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Emily Schulz, PhD, OTRL

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In Memoriam

Emily Schulz, PhD, OTRL



The editors and staff of the Open Journal of Occupational Therapy (OJOT.org) are honored to publish this special tribute to Dr. Emily Schulz, who was a valued member of the Editorial Review Board and a contributing author to our journal. Loved by her family, friends, and colleagues, Em, as she was affectionately known, grew up in Princeton, NJ, East Falmouth, MA, and Boothbay Harbor, ME. She attended Princeton Day School (PDS) in Princeton, NJ, graduating in 1980 as a National Merit Scholar and with the school's music award.

While at PDS, Dr. Schulz developed her love of music, studying the clarinet, alto saxophone, and bassoon. With these three instruments, she participated in band, orchestra, and jazz band. Emily also sang in the PDS glee club and was an active member of the Key club and the Biking club. While growing up in Princeton, Emily attended All Saints Episcopal Church and sang in the church choir.

While in high school, she developed an interest in occupational therapy and eventually chose it as her career. She attended Tufts University before transferring to Wellesley College, where she double majored in music and psychology.

After college, Emily worked with clients with intellectual disability and clients with other disabilities as well. She then returned to Tufts University to pursue an entry-level master's degree in occupational therapy. Eventually, after working as a staff occupational therapist in different hospitals in MA and RI, Emily decided to pursue a doctoral degree in occupational therapy at Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX.

An accomplished academic, Emily obtained two Ph.D. degrees from Texas Woman's University- one in occupational therapy and one in family studies. Emily also had three master's degrees: a Master of Science degree from Tufts University, Medford, MA in occupational therapy; a Master of Arts in Humanities from Prescott College, Prescott, AZ; and a Master of Arts in Transpersonal Psychology from Sofia University, Palo Alto, CA. Emily taught occupational therapy at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL; Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX; A.T. Still University in Mesa, AZ; and Northern Arizona University in Phoenix, AZ. At the time of her death, she was an associate clinical professor at Northern Arizona University in the Occupational Therapy Department. She authored over 30 journal articles and five book chapters.

Emily presented nationally, internationally, regionally, at the state level, and locally, and was the keynote speaker for the 10th International Conference on Preventative Medicine and Public Health in Vienna, Austria, in 2019. Emily was a reviewer for seven journals and on the editorial board of Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics.

Among her many accomplishments, Emily was a certified Reiki Master and a certified Polarity Practitioner. Unrelated to her career, she also authored two children's books, *The Importance of Being Green* and *Carolann Gets Her Wings*, under the pen name Emma Lee.

Emily delighted in all things feline, loved all animals, and loved rescuing animals. During her lifetime, she had the following pets: budgies; a special needs greyhound named Vanilla Bean; her family's cats Bonnie Lou, Sugar, and Spice; and her own cats Lucy, Desi, Tigger, Ragamuffin, Leo, Merlin, Star, Rae, Smudge, and Sage (the last 10 mentioned cats were strays). Emily was a supporter of Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah, and visited their animal sanctuary there as often as she could. She also volunteered at Healing Hearts Animal Rescue and Refuge in Cave Creek, AZ, where she worked with abandoned and abused animals, particularly horses. Another hobby that Emily also thoroughly enjoyed was genealogy.

Believing that God is present in all religions, Emily attended services at the Unity Church in Mesa, AZ, and learned and participated in meditation and chant at an ashram in Scottsdale, AZ. At the ashram, she learned to play the tambura, which she played to accompany chants.

Emily possessed a sweet and loving disposition combined with intense mental energy, which won her many friends and admirers. She leaves many loving friends from her early years at Princeton Day School; Camp Runoia in Belgrade Lakes, ME; Northeast Music Camp in Ware, MA; and from her various college and university associations.

Emily will be greatly missed by her immediate family, extended family, friends, colleagues, and students. She is survived by her mother, Constance Gorman, of Mount Pleasant, SC; a sister Celia H. Schulz, of West Falmouth, MA; a sister Edith C. Ogden (John), of Media, PA; and a brother, Daniel H. Gorman, of West Falmouth, MA; a niece; a nephew; an aunt; many cousins; many friends; and many colleagues. She was predeceased by her father, Richard F. Schulz, in 1965.

In lieu of flowers, the family has set up a memorial fundraiser online in Emily's name at Best Friends Animal Society. The fundraiser is listed under Emily K. Schulz, and the URL for her memorial fundraiser page is:

https://support.bestfriends.org/site/TR/PersonalFundraising/General?px=3773602&pg=personal&fr_id=1480