

Dr. Ruth Ramsey receives "Lifetime Achievement" award at OT conference

Dr. Ruth Ramsey, founding director and Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Dominican since 1996, was honored with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) at its 40th annual conference in Pasadena on October 28, 2016.

The award is in recognition of more than 30 years of commitment by Ramsey to the profession of occupational therapy as a clinician, educator, researcher, author, administrator, leader, and advocate for the profession.

"It means a great deal to me to be recognized by my professional peers with this lifetime achievement award. I have spent my entire 30-year professional career as an occupational therapist in California, and the state association is truly my `community of practice,'" says Ramsey, who has taught in the [Occupational Therapy department](#) at Dominican for 20 years and is now Interim Dean of the [School of Health and Natural Sciences](#). "I am honored to associate with my OTAC colleagues, who represent the best of the profession, and include several national association presidents, as well as scholars, educators, innovators, and activists."

Dr. Ramsey was joined at the OTAC conference by four faculty members and 28 OT students who gave presentations, including [Noey Brisbane](#) '16, who received the OTAC's Outstanding Student Award.

Dr. Ramsey was recruited to Dominican to establish and develop the Occupational Therapy department after 10 years of clinical occupational therapy practice at Mills-Peninsula Hospital, Seton Medical Center, and Stanford University Hospital. The DUC OT program has since grown from an undergraduate program with 40 students in 1996 to a graduate program of more than 200 students and eight full-time faculty today.

"I am very proud of leading the program through three successful national accreditations by ACOTE, the last one at the highest level, for 10 years," Ramsey says. This is a positive acknowledgement of the strength of our program and the excellence of our faculty. "Most of all, I am proud of our students, who graduate and go on to successful occupational therapy careers, helping others achieve independence despite disabilities."

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