



POINTS OF INTEREST

- **MSOTA Legislative Day was Feb. 3, 2016**
- **MSOTA Spring Conference: Feb. 27, 2016**
- **Important Medicaid Updates**
- **OT/OTA Supervision Survey Results**

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Message from the President Glenda Hux



Happy 2016!

I'm delighted to report 2015 was an outstanding year for MSOTA and its members. Our website and newsletter has a new and completely improved format, our 5K/10K race was widely successful, and we held our first-ever Pediatric Summit. We also experienced significant achievement in the area of advocacy. I hope you have heard by now; Medicaid is now reimbursing for the treatment of OTAs! We appreciate the initiative and diligence of our Reimbursement Chair. Also, our Secretary/Treasurer championed, in her capacity as a member of the UMMC Occupational Therapy faculty, the efforts to secure reimbursement of student assisted therapy by Medicaid. We celebrate her efforts and leadership on this front, as well. Lastly, we launched a membership campaign and we're happy to report we're welcoming 2016 with our highest membership numbers in over 10 years!

In 2016, we hope to capitalize on our recent gains and increase member engagement, retention, advocacy, and training. We're starting our efforts with Legislative Day on Feb 3, 7:30-11:30 at the MS State Capitol in Jackson. On Feb 26, our board will meet to discuss "hot topics" pertinent to your everyday practice. Contact us if there's something you would like us to add to the agenda. Our Annual Continuing Education Conference and our Annual Membership Meeting will be held the following day. We'll be electing our next President that day. Come cast your vote! Visit our website for more details, www.mississippiota.org. We're also planning another Pediatric Summit and a 5K/10K fundraiser in the fall. Details TBA.

MSOTA is proud to be the state leader in advocacy for our profession. As a member of MSOTA, now it's the time for you to begin brainstorming ideas for OT month and sharing your planned events! As always, let's stay in touch via email, Instagram, Facebook, and very soon on our website's "Member Only" area. I'd like to offer a very warm and humble thank you to everyone who has been spreading the word about the importance of MSOTA membership. Keep up the fantastic work! We're here to serve and we're listening.

MSOTA SPRING CONFERENCE

Please join us **February 27** at the Muse Center for a great conference.

Topics include:

- Dyslexia and Dysgraphia
- SEEing the Impact of OT
- Understanding SLPs in an OT World
- Seating and Positioning

[Details on page 16-17.](#)



**Don't miss the
3rd Annual
MSOTA RUN WALK
AND ROLL**

**September 24, 2016
More on page 12.**

OT–OTA Supervision Survey Results

The Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association (MSOTA) was recently petitioned by three companies to support increasing the supervision ratio of occupational therapists (OT) to occupational therapy assistants (OTA). The appeal was to support increasing the OT/OTA ratio from 1:2 to 1:4, and the rationale was that this change would increase employment opportunities for their employees and thereby extend services to more consumers in need of occupational therapy.

Based on this appeal, the MSOTA board chose to conduct a survey to discern the opinions of its membership on this topic. The following offers a summary of the key findings from the electronic survey. The survey was distributed from November to December 2015. The final sample size for the study was n=103. Ninety respondents (89%) self-identified as MSOTA members. Our response rate represented 26% of our membership at the time of the survey, and it is a fairly typical rate of return for internal surveys such as this which generally range from 30-40%.

- ⇒ 64 (63%) OT respondents; 15 (15%) OTA respondents; 23 OT/OTA students
- ⇒ 52 (50%) of the respondents were from the Central District in Mississippi
- ⇒ 51 (50%) were involved in the OT/OTA supervisory process at survey time
- ⇒ 96 (96%) said that they were familiar with OT-OTA supervision regulations

MSOTA SURVEY QUESTIONS	Agree	Disagree	n
The current OT to OTA ratio for supervision is appropriate (1:2).	83.70%	16.30%	
	77	15	92
Advocating to maintain the current OT to OTA ratio is an important MSOTA initiative.	80.22%	21.98%	
	73	20	91
The OT to OTA ratio for supervision should be increased (1:3 or greater).	26.67%	73.33%	
	24	66	90
Increasing the OT to OTA ratio would maintain adequate quality of care.	29.67%	70.33%	
	27	64	91
Increasing the OT to OTA ratio would improve access to OT services for consumers.	52.22%	48.89%	
	47	44	90
Increasing the OT to OTA ratio would increase OT job opportunities.	26.37%	73.63%	
	24	67	91
Increasing the OT to OTA ration would decrease OT job opportunities.	63.74%	38.46%	
	58	35	91
Increasing the OT to OTA ratio would increase OTA job opportunities.	81.32%	19.78%	
	74	18	91
Increasing the OT to OTA ratio would decrease OTA job opportunities.	10.00%	90.00%	
	9	81	90
Advocating for change to the OT to OTA ratio is an important MSOTA initiative.	30.34%	70.79%	
	27	63	89
Overall, the current Mississippi OT to OTA supervision regulations clearly outline expectations for the supervisory process to ensure high standards of patient care.	70.65%	29.35%	
	65	27	92



Thank you for your participation in the

MSOTA Survey!

We appreciate

hearing

YOUR

voices!



(continued from page 2) The narrative comments received from the survey indicated several themes from the respondents. Generally, these thoughts included concern for the quality of care if the ratio increases, variation for need of supervision among different settings, employment impact potentially positive or negative for OT/OTA, and the need for clarity of supervision regulations.

I do think that clarification and addressing different practice areas is important. The supervision for a school based OTA is going to be different than in a SNF and in an outpatient setting. I was a part of the development of the regulations when we put together the practice act. As I recall, the supervision regulations were written to meet the Medicare guidelines that were in effect at the time. There were so few OTs working in schools or private clinics that no one really even considered those settings. But, I do not support re-opening of our practice act if that can be avoided.

I feel a change in the OT-OTA ratio would bring increase stress on OT and OTA increase paperwork load and higher demands to pick up patients just to fill caseloads. This change would cause low quality of care.

I believe the ratio is sufficient, but feel the supervision rules need updating or at least reconsideration.

I am a regional director for a therapy company, and there have been times that we have had qualified COTA candidates for open positions but could not hire them due to the inability to have them supervised. I realize that the number of licensed OTs in MS is large, but I am one of the licensed therapists that currently don't participate in treating due to job responsibilities. I am afraid that in several areas there are more COTAs than there are practicing OTs to supervise them.

I have worked inside and outside the state of MS as an OTA and now OTR, and I do feel that the supervision guidelines for OTA to OTR are too restrictive, and I think we are self limiting on both sides.

Increasing the ratio would decrease quality of care, because it would increase the paperwork system. The OT would lose efficiency and productivity when his or her concentration is focused on more than two OTAs.

To share the results, the MSOTA President met with the Mississippi State Department of Health's Advisory Council for Occupational Therapy at its public meeting January 22, 2016. The survey data provided the advisory council insight into the opinions of OT practitioners across the state; however, it was noted that a future study which included the following enhancements would be useful for best decision making by the advisory council: increased overall participation, especially by OTAs; wider geographical participation; and more participants who identify as actively engaged in the supervisory process. The Advisory Council was appreciative of the information provided. Prior to recommending any change to the OT/OTA supervision ratio to the MS State Board of Health, they need more data supporting how the public is being placed at a disadvantage under the current regulation. The Advisory Council does plan to solicit feedback on the current supervisory language to offer clarifications on supervision regulations in the upcoming year.



Amanda Jordan
Reimbursement Chair

News from the MSOTA Reimbursement Chair

I believe we have some finality to our Medicaid requests that were submitted and reviewed by the Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) during the 2015 calendar year. All, in all, the process was expedited quicker than I anticipated. As a recap, the first request was for MS Medicaid to open CPT code 97535 (self-care or ADL training) for reimbursement. Currently this code is not reimbursed by Medicaid in any setting (unless bundled into hospital billing {i.e. a DRG}). The second request was for MS Medicaid to allow Occupational Therapy Assistants to treat and bill for their services in any and all settings. Previously, Occupational Therapy Assistants could treat and bill Medicaid patients in hospital settings only.

Our first request for the reimbursement of CPT code 97535 was denied. The denial stated, *"The recommendation of eQHealth Solutions (Medicaid's clinical review contractor), and Division of Medicaid review staff, is for CPT Code 97535 to remain closed for coverage. Alternative CPT codes are open for reimbursement allowing beneficiaries access to care. We regret that we will not be able to make this proposed coverage change. However, we will continue to take your recommendation under advisement as we plan and develop new initiatives. We appreciate MSOTA for helping to improve the healthcare delivery needs of our Medicaid beneficiaries."* No, this is not good news, however; we were able to discuss this issue further with the panel of experts from the MS of Division of Medicaid who presented for us at the Central District Mini-Conference on July 23, 2015. They suggested that we submit an appeal with supporting documentation of our stance and request that the appeal be automatically sent to those who were in attendance of our conference since they were, now, more familiar with the topic. With the help of an MSOTA committee, we gathered additional supporting documentation and submitted an appeal. Unfortunately, the appeal was rejected.

The following was MS DOM's response:

After thorough review, the recommendation is for CPT code 97535 to remain closed for coverage, but will be reviewed on a case by case base for EPSDT beneficiaries with prior authorization. The Division of Medicaid pays for all medically necessary services for EPSDT-eligible beneficiaries in accordance with Part 223 of Title 23, without regard to service limitations and with prior authorization. We regret that we will not be able to make this proposed coverage change. DOM appreciates your assistance in helping to improve the healthcare delivery needs of our Medicaid beneficiaries.

Mississippi Administrative Code Title 23: Part 223, Chapter 1, Rule 1.7 Diagnostic and Treatment Program Services

A. EPSDT diagnostic and treatment services consists of all medically necessary services needed to correct or ameliorate physical or mental illnesses and conditions discovered by a screening, whether or not such services are covered under the State Plan; and for a Medicaid eligible child or youth under age twenty-one (21) years, if the service is determined by the Division of Medicaid or its representative to be medically necessary.

B. A medically necessary service is defined as any service that is reasonably necessary to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate or prevent the worsening of conditions that endanger life or cause suffering or pain, or result in illness or infirmity, or threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap or cause physical deformity or malfunction. There must also be no other equally effective, more conservative, or substantially less costly course of treatment available or suitable for the client requesting the service.

C. To receive payment for any service that is not specifically included as a covered service under any Medicaid Administrative Rule or under the federally approved State Plan, the requestor must submit a request for prior authorization.



Robin Davis

MOSTA Secretary- Treasurer

MEDICAID CHANGES

OTAs and STUDENT SUPERVISION

Amanda Jordan & Robin Davis

Based on long term efforts by MSOTA and faculty from UMMC, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid recently offered a favorable change regarding OTAs and student supervision in Mississippi. Previously, Medicaid would not reimburse for OT services in which a student was involved. Also, according to the old rules, the services of OT assistants were covered only in the outpatient department of a hospital. The changes now allow Medicaid reimbursement for covered OT services assisted by an OT student if the student has face to face supervision. The therapist must be engaged in student oversight and only one student can be supervised at a time. According to the new rules, coverage of services by OT assistants is not restricted to the outpatient hospital setting. This is great news for OTs and their Medicaid clients in Mississippi. Much behind the scenes work was done to accomplish these changes.

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid implemented administrative code changes that impact OT services beginning January 1, 2016.

The new code can be found at the following website. <http://www.sos.ms.gov/ACProposed/00021674b.pdf>

The new code language reads:

"The Division of Medicaid reimburses for covered occupational therapy services provided by: A state-licensed occupational therapist assisted by an occupational therapy student who is enrolled in an accredited occupational therapy program while completing the clinical requirements necessary for graduation under direct, on-site supervision of a state-licensed occupational therapist, referred to as student assisted occupational therapy services.

a) The Division of Medicaid defines direct, on-site supervision of an occupational therapy student as the face-to-face oversight by a state-licensed occupational therapist.

b) The state-licensed occupational therapist must be physically present and engaged in student oversight during the entirety of a therapy session such that the state-licensed occupational therapist is considered to be providing the occupational therapy service.

C. The state-licensed occupational therapist cannot supervise at the same time during the work day more than: 1. One (1) occupational therapy student

The Division of Medicaid reimburses for covered occupational therapy services provided by: A state-licensed occupational therapist assisted by a state-licensed occupational therapist assistant under direct, on-site supervision by a state-licensed occupational therapist. The Division of Medicaid defines direct, onsite supervision as face-to-face oversight by a state-licensed occupational therapist at regular intervals, as prescribed by the standards of the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and does not include: 1) Contacts by telephone, 2) Contacts by pager, 3) Video conferencing, and/or 4) Any method not approved by the Division of Medicaid. The initial evaluation, POC, and discharge summary must be completed by a state-licensed occupational therapist.

NOTE: Although the Medicaid code states that it will reimburse for OT services when a state licensed OT supervises no more than 4 OT assistants, that does not mean that the MS state regulations allow for supervision of more than 2 OTAs. **The state regulations have not changed.** Medicaid was trying to keep their rules for OT, PT and ST the same, but their reimbursement rules do not supersede state regulation.

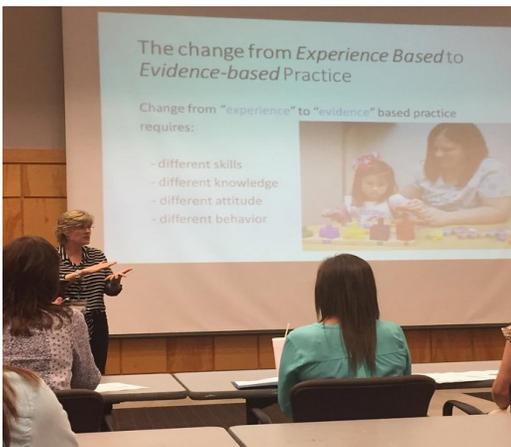
Ethics Corner

OTAs and Patient Evaluations

A question that often arises is whether an OTA can participate in patient evaluations or perform assessments. As with many legal and ethical issues, several sources of information should be sought. State regulations, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement guidelines and AOTA official documents may all be relevant. Although Mississippi OT practice regulations may be unclear on some details of supervision, according to Medicare guidelines, "OTAs must work under the supervision of a qualified OT. The OT must conduct the evaluation and establish the plan of care. The qualified OTA can then carry out delegated intervention." (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2009). According to the AOTA "[Guidelines for Supervision, Roles, and Responsibilities During the Delivery of Occupational Therapy Services](#)", the OT is responsible for the evaluation process, however, he or she may direct the OTA to perform certain assessments to contribute to the evaluation process if the OTA has demonstrated competency. The OTA, however, must rely on the OT to interpret the assessment results.

AOTA has many helpful resources for navigating the sometimes murky details of an ethical OT/OTA relationship. Loretta Foster, MS, COTA/L and Rae Ann Smith, OTD, OTR/L authored a wonderful resource in 2010 that addresses supervision, collaboration, and scope of practice issues with poignant case scenarios. This AOTA Advisory Opinion for the Ethics Commission titled *OT/OTA Partnerships: Achieving High Ethical Standards in a Challenging Health Care Environment* can be found on the AOTA website at [this link](#). If you work in an OT/OTA relationship, it is worth your while to check out this article.

Robin Davis



Dr. Lorraine Street presenting at the
MSOTA Pediatric Summit

MSOTA PEDIATRIC SUMMIT

The MSOTA Pediatric Summit was held August 21, 2015 at UMMC. OTs from all over the state were invited to attend and MSOTA members were given 4.5 free CEUs.

Presenters included:

Glenda Hux, President of MSOTA; Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Emily Thomas Johnson, PhD, BCBA-D
Stacey Yates Smith, Chair of MSOTA's Peds Task-Force
Dr. Lorraine Street, PhD, OTR/L, BCP

For the full pediatric summit report visit:

<http://mississippiota.org/continuing-education/2015-pediatric-summit-report/>



Ethics is
knowing the
difference
between
what you have
a right to do
and
what is right to
do.

Potter Stewart



Karen's OT Advice

“Golden Rule –
Do unto others
as you would
have them do
unto you”

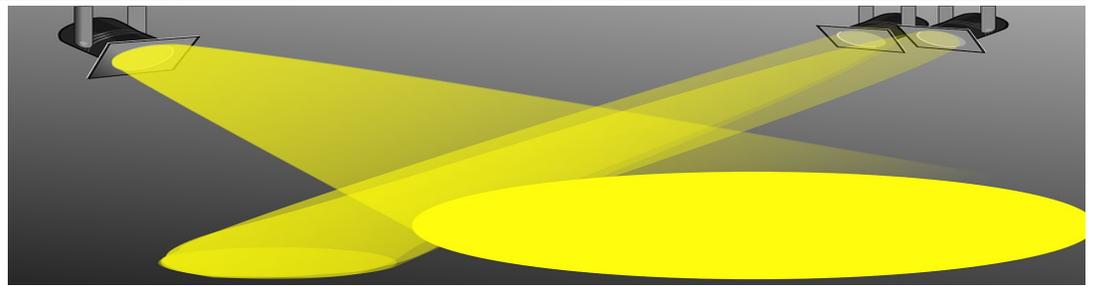


Do you know an OT who
should be featured in the
MSOTA Member Spot-
light?

If so, please email :

Debbie Goldberg

mjgoldberg54@bellsouth.net



The MSOTA Member Spotlight is on...

KAREN LAMMERT

Karen was born in Iowa but spent most of her young life in Louisiana where her parents still live. She grew up in New Orleans as the oldest of 3 children and finished occupational therapy school at LSU, a choice she is very happy she made. “I love being an OT because it offers a wonderful vista of caring for others,” says Karen.

In 1982, she made her home in Hattiesburg and began her 33 year (to date) occupational therapy career at Forrest General Hospital. Staying in the same place for over three decades doesn't mean she hasn't experienced practice changes, however! “There were many options through the years at FGH as the profession exhibited ebbs and flows,” she explains. “I have done psych, inpatient rehab, acute care, outpatient therapy, home care, and some nursing home/snf settings.”

In fact, the wide base of patient populations and the many different areas to practice are the things Karen loves most about OT. “The ability to create your own niche in this wildly expansive health care arena” is something Karen loves about this profession. “OTs have great flexibility and so many options for helping people.”

Her career is only one of many meaningful occupations in her own life. Karen is also an active member of her church, an avid traveler, a reader, and she loves being able to visit and maintain friendships with loved ones far away. She still keeps in touch with family members in Iowa and remembers a special trip she took with some of them to Ireland in 2005. “It was a truly wonderful experience: while everyone here was dealing with post Katrina apocalypse, everyone in Ireland was so warm and welcoming!”

One of her most memorable trips was traveling to Italy to see the Pope, up close and personal, “or as close as you can get!” she quickly added. When asked if there was any other place she'd most like to go she said Australia was next on her list. Although she has no children, nieces, or nephews, she is quick to admit that only means that “she can spoil other people's children instead!”

To other OTs, the advice she gives is simply the ‘Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you’ “It seems the most appropriate..” she says.

MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

COASTAL DISTRICT NEWS

Julie LeBlanc Coastal District Chair jal7093@cableone.net

The MSOTA Coastal District closed 2015 with a meeting Wednesday, October 28, held at the Encore Neuroscience Rehabilitation Center in Ocean Springs, MS, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We had the pleasure of having eight people present to hear an excellent presentation regarding Driving Rehabilitation Services available on the Gulf Coast of MS. Amy Polite, MS, OTR/L, led the discussion about the referral process and the assessments used at the Rehab and Christa Anderson, OTR/L, demonstrated the use of the Dynavision D2 Visuomotor System and its role in the Driving Rehab program. If your client needs a cognitive driving evaluation, neurological rehabilitation, or for low vision neuro visual rehabilitation, please contact (228) 818-1207 to speak to Amy Polite regarding referrals.



The Coastal District has taken a brief holiday hiatus and will resume meetings in March 2016. As your chairperson, I want to meet the following goals this year so we can grow together:

*Double our membership from 20 members to at least 40. REALLY!!—we have the second most population of therapists in the state, yet, we have one of the lowest membership rates. So, if you're a member, but, your co-worker is not, encourage and badger them to join you in the effort. Talk to Rebecca Hopper, COTA/L, our local Membership Drive representative, at rebecca.hopper.cota@gmail.com about exciting efforts to increase our membership.

*Host a Mini Fall Conference. I want to have a four hour mini conference held in the fall here on the coast at a central location for our six districts. If you have any suggestions, please contact Julie LeBlanc, MSOTA Coastal District Chair, at jal7093@cableone.net or at (228) 223-3271 for more information.

*Vary the type of meetings we have. Our traditional meeting has been to discuss business for about a half hour and then have a CEU meeting with a local OT or community speaker about a specific topic. I want to encourage us as clinicians and professionals to interact, network, and share information more at the meetings. So, one proposal I have is to have a meeting where we have a panel of therapists who role play as clinicians and have newer therapists act as patients so we have some teaching opportunities and time to share clinical information. If you have any other suggestions, or topics you want to hear, let me know.

*Buy a MSOTA t-shirts. I have all sizes available and will have them at the next meeting. They are \$15.00 and the money raised will go toward advocacy efforts for our organization. Let's sail on together!

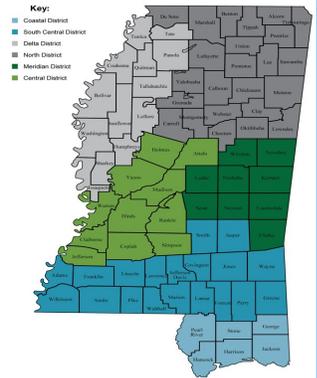
NORTHERN DISTRICT



The North District hosted a CEU course on Fieldwork Educator Training on January 7th at Itawamba Community College. Prior to the course, there was a small north district meeting where we bounced around ideas for increasing and retaining membership and also future ideas for CEU courses. There was a wonderful turnout, and I want to thank our speakers, Dee Dee Lomenick, Brandi Peters, and Shannon Fraiser for such a great course!

Mandy Pounds

Northern District Chair
mandypounds@gmail.com



CENTRAL DISTRICT

Make sure to check out the website to see all the great 5/10K pics from 2015. Our 2016 race will be September 24, 2016—mark your calendar. Our next meeting is April 28 at UMMC!

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Nothing to report but watch for upcoming CEU opportunities!

MERIDIAN & DELTA DISTRICTS

No updates.

SCHOOL NEWS

Holmes Community College

A refreshing spring semester has begun at Holmes Community College in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. Currently the second semester OTA students (14) are enjoying the experience of Level II Fieldwork. The clinical instructors are doing a fabulous job challenging HCC OTA students. First year students (14) are preparing to educate counselors, principals, and superintendents on the purpose of occupational therapy. The OTA faculty at HCC continually strives to challenge the students to reach for excellence.



HCC OTA STUDENTS



Ittawamba Community College

Our new AFWC is Shannon Fraiser, OTR/L. Shannon came on board with us in August and is doing a great job! Self-study submitted December 4th – onsite visit March 7-9, 2016

We are hosting Northern District Meeting on Jan. 7 at the ICC Tupelo campus

Continue to maintain 100% pass rate on NBCOT exam

Partnering with North MS State Hospital to provide Community Readiness activities (this is a project that our freshmen students will be participating in during their second semester – we are excited about the opportunity to be involved with the community while also promoting our profession!) *Dee Dee Lomenick, OTR/L*

Interim Program Director



PRCC sophomores Erin Lick and Jami Dykes love their FW site at Melanie Massey's Physical Therapy!

Pearl River Community College

Pearl River Community College had to say goodbye in December to Debbie Goldberg who gave us three years of excellent fieldwork coordination. Debbie was a great asset to our program and is missed. Fortunately, in January we were able to say hello to Nikki Page, MOTR who will be coordinating fieldwork going forward. Nikki is a graduate of Holmes Community College and Belmont University. She has a wealth of professional experience across multiple settings and we are very excited to have her join us.

The PRCC sophomores have embarked on their level II fieldwork. There have been many good reports thus far of experiences they are having in the field. As always, and forever, the program cannot thank our clinical educators enough for giving of themselves and clinical expertise to prepare our students for practice. So many of the students literally blossom under their care and direction! We are blessed indeed to have so many wonderful clinical instructors and programs.

Finally, the program looks forward to our site visit by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education on Feb 22 – 24. While the process is always taxing, the program anticipates receiving valuable feedback from academic and clinical leaders in our field.

Tim Pulver, MS, OTR/L



PRCC sophomore Michala Dye sent us this pic from her FW in Indiana!



PRCC sophomores Chelsey Barrett and Carley Harrell settling in to FW at UAB!

SCHOOL NEWS - Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

CLASS OF 2016

The third-year occupational therapy students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center recently participated in the 7th annual Project Homeless Connect Event. The weeklong event was hosted by the City of Jackson who worked along side Central Mississippi Continuum of Care and National Project Homeless. Several agencies came together to provide free health care screenings, housing, and employment opportunity services. Among the events was a picnic held in Poindexter Park. This event allowed the participating agencies to set up tables with information and resources.



The occupational therapy students were able to set up four tables consisting of games, nail services, and duct tape wallets. Duct tape wallets proved to be a fun and easy activity. The students were able to provide the supplies and instructions while the participants completed the task of making the personalized wallet. The nail services station also provided personal care items and gift bags. In the picture (left), MOT student, Sarah Bond, offers verbal and hands-on assistance in completing a duct tape wallet while MOT student, Katie Hubert, looks on.

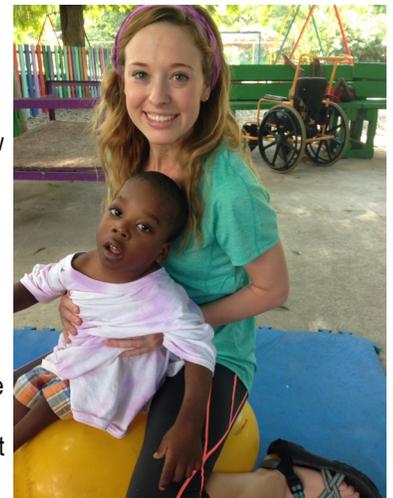
CLASS OF 2017

The second year of our journey to become OTs has been filled with many things learned, many things accomplished, and many more things to look forward too. We have learned that no amount of assigned presentations can stop us from achieving our goals. We have learned that we are capable of starting and tackling a research topic and project. One of the most vital things we have learned is to not bite off more than we can chew. As our executive counsel sat down to discuss some class activities, we reflected on how well our class was involved in community service opportunities. Growing as a class and as individuals, we realized that we could do so much more if we all worked together. We also stated that we wanted to see exactly where our efforts were being used and not just doing the designated community service hours required for each semester.



Class of 2017—Half Way Day!
Thanks Peter for the yummy cake.

During the week of January 3-9, nine occupational therapy students from UMMC along with their professor, Carol Tubbs, traveled to New Life Children's Home in Port Au Prince, Haiti. These students served at the orphanage by providing occupational therapy treatment activities to the children with special needs and teaching them the importance of play. Throughout the week, we often spent our mornings assisting in bathing, dressing and feeding, our afternoons working with the children on the mats or doing crafts, and our nights participating in the worship service. Pictured above right, Marlee Wood with a child from the Children's Home.



CLASS OF 2018

The OT Class of 2018 is proud to announce that they have successfully completed (survived) the Fall semester and were able to triumph over OT308—AKA Gross Anatomy. We look forward to all the Spring semester holds in store for us, including a few great community events such as the Night to Shine at Broadmoor Church on February 12, and the March of Dimes on April 30th that we cannot wait to participate in. Also, we look forward to increasing our clinical knowledge in our Concepts II and Kinesiology classes where we have already begun to learn the foundations of safe transfers and goniometry and the importance of these aspects of the OT profession. This week we will begin to tour the Magnolia Speech School and our own UMMC's Rehab facility to see what great things are happening at both of these locations. Wish us luck as we've wrapped up a fabulous 2015 and have begun an even better 2016!



MSOTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

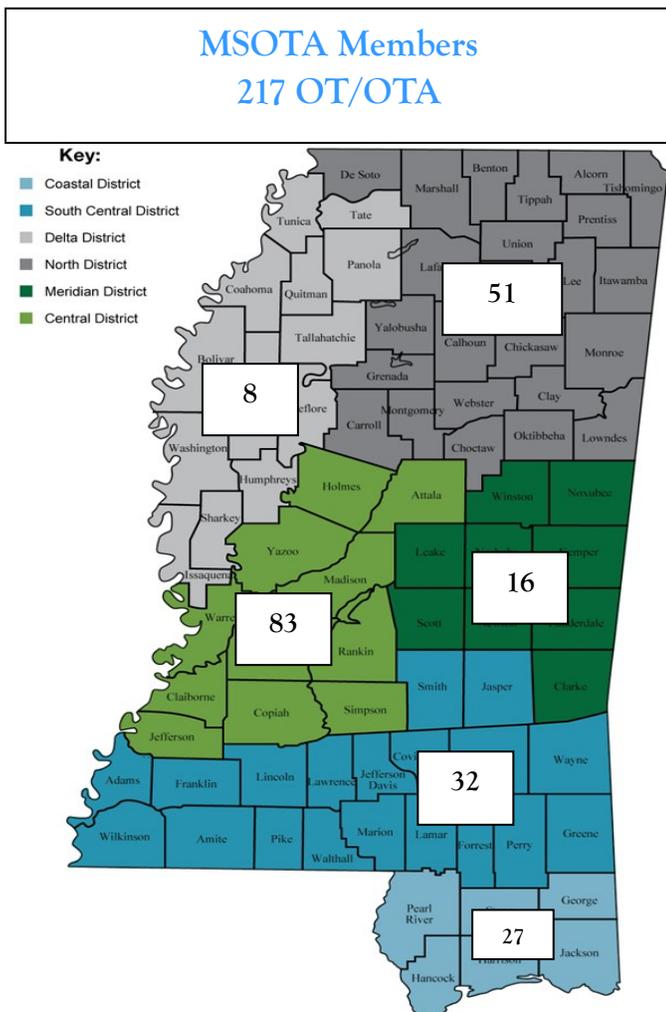
We are so excited to see numbers like these! We are still looking to increase our membership numbers by at least 200 more. We need help from all of our members to meet our membership goal! The MSOTA board has been working to get feedback from our members in order to make changes to better represent our members and to increase our member directed advocacy. Because of these efforts, we have an exciting year ahead with more incentives for members:

CEU conferences: February 27th- we will host our annual conference which offers low cost CEU courses. Each district hosts a Free CEU mini-conference for members.

COMING SOON: A members-only area of the MSOTA website where members can participate in discussions, post questions, and connect with other members/ the MSOTA board. The website offers the following forums: MSOTA Member Talk, Job Postings, Pediatrics, Students and New Grads, Geriatrics, Early Intervention and School Systems, Acute Care, and Physical Dysfunction.

MSOTA offers all these benefits for a reasonable price. OT: \$70 annually=\$5.83 a month OTA: \$55 annually= \$4.58 a month What you pay in per month equals 1 fast food meal or 1 latte a month.

This is only the beginning of what MSOTA has planned, and it is our hope to continue to increase membership numbers to allow MSOTA to better serve OT/OTAs in MS and our profession as a whole. If you would like to help with our membership drive efforts, have questions/ suggestions, or would like more information, please contact your district chair or Heather Calnan at h_calnan@bellsouth.net.



Heather Calnan
Membership Chair

MSOTA STUDENT MEMBERS
163 OT/OTA Students

UMMC	111
HCC	7
ICC	26
PRCC	13
University of South Alabama	5
Brenau University	1

1,340 OT/OTAs licensed in MS that are not members of MSOTA.

Are YOU promoting HEALTH?

Kelly Crawford, Central District Co-chair



Did you know that AOTA promotes health and well-ness as a key practice area for the 21st century?

This is an area of intervention that may be often overlooked. There is a significant need for the promotion of health for many of the people with chronic conditions that live in our state. We as occupational therapy practitioners can look at all aspects of a person's life and areas of function to support optimal health.

How can you promote health and well-being in your practice?

- Work with people in, or recovery from, cancer or other treatments to mitigate the side effects on daily functioning
- Perform assessments for health risks, such as the potential for falls, the effect of low vision and/or cognitive issues on safety in daily tasks, and how well the home accommodates current and potential disabilities
- Evaluate children for gross and fine motor, sensory processing, or adaptive behavior deficits that may result in or from developmental delays
- Teach strategies to incorporate healthy habits and routines into daily activities for clients of all ages and abilities
- Identify solutions to personal and environmental barriers (e.g., mental health issues, lack of community mobility), limiting clients from engaging in healthy activities
- Provide skills training in areas such as socialization, caregiving, parenting, time management, stress management, etc.

Adapted from : AOTA's Fact Sheet on The Role of Occupational Therapy in Health Promotion, 2015

In addition to health promotion for our clients, we should be practicing health promotion in our own lives. One GREAT way you can promote your own health and raise funds and awareness for occupational therapy in Mississippi is by participating in **MSOTA's 3rd Annual Run, Walk, and Roll.**

Save the date for **September 24, 2016** at **Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, MS.** Make plans to attend! If you set a goal now, you can be ready to run, walk, or roll in our 5K or 10K on September 24!



In addition to health promotion for our clients, we should be practicing health promotion in our own lives.



MSOTA 2nd Annual Run, Walk, and Roll Fall 2015

A big thanks to the Central District co-chairs (**Kelly Crawford & Jennifer Donahue**) who organized MSOTA's second annual Run, Walk and Roll last fall. It was held on at the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, and we had great participation on a beautiful fall morning. There were over 100 walkers/runners/rollers, and we raised \$5,000 to promote occupational therapy in Mississippi through this MSOTA event. If you did not participate last year, please consider joining us for the 2016 race!



2016 MSOTA LEGISLATIVE DAY

On February 3, 2016, occupational therapy advocates from around the state visited the state Capitol for MSOTA's Annual Legislative Day. A host of MSOTA leaders, OT clinicians, OT/OTA faculty and OT/OTA students were all in attendance. The event offered the opportunity to meet with Senators and Representatives to express the importance of occupational therapy to

the citizens of Mississippi. OT advocates were able to express appreciation of past support of occupational therapy and to request that our profession continues to be a profession that is supported by legislators in the future.



Robin Parish shakes hands with Representative Greg Haney from District 118 Harrison County. Representative Haney made a special effort to meet many of the OT advocates present at the Legislative Day event.



Debbie Goldberg, MSOTA Vice President and Kelly Crawford, MSOTA Central District Co-chair meet with a legislator to discuss occupational therapy.



Glenda Hux, MSOTA President and Heather Calnan, MSOTA Membership Chair at Legislative Day.



ADVOCACY:

public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.



MSOTA LEGISLATIVE DAY

Continued



MSOTA leaders meet with legislators to share the distinct value of occupational therapy , express appreciation for past support and request continued support of our profession in the future.



Pearl River OTA Students at state Capital on MSOTA Legislative Day.

Pictured Above: First and second year OT students from UMMC gather around Representative Jim Beckett during MSOTA Legislative Day. Representative Beckett has been a recipient of occupational therapy services and offered strong support for our profession based on his personal experience. He graciously offered an impromptu tour of the Capitol—where he offered many interesting bits of information about our beautiful state Capitol.

Pictured Right: Jasmine Sullivan Wilson, DOR Aegis Therapies , Glenda Hux, MSOTA President, Megan Ladner, UMMC MOT Faculty



SPRING CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 27, 2016

Dyslexia and Dysgraphia: Difficulty with Reading and Writing

Objectives:

1. What is dyslexia?
2. How can dyslexia be identified and treated?
3. What is dysgraphia and how does it affect the student with dyslexia?
4. How should handwriting be addressed in the student with dysgraphia and dyslexia?



Cena Holifield, Ph.D., CALT, QI



Cheri Nipp, MS, OTR/L, SCLV

SEEing the Impact of OT

Objectives:

1. Identify visual deficits related to neurological injury
2. Identify impact of neurological visual deficits on occupational performance
3. Describe the occupational therapy assessment tools for identification of visual deficits
4. Cite occupational therapy intervention strategies for promotion of functional gains in occupational performance

Speak, Swallow, and Spit It Out: Understanding SLPs in an OT World— Sheri Murrell, CCC-SLP

Objectives

1. Understand the SLP scope of practice as it relates to the plan of care and goals for patients with swallowing and language deficits
2. Identify the appropriate equipment needs and use for different diet consistencies and the necessary positioning for self-feeding to coincide with related SLP strategies for swallow
3. Identify the appropriate equipment needs and use for different liquid consistencies and the necessary positioning to coincide with related SLP strategies for swallow
4. Provide follow-up to assist with a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment

Seating and Positioning—David Gurganus, ATP & Allison Fracchia, PT, ATP/SMS

Objectives

1. Basic principles of seating and positioning for functional evaluation.
2. Patient specific documentation regarding justification and terminology usage.
3. Hands-on examples of equipment and assistive technology.
4. Practical Problem Solving & Lab

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Register for the upcoming Spring Conference at
mississippiota.org

Location: The Muse Center on the campus of Hinds Community College, Pearl, MS

Conference Cost and Payment:

Current MSOTA Member (4.0 CEU) \$75	Current MSOTA Member (8.0 CEU) \$125
Non-Member (4.0 CEU) \$95	Non-Member (8.0 CEU) \$225
Student Member: \$25	Student Non-Member: \$55

(If you are not currently a member of MSOTA, this is a great time to become a member and receive the conference discount and membership benefits for one year. [Join now!](#))

Conference Agenda:

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Registration/Check-in

Choose one:

8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Session 1: Dyslexia and Dysgraphia: Difficulty with Reading and Writing

8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Session 2: SEEing the Impact of OT

11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Roundtable Discussions and Annual Membership Meeting

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

Choose one:

1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Session 3: Speak, Swallow, and Spit it Out: Understanding SLP's in an OT World

1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Session 4: Seating and Positioning

4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Round Table Discussions/Dismissal

Each session, **including participation in the round table discussions earns 4.0 contact hours.**

Registration: Pre-registration is required.



CONTACT US

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Central District Meeting

April 28, 2016

5:00-7:30 pm

Please join us at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Health Related Professions for a Central District Meeting offering **2 CEUs**. The UMMC MOT Class of 2016 will be presenting their master's project research findings in a casual poster presentation environment. There will also be a more formal 1 hour presentation on understanding the alphabet soup of entry-level and advanced degrees in occupational therapy and health care.

Watch for more information on social media and the MSOTA website at:

mississippiota.org