

**Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists (CSOS)**

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**A Word from the Executive Director – Suzanne Huot**

The CSOS Board of Directors would like to thank three of its members that have concluded their term of office. Sue Street, Claire-Jehanne Dubouloz-Wilner, and Michael Iwama donated their time and effort over a number of years to support the ongoing development of our organization.

We would also like to welcome the three new members of our Board of Directors – Daniel Molke, a PhD Candidate in Occupational Science at the University of Western Ontario; Denise Reid, full professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Toronto; and Melinda Suto, Assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of British Columbia.

**Reflections on the Fourth Canadian Occupational Science Symposium  
PLACING OCCUPATION – Thunder Bay, ON, Canada – May, 2008**

By Sharon Dale Stone, Conference Chair

As a new academic year begins, the CSOS Conference at Lakehead University may seem, for many of us who were there, like a very long time ago. Yet, it was a very successful conference, and I'd like to review some of the highlights for those who weren't able to be there.

There were 60 registrants at the conference, including 24 from outside Canada. With delegates from Belgium (3), Chile (2), Ireland (1), Israel (2), Japan (1), The Netherlands (1), New Zealand (1), Sweden (3), United Kingdom (1), and the United States (9), there was a distinctly international

flavour to the conference. We have our CSOS Executive Director, Suzanne Huot, to thank for the fantastic job she did with outreach. Her efforts paid off!

Students were well-represented at the conference – there were 19 in attendance and virtually all of them presented either a paper or a poster. Their enthusiastic participation bodes well for the future of occupational science not only in Canada, but also on an international scale.

With the conference taking place in a self-contained corner of the university, several breaks scheduled each day, and with delegates enjoying most meals on site, there was ample opportunity for networking and making new connections. This, indeed, was the great success story at the conference. In this regard, the conference was just the right size – there were enough people to ensure that many different interests and perspectives were represented, but there weren't so many that anyone felt overwhelmed with too many people or too much going on.

In an attempt to initiate new traditions, there were a number of innovations at this conference. One was the creation of the Townsend-Polatajko Guest Lectureship, in honour of CSOS' founding mothers, and we were pleased to have Helene Polatajko give the inaugural lecture. We also held a Community Session with local community members invited to listen to brief presentations and then engage with delegates in discussing issues related to the conference theme of placing occupation. We hope that this will become a regular feature of future CSOS conferences, as everyone concerned found it to be an enjoyable and interesting learning experience.

A third feature of the conference that was new was the extension to 2 ½ days rather than the usual 2 days, in order to incorporate a field trip to Old Fort William where we gained a historical perspective on the links between place and occupation. The field trip was most interesting, but might have been even more enjoyable had the skies not chosen the exact time of the trip to deluge us with copious amounts of cold rain! Not long after we left the site, we had sunshine again! By then, most of us were enjoying dinner in downtown Thunder Bay, where we were able to have a clear view of Lake Superior.

Altogether, I am delighted with how the conference turned out: there were just the right number of delegates, there were lots of connections made with plans for future collaborations both within Canada and on an international scale, and the ideas presented at the conference were high-caliber and stimulating.

Fortunately, for those who were unable to attend themselves, they will be able to get a taste of some of the ideas discussed at the conference. The *Journal of Occupational Science* will be devoting a special issue to the publication of conference papers. Contents are still being finalized, but with the theme of Placing Occupation, it is sure to be an issue that will interest occupational scientists far and wide.

Finally, if anyone is interested in having a copy of the conference program booklet, there are a few extra copies that I would be happy to put in the mail. Send me an email at <sdstone@lakeheadu.ca>.

### **CSOS Membership**

This year we welcomed our first international members! CSOS is continuing its membership drive and we would like to remind everyone that it is never too late to join. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 and we accept subscriptions at any time. You can even renew for the following membership year as early as October. So, if you haven't joined yet, please see the attached membership form, and if you would like to renew for 2009, simply post-date your cheques for January 1, 2009. The continued growth of our organization will contribute to the ongoing success of Occupational Science in Canada.

Membership includes listserv subscription, newsletters, discounts on symposia, eligibility to vote, opportunities to get involved with CSOS events and activities, as well as the option to subscribe to the Journal of Occupational Science.

### **Website Redesign**

Our website will soon be under construction as we work to completely redesign it! The current format is no longer supported and cannot be updated. If you have any questions regarding CSOS please contact me at [csos@dal.ca](mailto:csos@dal.ca) as the information on the current website may be out of date.

## **International Society of Occupational Science (ISOS)**

The international society released its very first newsletter. It can be accessed by logging in at: <http://otkidu.neurotec.ki.se/isos/> and can be found under documents/general documents.

## **Occupational Science stream at the 2009 CAOT Conference**

We look forward to seeing you in Ottawa for the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists – *Engaging in Healthy Occupation: Partners for Change*. There will be a full day Occupational Science Stream that promises to be interesting as we have received a broad range of abstracts that are currently under review. Registration to the conference includes access to this stream to be sure to attend!

## **CSOS and SSO:USA 2010**

The organizing committee for the joint symposium to be hosted by CSOS in conjunction with SSO:USA has selected its host city: London, Ontario. Preparations are ongoing as Canadian and American occupational scientists work together to plan what promises to be a truly international conference.