

MSOTA Participates in Healthcare Providers Collaborative Meeting

Late breaking news... Dan Allison was at a gathering of healthcare providers at the Mississippi Nurses Association Center in Madison on June 14th to represent MSOTA. The purpose of the meeting was to gather a group of healthcare providers and their associations together to share ideas for future collaborative efforts. In this time of budget constraints, and the many changes taking place in the legislature with the upcoming elections, we believe it would be very helpful to get to know each other better, to share future goals and legislative initiatives, and to assess what efforts might be better accomplished collaboratively.

Those in attendance included representatives from the Mississippi Nurses Association, Advanced Practice Nursing, Friends of Mississippi, Midwives, Physicians Assistants (Mississippi College has a new PA program that just started – the only one in Mississippi.), OT, PT, Pharmacy, Mississippi Workforce Development, Mississippi Nurse Practitioners, Mississippi Nurse Anesthesiologists, and five lobbyists representing different groups.

The group plans to meet again, as soon as possible after the elections, to continue these collaborative efforts. It is vital that MSOTA continue to have a seat at this table, and just another reason that MSOTA membership is so important to all OT practitioners in the state of Mississippi.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I assumed the presidency of MSOTA April 1 of this year, and have had the pleasure to represent our association at: the Affiliated State Association Presidents meeting, AOTA national conference, AOT-PAC lunch (sitting with President Florence Clark), and our own annual OT conference this April. It has been a whirlwind, but also an honor. Mississippi has been well represented at the national level, and I pledge to continue that trend! On that same note, I would like to not only commend but personally thank Lisa Brown for her leadership the last four years and her assistance as I assume the duties of President.

Thank you Lisa, job well done!

At the January MSOTA board meeting; the group developed these goals for 2011:

- 1) Continue to improve the MSOTA website to maximize utilization of the site to increase membership and advertising revenue.
- 2) Increase membership in MSOTA by exploring organizational, corporate and multi-year memberships.
- 3) Continue work on collaboration with neighboring states.
- 4) Develop ways to better educate members on changes with reimbursement.

On a personal level as president my goals are:

- 1) Promote membership in MSOTA, that it may be seen as a professional responsibility and reignite a passion for the profession.
- 2) Increase outreach throughout the state through a current MSOTA member, having that person travel throughout the state.
- 3) Revise job descriptions for all board positions so

- that incoming board members have a clear understanding of responsibilities.
- 4) Update timeline for the year so that responsibilities may be completed in a timely manner.
- 5) Encourage increased COTA involvement in MSOTA leadership.

Why state and national membership is so important; let's look at some pending issues:

- 1) State budget cuts: effecting Medicaid, education, funding for state and community higher education.
- 2) Scope of practice challenges: challenges from audiologists, athletic trainers, behavior analysts, developmental therapists, optometrists, orthotists and prosthetists, physicians, physical therapists, recreational therapists and speech-language pathologists. These challenges fall into two categories: a) broadening another profession's scope of practice in such a way as to impact the domain of OT practice; b) Establishing new policies that inappropriately prevent occupational therapy practitioners from practicing within their scope of practice.
- 3) Health care reform and insurance laws.

So what can you do?

Each one bring one; simple math tells us if each of us brought one OT into the organization, we would double our membership! At the very least, be an advocate in your workplace-encourage membership.

New grads don't let your new co-workers discourage you as to the importance of professional organizational membership. As students, Mississippi is very well represented; we need you to continue your membership as you transition from student to professional, and continue to set a positive example in your new workplace!

continued on page 2

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President's Letter continued...

Participate on the board. Current openings exist for:

- 1) Membership
- 2) Reimbursement
- 3) Public relations
- 4) Chair for the coastal district.

Again, new grads and/or COTA's don't be shy, you have much to offer and we need you on the board!

Lastly, participate in your professional organizations. Attend conferences, present on your specialty, become involved! Contact Chris Thistle, Continuing Education Chair. Chris has been responsible for the last few conferences. If you haven't been to the conferences lately, you have missed some excellent presentations. Even if you do not want to make a presentation yourself, you may recommend someone or some topic for a future conference, or volunteer to assist Chris with the planning that goes into putting a conference together. As I am advocating for conferences, I can share with you that MSOTA is currently in communication with our sister state organizations for a return of the "Great Southern" conference. There are many exciting ideas being generated in the OT profession, I hope that you will find a way to challenge yourself and support YOUR profession! I am excited about the next two years before me and look forward to meeting and working with many of you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, concerns at: 662-325-0886 or dallison@tkmartin.msstate.edu

We must all advocate for those who have needs where our knowledge can address issues or remove barriers, so all may participate in "Living Life to its Fullest!"

Dan Allison, MS, OTR/L, ATP, CDRS

President, MSOTA

Mark Your Calendar!
MSOTA Summer Mini-Conferences
Saturday, August 6, 2011
Tupelo, Jackson, and Gulfport
Details available the first of July.
Check the website at www.mississippiota.org

Membership Spotlight



**Lisa Brown, OTR/L,
 Immediate Past President, MSOTA**

MSOTA would like to recognize and thank Lisa Brown for her service to the association over the past several years. Lisa served as the North District Chairman then was elected president of MSOTA and served in that position for the past four years. Her commitment and dedication to promoting occupational therapy locally, statewide and nationally is commendable.

Lisa is NDT certified and certified ATP (Assistive Technology Practitioner). She has served as a mentor to many students and young OT's. She has worked at NMMC for 21 years, working in outpatient, and pediatrics and currently works in the Acute Rehab Center. She has worked on teams that provide regional education to OT, PT and SLP's and was instrumental in implementing an NDT course at NMMC.

Lisa enjoys world travel, having visited Germany, England, Italy and parts of the Holy Land. She spends her free time with her multiple dogs, riding the tractor on her 15 acres of land, gardening, and cooking. She is very active with the young people in her church. They all love to come to her house for cook outs and swimming. Lisa enjoys the theater, country music (she can belt out some Tina McBride), good wine, and relaxing at the lake.

School News:

News from the OT Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center

The UMMC OT Program would like to thank all of the many clinicians who supported our program this past academic year and who continue to educate our students on clinical fieldwork. We have been very busy the first week of summer classes and look forward to a fun and productive summer.

Class updates: The second year OT students hosted Family Day in April and assisted in welcoming an enthusiastic group of 38 incoming OT students. The third year OT students are increasing their experience on Level II fieldwork this summer.

Special Category Donors

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Kayla Abraham
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A Note from Penny Rogers, OTR/L Mississippi Representative Assembly

The 2011 National AOTA Conference in Philadelphia, PA was wonderful. Thousands of OT practitioners convened to celebrate OT. The theme and centennial vision statement is *Living Life to Its Fullest*.

Great strides were made during all of the meetings and presentations over the six days of events. I want to urge each member of MSOTA to please take time to join your national organization – AOTA. There is no better time than the present.

Please go to the AOTA web site and click on OT connections. Then click on 2011 Conference and Expo. I urge you to view the YouTube clip of the winning video in the student video contest. The young lady is Cheryl Crow of Samuel Merritt University Masters of OT Program. This heart warming, spirit moving video is amazing. Watching this video with thousands of practitioners provided such a sense of pride and humility that I can never forget.

As soon as you join AOTA, please get involved. Go to Leadership Opportunities under Get Involved. Click on Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities. Every OT Practitioner has something to offer our organization. Don't hide your talent.

Then at the AOTA site please click on 2011 Conference and Expo. Next scroll to conference round up events and click on annual business meeting under conference round up. In this section, one will find the updated motions and final votes. The Annual Business Meeting summary will clarify all business. Two very important items of business took place this year: 1) The Board of Directors was charged to add an ad hoc committee to examine the utilization of consumers of OT services in the operations and functions of AOTA. 2) The speaker was charged to add an ad hoc committee to evaluate the operations and functions of the RA to incorporate the intent of the recommendations of the Procedural and Organizational Change Ad Hoc Committee.

AOTA now has 42,350 members with an increase in student memberships and first year members. Please help us to increase this number.

Thank you for your support, comments and feedback. The new alternate representative assembly member is Joyce Titus. Questions or comments can be sent to Penny Rogers at sunset1694@yahoo.com.

Current Membership

OT's and OTA's	120
Student Members	118

*120 members is only 10% of the
 licensed OT's and OTA's in the
 state. PLEASE encourage your
 colleagues to join and support
 the association.*

School News continued...

Faculty update: Behind the scenes, faculty members are busy exploring the expansion of classes to include a new OTA to OT bridge program. Bette Groat, founding department chair and much-admired educator and friend, will retire June, 2011. We wish Bette many retirement days of quilting and relaxation.

Faculty members who have received honors and degrees are as follows:

- In April, Bette Groat received a 2011 Retired Educator's Award from AOTA acknowledging her exceptional leadership and commitment to the advancement of occupational therapy education.
- On April 16, 2011 at the AOTA 91st Annual Conference and Expo in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Peter Giroux was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows (FAOTA) and recognized for "Passionate Contribution to the Community and Profession," making him the first and only one from Mississippi and joining less than 800 other fellows who have been granted this prestigious award since 1973.
- Dona Lee Andrew received the School of Health Related Profession's Teacher of the Year award and was honored in May at the SHRP Honor's Day.
- Peter Giroux and Lorraine Street each received a PhD in Clinical Health Sciences at UMMC graduation in May.

On behalf of the students and faculty, we wish everyone a fun, safe, and "purposeful" summer!

Kayla Abraham, MA, OTR/L
Assistant Professor Occupational Therapy

The Occupational Therapy Class of 2012 has been busy! During the past few semesters, we have been raising funds to assist in the expense of attending the 2011 Student Conclave in Providence, Rhode Island. We have not met our goal of funds needed, but we are all looking forward to the opportunity to network with other students and expand our OT knowledge. This past spring semester, all research groups finalized methodology protocols and are awaiting IRB approval before the Fall semester begins. Please assist our research efforts by completing and returning any research documentation you may receive from us within the next few months. It is through your correspondence we are working to help improve our wonderful field of knowledge. Currently, we are all out on our first Level II Fieldwork Sites. We are spread from Washington state to Florida and everywhere in between. We are utilizing the knowledge we possess

to gain clinical insight so that we might become the best OT's possible.

Monica Bane, President, Class of 2012

Pearl River Community College OTA Program

PRCC had 22 new graduates who were pinned on May 16th. At the pinning ceremony, Ms. Robin Lewis was awarded the Academic Achievement Award, Ms. Tina Ladner the Clinical Award of Excellence, and Mr. Steven Brewer was awarded the Most Outstanding Student. The MSOTA Leadership Award was presented to Ms. Christina Floyd. The new graduates are busy studying for the NBCOT test, although two have already taken (and passed) boards. The OTA program interviewed 65 out of the 170 applicants in May in a very competitive year. Twenty-four new students were admitted for our Class of 2013. Orientation for these students was held June 3rd, with the sophomores entertaining the freshman with a lunch meet and greet at Paul B. Johnson State Park. The Sophomore Class is planning a weekend trip to Tuscaloosa to assist with tornado relief efforts.

Ms. Diane Stringer is entering her final year as Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and is planning to leave the school in June of 2012 to pursue clinical practice. She would like to thank all of the clinical instructors that she has worked in collaboration with over the past 6 years. She appreciates all of the skill, knowledge, and time that fieldwork coordinators graciously give to our students. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator position will be open to therapists who have at a B.S. degree or above and have at least two years of experience.

Outstanding Student Leadership Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were selected by their instructors to receive the MSOTA Outstanding Student Leadership Award:

Molly Francis Moak, University of Mississippi Medical Center OT School

Lashonda Gee, Holmes Community College OTA School

Christina Floyd, Pearl River Community College OTA Program

Kristian Joshlin, Ittawamba Community College OTA Program

District News:

Delta District Holds Meetings Throughout the Delta

For the first time, at least as far as I can remember, the Delta District has attempted to take the "mountain to Mohammad". The Delta District has been on the move with meetings and continuing education events delivered in two of the scheduled three venues. The Delta District teamed with the MPTA Northern District Chair to deliver continuing education seminars in Charleston and Ruleville. These sessions featured presentations about professional ethics and enhancing clinical outcomes through orthotic and prosthetic technology. A special thanks to Mike Carr, Assistant District Attorney, 11th Circuit Court District, for the rousing ethics presentation and to the fine folks at Mississippi Orthotics and Prosthetics for their time and knowledge in orthotics and prosthetics.

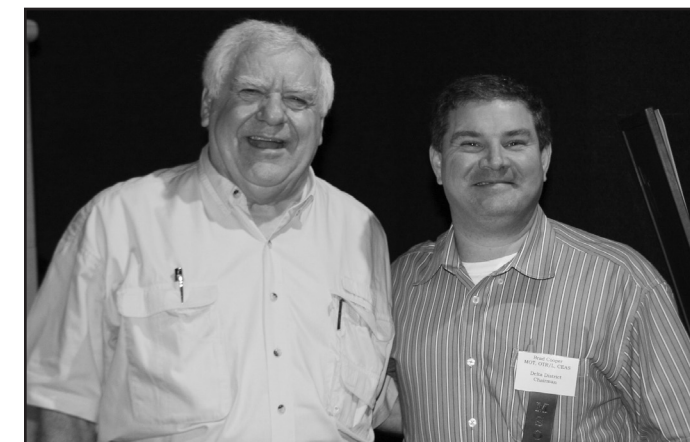
Brad Cooper, MOT, OTR/L, CEAS

2011 Spring Conference

MSOTA held the annual spring conference in Tupelo this year at North Mississippi Medical Center. Over 50 OT's, OTA's and students attended sessions on neurological assessment, OT and psych, social skills training for autism spectrum disorders, and Swill ball therapy. This continuing education opportunity was made possible by the VOLUNTEER speakers and MSOTA extends a special thanks and recognition to Imogene Tilson, OTR/L, Marcia Washington, OTR/L, Amy J. Hill, OTR/L, Hope Johnson, LPTA, and Rodney Frothingham, MD.



Amy Hill, Hope Johnson and a conference participant demonstrate a Swill ball exercise.



Dr. Rodney Frothingham, conference speaker, and Brad Cooper, MSOTA Delta District Chairman.

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