



OTAC Award Winners: Standing: Amy Olney, OTS Samuel Merritt; Elvira Arzaga Rubio; Diane Foti; Senator Elaine White Alquist; Front: Bobbi Jean Tanberg, Shawn Phipps, Gigi Smith

OTAC Awards

Judi Palladino, MA, OTR/L Chairperson, Awards Committee

The Awards Banquet was a "magical evening," as described by one of the attendees. The banquet room was elegantly decorated by members of the Santa Clara chapter. Many thanks to all that participated in the effort. Many thanks to my committee for their time and effort in reviewing the submitted nominations, and developing this year's slate of awardees. I especially want to thank everyone who took the time to nominate a fellow OT Practitioner for an award. Each and every recipient seemed truly honored to receive this special recognition by their colleagues. This year's awardees included:

Diane Foti, MS, OTR/L Lifetime Achievement Award: The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a member of OTAC who has made sustained and significant contributions to OT. The recipient is seen as a role model and inspirational example.

Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, MS, OTR/L Award of Excellence: The Award of Excellence recognizes a member of OTAC who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of OT in the areas of therapeutic practice, education, research, administration, organizational and community service.

Bobbi Jean Tanberg, COTA/C COTA Honorary Award: The COTA Honorary Award recognizes a COTA member of OTAC who has made significant contributions

to the advancement of OT in the areas of therapeutic practice, education, communication, administration, organizational and community service.

Shawn Phipps, MS, OTR/L OT Practice Award: Recognizes a member of OTAC who has demonstrated outstanding practice skills and who has applied the theoretical principles of OT on a high level.

Terry Olivas-De La O, COTA/C and **Elvira Arzaga Rubio, MPH, OTR/L** COTA/OTR Partnership Award: Recognizes a COTA and an OTR who, through their collaboration of occupational therapy, exemplify the professional partnership.

Bonnie Nakasuji, MA, OTR/L Fieldwork Educator Award: Recognizes member of OTAC who has demonstrated outstanding skills in fieldwork education.

Amy Olney, OTS Outstanding Student Award: Recognizes a member of OTAC who has made significant contributions to OT in the areas of scholarship, organizational activities, community service, and/or advocacy.

Mary Reilly, Ed.D., OTR OTAC Award of Appreciation: Recognizes an individual, group, or organization that has demonstrated support and advocacy for the profession of occupational therapy.

In addition to honoring fellow OT Practitioners, our OTAC President, Christine Wietlisbach, gave a special award, entitled "Make a Difference," to California State Senator Elaine White Alquist. This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the profession of occupational therapy. Senator Elaine Alquist is a strong supporter of occupational therapy and was the first to step forward when we needed