construction*

The involvement of women in non-traditional occupations such as construction is not well understood. However, more women than ever before are engaging in home renovations and entering skilled trades. To date research efforts have centered on gender issues from an ergonomic and health and safety perspective. This information has in turn lead to the design of construction products for use by women that take into consideration the anthropometric measures of females. As a result tools and equipment with small grips

and that are lighter in weight are becoming more accessible. Beyond the traditional tools, little information exists on how women experience construction as a paid or voluntary occupation. Thalia is a place built by women for women. Thalia provided an opportunity to explore the occupational participation experiences of women as a group and how they approached a construction project. Six narrative and photo accounts of women who were engaged in this project over several years were used to gather data and gain a detailed understanding of their personal stories. Insights into the experiences of women were gleaned through an occupational and feminist perspective. Findings suggest that there is an ebb and flow to women's ways of doing, that unfold through using women's tools of the trade, and a leadership style of shedding light on possibilities. Further to this the ways these women approached a seemingly daunting task of building a cabin by the sea with no direct road access, running water or electricity impacted their participation and beliefs about their occupational potential in occupations beyond Thalia. Ultimately place and opportunity for growth underscored the meaning of Thalia experience. This paper will present the Thalia study findings through an orated and illustrated story and lead into an open dialogue on the implications for understanding how women collectively approach construction projects and how these insights may impact upon the occupational choices and transitions of women as they age, retire and embrace new occupations.

### **Emily Schulz, Penelope Moyers**

#### *Occupational Deprivation Involving Persons Living with HIV/AIDS*

This paper will describe a study examining occupational deprivation involving impoverished persons living with HIV/AIDS. The purpose of this research study was to determine how members of an HIV/AIDS support group living in government subsidized apartment buildings in a high risk neighborhood choose to find workable solutions to challenges in their lives. Persons with HIV/AIDS are often forced to live in poverty in order to obtain the governmental support needed for life sustaining prescription medicine. As a result, many of them experience barriers to participating fully in society and in their communities. This study used an active research design as put forth by McNiff & Whitehead, (2006) in which participants acted as their own agents of change. A series of 3 focus groups was used, field notes written, transcribed, coded, and sorted. Spradley's (1976) ethnographic interviewing style and methods for coding focus group field notes were used in the three focus groups. Solution-focused action research based on findings from the first 2 focus group meetings was taken by focus group members. The first meeting discussed challenges for which solutions were desired by group members. In the second meeting field note codes from the first focus group were sorted, and an action research plan made. A third meeting involved sharing action research findings. Field notes from each focus group were transcribed, coded, and audit group reviewed. Preliminary findings suggest that individuals living with HIV/AIDS are willing and able to take action to make positive changes in their lives despite societal barriers. Initial themes regarding occupational deprivation focused on transportation, laundry, and housecleaning issues. Both barriers and facilitators to these occupations were found at the societal, agency, community, and individual levels. This study is limited to a subset of a group of people with HIV/AIDS in the Southeastern United States and therefore findings cannot be generalized to other groups. For impoverished individuals with HIV/AIDS, research into ways of facilitating occupational justice is needed. Occupational scientists and occupational therapists may benefit from this research as it represents one model in which occupational justice in populations can be facilitated ^ regardless of their specific circumstances.

### **Theresa Marie Smith**

#### *Seven Older Women's Adaptation to Low Vision Through Engagement in Occupation: A Grounded Theory Study*

Prior research studies on adaptation to low vision have excluded the importance of engagement in occupation to the adaptation process. The purpose of this study was to develop a theory on how visually impaired women achieve adaptation through engagement in occupation. The theoretical framework for this study is occupational adaptation. A premise of occupational adaptation is that the occupational

environment, the person, and their interaction are equally important in the adaptation process. This study examined the following research questions: (a) Does a reprioritization of occupations facilitate adaptation to low vision for older women? (b) How does engagement in occupation affect older women's adaptation to low vision? And (c) What are the events which serve to initiate and sustain momentum in the process of adaptation for older women with low vision?

This qualitative study explored the reflections of seven visually impaired older women, aged 65 to 91, on their adaptation to low vision. I used grounded theory methodology to construct a theoretical model of Adaptation to Low Vision by Seven Older Women, from data retrieved in one-hour interviews with participants.

Results of the study indicated that a reprioritization of occupations did not occur to facilitate adaptation to low vision. Due to the functional limitations attributed to their visual impairment participants had to cease engagement in some occupations even though they continued to desire participation in these occupations. Engagement in meaningful occupations facilitates internal adaptation by increasing participants' self-esteem and motivating them to continue to find *methods of doing* and in *getting help* to participate in valued occupations or their *abilities*. *Threats to performance* initiate the process of adaptation and *abilities* serve to motivate participants to continue *getting help* and finding *methods of doing* their meaningful occupations. It is through the *integration of losses and abilities* that *adaptation* is achieved. This study illustrates how integral engagement in occupation is to the process of adaptation. Engagement in meaningful and purposeful occupations supports adaptation to low vision and is an important component of the adaptation process.

### **Jenny Womack**

#### *Profile of an Occupational Community*

Throughout the process of two years of ethnographic work with a feminist chorus, the presenter came to understand membership in this group as constructed around occupation rather than, as assumed at the beginning of the project, having a primary basis in identity. Through participant observation, oral histories and archival research, the presenter uncovered an evolution of ways in which the group has used musical performance to address various political and social issues over its 25-year history. Although legislative activism, ecological awareness, and the politics of equality have all had a turn at the forefront of the chorus, performances, and shared identities strengthen commitment to the process, the enduring sentiment regarding membership in the group is one of desire to participate in the production and performance of musical events. This focus on the occupational nature of belonging to the chorus led the author to consider three primary questions: 1) Are there characteristics of occupational groups that differ from identity-based groups or groups formed primarily for social purposes? 2) What is the role of the occupation in the evolution of a collection of people from a group to a community? and 3) Does gender play a role in the way in which community is constructed and/or In order to address these questions, the author will draw from her own ethnographic work as well as from literature in Occupational Science, Folklore and Community Psychology to offer various possibilities for understanding community from an occupational perspective. In addition, feminist theory and women's oral histories will be used to explore women's ways of understanding community. The session intends to provoke discussion regarding the central and powerful nature of occupation in the organization and function of a community formed for the purpose of co-constructing performance.

### **PLENARY**

#### ***Creativity and Survival: Occupation, Culture, and Native Responses to Colonization of the American Southwest***

This proposed plenary session supports the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SSO:USA Conference theme of "Culture and Occupation." The forum will create an opportunity for dialogue between the occupational science community, anthropologists and (pending acceptance) indigenous scholar/activists working to foster the health and well-being of Native peoples. Occupational science draws foundationally on anthropology's core concept of culture in defining occupation as "chunks of purposeful activity in the lexicon of the

culture” (Clark, Parham, Carlson, Frank et al. 1991). Occupational scientists continue to reflect upon, criticize and elaborate upon the concept of occupation. Similarly, anthropologists have continued to reflect upon, criticize and elaborate upon the concept of culture. This plenary session will allow for cutting-edge exchange so that both disciplines can move forward in productive dialogue. Invited scholars include Kathleen Whitaker, Director, Indian Arts Research Center, School of American Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Les W. Field, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Acting Director, Latin American and Iberian Institute, University of New Mexico; Ted Jojola, Regents' Professor: School of Architecture and Planning, University of New Mexico. Organizer Gelya Frank, Professor, Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy and Department of Anthropology, University of Southern California, will participate and moderate the forum.

## **PANELS & FORUMS**

### ***Panel 1 Occupational Science and Transforming Cultures of Nursing Homes***

Wendy Wood, Jennifer Strand, Sara Metheny

A nursing home reform movement, centrally concerned with an ethic of occupation, has attained national prominence over the past 15 years with little involvement of occupational scientists or therapists. This movement is committed to abilities-focused care that supports residents, expressions of their retained capacities in context of valued activities and relationships. It is also committed to person-centered care that is individualized to each resident’s life history and current wants and needs. Reforms seek to transform medical models of nursing home care into community models where everyday occupations enhance both resident quality of life and staff satisfaction and retention. Nursing home reforms, however promising, are very difficult to implement. One reason is a lack of effective education. Frontline caregivers must not only learn how to provide person-centered and abilities-focused care, they must also be organizationally rewarded and valued for provision of such care. A great need exists to develop effective caregiver educational programs, within supportive organizational cultures, that advance quality care while empowering caregivers and increasing work satisfaction. This panel will describe, and elicit discussion about, four dimensions of a funded research and educational project that was informed by occupational science and committed to nursing home reform.

### ***Panel 2 Occupational Science in Correctional Institutions and Community Corrections: Support for Occupational Enrichment***

Jaime Munoz, Barbara Hooper, John White, Sandra Rogers, Toby Hamilton

Occupational scientists offer a unique perspective on the crisis in the American criminal justice system. One in every 32 American adults is in custody or supervision of a county, state, or federal correctional system. The latest statistics from the Bureau of Justice indicate that in 2005, over 7 million or 3.2% of American adults were on probation or parole, in jail or prison, or serving out sentences in community settings. More than half the inmates of prisons and jails have recent histories or symptoms of mental health problems and more than 75% of them have co-occurring substance abuse issues. As the fastest growing segment in U.S. prisons, the female prison population surpasses that of males in all 50 states. These women have not only experienced poverty, abuse, mental health problems, and co-occurring disorders, they are often the only support and caregivers for their children. With 95% of all state inmates returning to communities, public safety and recidivism are primary concerns. The occupational implications are immense for those in custody, those reentering to communities, their families, and society. The inherent restrictions of criminal justice settings limit opportunities for occupational engagement and promote occupational deprivation. Occupational scientists are beginning to make crucial connections between occupational engagement and reductions in criminal behavior that suggest occupation as a means of promoting adaptive behaviors to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. The panelists present brief research and practice perspectives of how pre-release occupational enrichment affects post-release occupational functioning.

*Panel 3*

**Patricia Crist, Jamie Munoz, Anne Marie Witchger Hanson, Jeryl Benson Practice-Scholars:**

*Enriching Occupation-Based, Practice-Relevant Scholarship*

This forum will present a new approach to ensure the creation of knowledge of occupation that is relevant to the everyday practitioner. We will present a successful, developing model called practice-scholars, for both novice and expert practitioners, who embed research in everyday practice habits. Our evolving efforts are directed towards developing a new cadre of practitioners, called practice-scholars, who habitually engage in practice-relevant studies which focus on occupation as a central measure of their intervention outcomes. However, this approach is challenged by the available clinical evaluation tools relevant for studying occupation coupled with the time and resources practitioners have for practice-scholar activities. This forum will overview our collected experiences with the practice-scholar approach, inviting others to join and critique this approach.

In recent publications regarding the ‘scholarship of practice,’ leaders in the profession have noted a disconnect between research and its utility to inform practice. Secondly, while much has been done in the profession over the past few years to promote high-level research (laboratory-type), frequently the results of these studies are not easily translated into practice. Over 5 years ago, the faculty at Duquesne University accepted the charge to develop a ‘bridge’ between practice and research, called a practice-scholar, a practitioner who embeds scholarship studies in everyday practice to answer practice-relevant questions in occupation. While our initial success was with community-based settings and through university faculty-practitioner partnerships, we believe this model is ready for its next iteration to expand options.

Plan for generating and managing discussion:

The organizers will provide an overview of the model of practice-scholarship employed at Duquesne. This forum will expose participants to our experience in developing practice-scholars thus far but more importantly create dialogue regarding:

- how to facilitate occupation-based research with limited valid and reliable clinical tools
- examination of innovative, action research methodologies to study the science of occupation from a practice-focus
- the need to balance the drive by practice-scholars to study occupation with the expectation to evaluate as well, components of function and performance often valued by funders
- strategies to support the evolution of practice-scholarship

*Panel 4*

**An Occupational Science Time Capsule: Questions from the Hat 1990**

Doris Pierce & John White

In 1990, a group of occupational scientists in southern California accumulated over several months, a set of key recurring questions regarding the central tenets of occupational science. They were “tossed in the hat” and served as a basis for a multi-day retreat in January of 1991. The Questions from the Hat address such broad concepts as the meaning of science and social science, the definition of occupation, the limits or boundaries of occupational science, the potential structure of an OS community, the relations of models to theories, useful methodologies, occupational form and performance, occupational-temporality, proto-occupations, systems and taxonomies of occupation, and important gaps in our understanding of occupation.

In this forum, we will use The Questions from the Hat as a time capsule to reflect on how our thinking has changed within the discipline of occupational science. Reflective questions posed for discussion will include:

- Which of the Questions are still important to the discipline? Why, or why not?
- Are there questions that should have been posed at that time that were not on this list?
- On which of the Questions has theoretical or empirical progress been made?

- How do the Questions display an orientation to occupational science that is different from today's perspective?
- What are the primary changes that have occurred in occupational science since 1990?
- If we were to collect another set of Questions from the Hat, what would they include?

This archival document provides a unique opportunity to reflect on the changes that have occurred in the brief history of occupational science. Identifying shifts and trends can inform occupational scientists in regard to the unfolding and potential future of the discipline, its primary research agendas, and its structures.

The Forum will include a very brief introduction, as background for presenting hard copies of The Questions from the Hat to the participants. Then, the reflective questions listed above will be used to guide a discussion, though use of a PowerPoint presentation of one question at a time. The co-presenters of the Forum will seek to insure an even participation through management of the opportunities to speak, noting points made on a flip chart, and periodic summaries of key points. Running notes will be collected during the discussion to capture key points and future questions.

## POSTERS

### **Rebecca Aldrich**

#### *The Morality of Interpreting Meaning in Occupational Science*

Early assumptions in occupational science indicated a clear disciplinary emphasis on meaning that endures today. Scholars in occupational science have traditionally paid disproportionately more attention to individual meanings over social ones, an imbalance likely due to the historically individualistic tendencies in occupational science as a whole. Although recent movements within the discipline aim to correct this bias, the consequence of such correction with specific regard to the concept of meaning remains underdeveloped. Adopting a more social view into occupational science, such as that of John Dewey, poses interesting possibilities for the discipline's stance on meaning. Couched within his larger discussions of habit, communication, and action, Dewey argued that meaning is a social phenomenon, concretized in action and intimately linked to morality. Dewey's social approach to meaning, along with his unique definition of its moral nature, stands to make several contributions to occupational science. In considering all action moral, all communication a social form of action, and all meaning a product of communication, Dewey characterized meaning as non-individual, non-static, a posteriori, and acquired through experience. In terms of occupational science, this suggests that interpreting meanings constitutes an ongoing moral act for researcher and participant alike.

### **Barbara Brockvelt**

#### *Enabling Participation: Perspectives of Adolescents with Visual Impairment and their Families*

Engagement in everyday occupation provides the means by which we participate in our world, and contributes to one's self-understanding and self-actualization. During adolescence, activity choices and peer group membership serve to shape the development of self-concept and identity (Barber et al., 2001; Barber, Stone, Hunt, & Eccles, 2005; Eccles & Barber, 1999; Eckert, 1989). For youth with visual impairment, limited opportunities to engage in meaningful occupations, limited expectations for participation, and social isolation negatively affect participation and quality of life (Kroksmark & Nordell, 2001; Sacks et al., 1998). This paper presents the findings of a qualitative multiple case study of ten adolescents with visual impairment belonging to a peer support group in an urban Midwestern city.

The two purposes of this study were (a) to describe the meaningful out-of-school occupations of adolescents with visual impairment; and (b) to explain how personal, family, and environmental (physical, social, attitudinal, cultural, and institutional) factors support and hinder their participation, including the role a peer support group plays in fostering participation. Interviews with adolescents, parents, and support group leaders revealed that youth engaged in a similar number of formal leisure activities, those emphasizing skill building and involving a leader or coach, as sighted peers. Greater differences were evident in informal activity participation. For one-half of the participants, informal

activity such as hanging out with friends occurred in the context of a formal activity. In addition, adolescents in this study often participated in informal activities alone or with family. The narrative data revealed two theoretical models of factors influencing participation: The Factors Supporting Participation for Adolescents with Visual Impairment Model explains how twenty factors serve as direct or mediating pathways to support participation, while the Factors Hindering Participation of Adolescents with Visual Impairment Model explains how seven factors hinder participation for this group of youth. The results of this study support a basic tenet of the Person-Environment-Occupation Model ^ meaningful participation is the result of a transactional relationship between person, environment, and occupation. Findings suggest that occupational therapists should consider intervention strategies at the personal, family, occupation, and/or environmental level.

**Patricia Crist**

*Occupational Engagement Change Secondary to Significant Weight Loss*

Obesity is a major contemporary health issue and has a plethora of interventions reflecting a multitude of approaches. For the morbidly obese who experience significant occupational loss or inabilities, bariatric surgery is an option to change the physical condition of the individuals. However, without re-engagement or participation, the establishment of new healthier habit patterns, the ‘short-term gains from surgery can be loss. An outcome study is underway to monitor the lifestyle changes afforded individuals following bariatric surgery to promote long term weight loss and healthier living. The questions to be included in this study are: What are the important occupational changes noted by patients at various stages of bariatric intervention? What changes in occupation result following bariatric surgery? What is the impact on quality of life and activity engagement? What is motivational for the bariatric patient to make significant lifestyle changes ( eating, sleeping/rest, exercise, etc.) to maintain the post-surgery weight loss long term? How can this information be translated into patient education programming to support healthier habits? The initial methodology for this study will be presented along with current patient outcomes and education programming. The focus of this discussion will be to address the challenge of fitting this project into the context of the typical surgeon’s practice as integral to overall programming. Are there valid ways to adapt the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure or other tools to monitor/counsel regarding occupational change? Motivation and quality of life are related to desire for and pursuit of participation. Are there ways to validly and reliably measure these changes from an occupational perspective? Ideas for integrating individual and group educational approaches to intervene at an occupational level will be explored. The speaker hopes to start a discourse regarding how occupational science can contribute uniquely to the interdisciplinary body of knowledge about obesity and weight loss and inform the practice of occupational therapy.

**Janet DeLany**

*Beyond Head Counting: Empowering a Rural Community Agency to Measure its Occupational Performance*

Personnel in small rural community agencies often work on a shoestring budget to procure and allocate scarce resources for their clients. Such is the occupational context for a small, teen parenting program ineligible for federal dollars because of county and state fiscal structures. Though expected to be fiscally self sufficient, the agency personnel were stretched beyond their performance capacity to simultaneously attend to daily life crises of teen parents and to produce those program outcomes measures necessary to compete annually for limited local dollars. This paper examines the collaborative journey initiated by an occupational science researcher and the director of the community agency to devise a system for defining and measuring the occupational performance of the community agency that moved beyond simply head counting of people served to focusing on the occupational performance of the teen mothers and their children. Specifically, this paper explores how the researcher and the agency director:

- Developed a logic model to determine and prioritize evidenced based outcome measures related to the physical and emotional health and education of the teen mothers and their children

- Examined the existing pencil-paper procedures that the agency employed for collecting data and added others, as necessary to measure the identified occupational performance goals
- Converted the existing pencil-paper data collection system into a computer based system to generate descriptive statistics and visual diagrams about program performance outcomes and trends related to the physical and emotional health and education of the teen mothers and their children
- Used that computer generated data to seek sustained funds to continue providing needed community services to an underserved population.

The paper concludes with a discussion of the potential of occupational science to contribute to the understanding and analysis of occupations in which clients, as collective members of an organization, rather than as individuals, engage.

### **Joanne Estes & Doris Pierce**

#### *Perceptions of the Dynamics of Occupation in Practice With Children*

Occupational science was conceptualized as a basic science, descriptive of occupation, intended to provide occupational therapy with a unique knowledge base (Clark et al, 1991). This approach has been criticized as less than effective in supporting interventions (Kielhofner, 2002; Mosey, 1992). Since its debut, occupational science has grown dramatically and now includes studies of occupation in practice (Clark et al, 1997; Molke, Laliberte-Rudman, & Polatjko, 2004).

The purpose of this study was to describe the dynamics surrounding the application of occupation in practice with children. A grounded theory method was used. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with 22 occupational therapists from a major Midwest children's medical center. Interviews were recorded, transcribed verbatim, and coded using Ethnograph. To insure trustworthiness, analysis was collaboratively completed, a member check was completed, and significant transformations from initial coding categories to resulting themes indicated that new insights were discovered.

Results of the study include four primary dynamics affecting the use of occupation in practice with children. The degree to which participants defined themselves as health care providers offering a distinct service that hinged on occupation influenced occupation-based practice. The ways in which intervention success and generalization were occupationally defined by therapists, families, clients, physicians, administrators, and reimbursers also impacted the extent of use of occupation. Creativity and customization of occupation that motivated young clients and was enjoyable for both the clients and the therapists depended on therapist experience and efforts. Interventions focused on component functions were assumed by therapists to hold generalization to occupational performance following discharge. Clinical context was a significant factor in supporting or impeding the use of occupation; spaces needed to be realistic and well-supplied with appropriate equipment. Teams and administrative culture that provided autonomy and sought best practice facilitated the use of occupation. Barriers were the artificiality of the clinic environment and time pressures.

### **Joanne Estes & Elizabeth Manford, & Courtney Bruck**

#### *An Occupational Perspective of Hand Knitting*

The occupation of hand knitting, rich in historical significance (MacDonald, 1988), has resurged in contemporary society as a popular leisure occupation (Marer, 2002; McAdams, 2001). Engagement in meaningful occupations contributes to one's health and well-being (Christiansen & Townsend, 2004) and has been shown to be related to satisfaction of a variety of psychological needs (e.g. affiliation, self-expression) (Tinsley & Eldredge, 1995). While occupational science literature includes examinations of the complexities of a variety of leisure occupations, there is a lack of scientific information exploring hand knitting.

The purpose of this study was to examine the occupation of hand knitting and its potential transformative power in the lives of experienced knitters. A phenomenological method was used. Participants included nine individuals and a six member focus group, all of whom were experienced hand knitters. Semi-structured interviews were conducted, tape-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and coded using Ethnograph software. Trustworthiness was insured via collaborative analysis by four researchers.

Results of this study included four emergent themes. “Worth every last stitch” described feelings of personal fulfillment about the process and the finished product of hand knitting. Fulfillment was derived from experiencing relaxation, opportunities for creativity, and a sense of productivity. “A good challenge” was indicative of participants’ abilities to match task demands with their skill level. Forging connections was discussed in “A stitch in time”. Here participants described the craft providing opportunities to connect with the past (i.e. it’s passing down from previous generations), present (i.e. forces one to live in the moment), and future (i.e. a connection to recipients of their finished products). “It hurts so good” represented participants’ acknowledgement that although there were negative aspects to the craft (e.g. feelings of frustration or carpal tunnel syndrome), benefits of knitting outweighed these costs.

Participants experienced positive transformations that can be associated with the flow experience. These included increased feelings of productivity (Carlson & Clark, 1991), creativity and pride (Jacobs, 1994), relaxation (Jones et al., 2000), and the ability to cope with stress (Wright et al., 2006). From an occupational science perspective, hand knitting is associated with restoration, life narratives, expression of self, and productivity.

#### **Claudia Hilton**

##### *The Impact of Healthy Habit Changes on a Group of Occupational Science Students*

Life-styles or habits have been identified as being responsible for 54% of the reduction in lifespan of those under the age of 65 (McGinnis & Foege, 1994). Habits are significant learned behaviors embedded in a co-cultural context with which they engage in a dialectical relationship (Yerxa, 2002). Occupational science needs to further its understanding of habits, including the process of learning of new habits. Students from Occupational Health and Wellness, an occupational science course, were given an assignment to alter three to five of their habits to improve their own health and wellness. To complete the assignment, the students were paired with partners and assumed two roles, one as a client, working on their own wellness, and one as a mentor, supporting their partners’ wellness. They were first required to complete a self-assessment. In addition to completing the assessment, guest speakers addressing the areas of nutritional health and guidelines for exercise provided them with more guidelines for healthy habits. Students were then required to write a paper about their wellness assessments and determine their wellness goals for the semester. After that, they met weekly with their partners to review their progress and were asked to keep a journal of their experiences from both the client and the mentor perspectives. Discussions during class allowed classmates to share barriers and make suggestions for new strategies that could support each others’ goal achievement. Students were required to write a paper at the end of the semester describing the experience. Follow-up questionnaires examined the students’ continued compliance with new habits after three and six months of completing the semester. Data analysis, using grounded theory, was completed on the students’ written descriptions of their experiences and themes were identified. Quantitative analysis of the follow-up questionnaires was completed to determine the longevity of the habit changes.

#### **Claudia Hilton**

##### *Out-Of-School Participation Patterns in Children with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Participation is essential to the growth and development of children, and continues to directly relate to an individual’s health and well-being. This study examined the differences in participation in out-of-school

activities between typical children and those with high functioning autism spectrum disorders (HFASD), and the relationship between participation and social responsiveness.

Methodology: HFASD children, ages 6 to 12 (N = 51) and a control group (N = 56), were assessed using the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) and the Children's Assessment of Participation and Enjoyment (CAPE). A bivariate correlational design was used to compare the scores.

Results: Significant differences were seen in participation between groups and between SRS severity levels in overall *diversity, intensity, with whom, and where* CAPE scores, but no difference was seen in how much the participants report enjoying the activities in which they participate. Among the most participated in activities, all children participated in the largest number of recreational activities, but the HFASD children participated in more formal and fewer physical activities than the typical group.

Conclusions: These findings indicate that participation in out-of-school activities is significantly different for children with HFASD in comparison to typical peers and that it is related to social responsiveness severity within HFASD. Comparing results from a quantitative measure of autistic characteristic severity with results of a variety of dimensions of participation, on a moderately large group of subjects, adds clarity to the understanding of participation patterns among children with HFASD. The findings indicate that participation is related to severity in HFASD and has significant importance for understanding the behavior patterns of children with HFASD. The results of this study also indicate that the more severe one's social deficits, the less diversity will be seen in their activity participation, in with whom they participate, and in where they participate. In addition, greater severity is correlated with less frequency of participation. This is very concerning for children with greater severity, when considering the finding from a previous study that if adolescents do not have adequate leisure activities to fulfill social and individual requirements, their adolescence may be psychologically unsatisfactory and unhealthy.

**Barbara Hooper, Jodi Eckert & Rachel Haverkos**

*An Exploration of Therapists, Personal Context as an Aspect of Pragmatic Reasoning*

Burke (2001) found that therapists whose beliefs and professional knowledge were grounded in occupation implemented an assessment tool differently than their colleagues whose reasoning and beliefs were less grounded in occupation. Further, clinical reasoning grounded in occupation produced practices that were unique and did not duplicate services rendered by other disciplines. Beliefs about the role of occupation in assessment and intervention, assumptions about the human as an occupational being, and values about what is core to the practice of occupational therapy are part of a therapist's personal context. Therapists, clinical reasoning, specifically pragmatic reasoning, is theorized to be influenced by their personal context, meaning their values, beliefs, assumptions, skills and life circumstances. Little data has supported the role of personal context as a component of pragmatic reasoning. This study explored how occupational therapists portray the connections of their personal beliefs, assumptions, and life circumstances (personal context) to their clinical reasoning and practice. A qualitative, multiple case-survey design was used. Interview and observation data from two previous studies were pooled. 7 expert therapists working within a rehabilitation model were interviewed; 4 were observed. Data were coded for therapists, beliefs and their relation to practice. Coded data were then compiled into matrices to map the belief-practice connection. First, personal context was found to influence therapists, perceptions of what it means to BE an occupational therapist. Therapists described a profound personal congruence with the profession. Through occupational therapy, they expressed their identity, spirituality, and grew personally. Second, personal context influenced perceptions of what it means to DO occupational therapy. Therapists interacted with clients in ways consistent with their personal belief, whether grounded in occupation or not. Therapists used personal beliefs to explain why it was important to get to know clients, individualize therapy, and monitor bias. Personal context directly influenced interpersonal practice and how therapists made sense of their work and indirectly influenced procedural practice by shaping the meaning therapists, assigned to, and the explanations they gave for, their procedural practice. Personal context was interpreted as a continuous, meaning-making influence on clinical reasoning and practice overall rather than an aspect of pragmatic reasoning.

**Elizabeth Hunter**

*The occupation of divestiture: Belongings as a vehicle for identity maintenance, personal control and social connection as people age*

The objects we surround ourselves with are more than just whims or impulses. What we value enough to protect, maintain and perhaps pass down is very significant in terms of who we are and what we believe. As a person ages, these items may become even more important and symbolically significant. By exploring the meaning of things and their potential importance in terms of adult development, maturation and identity maintenance the connection elders have with cherished possessions and the importance of maintaining these connections becomes clear. Thirty-nine women participated in this qualitative study exploring legacy transmission. Through the study it became clear that legacy was transmitted in three broad ways: through belongings, body (genetics, children and one's body) and being (one's values and beliefs). This presentation focuses on the theme of belongings. Four sub-themes emerged under the rubric of belongings, the dispersal of belongings via wills, heirlooms, cherished possessions and everyday possessions. Different types of belongings resulted in different divestiture behavior and plans. Culture, health and age all influenced those things found to be of particular importance for passing along one's identity and values. The theme related to belongings revealed that possessions help to maintain identity, to allow for an arena of control for individuals, and finally possessions can project an individual's sense of self, family and culture.

**Alice Kibele**

*At Play with Meaning: Toys and Other Favorite Objects in the Everyday Lives of Young Children*

This ethnographic study used qualitative methods to explore the meaning of toys and other objects from the perspective of young, typically developing children. It was conducted at the childcare site of a large, university-affiliated medical center in Southern California. The study's primary unit of analysis was the intersection of child, object, and the social and physical contexts of interaction. Data were collected over six months by methods including participant observation, limited audio recording and extensive video recording in the children's classroom and large outdoor playground. Research participants included 26 ethnically diverse, four-year-old children enrolled in a single classroom of the childcare center. Five of the children were identified as primary informants. Interviews were completed with selected parents, the center's director, and two primary classroom teachers. In conjunction with selected literature, data gathered from adults served to triangulate the study's findings, as the voices and actions of the children themselves remained central throughout interpretation. Data analysis drew heavily on narrative and action theories. This paper presents both broad and fine-grained analyses of the study data. This study's results suggest that, from the perspective of young children, play with toys and other objects is a seriously important part of all daily routines and occupations. Toy play serves as a key context for actively making meaning of the world and their place in it. For young children not yet fully capable of complex verbal communication and cultural understanding, particular toys achieve meaning out of proportion to the objects themselves, in the context of everyday, social engagement with peers and adults. The meaning of toys is located not in the objects themselves, but as they are activated, or made real by children in sociocultural, physical/material, and temporal contexts. Toys illuminate culturally invested meaning and simultaneously provide the means to imaginatively transform meaning. In social context, toys bridge literal and metaphoric communicative gaps, alternately inviting and buffering participation. They bridge distances between the inner child, the safety of home and family, and the larger world, including daycare. This study confirms the importance of toy play as a necessary, enriching component of early childhood occupational experience.

**Greg Knotts & Jill Goodman**

*Sex Education Propoganda: How Do We Grow Up Healthy?*

Growing up can be hell. The occupation of growing up encompasses physical, mental, and emotional changes, is composed of a myriad of acts and experiences, lacks parameters, and is convoluted at best. This paper presentation highlights one aspect of the lived experience of the occupation of growing up; we

focus specifically on growing up as the period of going through biological changes during puberty and how this intertwines with cultural ideologies of sexual health. Occupation has been explicitly linked to both the health of individuals (Wilcock, 2006, 2007) and the health of the larger social cultural world (Turner, 2007). The authors chose the lens of sexual health through which to view how the construction of biological (individual) health is often confounded with the construction of cultural (social) health. This study utilizes sexual education resources targeting the adolescent boy over the past century to trace how sex education propaganda influenced the development of both a biological and cultural sexual health. We compare sexual education resources from 1927-1941 to resources from 1991-2006. During puberty, adolescents engage in a biological imperative of physical maturation, culminating in, among other things, the development of a culturally healthy, sexuality. Within the confines of these materials targeting healthy maturation during puberty, we present how healthy (individual) biological growth is confounded with the dominant ideology of healthy cultural (social) growth. The occupation of growing up physically does not occur in a vacuum, but is linked to ideologies of cultural health. As occupation influences health, this paper is central to understanding one aspect of how biological sexual health intertwines with the social cultural influences of health within two particular time periods.

### **Maggie Maloney**

#### *Booze Clues: Investigating the Meaning and Purpose of College High-Risk Drinking*

Purpose: This doctoral research project utilized grounded theory methods to investigate the meaning and purpose of “high-risk drinking” for 8 full-time college students. Research Questions: Four questions guided the study. They were: 1. What were the experiences and contexts surrounding their initiation to drinking alcohol? 2. What are the experiences and contexts which are significant now? 3. What does this occupation mean to the participant? 4. What impact does high-risk drinking have on performances in other meaningful occupations and roles? Methodology: HSIRB approval was secured and volunteer participants were recruited via flyers. Participants signed Informed Consent Forms and were screened to ensure they met the inclusion criteria. Eight participants were accepted and individually interviewed utilizing a semi-structured conversational format. Interviews were audiotaped, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed by the author and two expert-checkers. My reflexive journal notes were considered. MAXqda2 software was used for data management. Results: I offer a grounded theory to view high-risk drinking as a hobby as defined within Stebbins, (2007) framework of a Serious Leisure Perspective. A serious leisure hobby has six key characteristics that give it special meaning and purpose. A serious leisure hobby requires (1) progression through a “career”; (2) development of skills; (3) perseverance despite financial, emotional, or physical costs; (4) benefits; (5) allegiance to the hobby; and (6) a unique social world. In this study, the participants depict a social world that reinforces that their hobby is socially acceptable, harmless and benign. Their positive expectancies of the benefits of their high-risk drinking hobby outweigh any concern about negative consequences that they may have experienced. Additionally, participants, time utilization patterns indicate an occupational imbalance in their lifestyle since they engage in only four areas of occupation: sleep, work/education, self-care, and the high-risk drinking hobby. Conclusion: By understanding the participants, viewpoint that high-risk drinking is a harmless hobby, we can understand the depth of their denial that they are at risk for physical, psychological or occupational dysfunction. This has implications for occupational therapists and other health care professionals, counselors, and administrators who advocate for prevention or design intervention programs on campus.

### **Katie Robinson**

#### *The flow experiences of people with chronic pain; garnering support for occupation-based service delivery*

One in five adult Europeans live with chronic pain (Fricker 2003), the significance of chronic pain in both human and economic terms cannot be overstated. People with chronic pain face significant barriers to engagement in occupation and consequently participation in life. This paper will discuss current multidisciplinary biopsychosocial chronic pain services and illustrate how this model of service delivery is constructed upon a problematised view of people with chronic pain. Contemporary occupational

therapy services for people with chronic pain will be critiqued to reveal a dualism of occupation based theory and reductionistic practice. Alternatives to current modes of service delivery will be presented with reference to findings from occupational science research. The results of pilot research on the flow experiences of people with chronic pain in Ireland will be reported to support an alternative model of service delivery which is occupation focused. Flow as a concept facilitates understanding of the texture of everyday life experiences through illumination of optimal experiences and is widely recognised as having much to offer occupational scientists. The application of flow theory to understanding the complex link between doing and well-being is of clear value to a community interested in the form, function and meaning of occupation. An experience sampling methodology study of the flow experiences of people with chronic pain in Ireland (n= >30) through electronic survey will be presented. Participants responded to a flow questionnaire (Csikszentmihalyi & Csikszentmihalyi 1988) loaded on palm pilots which were programmed (Experience Sampling Programme, Barrett & Feldman Barrett 1999) to beep at random intervals eight times daily during waking hours over seven days. Thus the maximum completed number of questionnaires per participant was 56. Completion rates mirrored similar electronic diary studies. Results will be presented using the eight channel flow model (Massimini & Carli 1988) and interpreted with consideration of how experience is potentially mediated by chronic pain. It will be argued that these results support alternative modes of service delivery for people with chronic pain, where occupation is central to service delivery.

### **Cynthia Roman**

#### *Experiences of Filipino Physical Therapists Living and Working in the United States*

The purpose of this qualitative study is to explore the experiences and challenges of a Filipino physical therapist living in an urban environment and working at a metropolitan hospital in the United States. This case study research was intended for those health care workers that hire or work with individuals with differing cultural backgrounds. This knowledge will increase their awareness of the cultural differences, embrace diversity, and work together to create a smooth transition for international recruits, who work in a non-native country. The Model of Human Occupation was utilized to evaluate the individual's context, roles, values, habits, and to further understand the meaning of work for this study. In addition, the study incorporated principles of Kobasa's theory of hardiness, Lazarus, coping theory, and Bandura's social learning theory. The study focused on (a) decision to work in the United States, (b) living and working challenges, (c) addressing challenges, (d) impact of differing cultural beliefs and values on work, (e) changes in work practices, and (f) facilities easing transition. The data was collected through interviews and analyzed descriptively. The study concluded that time along with communication and transportation are contributing factors on how individuals engage in meaningful occupations. Temporal adaptations need to be made in order to successfully engage in meaningful occupations.

### **Charlotte Royeen**

#### *Looking Beyond the Challenges and Opportunities of Qualitative Research in Occupational Science*

Qualitative research or qualitative inquiry is a field of investigation because human experience cannot be quantified with quantitative measures. In the last decade, there has been considerable effort to expand the knowledge base of occupational science using qualitative inquiry. This paper will highlight the storytelling nature of qualitative inquiry and relate it as a function of the human condition. A short review of qualitative versus quantitative research models will be presented with a call to move beyond the dichotomy. Challenges of qualitative in occupational science will be reviewed including legitimacy, acceptability, politics and ethics. Opportunities of qualitative inquiry in occupational science will be similarly reviewed including reasoning and theory building and the reflective process. Finally, seven areas of potential development in qualitative inquiry related to occupational science will be presented and further discussed in terms of looking beyond its challenges and opportunities including; passionate interest, question generation, global context, ethics, theory generation, epistemological diversity and evidence based practice documentation.

**Lynn Shaw**

*Examining occupational transitions for persons aging with and without disabilities: An open-reflective dialogue process*

Traditional strategies for revealing the meaning and relevance of occupational participation in everyday life have drawn upon a phenomenological approach comprised of interviews, focus groups and participant observation. This paper will introduce participants to an innovative narrative and interpretation process that evolved to uncover the meaning and strategies for managing occupational transitions associated with aging. The method used in this study drew upon phenomenology, an occupational perspective and the values of participatory action research. A researcher and a senior activist began a research journey in 2002 to illuminate the meaning of and to make sense of occupational participation across the lifespan from childhood to retirement for a person with cerebral palsy. The overarching theme from this initial exploration, that was felt to be significant for persons aging with and without disabilities, was the need for a better understanding of how to manage transitions from independence to interdependence such as driver to passenger or receiving assistance to save time to receiving assistance to guard against exhaustion. Both parties agreed that to gain a deeper appreciation of occupational transitions associated with a loss of participation required a lot of time, well founded trust and respect for one another, and mutual engagement (of the researcher and informant) in all research activities that drew upon each others strengths and resources. What resulted was the agreement to use story telling, based upon vignettes of occupations engaged in across the lifespan, and to use an open reflective dialogue process for interpreting the meaning and experience of these transitions. The active reflective dialogue process involved reframing stories using an occupational perspective and metaphors. Findings suggest three main processes for managing the transition from independence to interdependence that may be useful to individuals, to caregivers and to family members, Taking heart ^ time for compassion, Facing losses head on ^ time for regaining control, and Embracing wholeness ^ time for me. These findings, the issues that underscore this research process and the details of the research methods will be elaborated upon and shared with participants to stimulate discussion on opportunities to use story telling and other approaches when researching occupational transitions in later life.

**Anne Shordike**

*The Fotonovela Project: Bilingual Education for Healthy and Safe Participation in Occupations for Migrant Farm workers*

The Latino, Hispanic, population of Fayette county in Kentucky grew 235% (compare to an overall population increase of 16% in the county) between 1990 and 2000, in response to the need for labor in the tobacco and horse industries. The Latino population in Fayette County is primarily from Mexico. The "labor market insertion" of the immigrants is now past the initial, transient, seasonal stage with many workers and working families employed in low wage service jobs, especially in the hospitality industry, construction industry or in factories. The majority of the Mexican immigrants are living with family and relatives, including children (Rich & Miranda, 2005). Health access and resources are a primary concern for Latino migrant farm workers in Kentucky and the United States. The Latino migrants in Fayette County experience the same problems as Latino immigrants throughout the United States, such as availability of culturally, linguistically, and financially appropriate health care services. This poster presents the development of several fotonovelas, bilingual picture booklets, for The Bluegrass Farm worker Health Center in Lexington, Kentucky, a capstone service learning project of occupational science students in Eastern Kentucky University's Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science program. The authors first reviewed and archived literature related to culture, politics and health of migrant workers. Then, after a needs assessment at the Center, they created occupationally oriented fotonovelas to address the areas prioritized by the staff and the literature: pesticide safety, safe body mechanics for working in the tobacco fields and dental hygiene. The process of developing these novellas involved extensive interfacing with some members of the community and translators. The fotonovelas will be distributed at the Center and in the migrant community, and will be used as in-house educational materials by the BFHC staff. This project served, effectively, as a bridge from the bachelor's level occupational

science program to the master's level occupational therapy program as the students applied their knowledge of occupation and health in an occupational justice context

**Diane Smith**

*Violence Against Women with Disabilities: Occupational Injustice as an Analyzing Framework*

The purpose of this presentation is to analyze the concept of violence against women with disabilities using the concept of occupational injustice. Previous models explaining the issues involved in violence against women with disabilities are first explored. Then, specific incidents of violence against women with disabilities are examined according to how well they adhere to the criteria for the four pillars of occupational injustice which include occupational imbalance, occupational marginalization, occupational deprivation and occupational alienation. The overarching issue of power is also examined and all of these components are examined with relationship to health for women with disabilities. Finally, the presentation will conclude with suggested solutions for achieving occupational justice through empowerment through occupation and enablement through choice for women with disabilities who have been abused.

**Catherine Sullivan**

*Factors Considered by Urban and Rural Well Elders in Relocation Decisions: The Importance of Occupations.*

The purpose of this paper is to describe the factors well elderly take into account when making relocation decisions. The occupational science perspective was used as a framework for our research. Interviews were conducted with 10 seniors (5 rural and 5 urban) who were thinking of relocating or had recently relocated to another home – not including long-term care. The interview transcripts were analyzed using the Framework Analysis method. Most themes were similar for urban and rural seniors. All participants were aware of age-related changes in function and tended to focus on physical abilities. This led them to seek homes that had accessibility features to accommodate possible physical losses. Both groups were looking to downsize to a smaller, easier to maintain, residence. Downsizing allowed them to substitute valued occupations for occupations that had become too burdensome. Seniors in both groups wished to move closer to children to have more opportunities to engage in valued roles, but also to be close to assistance, should they need it. All participants still wanted to remain independent. They planned on maintaining valued occupations as well as starting new occupations. Most participants, but especially rural seniors, expressed a desire to be in an environment supportive of health promoting occupations such as walking and gardening. Some of the themes that were found with rural but not urban seniors were the desire to move closer to medical facilities and the concern over the loss of valued roles. Access to amenities was mentioned by both groups but had different meanings. For urban seniors it focused on ease of access, for rural seniors it meant gaining access to resources they did not have available. Seniors in both groups gave very little thought to what would happen to their occupational participation should they no longer drive. The general tone was one of optimism about the move. Those results suggest that the occupational science perspective brings a unique contribution to the study of relocation. Occupational therapists in non-traditional practice could use that information in relocation planning consultation, to target factors typically overlooked by seniors in relocation decisions.

**Dominique Van de Velde**

*Participation as an outcome measure in a rehabilitation cohort; a qualitative study.*

Objective: This study aims to understand the concept of participation and to monitor determinants of participation in a rehabilitation cohort. Much of the rehabilitation practice is based on the presumption that rehabilitation interventions acting at the levels of disease, body structure, and impairments should be reflected in changes in client's participation. Primarily the measurement instruments have been developed to assess a client's participation restriction and do not reflect a client's perception and needs, but are normative and focus on general abilities, tasks and roles. Confirming that community integration or participation has been achieved at the end of the rehabilitation has been impeded by a lack of consensus

on definition and measurement on participation. Design: the qualitative approach of grounded theory was used. In-depth, semi structured interviews were conducted with 20 patients from a rehabilitation cohort in their transition period from hospital to home. The interviews were addressing 4 major topics: (a) what maximizes the participation of the individual with a disability, (b) what is the impact of the disease on a the individual's life, (c) how can functional objectives maximize the effect of rehabilitation and (d) what exactly determines whether an activity performed by the individual is expressed as satisfactory or important. The results: Preliminary findings revealed 3 features that described the determinants for participation; (a) the feeling of belonging, (b) having a sense of control, (c) aiming towards a sense of achievement. The results will be discussed in relation to contemporary discourses on occupation and participation.

### **Dominique Van de Velde**

#### *The relation between the construct of occupation and the construct of activity*

Activity and occupation are two core concepts of occupational therapy that are in need of differentiation. Although some authors have tried to untangle these two core concepts, the distinction between the two is not yet delineated. Lack of differentiation between the two has a chilling effect on disciplinary discourse, impedes research and reduces practitioners, effectiveness. By untangling them into two distinct and valuable concepts and create opportunities to relate the two concepts to each other, it is possible to invigorate the profession of occupational therapy and it will enhance the power of our interventions. Most of the definitions for Occupation, are build around the word activity. When defining occupation, the word Activity, is frequently used to explain occupation. On the other hand, in the most taxonomies and models occupation or activity is used as core concept, not both of them. In this presentation the two concepts will be related to each other and put together in one overarching taxonomy based on the literature and scientific research; the person-activity-environment-occupation model, which is in line with the historical origins as well as with current definitional trends and the bio-psycho-social paradigm. This way of reasoning will be discussed in relation to contemporary discourses on the topic and might help scholars to shed a new light on the concept of occupation.

### **Kristin Winston**

#### *Mothers, perceptions of their occupations and co-occupations when mothering a child with feeding concerns*

The occupations of mothering have recently gained attention in occupation-based research, however many aspects of mothering remain virtually unexplored. The purpose of this mixed methods study is to gain insight regarding mothers, perceptions of their occupations and co-occupations when mothering a child with feeding concerns. Data is being gathered via survey with two groups, mothers who perceive their children to be typically developing and mothers who perceive their children to have a feeding concern. In addition qualitative interviews are being conducted with 4-6 mothers from the group who perceive their children to have feeding concerns. Statistics indicate that approximately 25% of young children and up to 80% of children with developmental disabilities have some type of feeding concern (Garro, Thurman, Kerwin, & Ducette, 2005 & Manikam & Perman, 2000). Kedesdy and Budd (1998) state, "no human activity has greater biological and social significance than feeding" (p. 1) thus illustrating the significant impact of this co-occupation for mothers and young children. In addition, feeding and eating for young children is typically dependent on a relationship between the child and his/her family or caregiver. Service providers and researchers who seek to understand the impact of feeding concerns from the mother's point of view may be able to provide enhanced services or better inform the fields of occupational science and occupational therapy. Knowledge of factors that may influence the occupations and co-occupations of mothers of young children with feeding concerns will assist in the practice of occupational therapy as well as the planning of future research to meet the needs of this population. This paper will report on research currently being conducted. Quantitative data related to stress and life satisfaction in the two groups mentioned earlier in the abstract will be presented. In

addition, the results of qualitative interviews gathered from a phenomenological perspective will be discussed.

**Jenna Yeager**

*So... Like... What Are You Doing Now: The Use of Cell Phones and Text Message in Time Use Studies of College Students*

Among the dimensions of occupation examined in the fields of occupational therapy and occupational science is the use of time in the daily lives of individuals. Time use studies have included the use of interviews, observation, time diaries, and activity records. Experience sampling methodology (ESM) was devised to investigate time use through the use of pagers or other signaling devices to trigger respondents to record experiences while engaged in their natural context. Benefits of ESM include minimization of limitations inherent in other self-report methods, such as memory bias. More recent ESM research has included the use of Personal Data Assistants (PDAs) to signal participants who then input their responses into the unit. Limitations of this method include the inconvenience to the participant of carrying the device and the potential cost of lost devices. The current research piloted the use of cell phones and text messaging to gather ESM data in a manner more consistent with the lifestyle of the population studied. In the context of the environment of young adults, it is felt that cell phones are devices that are familiar and represent minimal intrusion on the lives of participants during data collection. In addition, live researchers were used to pose the questions verbally to participants, with responses coded in paper and pencil by the researcher, limiting some of the limitations posed by participant recording of responses. A search of the literature has revealed no large scale study using cell phones to collect data in the context of ESM, and no studies using text messaging. Therefore, the current study presents a novel methodological strategy with the potential to facilitate research efforts exploring time use. The current surveyed 20 college undergraduates with the use of cell phones to collect data via traditional voice calling and with text messaging. Experiences of the researchers and participants with both methods will be presented, as well as a graphical summary of the findings regarding the time use of this population. The potential and the limitations of these and other technological innovations for data collection will be discussed, including such developing trends as FaceBook and MySpace.