

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Barrett, Kate: *Learning About Occupation in an International Setting*

What is the value of learning about the individual and collective meaning that occupation holds in an international setting? The Creighton University occupational therapy program has offered month long experiences for students and professionals in the Dominican Republic and/or Ecuador yearly since 1995. Throughout this program, it seems that students and professionals gain an understanding of occupation that is different than that which is gained through experiences and studies in the United States. As a result, the author has been inspired to ask many questions such as: How does learning about occupation in an international setting differ from learning about occupation in a domestic setting? What is it that is learned about occupation in an international setting that is different? And, can what is learned in an international setting be replicated in a domestic setting?

In this preliminary study, the author has reflected upon her personal experiences of learning and teaching about occupation in international and domestic settings. Based upon this reflection and informal interviews with past program participants, questions have been developed to ascertain how participants learn about occupation differently in an international setting compared to a domestic setting.

In this presentation, the author will share her own reflections on learning and teaching about occupation in an international setting, themes from the informal interviews, questions and emerging themes gained from the in-depth interviews, as well as possible directions for future studies. The audience will be asked to discuss ideas they may have for future studies regarding learning about occupation in an international setting.

Blessing, Leslie: *The Impact of Caregiving on Lifestyle Balance on Elderly Women*

Elderly female caregivers shoulder responsibilities that put them at risk for developing physical, emotional, psychological, social, and financial difficulties. It is often assumed that the burdens associated with caregiving have a direct, negative impact on caregiver well-being. While previous studies have examined caregiver well-being in the context of caregiver burden, this study compared the relative well-being of elderly female caregivers with that of non-caregivers using life-style balance as a means of evaluation. Lifestyle balance was defined as a satisfying and health promoting pattern of regular occupations. Lifestyle balance was measured quantitatively in terms of relative satisfaction with occupations considered personally important to well-being. Thirty-seven volunteers, 15 caregivers and 22 non-caregivers, completed surveys that asked them to rate 31 different occupations on a scale of 1-5 in terms of the importance of that activity to their personal sense of well-being and also how satisfied they are with their participation in that occupation. For the purposes of this study, an occupation was considered important to well-

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

being if it received an importance rating of 4 or 5. While there was some overlap between caregivers and non-caregivers in terms of which occupations they rated important to well-being, caregivers, as a group, rated more than twice as many occupations important to well-being than did non-caregivers. Caregivers rated caregiving occupations important to well-being, while non-caregivers did not. Relative satisfaction with important occupations, and thus lifestyle balance, was found to be comparable between the two groups of participants. These findings underscore the importance of the personal meaning of an occupation as it relates to the impact of that occupation on an individual's well-being. The findings also support the use of a strengths perspective when working with elderly female caregivers. These individuals frequently demonstrate competence and creativity in their efforts to cope with the demands of the caregiving role. This study also introduces the Occupational Balance: a Lifestyle Inventory, an instrument which is useful in assessing and modifying lifestyle balance in people of all ages and all walks of life.

Buxell, Linda: *Occupations of Adolescent Girls Living in Rural Communities*

Limited information is available on the study of occupations of adolescent girls living in the rural setting. This paper presents the beginnings of a qualitative study being completed by a faculty member and 2 graduate students in occupational therapy at the College of St. Catherine. This paper presents portions of a recent literature review regarding occupations of 13 - 18 year old adolescent girls living in the rural setting. Issues related to occupational choice, the use and development of skills and capabilities through participation in occupations, and how the community supports engagement in meaningful occupation will be explored. Results of qualitative, pilot study focus groups completed during the summer of 2003 will be shared.

Through qualitative methods, researcher investigators hope to gain the girls' perspective on their psychosocial well-being and meaningful existence as linked to their engagement in occupations within their respective communities. The research plan includes also interviews of parent(s) and or guardian(s) of these adolescent girls to more fully understand the occupations and well-being of these girls. Qualitative research planning and preliminary work relevant to the study will be discussed.

Through the use of later individual qualitative interviews, the study seeks to explore the meaning of occupations of adolescent girls living in various rural communities of Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The study hopes to access the subjective meaning of the occupations of these girls. Further developing the literature and the understanding of the human as an occupational being will contribute to the field of occupational therapy and the developing discipline of occupational science. The elements of well-being, function, and meaningful existence related to engagement in occupations are some of the core areas of occupational therapy practice. There is a challenge to provide occupational therapy services to rural populations. Studying the occupations of adolescent girls living in their rural communities through qualitative interviewing with a focus on meaningful activity and well-being may support the need for a broad range of community and occupation based services.

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

Corr, Susan: *Q methodology: A Research Method for Studying Occupation*

When studying occupation it is necessary to consider methods that enable a researcher to gain a greater understanding of individuals. Q methodology is a quantitative method for analysing qualitative data, based on viewpoints. It enables researchers to focus on the qualitative, subjective aspects of the participants while combining the strengths of both qualitative and quantitative methods (Brown, 1996). Using Q methodology, it is possible to examine life as lived from the standpoint of the person living it, to identify characteristics of individuals who share common viewpoints and to measure arrays of attitudes at a certain point in time or measure attitudinal changes over time (Brown 1996). This method has been used in the United States, and to a lesser extent in Britain, by a broad range of researchers including psychologists, social scientists, educationalists, political scientists and other health care professionals but no published literature suggests that it has been used to study occupations. This paper will provide an outline of its process, that is, developing a Q sort pack (a number of items representing the range of ideas on a topic), administering the sort (asking participants to rank the ideas with reference to their own views), analysing the data (looking for patterns in the way that individuals respond) and interpreting the results. It will also illustrate the method by using the example of a study which explored banking executive's perceptions of balance in relation to their occupations. The strengths and limitations of the methodology will also be presented. Q methodology is a research tool that is appropriate to use in the study of peoples' perceptions. It deserves careful consideration by occupational scientists for its potential use as a research method.

Crepeau, Elizabeth & Morneau, Gregory: *The Influence of Technological Change on Habits, Routines, and Optimal Experience: An Oral History of a Dairy Farmer*

This paper is part of an oral history project that explores the day-to-day experience of elderly people living in a rural community. Oral history focuses on the use of interviews to understand the first hand experience of participants. The purpose of this project is to understand the intersection between the daily round of activities of project participants, their roles as actors within the community, and how social and political change influenced their lives. In this paper we have selected, James Stuart, a retired dairy farmer who participated in the larger study, and interpret his six decades of dairy farming from the perspective of habits, routines, and optimal experience.

Dairy farming, like many other forms of work, has been influenced by technological change. In the mid-twentieth century most dairy farms were small and were owned and operated by a single family. With increased government regulation and the need for efficiency, dairy farmers have had to make use of the most advanced technological innovations to remain financially viable. Because the costs associated with these changes are so great, many family farms have closed. The remaining dairy farms, such as the Stuart Farm, have had to expand to remain profitable. James Stuart, the participant in this oral history research, was a dairy farmer from 1930 through 1998. He and his family members continually changed their

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

farming techniques to keep pace with government regulation and technological change. In this paper, we explore the continually changing tasks and routines involved in dairy farming and how these changes influenced his motivation and satisfaction. We conclude that the increase in technology created a more efficient but more constrained work environment with less task flexibility and variety and diminished opportunity for optimal experience. Our findings raise questions about the relationship between technological change, work flexibility, work satisfaction, and optimal experience.

Cruz, Elicia Dunn: *Life in an Assisted Living Center: An Ethnography of Place and Occupational Experience*

Within occupational therapy and its science there exists a solid body of knowledge about the relationship between person and occupation. Our knowledge about the role of context in this relationship, however, has begun to evolve more recently. The concept of place, which originated in the discipline of geography, has the potential to enhance our understanding of the function of the context in person-context-occupation interactions. This paper describes an ethnography through which elders' experience of place within an assisted living center (ALC) was explored. Participant observations of residents' daily lives were conducted two to five times weekly over four months. The paper first characterizes the ALC at the level of the residential group. At this group level the world was distinguished by general overarching features. It had a unique milieu with distinct sociocultural and temporal-occupational natures that emerged from the elders' place and occupational experiences over time. Within this broad world existed three discrete groups of residents that comprised three small local worlds, or situations, that were distinguished by their own cultures, configurations of occupational forms, and ways of dealing with day to day challenges. The paper briefly describes these local worlds and the personal and group projects in which residents engaged in an effort to adapt, that is, to transform their situations into what they ought to be. Finally, the paper argues that understanding the residents in terms of their situations, which emerged from the integration of place and occupational experience over time, offers a rich way to comprehend people's experience of and adaptive efforts within their life worlds.

Dickie, Virginia: *Cloth and the Occupations of Acquisition, Accumulation, Exchange, Use, and Divestiture*

Cloth has figured prominently in the commerce, daily life, and ceremonial functions of people throughout history. It is sold and traded; given as gifts; used for clothing, warmth, and decoration; accumulated as a form of wealth; and passed on as inheritance. An analysis of the uses and meanings of fabric in the contemporary occupation of quilt making in America reveals patterns similar to those identified in historical and ethnographic studies throughout the world. Cloth is a motivator for women to engage in quilt making and try new aesthetic possibilities. Quilters spend considerable time selecting fabric, which they accumulate, exchange through formal and informal processes, and add to its value through what they make, even as they destroy the original fabric, an action that many find distressing.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

Their feelings toward cloth, in terms of both aesthetic and economic value, are openly acknowledged and celebrated in the serious and humorous rhetoric of quilting social events and publications. An ethnography of contemporary quilt making in North Carolina provides the data upon which this paper is based. The study illustrates the manner in which objects are embedded in the acts and meanings of occupations - in this instance through the language and practices of women who quilt. Findings support the notion that old forms of social and individual interaction with materials emerge in contemporary quilt culture practices, for example, exchange of signature blocks among members of on-line quilting groups, accumulation of wealth in the form of the fabric "stash," carefully spelled-out rules for fabric swaps, gifts of self through quilts for charity and quilts for friends and family (each different in meaning), and acts of giving while keeping. As well, quilters have an aesthetic relationship with fabric, built upon sensory experiences and personal and shared values. This paper seeks to explicate some of the basic characteristics of an occupation.

Fehringer, Elaine; Marshall, Amy; & Pierce, Doris: *Strategic Relevance: Using OS to Develop OT for At-Risk Youth*

A sequence of three studies focused on the development of occupation-based interventions for at-risk youth in alternative and secure educational settings will be described. The purposes of the three studies were to: 1) pilot an efficacy study of occupational therapy programming for at-risk youth; 2) develop occupation-based interventions for at-risk youth that were student-centered, cost-effective, and unique to occupational therapy; and 3) refine and generate for broad dissemination occupation-based programming for at-risk youth in nontraditional school settings.

Action research was the central method of the studies. Primary data included videotaped interviews of at-risk youth regarding their occupational patterns and needs, and audiotaped therapist reflections regarding the development of central concepts in providing occupation-based interventions designed for at-risk youth.

The importance of developing innovative services for at-risk youth will be discussed within a broader consideration of the relation of occupational science to occupational therapy. By using occupational science as a basis for research into occupation-based interventions for at-risk youth, our research team honors the commitment of occupational science to the profession (Clark et al, 1991), responds to the needs of occupational beings, and demonstrates the strategic relevance of occupational science.

Haertl, Kristine: *So What Do You Like to Do? Occupations Leading to Satisfaction and Success in a Fairweather Mental Health Program*

As the country continues to move towards models of community service delivery for persons with mental illness, exploration of outcomes and satisfaction within these models is crucial. This presentation will provide an overview of the Fairweather mental health model, the

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

concept of peer support, and explore satisfaction within such programs. A video will highlight the program and occupations of mental health clientele. The presentation will present results of a portion of a dissertation project that sought to identify areas of satisfaction for mental health clients. Study results from this project demonstrated the importance of various occupations in contributing to client satisfaction and success within the program. The presentation will conclude with a brief discussion on the role of occupation in the well being of mental health clients.

Hamilton, Toby Ballou: *Complementary Functions of Occupation and Narrative*

Researchers have found narratives useful in the study of occupation and occupational science. The imperative to understand and apply narrative approaches to occupational science research and occupational therapy practice cannot be overestimated for its utility in ensuring effective, efficient client-centered and occupation-based research, services, and outcomes.

This proposal intends to spark discussion on the relationship of narrative and occupation. The relationship of narrative and occupation is proposed as one aspect of the significance of narrative to occupational science and occupational therapy. Understanding the relationships of occupation and narrative can help researchers and practitioners understand a person's occupations at a deeper level and help individuals enhance their occupational performance.

The example of a brief narrative will illustrate the functions of narrative and why people "find stories a particularly cogent way to apprehend and reveal experience." A brief presentation will explore several examples of the complementary relationship of occupation and narrative that were discovered while studying occupational science theory through memoirs of adults with acquired physical disability. Proposed complementary relationships include elements, temporal organizing qualities, adaptation, identity, occupational life story, and the reconciliation of the ordinary and extraordinary. Participants will test the proposed relationships using a hypothetical occupational routine. Participants are invited to explore the proposal that occupation and narrative are universal forms in which occupation is the doing of life and narrative is the temporal expression of what people do. We will conclude by considering if all narratives are about occupation.

The proposed complementary functions of narrative and occupation may contribute to the reasons that occupational scientists use narrative for research, that occupational therapists rely on individual's narrative either explicitly or implicitly, and why narrative reasoning is considered the "central mode" of the occupational therapy reasoning process.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

Heward, Kate: *The Occupational Impact of Caring for a Partner with Multiple Sclerosis*

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, progressive neurological condition which can impact on the individual in a variety of ways. While it is easy to see how MS has occupational implications for the person with the condition, it is important to recognise that it can also impact on those close to the person with MS, such as partners, carers, and friends. Living with, which often means caring for, a person with MS can have occupational implications such as loss of paid employment, reduced shared and individual leisure time, and increased participation in the occupations associated with caring.

In the United Kingdom, the needs of carers are high on the government agenda, given that almost six million people are carers. Some of these individuals are providing care for over fifty hours per week, and many receive little or no support from statutory services. Whilst there has been some research which explores the experience of living with MS and the subjective experience of caring for somebody with MS, an occupational perspective is missing.

This paper will report on a qualitative research project currently underway which is seeking to explore the experience of partners of people with MS from an occupational perspective. The research is informed by grounded theory and involves semi-structured interviews with partners of people with MS living in the UK. After an introduction to the topic area and methodology, preliminary results of the research will be outlined.

Hilton, Claudia List & Ranolph, Diane Smith: *Context: An Occupational Science Baccalaureate Course*

As the occupational therapy profession embraces the developing occupational science, several occupational therapy educational programs are incorporating a baccalaureate degree in occupational science into their education programs (1). This paper presentation describes one of the courses offered in such a program to address the area of context. The course introduces students to the concept of context and its relationship to person and occupation (2, 3). Physical, temporal, sociocultural and socioeconomic contexts are explored with regard to their effects on participation in occupation (4). The influence of healthy vs. unhealthy contexts, as well as issues of occupational risk, access, generational influence and contextual interdependence is examined (5). Contexts are discussed with regard to how they can influence change in the community through participation in a community practice experience.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

Hocking, Claire: *Reflections on Form: Food-Centred Insights*

Older women, younger women, poorer women, and men all perceive the occupation of cooking from different perspectives. In the Western world, older women were socialised to accept that cooking was a natural occupation that they would find rewarding. Cooking for their family would be a creative outlet and a critical ingredient of family togetherness. Younger women contest this view, although many continue to do the cooking to ensure that the task of feeding the family is done properly or done at all. Poorer women's concerns centre on having enough to cook. They enact a variety of strategies to ration food, including keeping food stocks low and restricting their own intake of meat. To men, cooking has been portrayed as a natural extension of their role as a hunter, hence the link between men, steak and barbeques. While older married men perceive cooking as 'helping' their wives, bachelors have been coached in the seductive potential of exotic cooking.

Clearly, food-centred occupations hold different, and at times oppositional meanings for different people. This presentation considers Nelson's (1988) concept of occupational forms against this background of diversity. Its particular focus is the sociocultural dimension of occupational forms, which Nelson described as a pre-existing structure of symbols, values, norms, roles, rules, procedures and sanctions that guide interpretation of the physical, human and temporal environment in which an occupation is performed. Two questions are addressed:

- How might we consider the socio-cultural reality that informs individual's interpretation of an occupational form? Is this 'storehouse of knowledge' a conglomerate of all the perspectives held in a society, or only those visible from different positions in society?
- How do occupational forms change over time?

Tentative responses to these questions are proposed, encompassing ideological, structural, socio-economic, and technological change.

Hooper, Barb: *Beyond Content: The Epistemic, Intrapersonal, & Biographical Dimension of Occupation-Centered Education*

Recent educational discourse has concentrated on the central role of occupation and occupational science in OT curricula and in the evolution of a "self-defined" profession (Yerxa, 1998). Scholarship related to occupation and occupational science in education has addressed conceptualization and design of curricula (Wood, et al., 2000; Yerxa, 1998), content and faculty development (e.g. Krishnagiri, Pierce, & Primeau, 1998; see also www.aotf.org/html/faculty) and teaching methods believed appropriate to occupational therapy (e.g. Nolinski & Millis, 1999; Royeen, 1995; Stern, 1997). Very little research has explored the nature of occupation-centered education as it is enacted within a community of faculty. Without understanding the aims, beliefs, assumptions, and practices enacted in occupation-centered education, it is possible to build new curricula upon former assumptions and thwart the hopes that occupation-centered education will aid OT in becoming "self-defined" (Baxter Magolda, 1999).

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

This 8-week case study of one graduate program, noted for the central role of occupation and occupational science in its curriculum, explored: How do faculty understand and implement occupation-centered education and how have those understandings developed and changed? What beliefs about learners, learning and knowing are reflected in the practice of occupation-centered education? And what methods are associated with occupation-centered education? The researcher interviewed faculty, attended classes, collected course documents, and attended curriculum meetings. Data were recorded through audiotape, videotape, and fieldnotes, and analyzed using both segmental coding of texts and whole narrative analysis.

The results suggest that, in this case, occupation-centered education could not be defined solely as a set of content, preferred learning processes, or overall curriculum design, even while these were vital and important. Beyond content and teaching methods, occupation-centered education was deeply connected to the biographies of the faculty, including their ways of knowing, experiences in the profession, and relationship with the subject of occupation. Students were invited into similar "self-projects", including constructing a self in relation to: authority, occupation, knowing, and major change. This study suggested that occupation-centered education can be conceptualized as an epistemological, intrapersonal, and biographical endeavor through which faculty not only "cover the content" but co-author knowledge, their own lives, and the lives of students.

Howells, Valerie: *Doing Art as a Means of Creating Community and Transforming the Self*

In response to concerns expressed by individuals with mental illness and other stakeholders, a community arts studio and gallery was established. The initiative for the development of the studio came about because of limited opportunities for individuals with mental illness to participate in meaningful occupations in the context of the larger community. Stakeholders envisioned an integrated space where all community members, including people with mental illness, could come together to engage in the occupation of creating art. This paper presents partial results from a year long participatory action research (PAR) study that was conducted at this site with 20 art studio participants, 10 individuals with and 10 individuals without mental illness. Methods included: in-depth interviews with participants before their involvement in classes and at the conclusion of the study, participant observation, journals, field notes, and analysis of documents. The research study followed the tenets of PAR in actively involving those affected by the study in all phases of the project from design through dissemination. The research team consisted of two occupational therapists, a consumer researcher, and a psychiatrist. Among key findings, one important theme that was discovered was "doing art". Involvement in the occupation of creating art led to both personal and cultural shifts. Participants' stories suggest art acted as a bridge to the larger community and created a means of reconstructing oneself and one's beliefs. This paper will explore the effects of involvement in the occupation of making art at the personal and community level. Implications for using occupation as a means of community building and as a bridge for social participation for individuals in their communities will be discussed.

Humphry, Ruth: *Dynamics of Social Processes Contributing to Development of Occupations*

This paper extends discussion of the intersection of development and occupational science (Lawlor, 20026) and examines the interpersonal processes that contribute to transformations in occupations. A key concept is the person's "situation definition" of the activity (Wertsch, 1999). This felt experience has both spatial and temporal qualities as it is shaped by the physical and social environments, personal interpretation of past memories, the sequence of happenings leading to the present circumstances, and anticipated future events. When engaged in an activity the situation definition changes from moment to moment, unfolding in reaction to actual or perceived changes in the environment and what is happening. It is hypothesized that alterations of the situation definition trigger adjustments in the form or quality of performance and occupational meaning. One developmental process, under investigation is how children observe and vicarious participation in other people's activities. It is thought that children gather information building their own situation definition even before engaging in the activity. In the model under investigation development of occupation is seen as coming from experiences that precede initial engagement in an activity. A second developmental process that is being studied is the collaborative, negotiation that takes place as children join together to do an activity. It is anticipated that to sustain engagement each person alters their respective situation definitions to achieve an intersubjective understanding of what they are doing. This co-construction process of creating an activity, such as when children play together, leads to new way of doing things and illustrates the social nature of development. A microdevelopment perspective of change (Granott & Parliale, 2002) is employed to investigate the above propositions based on observations of young children learning to use different toys and found objects in their classroom. It is argued that to inform practice occupational science not only needs to consider changes in occupations over months or years but should also offer insight into developmental processes on the time scale that occurs when a therapist is interacting with a child or children are doing things together.

Jackson, Jeanne& Bailey, Diana: *Creating Home through Household Occupations: Whose Perspective Is Needed in Occupational Science?*

In this paper we will present the findings of a study entitled, "Creating Home through Household Occupations." The purpose of this study was to uncover patterns of occupations used by lesbian couples to create a home. We examined the self perceptions of participants as they engage in household occupations, the decision making process that determine the division of household occupations, and the external and internal forces that impact their participation in occupation. Sixteen couples participated in two hour interviews which were audio-taped and transcribed according to conventional qualitative methods. A thematic analysis was used to interpret the data. Findings revealed four styles of household care including: fairness, nobody cleans like I do, it's so much better with two, calming the storm.

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

Our purpose in presenting the findings of this study is twofold. First, the information received will contribute to the knowledge base of occupational science. Specifically, it will shed new light on participation in household occupations in couples when no gender specific social expectations exist to guide the process. Secondly, we will posit this perspective on household occupations at the center of a discussion that will address whose voices and practices become part of the knowledge base of occupational science. In other words, whose lives are and are not represented in occupational science? Is it simple inevitable that some lives will not be represented? Are there advantages/disadvantages to deliberately seeking research projects that include diverse populations? Are occupational scientists aware of the rules inherent in the occupational science culture about research and publishing? These questions along with those that arise from the audience will be entertained.

Kennedy, Bonnie: *Mind-Body Interaction in Occupation*

Occupational science has been concerned with the subjective experience of occupation since its inception. The experiences of Flow and pleasure in occupation have been specifically cited as variables of interest in Occupational Science literature. Holism is an assumption of occupational science, yet few data-based studies exist in this discipline to directly support the paradigm. To address this need, two studies were initiated to demonstrate mind-body interaction in the context of daily occupation in the natural environment of women with HIV.

Opportunistic infections of oral mucosal membranes are a threat to persons with compromised immune systems. One mechanism the body uses to prevent pathogens from taking hold in oral mucosa is the presence of immunoglobulin A (S-IgA) in saliva. Stress has been observed to reduce the availability of (S-IgA) in laboratory studies, while positive experiences have been observed to increase its availability. Fortunately, most ordinary daily occupation does not occur in the laboratory, therefore this mind-body interaction must be tested in the natural environment. The research questions addressed in this presentation will be: Is there a higher concentration of salivary immunoglobulin A (S-IgA) during occupations experienced as highly pleasurable? And Is there a higher concentration of S-IgA during Flow than non-Flow states?

Using the experience sampling method women with HIV reported the subjective experience of their daily occupations in real-time and collected an on-the-spot saliva sample 6 times per day for one week. To compare highly pleasurable occupations to occupations that were experienced with lower than average pleasure, self-reported raw scores on a Likert scale were transformed into z-scores for each woman separately and occupations with a z-score of greater than zero were compared to occupations rated less than zero. The concentration of S-IgA was found to be statistically significantly greater during highly pleasurable occupations. Data analysis on the second research question is in progress. The first study suggests support for the holistic paradigm of mind-body interaction in daily occupation in the natural environment. It also suggests that there are design elements available in the subjective experience of occupation that can be used to support the health of persons with compromised immune systems.

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

Larson, Elizabeth & Blanche, Erna Imperatore: *Collaborative Research Ventures: Working Together to Advance Occupational Science*

This paper will describe the process and considerations entailed in the development of a collaborative grant application focused on family occupations and disability which integrates the expertise of two research lines. First, we will describe the generative stage which considers: 1) collaborative generation of the research topic; 2) the focusing of the research; and 3) identifying funding agencies priorities. In addition to sharing their experiences, the presenters will provide participants on-line resources for this process. Next, presenters will briefly describe the prior research that serves as a foundation for this project, demonstrating one potential extension of previous research lines. Finally, the presentation will address audience questions on collaborative grant writing and submission.

Leimbach, Linda: *Folk Art Communities: An Examination of Learning as Social Participation and Quality of Life within Occupational Communities of Practice*

Wenger's conceptual framework of "communities of practice" may provide a useful structure from which occupational scientists may analyze occupational communities, or groups of people who participate in a constellation of occupations to achieve both individual and communal goals, as well as to establish both personal and communal identities. The primary focus of Wenger's conceptual framework is upon learning as social participation, and as such examines the elements of meaning, practice, community, and identity relative to social participation.

This paper explores the essence and elements of the conceptual framework of communities of practice by examining folk art communities and their impact upon arts, students, and the broader culture. Folk arts are the artistic expression of values and ideals held by communities of people who may share the same occupation, live in the same area or region, or enjoy the same ethnic background. According to Alexander (1997), "the folk arts are part of what makes our homes and communities ours. They breathe life into the community dance." As a living cultural heritage, folk arts allow individuals and communities to both shape and make meaning of the world. Following the Danish folk school tradition, various folk art schools or communities have been established throughout the United States to serve as centers for the teaching and preservation of folk arts indigenous to their respective regions. Two folk art communities located within the Appalachian Region of the United States are examined in this paper. Wenger's conceptual framework of communities of practice is used to explore learning within these folk art communities as an expression of social participation. The elements of meaning, practice, community, and identity relative to these folk art communities are explored with respect to their relative contribution to the social participation and quality of life of the artists, apprentices, and visiting students within these communities. Wenger's conceptual framework of community of practice would also be useful in examining other occupational communities such as schools or educational settings, work settings, religious centers, professional organizations, and clubs or community organizations.

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

Marshall, Amy: *Water Quality and the Contextual Nature of Occupation*

The purpose of this research was to examine the impact that poor water quality has upon occupation. In southeastern Kentucky, much of the groundwater is contaminated by chemical runoff from resource extraction. Disasters such as the accidental release of 250 million gallons of toxic coal slurry into the surrounding watershed in October of 2000 present a constant threat to local residents.

Since water is a crucial component of everyday life, the ability to choose, organize, and perform occupations is drastically altered by these circumstances. Occupation occurs only in context; however, little research within occupational science specifically examines the interplay between occupation and environment. The ability to freely interact with one's surroundings is a critical determinant of health; indeed, occupational deprivation results from lack of engagement (Whiteford, 1997).

Because of the emancipatory potential resulting from collaborative participation in research (Freire, 1970) and the ideological similarities with the occupation-based, client-centered philosophy of occupational science and occupational therapy (Letts, 2003), a participatory action research approach was utilized for this study. It occurred in partnership between a multidisciplinary team of students and professors at Eastern Kentucky University with the citizens of Letcher County, Kentucky. Forty-three in-depth, semi-structured interviews conducted by myself and other members of the research team were transcribed, coded, and analyzed using Ethnograph 5.0 software.

Water quality was a source of constant concern to Letcher County residents. For example, self-care routines were interrupted due to the lack of clean water necessary for personal hygiene; home management demands increased as a result of damage to both household items and clothing from sulfurous water; the duration of meal preparation increased with the use of bottled rather than tap water; outdoor leisure participation was restricted; and opportunities to maintain self-sufficiency through fishing and gardening were limited. One respondent stated, "Everything in my life has changed... from life to death." With the emerging emphasis on occupational justice within occupational science, this study of rural and impoverished Kentuckians dealing with the environmental impact of the coal industry allows us unique insights into the contextual nature of occupation.

Matuska, Kathleen & Christiansen, Charles: *A Model of Occupational Balance*

There is growing popular interest in occupational (lifestyle) balance, yet little is known about what occupational balance means or how to achieve it. The lay public and writers in disciplines such as health education, leisure studies, and occupational therapy have suggested that certain lifestyle configurations might lend themselves to higher levels of life satisfaction and general well-being, suggesting that these lifestyles would also be health promoting through their opportunities for enjoyment, socialization, challenge, rest and recreation, personal growth, and self expression.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

While the idea of a balanced lifestyle has intuitive appeal, the challenge of explicitly describing such a lifestyle in operational terms previously has not been documented in the literature, nor has the concept otherwise been validated. A few writers in occupational science and occupational therapy have addressed the topic in conceptual terms, but few empirical studies have been completed. Constructs such as adaptation, meaning, motivation, coping, habits, and routines, and rhythms have been linked to wellness and quality of life (Christiansen, 2003; Christiansen, 1999; Clark, 1997, Kielhofner, 1977; and Wilcock, 1998) yet it is unknown how these contribute to an overall sense of occupational (lifestyle) balance since they are subjective and viewed uniquely by each individual in the context of their own lives. We will share the results of a pilot study correlating measures of satisfaction with life, affect balance, sense of coherence, and quality of life to a measure of occupational balance. Important constructs related to occupational balance will be clarified, explored, and linked to healthy lifestyles and quality of life.

Finally, with the insights gained from the pilot study and a review of literature, we will present a model of occupational balance organized around Maslow's hierarchy. These will propose that balanced lifestyles require occupations that meet deficiency needs, which rely upon actual and perceived competence as well as occupations that meet being needs which pertain to relationships, perceived meaning, and personal growth.

Minato, Miyuki: *Active Occupational Participation of People with Schizophrenia Living in the Community*

The purpose of this research is to explore the form, function, and meaning of occupations of people with schizophrenia living in the community in Japan using descriptive and inferential quantitative and also qualitative methods. The forms were explored through study of their reported time use and experience of stress in various categories of occupation. Another part of the study focused on the function of occupational choices as adaptive strategies to manage stress and the meanings of the occupations to the informants. Quantitative analysis showed that 89 participants with schizophrenia chose to participate in not only passive occupational categories but also active occupational categories such as selecting Work, Co-op shop, Play, Socialization and Homemaking. Whether having work-related routine or not, also influenced the time use of the people with schizophrenia in this study. Qualitative analysis revealed that participants coped with daily living occupations using two main stress management strategies. First, some chose occupations such as Sleep, Music, TV, and Leisure, through which they relieved or reduced stress. Second, some chose other occupations including work-related routine (Work, Co-op shop, Day care) or Homemaking, even though they are stressful, because they felt these occupations positively influence life satisfaction, energy management, provide time structure, and assist in promoting health. Designing a lifestyle made up of daily occupations enacting each person's concept of a healthy self led informants to actively participate in a variety of occupations. Stress in those daily occupations was managed through overcoming difficulties of believing "I can't" and "I feel fatigued" to develop a sense of "I can do it" and conditioning themselves through persevering in their

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

daily life, managing energy for and through participation. The daily life of informants was an attempt to move toward their concept of a healthy self through occupation. Hence, this study will provide the knowledge to help people with schizophrenia have opportunity to participate in occupations and maintain health in the community.

Molineux, Matthew: *The Occupational Nature of Chronic Illness: Experiences of Men Living with HIV*

Since the discovery of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) much research has been undertaken to explore the impact of infection with HIV. Much of this research has come from fields such as nursing, psychology, and sociology. Closer scrutiny of that literature reveals that HIV infection has very clear occupational implications which include for example the cessation of engagement in occupations and the development of new configurations of occupations. On reviewing the occupational therapy and occupational science literature it is surprising that apart from a small number of notable exceptions, little research has explored the occupational nature of living with HIV infection.

This paper will present an overview of research which employed qualitative methods to explore the occupational nature of living with HIV. Oral histories were elicited from five men infected with HIV living in the UK. These oral histories were in-depth stories about each man's life from birth until the time of the last interview and ranged in duration from 4 to 16 hours of recorded material. The oral histories were each analysed individually using narrative methods, to produce a story that highlighted the occupational nature of living with HIV for each man. These stories provide a valuable insight into how each man came to live with HIV in the context of his occupational history. From the stories it is possible to begin to understand how living with a chronic illness, such as HIV infection, impacts on occupational engagement.

Olson, Judith: *The Co-Occupations of Mothers and Young Children*

Early mothering, that is, the mothering of the young child, is replete with activities that can be considered co-occupations. Zemke & Clark (1996) have written that the concept of co-occupations involves the active agency of two participants – both participants are actively engaged. For mothers of young children, these co-occupations are often caregiving occupations. For example, mothers feed; infants eat. Mothers soothe; infants are comforted. Mothers get their infants ready for sleep; infants transition from the awake to the sleep state and maintain that state. Hence, co-occupations are co-creations.

In this presentation, the concept of co-occupations will be explored as it relates to early mothering. A review of the literature on co-occupation will be presented. This review will include, but not be limited to, the work of Fraits-Hunt and Zemke (1996), Dunlea (1996), and

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

Pierce (2003). Additionally, I will present information from a phenomenological study of infant mental health interventions that describes difficulties in the co-occupations of mothers and infants. These co-occupations difficulties threaten to become routinized patterns of interaction that are performed within an environment that can only be described as stressful.

I propose that co-occupations performed in stress-filled environments result in negative emotional experiences and these have deleterious effects on the developing mother-infant relationship. The emotional climate surrounding the co-occupations of mothers and their infants is critical because it forms the crucible within which young children develop emotionally and begin to learn self-regulation. It is simultaneously the crucible for the development of maternal competence and satisfaction with mothering occupations. Therefore, the nature of co-occupations requires investigation and understanding in order that occupational therapists working with mothers and their infants can provide competence and caring services.

Pierce, Doris; Shordike, Anne; Wright-St. Clair, Valerie; & Hocking, Clare: *Methods for International OS Research: Holiday Food Preparation in Elderly Kentucky, New Zealand, and Thailand Women*

The purpose of this study was to describe the meaning of holiday food preparation in women of Kentucky (Christmas), New Zealand (Christmas), and Thailand (Thai New Year) who were over 65 years of age and still involved with their families. Data was collected through focus groups in the three countries. An iterative qualitative analysis was initially completed by the three research teams solely on their local data. Qualitative analysis across data from all sites, currently under way, will be briefly reported for the first time in this presentation.

Discussion will focus on the methodological issues raised by this international, multi-site design. What are the types of cross-cultural methods historically used in different disciplines? Which methods seem best fit to the values of occupational science? What difficulties and benefits did the international research team experience in carrying out the research? What is the potential value to occupational science of international research across multiple cultures?

Rios, Dianne: *Daily Occupations and Routines of Infants and Toddlers Assisted by Technology*

The use of medical technology has sustained the lives of many children with serious medical conditions. Feeding tubes, ventilators, tracheostomies, intravenous lines, and other medical devices help compensate for limited bodily functions that are vital to the child's survival. Infants and toddlers assisted by medical technology, however, face many unique challenges in their everyday lives that may impact their occupations and routines.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

The challenges often faced by these children originate from both the nature of their conditions and the care they require. The medical conditions are such that the children often experience multiple illnesses, lengthy hospitalizations, and developmental delays, each of which may limit or disrupt occupations. The mobility-limiting nature of much of the equipment may compromise exploration and interaction with the environment, particularly with the greater community. The child typically spends a great deal of time receiving care, which may limit his or her available time for engaging in childhood occupations. Caregivers of children assisted by technology also devote considerable time and attention to intensive daily care, potentially limiting their emotional or temporal availability for child or family-centered occupations.

This presentation will discuss the results of a pilot study on the time use of nine infants and toddlers assisted by technology in three typical settings: hospital, home, and daycare. Selected study results will be presented to highlight: 1.) the interaction between environment and time use; 2.) the significance of nursing care in a typical weekday routine; and 3.) methodological challenges of studying time use with children. Plans for the next stage of research, designed to capture the child's time use, factors influencing time use, and how families construct and maintain their child's daily occupations and routines, will also be discussed. It is hoped that understanding the complex nature of constructing daily occupations and routines in this population will assist therapists in providing sensitive and meaningful services for families.

Rybski, Debra & Arnold, Melba: *Broadening the Concepts of Community and Occupation: Perspectives in a Global Society*

Within the last decade, there are numerous examples of the effects of globalization in today's society and its impact on everyday life. One only has to look around their own community to see the effects of globalization. For example 80% of clothes Americans wear are made outside of the US and majority of people making them live in impoverished conditions secondary to low wages. Also, open international borders have made it possible for a greater number of refugees escaping persecution in their home to move to a new country, only to face new cultural challenges that impede their occupational choices in daily life.

At Saint Louis University, building on educational values of justice & humanism, leaders in Jesuit higher education have called on faculty to infuse curriculum with global perspectives that will inspire and assist students to construct a more fraternal and unified world (Kolvenbach, S.J., 2003).

This presentation will introduce an occupational science course that broadens an understanding of occupation from local/regional to an international context. To understand occupation from a global perspective requires exploration of the nature of occupation as a universal value and how it is manifested differently from culture-to-culture. Attendees will be introduced to the course structure and content, student learning objectives, and applied community experiences.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

Smith, Yda: *Directions of Inquiry in the Study of Refugee Occupational Adjustment*

Every year refugees, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, are resettled in host countries far from their homelands. They are fleeing war, threats to their lives, and persecution. Many of these people have suffered in ways beyond our comprehension and have witnessed atrocities we can only begin to imagine. At the start of 2002 there were 12 million refugees worldwide. Most refugees are resettled in urban areas in the United States, Canada, Australia, Norway and Sweden. For the most part, these individuals will find themselves living in cultures and environments dramatically different from anything they have ever known. For example, over the next two years the United States expects to receive 12,000 Somali Bantu refugees, former slaves whose sense of time is based on the rise and fall of the sun, not a clock, and who have never used electricity or a flush toilet. Agencies are in place which generate valuable services for this population but personal needs go far beyond what these agencies are able to provide. Non-governmental agencies support refugees in the initial stages of resettlement providing them with housing, basic medical care, and teaching them such skills as how to get a job, use local currency, travel on public transportation and how to cook using locally available food. These efforts only scratch the surface of their needs. Little attention is given to the psychosocial impact of displacement and the impact that trauma can have on performance of occupational roles. How can we apply our skills to assist in the occupational adjustment of this population? What directions of inquiry should we pursue to better understand their issues? Theories regarding sense of place, transformation of "space" into "place", the role of place in constructing identity, meaning making, adaptation, loss of trust at personal and institutional levels, and refugeeeness as a process of becoming can all be employed to help us be more sensitive to the broad array of issues facing this population. Participants will be encouraged to share their views regarding the relevance of theoretical constructs toward an effort to create services designed to facilitate occupational adaptation.

Sullivan, Catherine; Gupta, Jyothi; & Spiegel, Jennifer: *Occupational Change in Immigrant Women*

The aims of this presentation are to share a) the overall objectives of a program of research on immigrant women, b) the methods and results of a qualitative research study, and c) other ongoing and future studies.

Our program of research seeks to identify similarities and differences in occupations, habits and routines and their links to roles, identity and adjustment across cultures. What defines "basic needs" regarding resources supporting occupations in different cultures? Are the nature, meaning and function(s) of occupations altered or replaced with displacement?

In our first research study we sought to gain insight into the changes in occupations of immigrant women and the challenges facing them as they tried to adjust to their new environment. We conducted semi-structured interviews with five mothers - mostly refugees - who recently immigrated to this country. We asked about the changes in occupations, roles

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

and life circumstances that they experienced when immigrating. The transcripts were analyzed using standard methodology to insure the trustworthiness of the findings. Results indicated that the ease of transition was linked to the similarity of occupations and that various strategies were implemented to adjust to their new environment, including a change in the orchestration of occupations. We also found that a given occupation could have multiple functions, both in the country of origin and here, and not necessarily fit into well-defined categories of self-care, productivity and leisure. The functions of occupations also changed depending on the place. Paid employment served many functions including social support and opportunities for learning cultural norms. At the same time participants sought out individuals of the same heritage so they could engage in activities and celebrations with a common meaning. One major challenge was loss of extended family support, which contributed to a sense of alienation with their children.

Ongoing and planned studies include a replication and extension of the above study, investigations of possible occupational deprivation in elderly immigrant women, as well as with women whose visas don't allow gainful employment and an exploration of the use of literature as data source to substantiate immigrant issues.

Wicks, Alison: *Understanding Occupational Potential and its Socio-political, Theoretical, and Practical Implications*

This paper presents the synthesised findings of a qualitative study that explored the concept of occupational potential, the capacity to do. Occupational potential is a fundamental yet relatively nascent concept in the theoretical construction of the human as an occupational being. The findings that emerged from the study, which interpreted life stories of older women from an occupational perspective, illuminate some generic features of occupational potential. Additional findings include some of the influences that apparently affect the development and realisation of occupational potential across the life course. The gendered nature of occupational potential, which became apparent when a feminist perspective was applied to the data, is presented as a specific finding. As is characteristic of qualitative research, particularly research conducted within an interpretive paradigm, the findings presented are tentative and not intended as an attempt to develop a universal theory of occupational potential. Rather, the findings remain grounded in the narrative of the participants of the study. The paper also discusses the implications of the findings, as they relate to a variety of issues across a range of sectors. Some of the implications concern: policy issues in the social, education and health sectors; theoretical and research issues in occupational science, occupational therapy and feminism; and practice issues in occupational therapy.

The primary purpose of the paper is to emphasise the significance of the concept of occupational potential in the study of human occupation. The secondary purpose is to reveal how being a woman apparently shapes the development of occupational potential at each stage of the life course, as biological and social determinants of gender interact. Ideally, the outcome of the paper will be enhanced understanding of occupational potential and its

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

gendered nature. Such an understanding is essential for advocating the development and implementation of social policies that create and sustain occupationally just societies in which all people have opportunities and resources to participate in meaningful occupation so that they can realise their occupational potential.

Wood, Wendy: *Can't Judge a Place by its Looks: Environmental Dynamics, Occupation and Wellbeing in People with Dementia*

A recent interdisciplinary consensus statement on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (AD) identified two critical outcomes of dementia care: optimal day-to-day functioning and quality of life (QOL). Needs for research into whether and how dementia care facilities support these outcomes were underscored. Findings of existing environmental research in dementia care are inclusive, a situation partly attributed to how inadequate caregiving practices undermine the potential of well-designed living environments to enhance functioning and QOL.

The purpose of the study reported here was to compare and contrast environmental correlates of how residents with dementia occupied time and experienced emotional well-being across two dementia care facilities. A naturalistic case study design was used with two study sites chosen on the basis of key environmental differences: one site was a traditional nursing home with 40 residents; the other was a homelike environment with 7 residents. Data were collected using a computer-assisted direct observational measure, the Activity in Context and Time Instrument (ACT). The ACT relies on time-sampling and Observer-Mobile software. Seven residents at each facility were each observed every ten minutes from 8 AM to 8 PM for four days. A total of 4032 observation sets were collected, with 185 matched sets used to assess inter-rater agreement. Observation sets consisted of entered codes across ten observational categories: Four environmental categories: (social interactions, interactions with physical environmental features, presence of formal activities, and location); four time-use categories (gaze, position, conversation, and complex occupational participation); and two wellbeing categories (apparent affect and distress).

Findings suggest residents were somewhat more likely to be alert, engaged in coherent conversation and complex activities, and evidencing apparent interest or pleasure in the traditional nursing home than homelike environment. Interactions between physical environmental features and people in the environment at specific daily periods, and hour by hour across the day, help explain findings. Findings also suggest processes by which living spaces that can support occupational engagement do so or fail to do so. Implications for ~~occupational science are developed with respect to ecological dynamics of occupational~~..... engagement and QOL for people with AD.

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

PANEL SESSIONS

Coordinator: DeGrace, Beth Warner

Panelists: Dunbar, Sandra Barker; Hoppes, Steve; Lipschutz, Elysa; & Robinson, Cynthia

Title: *Exploring the Intricacies of Family Occupation*

Several contemporary therapy researchers have recently discussed the occupations of being a family and the occupations of mothering (DeGrace, 2003; Farber, 2000; Kellegrew, 1998; Larson, 2000; Llewellyn, 1994; Segal, 2000). However, there remains much to appreciate and study about the complexity of these co-occupations. During this session, the panelists will present information that has been gathered to expand the current knowledge base of the occupation of being a family and mothering. This panel will present the results of five qualitative research studies that explored the occupations of being a family and mothering. The panelists will share stories from families to illustrate how families and mothers experience and negotiate occupations. Additional topics will include assessing the quality of family participation and the role for occupational therapists in promoting a family's engagement in meaningful occupation and its influence on health and well-being.

The panel will present current literature on family occupations, and discuss the similarities and differences between being and doing family occupations. Research will be shared on the following stories of family occupation: (a) families of children with severe autism (b) mothers of various socioeconomic levels; (c) mothering and aging; (d) mothers engaging in dual roles and (e) families experiencing acute illness.

Coordinator: Meltzer, Phyllis J.

Panelists: Martin, Esther & Bilics, Andrea R.

Title: *Lifespan Trajectory of an Occupational Scientist and the Miracle of Mid-life Educational Achievements*

Recent research in the related fields of gerontology and medicine has stimulated the members of the panel to present and discuss various levels of professional occupation: they will describe entry level, journeyman, manager (expert), and "end of the trail" stages. Each stage will be described regarding duties, roles and required preparation for and personal advancement. The panelists, all of whom completed their graduate studies in OT and OS while in their fifties, will discuss the joys and travails of mid-life student life., employment opportunities, and academic departmental attitudes and treatment of mature students who may bring life skills from prior disciplines. Adaptive non-traditional strategies for succeeding in study life, employment, and advancement will be discussed. Benefit and liabilities to academic departments will be briefly presented. Audience participation is eagerly solicited.

Panelist 1 will present information about the career trajectory of the typical OT/OS professional. Each stage will be accompanied by suggestions for continuing education that

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

prepares the individual for the next stage. Panelist 2 will present adaptive strategies for mid-life students to succeed as students while occupying multiple roles, such as work, family, etc. Panelist 3 will present ideas for academic department to maximize the prior experience of mid-life students while integrating them into existing departmental policies.

Discussion with the session participants will focus on 3 topics:

- 1) Possible reasons why mature students leave their prior occupations and seek to enroll in graduate programs in OT and OS.
- 2) Reasons why mature students are encouraged or discouraged by academic departments.
- 3) Optimizing career trajectories of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Professionals.

Coordinator: Fagan, Lisa Ann

Panelists: Cruz, Elicia Dunn; Cutchin, Malcolm; Sanford, Jon; & Arch, M.

Title: *Aging, Place and Occupation: A Multidisciplinary Perspective*

Humans are occupational beings (Hasselkus, 2002; Mandel, Jackson, Zemke, Clark & Nelson, 1999; Wilcock, 1998), and should be 'studied in purposeful, meaningful interactions with their environments, not as decontextualized beings' (Henderson, in Zemke & Clark, 1996, p. 421). Henderson states the need for the development of a vocabulary to describe the environmental interactions that occur within the scope of occupations.

Hasselkus (2002) refers to the home as the 'place where we belong' (p. 30), in which our occupations provide an 'organized system of meaning' to the individual (p.28). When an aging individual experiences a decline in function (necessitating environmental modifications) or moves to a new home, occupations can be disrupted, causing fragmentation of routines, relationships, and identity (Brown & Perkins, 2002). The individual needs to create a new routine and system of meaning to reestablish their sense of self, through the use of everyday occupations, and the meanings ascribed to them. This panel will explore the occupations related to aging-in-place and moving to new homes (assisted living facilities), to add to our knowledge of the interaction between occupation, environment and aging.

Rather than have each panelist read a short paper, we plan on integrating our information in the initial presentation according to the following proposed outline:

- 1) Overview of Aging, Place and Occupation (10 minutes - Fagan)
- 2) Current Research in Aging, Place and Occupation from Multidisciplinary Perspectives:
 - The Occupation of Aging-in-Place (10 minutes - Sanford, Cruz)
 - The Occupation of Making a New Home in an Assisted Living Facility (10 minutes - Cutchin & Fagan)
- 3) Common Themes and Differences Amongst the Disciplines View of the Occupation / Environment Interaction
Occupational Science (5 minutes - Fagan, Cruz)

**SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003**

- Human Geography (5 minutes - Cutchin)
Architecture (5 minutes - Sanford)
- 4) Future Directions (1-2 minutes per panelist, describing their future research plans)
 - 5) *Questions and Discussion* (40 minutes)

Questions will be elicited, and will open for discussion amongst panel members and the participants. Possible questions might include:

- What are the preferred occupations of individuals who are aging-in-place?
- What is the relationship between preferred occupations and environmental modifications made to the home?
- What are the preferred occupations of individuals who live in assisted living facilities?
- Did the preferred occupations of the aging individuals' influence their choice of assisted living facility in any way?
- What are the similarities / differences in the preferred occupations of both groups?

Other questions may be suggested by the participants, and will be discussed among the panel members.

FORUM SESSIONS:

Organizer: Behr, Shirley

Members: Bass-Haugen, Julie; Gordon, Cathy; Bennett, Onda; & Henderson, Mary Lou.

Title: *Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science: The Evolution of a New Degree*

The emergence of baccalaureate degree programs in occupational science is a relatively recent and rare phenomenon. To-date, three such programs have been established at St. Catherine's College, Ithaca College, and Saint Louis University. A fourth is under development at Eastern Kentucky University. The focus of this panel will be to describe how these four programs each evolved at their respective institutions, the challenges encountered along the way, and the "lessons learned" so far. The directors of these programs will comprise the membership of this panel and include: Shirley K. Behr (Saint Louis University); Julie Bass-Haugen, St. Catherine's; Cathy Gordon, Ithaca College, and Onda Bennett, Eastern Kentucky University.

Each of the forum members will provide a 15-minute presentation using a format that will allow for comparisons between the programs and provide a framework to guide later participation and discussion with the audience. This will include highlights of the events that led to the establishment of the program; an overview of the curriculum, the faculty, and the students; the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the program; the lessons learned along the way; and the challenges ahead. The remaining 30 minutes will be devoted to a dialogue between the forum members and the audience to address specific questions about the programs and to discuss the relevance and future of this degree for our profession.

SSO: USA 2nd Annual Research Conference Abstracts
Park City, Utah - 2003

Organizer: Costa, Donna

Title: *Pot Luck - Creative Methods to Teach Occupational Science*

This highly interactive forum is being proposed to provide a vehicle, primarily for educators, to share the methods that they use in teaching occupational science to their students. Participants will be asked to bring along several sample assignments, course syllabi, bibliographies, or actual hands-on activities that they can share with the group. Outcomes from using these methods will be discussed. As so clearly stated in *Occupation by Design* (Pierce, 2003), "to understand occupation as a modality for intervention, you must first study it in typical individuals." (Pierce, 2003, p. 8)

This forum is designed to stimulate thinking and discussion about the various ways we have come up with to study occupational science. It is important that we infuse a level of excitement and enthusiasm in our current students about the study of occupation. Only in this way will we insure that they will be motivated to pursue research as future occupational scientists and/or therapists. Occupation-based practice can only be understood in the context of studying the multiple facets of occupations. Occupational science is just beginning to blossom and the momentum can only be maintained if we convince others to carry on this work.

Participants will take away many useful resources for the classroom and ideas to be studied in the research lab. These activities may serve as the springboard for future research activities, or they may be able to be implemented in course curriculum. This forum will facilitate the exchange of information through dialogue and inquiry in an interactive forum between occupational scientists at all levels.