



Summer 2022

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
Reimbursement Message	2
Legislative Update OT Compact	3-6
Conference Recap	7
Membership Update	8
Student Leadership Awards	9
District News	10
School News	13

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is always an exciting time because it is full of farmers' markets, craft shows, swimming pools, and family vacations. As the midpoint of the year, summer also offers the opportunity to reflect on the past and plan for the future.



The year 2022 started off strong with some amazing speakers at the MSOTA Annual Conference. Our CEU committee outdid themselves, and we loved seeing everyone in-person at the Muse Center! Additionally, the spring/summer MSOTA Board meeting was held in June, and we discussed all of the great things happening across our state. From licensure compact progress to partnering with the Mississippi Department of Education to develop occupational therapy guidelines for school-based practice, our profession is moving forward to continue making a difference in the lives of our patients and clients.

The MSOTA Board of Directors is looking forward to the 2nd Annual Fall Retreat in September. During this retreat, MSOTA leadership will work diligently to plan upcoming social and continuing education events across districts, address current legislative needs, discuss options for increasing involvement of our members, and more. We will also be diving deep in to the research conducted by doctoral students in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This research focused on MSOTA membership and how the organization could better serve you as a practitioner in Mississippi.

As always, MSOTA is here to support you, and we value your involvement in this organization. Please invite your friends and colleagues to join us if they are not yet members, and we look forward to seeing the progress made in our state throughout the remainder of the year!

Sincerely,
Megan Ladner, DHA, MS, OTR/L
Jeremiah 29:11



News You Can Use from the MSOTA Reimbursement Chair

TNOTA Annual Conference and Student Track

Recently, the Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association (TNOTA) reached out to MSOTA and asked if we were willing to offer member reciprocity to their annual conference in September. We felt this would be a great opportunity for our members and agreed.

Beginning Friday, July 18, 2022; MSOTA members can access the link below and register for the TNOTA Annual Conference and Student Track. By using the coupon code “MSOTAmember” (case sensitive), MSOTA members (verified by the Association) will be able to register at their member-discounted price.

The TNOTA Annual Conference will be held September 9-11, 2022, at the Lichterman Nature Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Conference registration costs depend on the number of days attended. The theme of the conference is seeing OT through a client’s point of view.

Access the link below for more details and to register for the event:

<https://www.tnota.org/2022-tnota-annual-conference>

Submitted by:
Amanda Jordan,
MSOTA Executive Director

Legislative Update: OT Compact



Robin Parish, Leg. Chair

Hello to our Occupational Therapy family. I hope you are having a great summer and find some down time to rejuvenate and unwind.. In the previous Newsletter, I shared general information regarding the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact). An individual state must enact compact legislation language to become a member of the OT Compact. Presently, there are 20 states that have enacted compact legislation with legislation pending in 5 other states. The Occupational Therapy Compact Commission (OTCC) was generated after the 10th state enacted legislation. Members of the OTCC will be appointed by compact member states and will be charged with operationalization of the OT Compact. This will include electing an executive committee, drafting bylaws and regulations that will be utilized to implement the OT Compact. The OTCC is scheduled to meet later this summer and begin the process necessary to operationalize the compact. The first Compact privileges are projected in late 2023.

So-Where does MSOTA stand on membership in the Licensure Compact? MSOTA established an OT Licensure Compact Task Force including members from both MSOTA and the state department of health advisory board. This task force has been working to investigate if the OT Compact would be of benefit to Occupational Therapy Practitioners in our state. We sent a survey to not only MSOTA members, but all OT and OTA licensees of our state to field your questions and concerns. The participants of the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of the Compact (73%), Twenty two percent needed to ask more questions and 5 percent dissented. Last month we had a virtual meeting with stakeholders including AOTA, NBCOT, and the National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC) representatives.

Below are the questions proposed by the participants followed by the answers given during our virtual meeting with AOTA, NBCOT and the NCIC:

1. What are the benefits/pros for OTA/OT in Mississippi?

The OT Compact is an occupational licensure compact that allows OT and OTAs to practice in other compact member states without the need to obtain separate licenses for each. A practitioner's Mississippi license is recognized by other compact member states and authorizes practice in those states. The benefits for states are the compacts can address access to care issues for states, it allows them to create an additional pathway to practice in Mississippi, but the state retains control over the licensure process and the scope of practice. Also, the compact allows states to work together to enhance public protection. The main benefit for practitioners is that the compact allows OTs and OTAs to practice in other compact member states without the need to get licensed in those states - this is especially useful for telehealth. OTs and OTAs will only be required to complete CEs in their primary state of residence. The compact is voluntary, so practitioners aren't required to utilize it. Additionally, the compact has robust provisions for military spouses.

(Continued p 4 - 6)

Legislative News

OT COMPACT Q&A Continued

2. What are the cons for OTA/OT in Mississippi?

Currently, Mississippi has enacted 7 occupational licensure compacts. The important “con” is that the compact is not free. There will be fees for the practitioner associated with the obtaining a compact privilege. The compact commission and the member state where an OT or an OTA will charge a fee for the compact privilege. However, the compact privilege is optional.

3. What is the risk of outside companies taking jobs away from MS therapist?

These types of companies have built their business cases on the current licensure system – they aren’t the product of the compact. The adoption of other compacts in Mississippi have not resulted in evidence of state employment losses from outside companies, to our knowledge.

4. How does the risk of allowing other states to have direct access to us make this beneficial for Mississippi as we are already struggling with finding jobs for the therapist we have?

The compact could be beneficial for Mississippi practitioners who are struggling to find employment opportunities in state by allowing them the opportunity to find employment in other states or via telehealth – if available. Therapist from out of state or Border States can practice in our state via individual state license now. Our state has already passed universal licensure to increase access and portability.

5. Member Costs. It’s already costly for regular licensure and state organization fees. –

There will be a fee for the compact privilege both at the state level and at the compact commission. However, the compact is voluntary – practitioners do not have to participate if they choose not to do so. Other professional Compacts charge around \$45 for the compact privilege and encourages member states to charge the same amount. While we cannot speak to the amount of the fee at this time we believe the commission will set them at a reasonable level so as to encourage participation in the compact.

6. Impacts on the job market- Impacts on rural state line areas of the state and their ability to recruit OTs.

As mentioned above, the opportunity to gain access to employment in other states will be beneficial for practitioners who are struggling to find employment opportunities in their home state of residence.

7. Would it decrease the demand for OTs in Mississippi or increase the demand?

Other professions haven’t seen demand decrease in compact states. Some professions believe that the greater availability of practitioners in a state could increase the demand for services. Seven other professions such as PT, SLP and others already have Compacts in MS.

8. Would the compact be controlled by MSOTA or MSDH Professional Licensure?

The compact is operated by the compact commission, which is represented by the member states, but the compact commission has no authority to act against a practitioner or dictate policy to the member states. The member states retain control over the practice and licensure within their boundaries.

(Continued p 5-6)

Legislative News

OT COMPACT Q&A Continued

9. When practicing in one state and moving to another, would there be a fee to pay yearly, or would there be a broad fee paid for all states in the compact?

OTs and OTAs will need to obtain a compact privilege for each member state they wish to practice. There will be a fee at the commission level and the member states will be able to charge a fee for the compact privilege if they choose to do so.

10. How would the licensure compact affect Continuing Education requirements and renewal procedures?

OTs and OTAs would only be required to complete CEs in their primary (home) state of residence.

11. How does the process work?

OTs and OTAs would obtain a compact privilege to work in another compact member state. Eligibility is based upon a license in a practitioner's home state (primary state of residence). The license must be in good standing with no adverse actions in the previous two years. OTs and OTAs wishing to obtain a compact privilege in another compact member state must complete a jurisprudence requirement in another compact member state if it is required. The compact privilege(s) would renew at the same time as the renewal for the home state license.

12. Why would Mississippi want to enter into this agreement when it could potentially harm our therapists practicing in this state by allowing individuals who live in a different state to practice in this state via *telehealth*? I believe this would benefit companies more than it would benefit individual therapists.

Again, we haven't seen this occur in other professions. Mississippi is a member of seven licensure compacts. If these compacts were harmful to practitioners', states wouldn't enact them. States have enacted over 220 pieces of licensure compact legislation.

13. How soon will we have privileges?

It typically takes twelve to fourteen months for the commission to begin issuing privileges after the first commission meeting. The first commission meeting is scheduled for August 3-4, 2022.

14. How would COTA supervision (by an OT) work with regard to membership/ non-membership of the compact?

COTAs working in a compact member state are required to be supervised by an OT who holds either a license or a compact privilege in in that state. Again, the OT would have to abide by state practice act requirements around supervision.

(Continued p. 6)

Legislative News

OT COMPACT Q&A Continued

15. I would like to confirm this is good for MS practitioners, although I have read of the benefits and understand it to be positive.

Other professions have benefited from having an occupational licensure compact. The OT Compact is merely another pathway for an OT or OTA to practice in other compact member states without the need to get a license in that state by utilizing a compact privilege. Eligibility for a compact privilege is primarily based on an unrestricted license in your primary state of residence (home state). Member states retain control of their licensure process and the practice of occupational therapy within its borders. The compact will improve communication between members states such as reporting misconduct or criminal acts via a shared data base.

16. Job market/job security for COTAs, paying rate, and ethical concerns with supervisory visits –

I have not heard of negative consequences for PTAs in states that have enacted the Physical Therapy Compact (PT Compact). However, I would recommend reaching out to the state PT Association since Mississippi is a member of the PT Compact.

17. How is it going to affect telehealth reimbursement along with rules and regulations for telehealth?

The existing licensure compacts haven't experienced any specific issues with telehealth reimbursements. Practitioners working in other compact member states must follow the telehealth regulations in those states. The MS advisory board part of our OT Compact task and we will collaborate with them regarding rules and regulations.

The MSOTA Licensure compact taskforce will begin the process of enacting compact legislation language to become a member of the OT Compact in 2023 as this will be good for our profession moving forward. As mentioned above seven other health professions are members of Compact Licensure Agreements in MS. This initiative will enhance both portability and accessibility of Occupational Therapy.

For more detailed information-Please visit otcompact.org

Thank you for all you do for our profession every day.
Robin Parish DHA, MA, OTR/L, CHT
President-Elect MSOTA & Legislative Chair



MSOTA Legislative Day

January 25, 2023

7:30 AM until 11:30 AM

MSOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022



Another year, another conference! We are so pleased to say that we had another successful annual conference this year. Thank you to everyone who traveled for the day's lineup, our generous sponsors and our amazing speakers!

We welcomed 176 attendees to the Muse Center at Hinds Community College on Saturday, February 26th. The Muse Center is quickly becoming our conference home and we took full advantage of the space. We filled up the auditorium for everyone for a general assembly to discuss state and national issues affecting our profession. A big discussion was the compact licensure - be on the look out for more information on this!

Attendees then split up to hear about life after graduation and all the student information, all the goods on the upper extremity and an engaging pediatric track. "Gaining the Upper Hand" was presented by the very popular Instagram account @the_upper_hand, be sure to give them a follow!

The pediatric track, "Is it sensory or is it behavior", was presented by Carolyn Murray-Slutsky and Betty Paris. Their interactive workshop was a big success and they had wonderful resources that many of our attendees took advantage of.



We are excited to see where the following year takes us with continuing education opportunities for you! Make sure to keep an eye out for us in your inbox and give us a follow on our social media accounts to stay up to date.

Submitted by,
Erica Reeves, OTR/L, CHT
Continue Ed Chair

MSOTA Membership News!



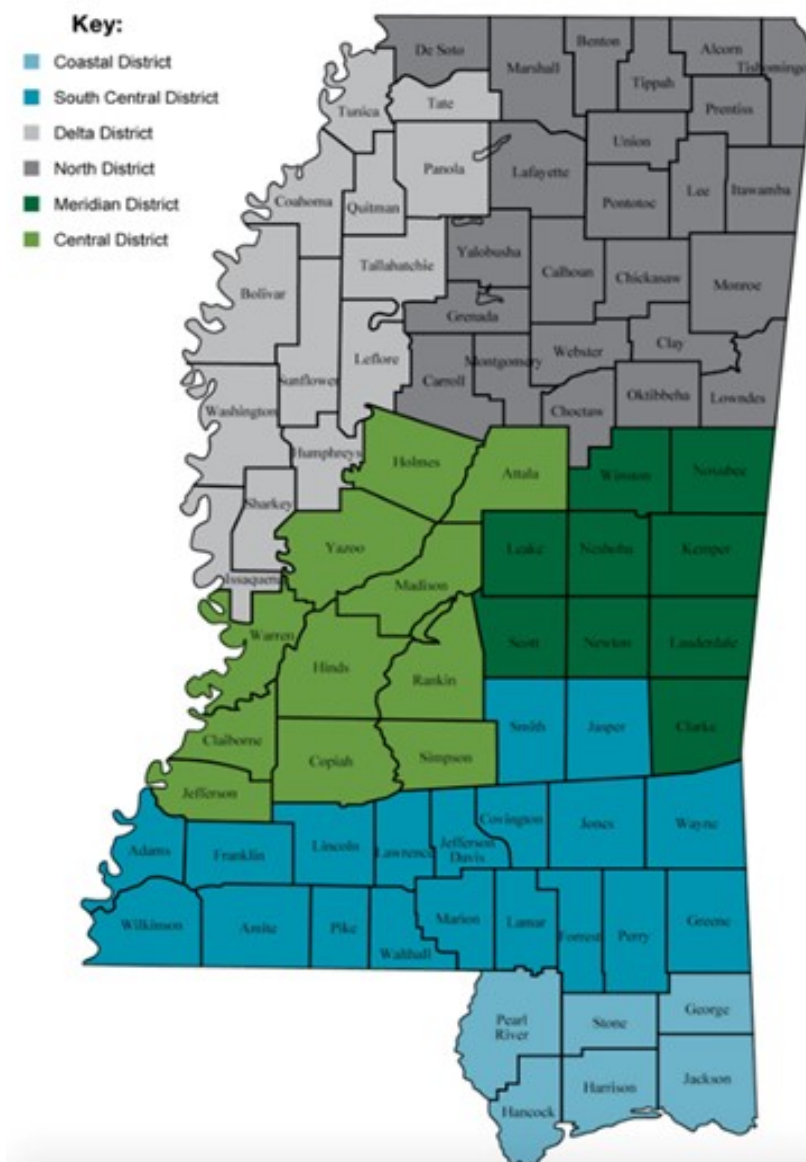
Heather Calnan Summers,
Membership Chair

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

We have a total of 256 MSOTA members, which are made up of 189 OT members and 67 OTA members. Membership numbers broken down by district North: 62, Delta: 14, Central: 109, Meridian: 15, South Central: 37, Coastal: 14, and 5 listed as n/a.

We have 184 student members. Student Membership numbers by school: UMMC: 114, Holmes CC: 8, ICC: 16, PRCC: 7, South Alabama: 1, St. Katherine Univ: 6, St. Augustine: 2, Eastern KY: 1, Wingate Univ: 1, and 28 not listed.

We are continuing to evaluate the best ways to serve our members and the occupational therapy profession. If you have ideas or would like to volunteer, please email me at h_calnan@bellsouth.net



MSOTA WEBSITE

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!

mississippiota.org

MSOTA Outstanding Student Leadership Awards

Each year, MSOTA presents an Outstanding Leadership Award to a graduating student from each Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant Program in the state. The student is nominated by the faculty based on the individual's demonstration of leadership skills in the classroom, on the school campus, and in the community. This award is designed to recognize those outstanding student leaders who, we hope, will go on to be leaders in MSOTA, AOTA, and the profession. Each recipient receives a certificate of recognition, a one-year free membership to MSOTA, and a scholarship check in the amount of \$100.00.

2022 MSOTA Leadership Award Recipients



Kim Hoang
Brandon, MS
UMMC OTD Program



Santonio Chandler
West Point, MS
ICC OTA Program

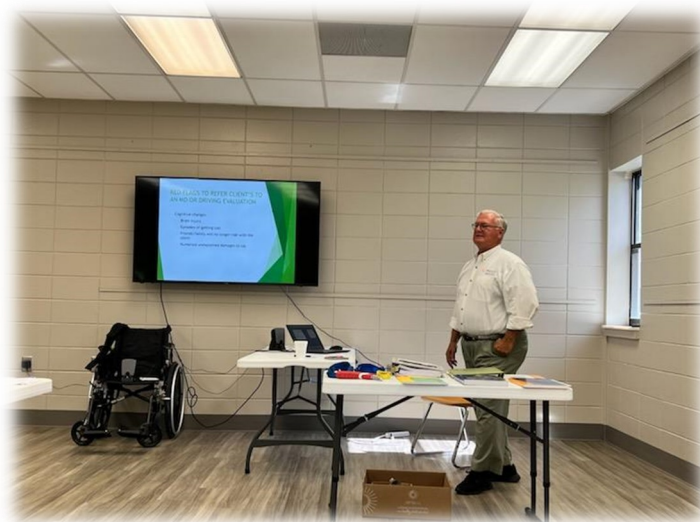
Peyton Czerwonka
(Not Pictured)
New Orleans, LA
PRCC OTA Program

*Congratulations and much luck with your future careers!
We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the future!*

MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

SOUTH CENTRAL

On Saturday, June 4th, the South Central District hosted a CEU on “What an OT Generalist Should Know About Wheelchairs” at the local Columbia/Marion County Library. Attendees came from across the state and practice settings. Long-time MSOTA supporter and past President Dan Allison presented and offered a hands on opportunity for securing seating systems in an adapted van. Practitioners were allowed to ask questions and work through several seating options, given resources, and understand evaluations and treatments that are needed in our area. Thank you Dan! If you have a good topic or want to speak, contact South Central District Chair, Danielle Whittington at danielle.r.whitt@gmail.com and she will make it happen!



Danielle Whittington OTR/L, CLVT, NBCT



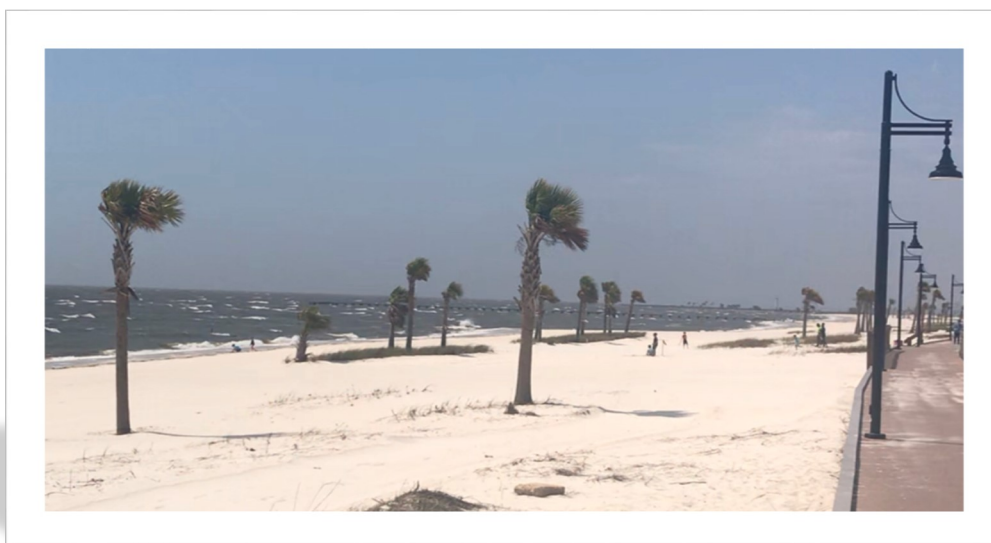
MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

COASTAL DISTRICT

Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a board member and the new chair for the MSOTA Coastal District. My name is Robin McCaffery, OTR/L, BCP, C/NDT (many of you will know me by my former name, Robin Friend). I am a 1999 graduate of UMMC and have been practicing pediatrics in Hattiesburg until my move to the Gulf Coast area in the spring. I am currently a partner and Clinic Director for Beyond Therapy for Kids in Gulfport, and my husband and I live in Bay St. Louis. I am super excited to get to know the current members of MSOTA in the area and hopefully encourage more therapists to join us in supporting our state association. I was surprised to learn at our last board meeting that we only have 14 members in our district, so I hope you will all join me in encouraging our colleagues to become members as well. There is definitely strength in numbers, and we have some important issues on the table that need a united voice to promote, sustain, and move our profession forward! As summer comes to a close, I am planning to schedule monthly social hour networking events at area restaurants along the coast so we can get to know one another, share contact information, and support one another with resources. I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for CEU topics that will be meaningful to our members as we begin to plan for our future district meetings. Keep a watch out for upcoming events on the MSOTA website and our Facebook group, and feel free to contact me personally with any suggestions for networking and CEU events!

Robin McCaffery, OTR/L, BCP, C/NDT

robinot@bellsouth.net



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

CENTRAL DISTRICT



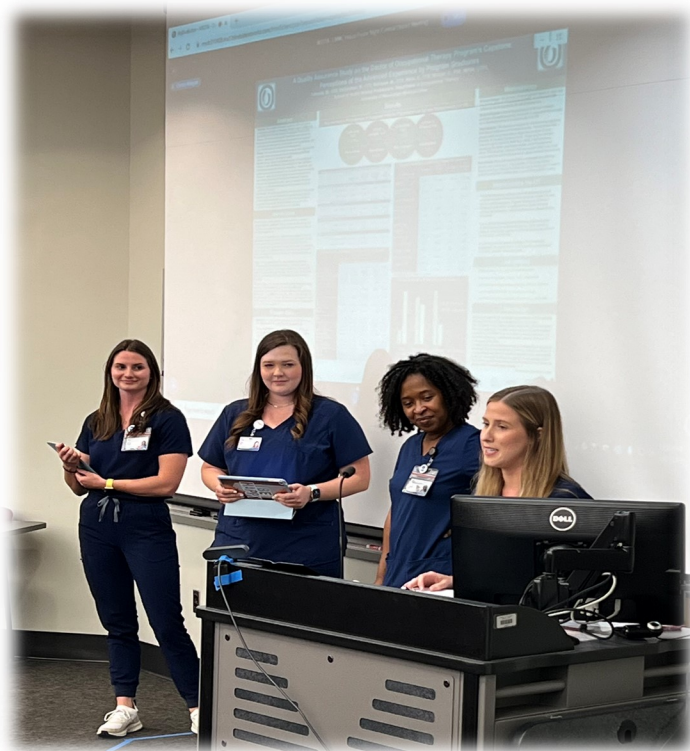
I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the last few weeks before the craziness of another school year returns. MSOTA, along with SHRP OT staff and students, hosted a free virtual CEU event on April 21, 2022 with the third year OT

students presenting their research posters and answering questions about their findings. The students did a wonderful job presenting their research to their live and virtual audiences!

We are planning to host a social event at **Fertile Ground Beer Co.** this fall - be on the lookout for more details in the next few weeks!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions/comments/concerns or with any suggestions on topics to bring to our district for future CEU events.

Submitted by,



UMMC OTD student group presenting on campus while MSOTA members logged in from across the state to participate virtually.

Kenley Smith, MOTR/L, BCP
Central District Chair
Kenley_smith@comcast.net

SCHOOL NEWS

Holmes Community College

The OTA program at Holmes had 11 graduates in May; many of our recent graduates have accepted full time or PRN positions. We have 15 incoming students for the fall semester and 10 returning to complete their sophomore year. Currently, they are beginning their Fieldwork 1A in psychosocial settings. Last fall, the program was partnering with the MS Braves to bring awareness to the role of OT in mental health; however, the game schedule was cancelled due to Covid. We are happy to say we will pick up where we left off and hope to complete our collaboration with the Braves this September. In addition, the program has joined with We Will Go Ministries to supply toiletries to those they serve for the month of October.



Submitted by,
D. Cade Montague, MOTR/L
HCC OTA Program Director

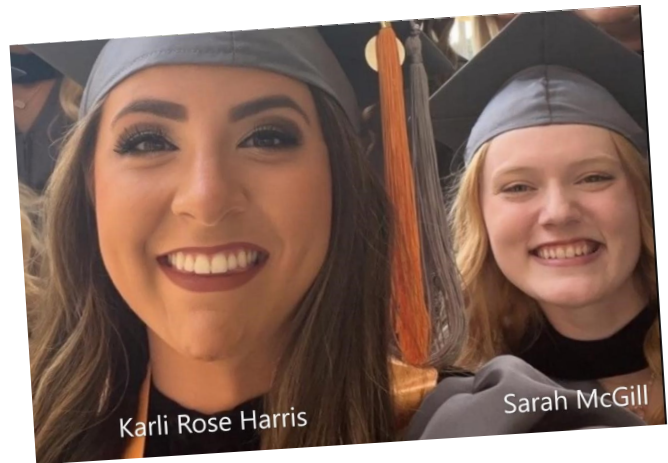
SCHOOL NEWS Continued

Itawamba Community College

On May 13, twelve excited students walked across the stage to achieve their hard-earned diplomas. We are extremely proud of our 2022 graduates! Now they must prepare for one final test as many will be taking the NBCOT exam over the next two months. I know they are anxious to have this behind them and begin their career. Several have already reported having part-time and prn positions secured.

Three of our graduates received special awards in recognition of academic and leadership skills. The ICC Award of Excellence went to two students - Karli Rose Harris and Sarah McGill. The recipient of the MSOTA Leadership Award was Santonio Chandler.

Our freshman (incoming sophomore) cohort completed their first Level IA-Psychosocial fieldwork requirement this summer. Each reported having an amazing experience and it was encouraging to hear about how much they had learned during their time at area mental health facilities.



Interviews for the upcoming freshman class were held on May 23. Just as we are excited for our graduates, we are also excited for these fourteen, newly selected, students as they will begin their educational journey as occupational therapy assistant students this fall.

Program faculty are diligently working on our ACOTE self-study report which is due this fall. An onsite visit will be scheduled for next spring. As all of you in education know this is a grueling undertaking. Please keep us in your thoughts as we dig in and try to have the self-study completed before our summer break!

Additionally, we have hired a new part-time instructor to teach a fall course. Zach Wooten, a 2016 graduate of our program, will be coming on board in August. We are excited to welcome Zach to the OTA faculty and have no doubts he will be a great addition to our faculty. He is also a recent graduate of UMMC, earning a bachelor's degree in Health Systems Administration and will begin a master's program in Instructional Technology and Design this fall. We are grateful for the knowledge and expertise he will bring to our program.

(Continued p. 15)

SCHOOL NEWS Continued Itawamba Community College

Lastly, we always want to take the opportunity to give a big “thank you” to our fieldwork educators. Without your support, encouragement and mentorship, our students would not have the preparation they need to be effective, entry-level practitioners. Because of you and your dedication to our students we know they will be successful. You make a difference and we are forever grateful.

Have a wonderful summer!

The ICC Faculty
*Dee Dee Lomenick,
Shannon Fraiser,
Candace Miles,
Zach Wooten*



SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

As we returned to the grandeur that is typically expected at graduation ceremonies at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, our second class of doctoral students proudly walked across the graduation stage in May 2022. Their journey

throughout the OTD curriculum included many unexpected detours due to COVID. However, they persevered in the unknown and developed skills that will follow them throughout their professional career.



Our new OT1 class is growing accustomed to the fast pace of the summer semester, but they are also learning what it means to be part of this wonderful OT family. Our OT2s continue to advance their knowledge of community-based practice, management, and research this semester. They also recently visited the TK Martin Center at MSU as part of their assistive technology class to learn more about topics such as wheelchair mobility and assistive driving. We are so thankful for our com-

munity partners who allow our students the opportunity to grow their clinical and professional skills. Finally, our OT3 class began their first level II fieldwork experience this semester across a wide variety of settings and geographic locations.



SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Over the past months, the Department of Occupational Therapy has also experienced many changes. Dr. Christy Morgan stepped down as chair of the department in January 2022, and Dr. Penny Rogers retired in June. We have also added two new full-time faculty members to our team. Dr. Moira Mills and Dr. Kristen Hill have seamlessly found their niche within our curriculum and our faculty.



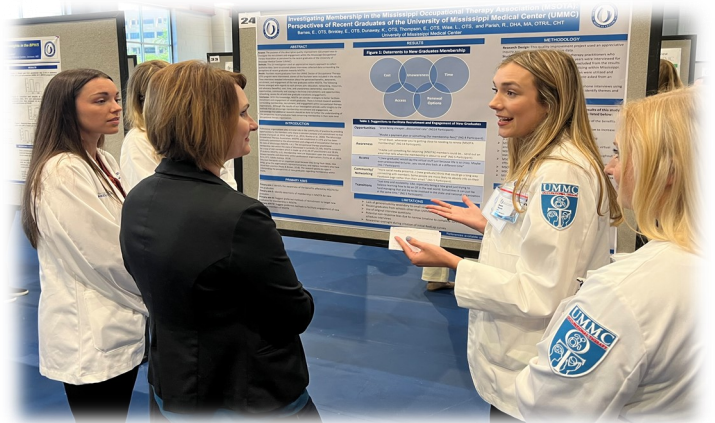
Dr. Penny Rogers' Retirement Luncheon at Table 100

As this is my first newsletter update as chair of the occupational therapy program, I want to thank the UMMC faculty and students for their support in my transition to this new role. The adjustment was much easier because of your reassurance and heartfelt encouragement!

Megan Ladner
Chair, UMMC OT Department



New class of first year OT students



Second year OT students presenting research posters



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Keeping you up-to-date on current events at the state and national level via the website, newsletters, and email blasts.

Giving you access to a member only portion of our website to define your profile and network with other members throughout the state.

Having a voice in regards to your profession through MSOTA sponsored surveys, elections, and District meetings.

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