



MSOTA Messenger

## Upcoming Events:

- **MARCH 25: Spring Conference at the Hinds Muse Center**
- **APRIL 20: Central District Meeting at UMMC SHRP**
- **APRIL 22: 4th Annual 5K at Holmes CC**

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IS 100!

1917-2017

Come celebrate with us at MSOTA's

## 4th Annual Run, Walk, and Roll!

The Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association is hosting its 4th annual Run, Walk, and Roll on **April 22, 2017**. The MSOTA Board elected to move the event to April this year in celebration of National OT Month. This is a special year to celebrate OT Month as it coincides with our profession's 100th birthday. Please consider joining us on this special year for Occupational Therapy as we strengthen our profession together by raising money for MSOTA! The event will be held on the campus of Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, MS, and will consist of the following events:

5K Run

5K Walk

10K Run

Kids 100 Yard Dash

**Register online at [racesonline.com](http://racesonline.com)**

**Search keyword: MSOTA**

## Message from the President — Glenda Hux



Glenda Hux, OT  
MSOTA President  
Email:  
[ghux25@gmail.com](mailto:ghux25@gmail.com)  
Cell Phone:  
(601) 754-3365

Happy 2017! I can't wait to see you at our Annual Meeting and Conference on March 25, 2017. We will be electing a VP at our meeting. Stay tuned! We will be announcing the candidates soon. Also, if you haven't saved the date yet our 4th Annual MSOTA 5K/10K Run, Walk and Roll will be held on April 22, 2017 at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland. As usual, MSOTA is thriving! I'm attending the 100th anniversary of OT in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and I can't wait to bring exciting ideas and awards back home as I have for the past two years. It's a great time to be a MSOTA member! If you know someone who still has questions about our purpose or the value of their membership investment, please have them visit our website [www.mississippiota.org](http://www.mississippiota.org) and contact anyone in our board of directors, including myself! We still have great volunteers and are looking for new leadership all the time. Come grow with us!



# MSOTA Spring Conference

## Saturday, March 25, 2017

### The Muse Center/Hinds Community College

AGENDA	
7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration	
Phys Dys Track	Pediatric Track
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
<p style="text-align: center;">Cardiac Rehab</p> <p>Presented by: Brad Cooper, MOT, OTR/L, CLT, CEAS</p> <p>Attendees will develop an understanding of MET levels and its relevance to rehab, identify the difference in cardiac rehab phases, develop a basic knowledge of cardiac rehab and precautions, and learn the indications for Phase II cardiac rehab.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unrolling and Unraveling the School Therapy Caseload</p> <p>Presented by : Teresa Laney, M.S., CCC-SLP; Stacey Smith, OTR/L; and Danielle Whittington, OTR/L, CLVT</p> <p>Attendees will discuss present levels of performance and goal writing in an education setting, discuss clinical versus educational evaluations for school aged children, and identify criteria for eligibility and dismissal for services.</p>
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	
<p style="text-align: center;">Occupational Therapy and Sleep</p> <p>Attendees will recall the importance of sleep, identify factors associated with sleep quality, discuss the therapist's role in combating sleep problems in patients, and set goals for a patient who is sleep deprived.</p>	
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own	
1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting	
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
<p style="text-align: center;">Pain Management</p> <p>Presented by : A. Gordon Lyons, MD Fellowship Trained and Board Certified</p> <p>Attendees will identify the different types of pain and their respective treatment options, develop an understanding of why core strengthening is important to pain management, and discuss the use of modalities and their benefit to managing pain.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Continuation of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Unrolling and Unraveling the School Therapy Caseload</p> <p>Continue discussion of present levels performance and goal writing and hands-on session for discussion of classroom opportunities for OT engagement and collaboration with teachers.</p>

**OT/OTA members earn 8 contact hours/Student members earn participation certificate.**

*Pre-registration is required.* Register on line, fax the attached form with payment information to 601-500-5757, or mail the attached form with payment to MSOTA at P. O. Box 2188, Brandon, MS 39043.

Questions: Amanda Jordan at 601-853-9564 or [mississippiota@gmail.com](mailto:mississippiota@gmail.com).

**MSOTA Spring Conference, Saturday, March 25, 2017**  
**The Muse Center on the campus of Hinds Community College**  
**Pearl, MS**

**Registration Form**

Conference Cost and Payment:

Current MSOTA Member (8.0 CEU's)     \$75     OT     OTA     Student: \$25

Non-Member (8.0 CEU's)     \$155     OT     OTA     Student: \$55

Please circle the workshop in which you are attending:

Phys Dys Track

Pediatric Track

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. Please mark the box and include the appropriate amount with your conference registration.

YES, I want to join MSOTA:

OT \$70.00 (plus member conference cost)

COTA \$55.00 (plus member conference cost)

Student \$30.00 (plus member conference cost/membership active until graduation)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ADD A \$2.00 CONVENIENCE FEE WHEN PAYING BY CREDIT CARD.**

Total Amount Paid (conference registration and membership if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose a check payable to MSOTA or provide credit card information below.

Type Credit Card:     Visa     Master Card     American Express

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_


Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code on back of card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Pre-registration is required.*** Register on line, fax the attached form with payment information to 601-500-5757, or mail the attached form with payment to MSOTA at P.O. Box 2188, Brandon, MS 39043.  
Questions: Amanda Jordan at 601-853-9564 or [mississippiota@gmail.com](mailto:mississippiota@gmail.com).

*WORRY LESS ...RUN MORE...*



**SATURDAY 4/22**  
**Holmes CC - Ridgeland MS**

Proceeds Benefit Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association

**5K** <sup>4th ANNUAL</sup> **RUN, WALK & ROLL**  
**+ 10K Run & Kids' Fun Run**

**\$25 PER PERSON IF**  
**PRE-REGISTERED BY 4/15**  
Registration on Race Day is \$30

**Pick up Race Packet and T-Shirts 7:00-7:45 am**  
5K/10K Begins at 8:00 am - Kids' Fun Run Begins at 9:15 am

Visit [www.racesonline.com](http://www.racesonline.com) for link to register online! Keyword: MSOTA

If you own or have connections to a business, please consider a sponsorship to support the mission of MSOTA. Just fill out this form and send it in!



## 4th Annual MSOTA Run, Walk, or Roll

Saturday, April 22, 2017

5K Run/Walk, 10K Run

100 Yard Dash

Holmes Community College

Ridgeland, MS

### SPONSOR FORM

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name & Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to participate as a: (please circle below)

- **PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$1,000)**
  - You will be provided an area adjacent to the registration tent for your business to set up a table and/or tent to distribute promotional items.
  - Your business name/logo/link MOST PROMINENTLY displayed on our website.
  - Your business name/logo MOST PROMINENTLY displayed on the race day banner.
  - One corporate team sponsorship (a total of 10 runners at no additional cost, t-shirts included).
  - Business name MOST PROMINENTLY placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.
- **GOLD SPONSOR (\$500)**
  - Your business name/logo/link prominently displayed on our website.
  - Your business name/logo prominently displayed on the race day banner.
  - One corporate team sponsorship (a total of 5 runners at no additional cost, t-shirts included).
  - Your business name prominently placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.
- **SILVER SPONSOR (\$250)**
  - Your business name/logo displayed on our website.
  - Your business name/logo placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.
- **BRONZE SPONSOR (\$100)**
  - Your business name placed on the t-shirt to be given to all race participants.
- I would not like to be a main sponsor, however; I will donate \$\_\_\_\_\_.

If you would like to donate any items for the race bags (cups, pens, key chains, etc.), please contact Jennifer Donahue, MSOTA 5K Sponsorships Chair, at [jennifersdonahue@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersdonahue@gmail.com). We would love to support your business with company items. We anticipate 175 participants. **Items must be received no later than August 15th!**

Please make checks payable to MSOTA, P. O. Box 2188 in Brandon, MS 39043. Sponsorships must be received no later than **April 1, 2017** for promotional deadlines. Questions? Contact Jennifer Donahue at [jennifersdonahue@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersdonahue@gmail.com) or 601.331.3045.

***Thanks for your support of occupational therapy in Mississippi!***

MSOTA is classified as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.



## News from the MSOTA Reimbursement Chair Amanda Jordan, OTR/L



### New Evaluation Codes Update

As I'm sure you all know by now, our three new evaluation codes and one new re-evaluation code began on January 01, 2017. These new codes replaced the previously used evaluation and re-evaluation codes and they apply to all insurance carriers who are covered under HIPAA.

## NEW EVAL CODES

So far, I've heard the good, the bad, and the ugly! It seems that there was not a lot of detailed information available going into this new venture. Some folks received formal training and others did not. As a result, there are many questions and concerns. I have found AOTA to be helpful in answering many questions. I have listed some of the questions and answers below from the AOTA website:

**Q1. "If the patient profile and history indicates comorbidities and past therapy records that could impact performance but there is limited availability of those records prior to the evaluation, do I choose the low complexity for that component?"**

**A1.** "Choose the complexity level (moderate or high) for this category based on what level of information you believe you will need to prepare a treatment plan. Remember, this is only one component; the other two (deficit count and clinical decision making) will also affect the final selection."

**Q2. "How do we decide on moderate complexity in terms of comorbidities when moderate can either be no comorbidities (low) or some comorbidities (high)?"**

**A2.** "The question is not precisely correct. Comorbidities are not rated separately; they are only one factor that affects choice of level for the component of clinical decision making. To choose LOW, there are NO comorbidities that affect performance. To choose MODERATE for clinical decision making there MAY be comorbidities that affect performance. To choose HIGH for clinical decision making there MUST be comorbidities that affect performance."

**Q3. "What is the difference between 'detailed' assessments and 'comprehensive' assessments?"**

**A3.** "This can be viewed mainly as a language issue. When we are thinking about the term 'focused,' AOTA believes the meaning is that the clinician may go into greater detail on one or two conditions or performance areas. 'Comprehensive' should be used when a wide range of aspects of an individual's performance must be assessed in order to develop a plan of care. The words refer not to the actual assessment instruments but how many aspects of performance or the patient's status the therapist must assess and address in the plan of care."

## Reimbursement News Continued...

Q4. “What if a patient has no past medical history or therapy history and was an independent adult who has a catastrophic car accident with resulting TBI? He has many physical and cognitive impairments impacting performance in eating, dressing, grooming, showering, toileting, functional mobility, and home management tasks. Do I choose low complexity because he has no past medical or therapy history?”

A4. “Past medical history is anything that happened to the client before they reached the occupational therapist for an evaluation. It is not necessarily the long-ago past. Client medical history can include anything about the client’s medical status/intervention provided as part of the referral. The therapist must review history related to the presenting problem which can mean history from yesterday.”

Q5. “Will the complexity identified on evaluation impact the number of visits that will be covered by insurance companies?”

A5. “AOTA’s position is that the level of evaluation is not directly relevant to the frequency or duration of therapy visits. The evaluation is to determine frequency and duration. A ‘high’ level evaluation may result in a treatment plan that starts with only one visit per week for a month to assess the patient’s tolerance. AOTA is ready to support this interpretation of separation between evaluation levels and treatment plans. We are not sure yet how payers will react to the new codes, however; we are preparing information to support you in advocating for appropriate access in frequency and duration.”

These are just a sample of questions from AOTA. You can find more FAQ’s on the AOTA website.

In addition, I am looking into offering a free CEU course for members sometime in the near future in regards to the occupational profile and the OT Framework. This will be a refresher course for many of us but, hopefully; will help us to define some elements of the new evaluation complexity structure in which we are having difficulties.

In the meantime, I would like to receive some information from our members regarding your struggles, your questions, your thoughts, etc. as I try to put this course together. This will help me focus on our member needs and get the respective information out to the membership. Simply send an email to mississippiota@gmail.com with Amanda: Eval Codes in the subject line.

Thanks so much for your help!  
Hang in there! More information to come!

VISIT  
AOTA’s  
WEBSITE  
FOR  
MORE  
INFO ON  
NEW EVAL  
CODES

## Reimbursement News Continued

### Proposed Rule Affecting the Provision of Custom-Fabricated Orthotics

In the past, occupational therapists and physical therapists have been exempt from quality and accreditation standards for furnishing and fabricating prosthetics and custom orthotics for Medicare beneficiaries. However, on January 12, 2017; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released a proposed rule that would lift this exemption.

**The Federal Register states the following:**

“This proposed rule would implement statutory requirements and specify: the qualifications needed for qualified practitioners to furnish and fabricate prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics, and for qualified suppliers to fabricate prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics; accreditation requirements that qualified suppliers must meet in order to bill for prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics; requirements that an organization must meet in order to accredit qualified suppliers to bill for prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics; and a timeframe by which qualified practitioners and qualified suppliers must meet the applicable licensure, certification, and accreditation requirements. This rule would also remove the exemption from quality standards and accreditation that is currently in place in accordance with section 1834(a)(20) of the Act for certain practitioners and suppliers who furnish or fabricate prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics. In addition, this rule also includes authority for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to revoke the Medicare enrollment of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers that submit claims for items that do not meet the requirements of the statute and this proposed rule.”

Basically, “occupational therapists who furnish and fabricate custom orthotics will have to be “licensed by the state [as a qualified provider of prosthetics and custom orthotics], or...certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics...or by the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification;” according to AOTA. Obviously, this would affect many of our patients and many in our profession working in a variety of settings. It is imperative that we provide as much feedback as we can to the powers that be!

CMS is accepting comments on this proposed rule through 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2017. In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-6012-P. You can submit your comment to CMS electronically at <http://regulations.gov> or by regular mail at Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-6012-P, P.O. Box 8013, Baltimore, MD 21244-8013. In addition, AOTA's Regulatory Affairs staff will be commenting on the new proposed regulations and welcomes your feedback at [regulatory@aota.org](mailto:regulatory@aota.org).





## SPECIAL MEMBER CATEGORIES

### Did You Know?

Did you know that MSOTA offers different levels of membership? Yes, we do! MSOTA offers a Magnolia level and a Cotton level. It's easy to become either. A Magnolia level members simply donates \$50.00 to MSOTA and a Cotton level member donates \$25.00 to MSOTA. This is typically done when applying or renewing your membership. The categories are located on the membership application form and on the on-line membership application. Applicants simply mark the box for the category of membership and include the donation with their application or renewal fee.

In addition to the different levels of membership, members can also elect to sponsor a student from one of the schools in the state. This is a great way for members to support their Alma matte! Simply indicate the school in which you would like to support and include \$30.00 with your membership application or renewal. Notice is delivered to the school and the funds are applied respectively.

If you have any questions about levels of membership or a school sponsorship, please contact Heather Calnan, MSOTA Membership Chair, at [h\\_calnan@bellsouth.net](mailto:h_calnan@bellsouth.net) or Amanda Jordan, Executive Director, at [mississippiota@gmail.com](mailto:mississippiota@gmail.com).

Amanda Jordan, OTR/L  
MSOTA Executive Director

**Please consider adding a special membership  
category to your next membership renewal!**



### MAGNOLIA MEMBERS

Amanda Jordan

Karen Lammert

### COTTON MEMBERS

Julie LeBlanc  
Kim Sessions



## MSOTA LEGISLATIVE DAY

MSOTA hosted its annual Legislative Day to promote occupational therapy at the state Capitol. Senators and Representatives were contacted by OTs and students from across the state to visit our table in the rotunda of the Capitol. A large contingent of MSOTA board members, members, and student members were present to greet the legislators who stopped by our booth to visit. Many of the students were invited to attend special events happening at the Capitol that morning by legislators. It was a great morning to promote occupational therapy at the state level.



Senator Doty with MSOTA Board Members.



MSOTA Board Members



UMMC MOT Students and Faculty

# JACKSON FREE CLINIC (JFC)

Dear MSOTA Members:

My name is Tanner Lee, and I am the Jackson Free Clinic (JFC) Student Director of Rehab for the year of 2017.

I want to begin by expressing my (and all the JFC board members) appreciation and gratitude for any of the times in the past that you have volunteered for the clinic and spent your Saturday serving those who need your professional services. We do not take for granted the time you give to the clinic in providing supervision over patient treatment and student learning. I am hoping at some point this year we can provide for you and other clinicians who help serve some form of a formal "thank you" for providing the clinic your expertise and time. Until then we hope you will continue to volunteer with us for only one or two Saturdays during this entire first half of the year (unless you are willing to do more).

We currently are in need of an OT clinician volunteer for every weekend starting on March 4 and after (excluding April 29). Please let us know if you would be willing to volunteer so we won't have to cancel opening the clinic for OT treatments. (Clinic will be closed on March 18, April 1, and April 15)

Thank you again for the contributions you have made to the clinic in any way over the years, and we look forward to hearing from you in regards to if you wish to provide further volunteering assistance to the Jackson Free Clinic.

Sincerely,

Tanner Lee

JFC Student Director of Rehab

tlee23@umc.edu

## VOLUNTEERING

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill



<http://www.jacksonfreeclinic.org/about-us/>



## MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

### COASTAL DISTRICT NEWS

During our February 9, 2017, meeting, the MSOTA Coastal District collected donations for the Petal Upper Elementary School in Petal, MS, via the Harper McCaughan Elementary School in Long Beach, MS, following the recent tornadoes that affected several counties in the South-Central District. Thank you to the following members, Rebecca Hopper, COTA/L, Membership Committee, Andrea Mannarino, COTA/L, and Julie LeBlanc, MS, OTR/L, for your generous donations to this cause. I also want to thank our newest member for joining this evening, Marcos Griffin, OTR/L, and our other members for renewing, Ann Allen, COTA/L, Rachel Campbell, MS, OTR/L, and Joy Johnson, COTA/L. We had a distinguished speaker, Melora Jackson, MS, CMHT, the Director of the Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia, whose office is at the MS State Department of Mental Health's South MS Regional Center (SMRC) in Long Beach, MS. SMRC is one of the five state residential and community facilities for persons with Developmental Disabilities and Intellectual Disabilities. She informed us that we are the only state with an Alzheimer's office, and we have the state with the highest rate of residents in long term care (LTC) facilities on antipsychotic medications, so they are working to remedy that situation through education. We can contact her anytime for trainings regarding Alzheimer's disease for caregivers, staff, and/or therapists or for resources at (228) 214-5556 or via email: [melora.jackson@dmh.state.ms.us](mailto:melora.jackson@dmh.state.ms.us). There are satellite offices in Tupelo and Magee besides the central office in Jackson. The next Coastal meeting is scheduled for April and will tentatively be held in the Biloxi area possibly at a local restaurant named Patio 44, so look for more details. Topic suggestions tonight included: ortho and stroke recovery. The June topic is tentatively scheduled as Myofascial Release. Don't forget, APRIL IS OT MONTH!!!!



We had a very successful Fall Mini Conference, November 19, 2016, held at the USM Gulf Park campus in Long Beach with some visitors from the immediate north. Thank you to several members from the South-Central District for attending our event. We look forward to having more collaborative events together. We had the pleasure of having Dr. Kelly McCoy OTD, MOT, CHT, speak about "Modalities Most Commonly Used by OT Professionals."

## MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

### COAST NEWS CONTINUED...

We held another CEU event and meeting Thursday, August 11, 2016, at the Select Specialty Hospital in Gulfport, MS, with the theme of OT: BACK TO SCHOOL. We stuffed a few backpacks with goodies for students at schools affected by the floods in Louisiana. We presented the video regarding educational and professional options for OTs and OTAs by the UMC staff and had good refreshments prepared by the Hospital staff. Thank you again to Sheryl Egan-Olaivar, the Rehab Director, also a longtime MSOTA member and supporter, who hosted the event.

### SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

Our first 2017 South Central District Meeting will take place at Pearl River Community College in Hattiesburg located at 5448 Highway 49 South, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401 on March 14, 2017, starting at 5:30 pm and ending approximately at 7:00 pm. The topic will include a free 1 hour CEU seminar entitled "How the ALS Association and Occupational Therapists Can Work Together To Meet the Needs of their Patients" presented by Kaitlyn Lock, RRT, the Care Services Coordinator for the South Mississippi chapter of the ALS Association. The 1.0 contact hour will be free to all current MSOTA members including those who renew or who join that evening. Refreshments will be provided. Please contact Jessica Cornett, MOT, OTR/L at 601-269-5015 or [jessica.cornett@merithealthwesley.com](mailto:jessica.cornett@merithealthwesley.com) for further information.

### DELTA DISTRICT NEWS

Brad Cooper - Delta District Chair will present at our annual conference! Please join us to hear Brad's presentation on Cardiac Rehab and Sleep Therapy.

### NORTH DISTRICT NEWS

The north district chair position is currently vacant. Please contact MSOTA if you are interested in serving our state organization in this role.

Be sure to get  
the most  
out of your  
MSOTA  
membership  
by  
connecting  
with your  
District  
activities.



## MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

### CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

The Central District has two big events planned to celebrate OT month!

#### April 20

On April 20th, we will have our next Central District meeting at UMMC in the SHRP building. It will be a 2 hour free event for members that includes a presentation on fieldwork supervision by Robin Davis, UMMC Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, and research poster presentations by the third year OT students. Watch for more information to be emailed soon!

#### April 22

The Central District co-chairs are once again taking the leadership role to organize MSOTAs 5K Run, Walk, and Roll, along with a 10 K Run and kid's Fun Run on Saturday, April 22 at the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. All proceeds will benefit the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association to support advocacy efforts in Mississippi for occupational therapy.

Cost is \$25 per person if pre-registered by April 15. Registration on Race Day is \$30. Participants may pick up race packets and t-shirts between 7–7:45 am on Race Day. The 5K and 10K begins at 8 am and the Kid's Fun Run begins at 9:15 am. Visit [www. Racesonline.com](http://www.Racesonline.com) for link to register online. Keyword: MSOTA

**SEE PAGE 4 & 5 of this newsletter for more information on the MSOTA Race!**



April 2016 MSOTA Central District Meeting with UMMC Class of 2016 presenting research poster presentations.



**Bring the  
kids**

**April 22**

**there is a fun  
run for  
them!**



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Holmes Community College

The HCC OTA program is enjoying the momentum of the spring semester! We currently have 14 students in Level II field-work. These students are flourishing under the guidance of our wonderful clinical instructors! The first year students are busy in the classroom and community. They are actively engaged in MSOTA activities including their recent participation in Legislative Day and upcoming preparations for the MSOTA 5K held on the HCC Ridgeland Campus. The HCC OTA faculty are proud of our students continued success and the gains made in increasing awareness of our wonderful profession.



HCC students participated in MSOTA's Legislative Day



HCC OTA Students Fall Fest Activities - Increasing awareness of Occupational Therapy to the faculty and students on the Ridgeland campus.

### Ittawamba Community College

We had 13 students graduate in May and successfully pass the NBCOT exam. Approximately 75% of these graduates have secured full time positions and the other 25% are working part-time. There were 162 applicants for the fall 2016 entering class with 14 selected to make up the class of 2018. Applications are received daily for the upcoming class and interviews have been scheduled for this May.

Our students continue to have opportunities to expand their skills and enhance their knowledge base. For a second year we were fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with the nursing program to provide a sensory lab for their students. Additionally, students are conducting weekly "Community Readiness" groups at the North MS State Hospital. Throughout the year students provide community service as they volunteer to assist with a number of local events for individuals with disabilities. Some of this year's events include "A Night to Shine", "Angel's Pageant", Elizabeth Gwin Special Needs Session at Camp Tik-a-witha, and the Ronald McDonald house.

### Pearl River Community College

OTA students at PRCC volunteering after the recent tornado with their instructors, Nikki Page and Tim Pulver.





## SCHOOL NEWS Continued

### University of Mississippi Medical Center

The UMMC OT faculty are pleased to announce that we are currently accepting our last MOT class and will transition to an entry-level doctorate degree (OTD) program in Summer 2018. The Mississippi IHL board approved this degree transition at its meeting in November, and we are in the process of preparing our Candidacy Application for ACOTE approval. In February, we launched a new OTD webpage on the SHRP website at <https://www.umm.edu/shrp/>. We encourage all members to visit this new page to learn more about why we are making this transition as well as to review the new admission and curriculum requirements. We appreciate all the support from our fieldwork educators who make our program possible. We are committed to continuing the strong legacy of providing Mississippi with well-prepared graduates to meet the ever changing workforce demands in Mississippi. While launching the new OTD program, we will remain steadfastly committed to the quality of our MOT students through the final MOT class graduating in 2020.

Christy Morgan, Chair UMMC OT Department



OT3s at Jackson's Project Homeless Connect—helping participants make duct tape wallets.



UMMC Students at MSOTA Legislative Day



OT3 students on St. Catherine's Village tour day for Community Practice Class with their teacher, Penny Rogers.

## **MSOTA Administrative News!!! MSOTA HAS A NEW SOFTWARE PROGRAM**

Beginning in October of 2016, MSOTA contracted with an association management software company called MemberClicks to offer additional services to our members via our current website. These services included a member login, member profile management, automation of membership notices and payment options, and reporting options based on member profiles. In addition, we would have the ability to register and pay for events on line, generate CEU certificates automatically, offer on-line webinars and courses with immediate CEU credits awarded, and various other services.



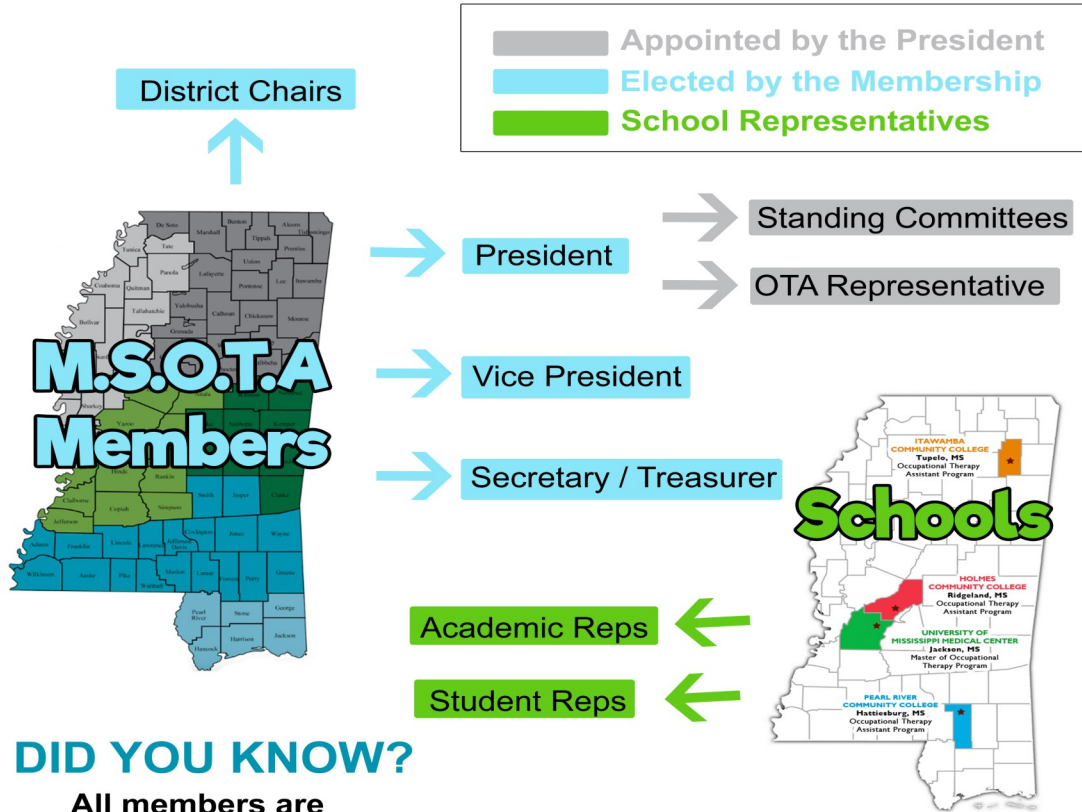
The decision to contract for this service was to increase benefits to our members in the way of continuing education, faster turn-around service, increased networking, and convenience. As many of you have experienced, there have been some hiccups since we started the service. I want to thank those of you who have notified me of any issues that needed to be addressed. I hope that your needs were met in a timely and professional manner.

I really appreciate your patience as I become more familiar with the services offered and how to work the software. I am certainly not a technical guru but I do have help and want to thank Megan Woods for backing me up on the technical end of things. She really knows her stuff!

Please continue to bear with me! If you have questions about any of the new processes associated with the login, membership notifications, payment options, etc. feel free to let me know. There are some things that can be addressed more quickly than others and some that require me to submit a help ticket to get things worked out. All in all, I know this will be a great benefit for all of us and I look forward to implementing many of these services for you in the future.

Amanda Jordan, OTR/L  
MSOTA Executive Director

*IMPROVING MSOTA BENEFITS TO MEMBERS*



## DID YOU KNOW?

All members are invited to attend district meetings sponsored by their District Chair as well as conferences sponsored by the Association.

Standing Committees consist of member volunteers that help carry out MSOTA's strategic plan in fundraising, membership, continuing ed, reimbursement, & public relations.. etc!

**WE APPRECIATE YOU!**



## CONTACT US

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[mississippiota.org](http://mississippiota.org)