

# Evolution of Occupational Therapy Practice: Life History of Dr. Charlotte Royeen PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, FASAHP, FNAP

Hope Nelson, OTS; Vanessa Johnson, OTS  
University of North Dakota

## Introduction

- This life history is one of 30 life history interviews which are part of a larger project, Histories of Individuals Who Have Been Influential in Developing Occupational Therapy (OT) at the National Level and Beyond.
- The purpose of study is to provide current and future generations of occupational therapists a view of the history and how occupational therapy practice has evolved from its inception to current practice through the life history stories of occupational therapists who have held leadership roles at the national level and beyond. It is anticipated that the life history process will be a powerful way to gather this information.

## Participant Description

- Starting in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Charlotte has had a variety of work and service experience contributing to her vast amount of wise knowledge.
- In 1976, Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science: *Summa Cum Laude* with areas of concentration in occupational therapy and anatomy.
- In 1980, she graduated with her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, as a graduate teaching fellow, with areas of concentration in occupational therapy, research and neuroscience.
- Dr. Royeen is currently the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Professor of Occupational Therapy at Rush University Medical Center.
- Charlotte is married, has two grown children, a dog that she loves dearly, and she resides in Chicago, Illinois. Her daughter is an occupational therapist and currently working toward obtaining her PhD.

## Literature Review

- Charlotte reported that during the early years of her practice as an occupational therapist, minimal jobs were available.
- Between 2011 and 2017, there were many concerns and conflicts regarding the need to move to a doctorate program; however, in 2017 Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) mandated that all occupational therapy programs will need to transition to a doctorate (Brown, Crabtree, Mu & Wells, 2015).
- Dillon (2001) emphasizes service leadership, which has been a part of Dr. Royeen's life since she can remember.



## Methodology

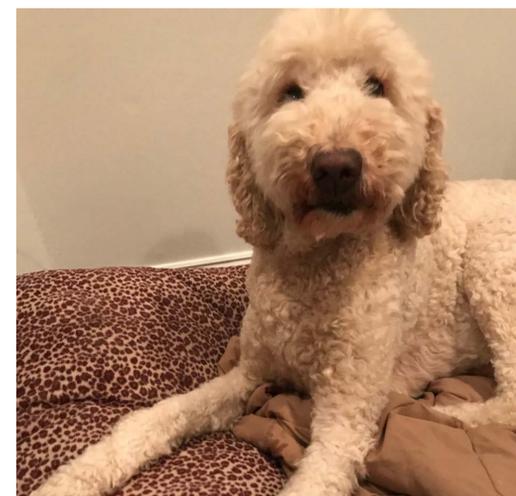
- This qualitative study used a life history approach.
- The participant was selected from a participant list compiled through purposive sampling by the project directors. Informed consent was obtained prior to the interview and the project was approved by the UND Institutional Review Board and because of the study design the formal IRB process was waived.
- The semi-structured interview was guided by an interview schedule prepared by the project directors; the questions on the interview schedule were designed to be used with all the individuals interviewed as part of the larger project.
- The student researchers included additional interview questions that were influenced by the Kawa Model.
- Prior to the interview, a Curriculum Vitae (CV) was obtained to gain an understanding of Dr. Royeen's professional career.
- The interview was conducted via video conferencing.

## Data Analysis

- The interview was transcribed verbatim and initial memoing was completed.
- There were 18 codes that emerged which were then collapsed into 3 categories, and then 6 themes.

## Findings

- **Personality**
  - Dr. Royeen displayed an immense amount of self-awareness regarding her personal and professional weaknesses and strengths.
  - Dr. Royeen is highly understanding of other people's differences because she puts great value on individuality.
- **Professional Development**
  - Starting from a very young age, service has been the driving force to Dr. Royeen's accomplishments.
  - Dr. Royeen has had to make many sacrifices to accomplish the goals she has set for herself; however, she made it clear that her work is her passion.
- **Occupational Therapy**
  - Dr. Royeen expressed the need to clearly define differences in scope of practice among OTA, MOT, and OTD.
  - Dr. Royeen's strong interpersonal skills helped her overcome adversity.



## Conclusion

- **Assertion:** As a forward thinker and strong self-advocate, Dr. Royeen is mindful in making decisions and is willing to embrace adversity to advance occupational therapy practice and education.
- **Sub Assertion:** Dr. Royeen is supportive of moving entry-level occupational therapy practice to the doctorate level.
- Dr. Royeen's passion for occupational therapy is evident through her in depth explanations, body language, tone of voice and sincere willingness to share her personal experiences for this life history study.
- Dr. Royeen's unending dedication to serving others within the occupational therapy profession provides her with genuine satisfaction in both her personal and professional roles.

## Special Thanks

- Special thanks to Dr. Charlotte Royeen for her willingness to participate in this life history project. Her participation is highly valuable as it contributes to the ongoing development of the occupational therapy profession.
- Special thanks to Jane Loscheider, MOT, OTR/L; Janet Jedlicka, PhD, OTR/L; and Gail Bass, PhD, OTR/L for supervising the student researchers throughout the research process.

## References

- Brown, T., Crabtree, J. L., Mu, K., & Wells, J. (2015). The Issue Is—The next paradigm shift in occupational therapy education: The move to the entry-level clinical doctorate. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69(Suppl. 2), 1-6.
- Dillon, T. (2001). Authenticity in occupational therapy leadership: A case study of a servant leader. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 55, 441-448.