

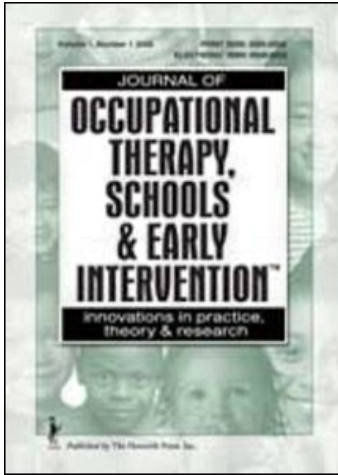
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In Memoriam: Gary Kielhofner, DrPH, FAOTA

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In Memoriam: Gary Kielhofner, DrPH, FAOTA

Professor Gary Kielhofner died September 2, 2010, after a short battle with cancer. Dr. Kielhofner was a visionary who developed the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) to better understand and help those with disabilities. This model is unique in its ability to serve clients with a variety of disabilities. Not only does MOHO help therapists frame their thinking; it also provides intervention guidelines. In more than 30 years of its development, Dr. Kielhofner listened to practitioners and clients when developing assessments and further refining MOHO, resulting in the most evidence-based model of practice in occupational therapy in the world.

Dr. Kielhofner was a prolific scholar; his publications include 19 textbooks and more than 150 journal articles. He presented worldwide and received numerous academic honors in the United States, England, and Sweden. Dr. Kielhofner secured millions of grant dollars over 30 years. During this time, some of his accomplishments included helping clients who had HIV/AIDs return to work, developing the Center for Outcomes and Research Education at University of Illinois at Chicago, and working with veterans. He never lost sight of his desire to make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities; he sought to better understand the complexities of human performance to help practitioners better understand their clients. Thus, his work changed the way occupational therapists view and conduct practice.

Dr. Kielhofner graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Louis University. He later received a master's degree in occupational therapy and a doctoral degree in public health from the University of Southern California. After faculty appointments at Boston University and Virginia Commonwealth University, he joined University of Illinois at Chicago in 1987 as Chair in the Department of Occupational Therapy, where he furthered the scholarship of practice model, a model to bridge academia and practice. Recently, his projects include the development of a pediatric practice program to develop better practice through the use of MOHO, assessment tools that reflect contemporary practice demands across pediatric and adult populations, and creation of intervention resources for therapists who want to use MOHO.

Dr. Kielhofner mentored numerous students, practitioners, and faculty around the world, always working to help them meet their own goals. He generously provided support, advice, and guidance. His style of bringing people together resulted in collaborative projects, lasting friendships, and scholarship (as is evident in the literature). He changed people's lives by listening, supporting, helping people believe in themselves, and challenging all to exceed. Gary's creativity, passion, and energy were motivating and inspirational.

Dr. Kielhofner was a skilled carpenter. With his wife, Dr. Renee Taylor, he enjoyed reading, traveling, biking, horseback riding, and going to garage sales. Most recently, they danced for the AOTF foundation fundraiser.

I met Dr. Kielhofner when I was a graduate student at Boston University and he was my first supervisor. Through the years, Gary provided me advice and guidance. For the past

6 years, Dr. Kielhofner spoke to students at the University of New England, showing his passion for the profession and for helping those in need. He consulted on numerous projects and enhanced the education of our students; I am grateful for his influence on our program. Gary taught me the importance of working hard, taking advantage of opportunities that arise, enjoying life, and remembering those who are important in one's life. I feel honored to have known Dr. Kielhofner as my friend and colleague.

In addition to his wife (Dr. Renee Taylor), Dr. Kielhofner is survived by a son, Kristian; a daughter, Kimberly; his parents, Harold and Luella; four sisters, Andrea, Connie, Marcia, and Gail; and many colleagues and friends.

He will be greatly missed.

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