



Fall 2018

Upcoming Events:

- **Northern District Meeting**
September 7, 2018
- **MSOTA Annual Conference:**
February 23, 2019

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Farewell Address from Glenda Hux, MSOTA President

“Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say ‘We have done this ourselves.’” Lao Tzu

As my season of leadership in MSOTA affairs comes to a close, I must reminisce about our association’s trajectory since I became involved in 2010. My passion has always been to advance and protect our profession. Don’t tell me “OT’s can’t do this or that” because I will launch all of my efforts into proving and researching the expanse of our scope of practice. With this vision in mind, I became the Legislative Chair, learning very carefully from my zealous and very capable predecessor. Many battles have been fought and won behind the scenes; some we’ve reached a compromise; and some have advanced much closer to our dreams of being recognized as experts in occupation by all related fields. Knowing it is very easy to criticize from the outside looking in but much harder to carve out time to volunteer countless hours to a cause dear to our hearts, I launched into running for President of MSOTA. I’m so proud of all that has been accomplished organizationally, administratively, nationally, regulatory, and locally.



2017 American Occupational Therapy Association... See More

During my tenure:

- ◆ I have fiercely protected our profession at the state level against others who believe OTs don’t play a role in dyslexia or dysgraphia.
- ◆ I have supported the licensure and insurance coverage of behavior analysts while working with their leadership to cast out a vision in their scope of practice for how both professions can work together and have a distinct role in the treatment of children with autism, in particular.



Glenda Hux, President—active at an MSOTA Legislative Day in 2016.

- ◆ Implemented Legislative Day at the State Capitol in which all OT and OTA programs are invited to actively participate to build relationships with their local legislators and impress on soon-to-be OT practitioners the importance of advocacy.
- ◆ Increased our visibility and engagement at the national level by attending AOTA’s Capitol Hill Day in Washington D.C to regularly lobby for repealing of the therapy cap, OT’s role in mental health, OT’s ability to open initial cases in home health settings, OT’s ability to provide quality services via telehealth and for reimbursement parity between a telehealth visit and a clinic visit, among others. *Continued, page 2*

Farewell Address from Glenda Hux, continued

- ◆ I'm also very proud of winning two awards at the national level during AOTA's conference: one as President for Creative Management, and one for Website as part of MSOTA's website development task force.



- ◆ I have appointed and strategically recruited for multiple vacant positions on the MSOTA board. All District Chair positions are filled, all school representative positions are filled, and we have increased the number of OTAs and clinicians on the board. We have a Pediatric Practice Group led by an advisory group of experts in the field. We also have a Falls task force and an Acute Care task force looking to increase continuing education and professional collaboration in these two practice areas.
- ◆ I led the committee to revise our bylaws according to current laws and electronic processes governing non-profits. We're now in compliance with all procedures including election of officers.
- ◆ MSOTA's membership has risen from far below average to national industry average. Much more work is needed in this area but it has led to many member initiatives, one of which has been clarification by our regulatory board regarding supervision of OTAs. I hope the door continues to be open for discussions in order to serve the majority of our members.
- ◆ I have clarified with our regulatory council that indeed Occupational Therapy practitioners have "Open Access to clients as part of our scope of practice. This has always been the case and it has been corroborated repeatedly by our council during my tenure. Also, in matters of regulatory issues, I have strengthened our collaboration and relationships with our regulatory body; many discussions have occurred to propel our profession forward. Unfortunately, I'm not able to share many of these—Such is the nature of advocacy!

- ◆ Our continuing education efforts have reached all time success including the first ever MSOTA Pediatric Summit and the unprecedented growth in both numbers and quality of our Annual Spring Conference.



MSOTA Pediatric Summit, Jackson MS

- ◆ Our relationship with our OT school and OTA schools have strengthened and our cohesive vision continues to be to elevate OT practice throughout the state.
- ◆ Financially, I'm delighted to say since 2010 we have enacted an annual fundraiser and awareness event in the MSOTA Roll, Walk and Roll. It has enabled us to replenish our reserves in case a major threat to our profession appears. Again, more work is needed in this area but tremendous progress has been made. We need volunteers! I have no doubt my successor possesses the leadership and administrative skills to take advantage of the strong foundation that has been set during my tenure and catapult MSOTA into further growth and expansion. It has been my pleasure to serve you. I will continue to elevate our profession at the national and state level through my own Occupational Therapy private practice, GO TO Specialty Therapy in Brookhaven, Mississippi. The sky is the limit!

Regards, Glenda Hux,
Legislative Chair since 2010, President 2014-2018,
AOTPAC Circle of Advisors since 2010,
GO TO Specialty Therapy, Founder

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



CMS 2019 Proposed Rule for Therapy Services

(information obtained from Rick Gawenda/Gawenda Seminars)

On July 12, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the proposed rule: “Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2019; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Quality Payment Program; and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program”. This proposed rule has several proposed changes for outpatient therapy services beginning with dates of service on and after January 1, 2019.

Highlights of the proposed rule include the following:

1. Functional Limitation Reporting

CMS proposes to discontinue the functional reporting requirements for services furnished on or after January 1, 2019.

2. GN, GO and GP Discipline Specific Modifiers

Since CMS must create 2 new modifiers to distinguish when services are provided in whole or in part by a PTA or an OTA, CMS is proposing to make changes to the descriptors of the existing GO and GP modifiers. CMS is also proposing to revise the GN modifier descriptor to conform to the changes to the GP and GO modifiers by clarifying the qualified professionals that furnish SLP therapy services.

Proposed Revised GN Modifier: Services fully furnished by a speech-language pathologist or by or incident to the services of another qualified clinician – that is, physician, nurse practitioner, certified clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant – under an outpatient speech-language pathology plan of care.

Proposed Revised GO Modifier: Services fully furnished by an occupational therapist or by or incident to the services of another qualified clinician – that is, physician, nurse practitioner, certified clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant – under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care.

Proposed Revised GP Modifier: Services fully furnished by a physical therapist or by or incident to the services of another qualified clinician – that is, physician, nurse practitioner, certified clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant – under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care.

Continued, next page



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

3. New PTA and OTA Modifiers

Due to the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, services provided in whole or in part by a PTA or an OTA will be paid at 85 percent of the otherwise applicable Part B payment amount for the service beginning with dates of service on and after January 1, 2022. To implement this payment change, CMS must establish a modifier to indicate, in the case of an outpatient therapy service furnished in whole or in part by a therapy assistant, that the service was furnished by a therapy assistant.

CMS is proposing to establish two new modifiers to separately identify PT and OT services that are furnished in whole or in part by PTAs and OTAs, respectively. We are proposing to establish two modifiers because the incurred expenses for PT and OT services are tracked and accrued separately in order to apply the two different KX modifier threshold amounts as specified by section 1833(g)(2) of the Act; and the use of the two proposed modifiers will facilitate appropriate tracking and accrual of services furnished in whole or in part by PTAs and OTAs.

These new modifiers would be used by providers on a voluntary basis beginning sometime in 2019, but would be required beginning with dates of service on and after January 1, 2020. The new therapy modifiers would identify services furnished in whole or in part by a PTA or OTA would be required to be used on all therapy claims instead of the existing modifiers GP and GO, respectively.

CMS does not provide what the new modifiers are, but does provide a proposed description for the 2 new modifiers. They are as follows:

1. New -PT Assistant services modifier (to be used instead of the GP modifier currently reported when a PTA furnishes services in whole or in part): Services furnished in whole or in part by a physical therapist assistant under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care.
2. New -OT Assistant services modifier (to be used instead of the GO modifier currently reported when an OTA furnishes services in whole or in part): Services furnished in whole or in part by occupational therapy assistant under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care

4. . Merit-Based Incentive Payment System

CMS proposes to add physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) in private practice as eligible providers beginning with the 2021 MIPS payment year. This means that PTs and OTs in private practice will have to begin participating in the MIPS program in calendar year 2019.



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

CMS is proposing to add speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in private practice as an eligible provider beginning with the 2021 MIPS payment year as long as the SLPs have at least 6 MIPS quality measures available to them. This will not be known until the final rule is published on or around November 1, 2018 since CMS is proposing to remove several MIPS quality measures. If those measures are finalized for removal, CMS anticipates that qualified SLPs would have less than 6 MIPS quality measures applicable and available to them.

5. Practice Expense Inputs

CMS is proposing to revise the clinical labor time for the “Obtain vital signs” task to three therapy codes, given that these codes are typically billed in multiple units and in conjunction with other therapy codes for the same patient on the same day. The CPT codes are 97124 (Massage), 97750 (Physical performance test or measurement) and 97755 (Assistive technology assessment).

CMS is proposing to refine the “Obtain vital signs” clinical labor task for these three codes back to their previous times of 1 minute for CPT codes 97124 and 97750 and to 3 minutes for CPT code 97755. CMS is also proposing to refine the equipment time for the table, mat, hi-lo, 6 x 8 platform (EF028) for CPT code 97124 to reflect the change in the clinical labor time.

CMS Proposed Home Health Rule for FY 2019

(information obtained from AOTA)

On July 2nd, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the highly anticipated Proposed Rule set to significantly change the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). Within this rule, CMS is proposing changes with the intent to improve access to solutions via remote patient monitoring technology, and to update the overall payment model for home health care.

Two large notable concerns include CMS’ proposal that would change the unit of payment under the HH PPS from 60 day episodes of care to 30 day periods of care, to be implemented in a budget neutral manner on January 1, 2020, and the proposed Patient Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) for home health payments. Also for 2020, Congress mandated that Medicare stop using the number of therapy visits provided to determine payment. In a prior proposed rule, AOTA advocated heavily against an earlier iteration of the PDGM, called the Home Health Groupings Model, that presented a potentially harmful impact on patient access to occupational therapy services as it shifted incentives away from utilizing therapy services and in



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

-creased the possibility that medically necessary therapy would not be provided to patients for purely financial reasons.

The PDGM is presented by CMS as a model that relies heavily on clinical characteristics and other patient information to allow payments to more closely coincide with patients' needs.

Stay tuned to AOTA Regulatory Affairs updates on this proposed rule, and direct any questions to regulatory@aota.org.

AOTA Continued Advocacy Efforts

(information obtained from AOTA)

Since the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA18) last February, AOTA Public Affairs Division has been working on interpreting and advocating about the new requirements concerning occupational therapy assistant (OTA) services. The BBA made significant changes to payment for OTA-provided services under Medicare Part B that will become effective in 2022, basically cutting payment by 15%. In addition, a modifier identifying which services are fully provided by an OT or if they are provided "in whole or in part," as the legislative language states, by an OTA will be established by 2019 and implemented by 2020. This concerning change may have multiple effects, which AOTA is analyzing, addressing, and advocating to change.

AOTA is taking a number of steps to ensure that the effects of this provision are understood by the occupational therapy community as well as policymakers. AOTA is working on the following:

*After the publication of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule, AOTA regulatory staff are analyzing, developing alternatives, and preparing questions to submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by the comment period deadline of September 10.

*Regulatory staff, in collaboration with APTA, are seeking to meet with CMS to discuss the restrictive nature of the proposed OTA regulations on payment.

*On Capitol Hill, federal staff have been educating Members of Congress about the new law as well as working to obtain a study of the consequences of the payment change to the occupational therapy field and Medicare beneficiaries. Again, working with APTA, federal staff are preparing a request for a full government study of the potential impacts for beneficiaries in rural or other underserved areas as a result of the OTA payment change.





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

of the OTA payment change. The goal is to determine if this policy could restrict access to therapy services and thus cause negative health consequences or even increased expenditures for Medicare.

*To expand internal work on this critical issue throughout the organization, a staff group is being convened specifically to discuss policy issues, practice issues, and implement strategies to reach out to members for feedback and advocacy around the payment change. The first meeting is Monday, July 30.

If you have thoughts, concerns, or questions about the OTA issue, use Commu-nOT to discuss with other members or contact AOTA's Public Affairs Division at regulatory@aota.org.

CMS FY 2019 SNF Proposed Rule

(information obtained from Rick Gawenda/Gawenda Seminars and APTA)

On April 27, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the fiscal year (FY) 2019 proposed rule for Part A skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. This proposed rule would update the payment rates used under the prospective payment system (PPS) for skilled nursing facilities for FY 2019. This proposed rule also proposes to replace the existing case-mix classification methodology, the Resource Utilization Groups, Version IV (RUG-IV) model, with a revised case-mix methodology called the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) effective October 1, 2019. It also proposes revisions to the regulation text that describes a beneficiary's SNF "resident" status under the consolidated billing provision and the required content of the SNF level of care certification. The proposed rule also includes proposals for the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and the Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program that will affect Medicare payment to SNFs.

The biggest takeaway from the proposed SNF payment rule was the adoption of the PDPM, and the same is true of the final rule. In doing away with the RUG-IV process, CMS adopted a model that bases payments on a resident's classification among 5 components. Final payment is then calculated by multiplying the patient's case-mix group with each component (both base payment rate and days of service received) and then adding those up to establish a per diem rate. Between its release of the proposed rule and publication of the final version, CMS tweaked a few details—one around clinical categorization in the PDPM having to do with identifying surgical procedures that occurred during the patient's preceding hospital stay, and another related to a new assessment known as the Interim Payment Assessment (IPA), intended to accommodate reclassification of some residents from the initial 5-day classification.

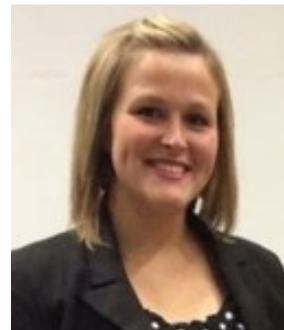
Did You Know?

Based on current statistics, there are 1,094 OT's and 640 OTA's licensed and active OT/OTA's in the state of Mississippi. Currently, there are 236 OT/OTA MSOTA members and 104 OT/OTA student members.

As always, MSOTA is actively seeking ways to increase our membership in order to better represent the OT profession throughout the state. Our efforts for advocacy improve significantly when we are well represented by fellow peers.

Over the past couple of years, we have added discounted memberships in the form of new graduates and multi-year memberships. These can be found on our membership application form and on our website. We have also elected to keep annual memberships at the current rate and not increase our annual dues like many other state Associations have done.

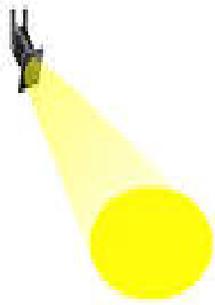
We have also added benefits for our members such as a more interactive website, increased networking via our website and at conferences, enhanced communication via email blasts and social media, and offered more opportunities for District meetings and CEU events. There are two newsletters published each year. The Spring newsletter is published for members only and is communicated via email. This newsletter is emailed to all MSOTA members and mailed to all OT/OTA prospects in the state. If you are not a current member with MSOTA, I would encourage you to check out our website, talk to others who are members, or contact us for more information or; better yet, apply for membership. A membership application can be completed on line at our website www.mississippiota.org or downloaded and printed from the website and mailed to us. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to get more involved with your profession!



**Heather Calnan,
Membership Chair**

*It's not in numbers
but in unity that our
greatest strength lies*

Thomas Paine



2018 Conference was one of the most participated events in recent association history!

Thanks to all who came out to learn and support MSOTA!



MSOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2018 MSOTA Annual Conference has gone down in history as one of our most participated events. We had over 175 attendees and cleared over \$16,000 for the Association.



As a non-profit organization, our funds are generated from membership dues and annual events such as our conference.

With your (our members) feedback, we were able to make some changes to our agenda that, we hope, added benefit to our members' experience. Some of our changes included increased networking through District identification and on-site lunch, workshops for all areas of practice (including pediatric), and a shorter day to lessen the stress of a full-day weekend class.



SAVE THE DATE

MOSTA Spring Conference Feb. 23, 2019

Plans are in the works for next year's conference. Make sure you **SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2019**, at the Clyde Muse Center on the Hinds Community College Campus in Pearl, MS.

We look forward to seeing you there!

MSOTA 5TH ANNUAL 5K WALK, RUN, OR ROLL

MSOTA held its 5th Annual 5K Walk, Run, or Roll/10K Run on April 28th. We had approximately 80 registrants to participate in this event which is a much lower turn-out than years past. Luckily, we had good participation by our sponsors so we ended up netting almost \$4,000.

We want to thank our sponsors which included:

Platinum Sponsors (\$1,000):

Jackson Hand and Upper Extremity Central

Gold Sponsors (\$500):

Baptist Health Foundation

HCS Management, Inc.

North Sunflower Medical Center

Race Addict

Southern AgCredit ACA



Silver Sponsors (\$250):

Drew-Ruleville Rotary Club

Elite Physical Therapy

Medworx Home Medical Supplies

Performance Rehab, Inc.

Planters Bank - Ruleville

St. Dominic Outpatient Rehabilitation & Hand Mgt Center

The Summit Health & Rehab Services, Inc.



Bronze Sponsors (\$100):

Advance Physical Therapy

Reconnect Therapy



Due to the extent of work involved with this event and the declining participation; we are looking at other avenues of fund raising in the future. Cade Montague has volunteered to look into other activities/events that will increase our member networking, involvement, and participation as well as help us raise the additional funds we need to provide greater service, increased advocacy and exposure.

If you would like to help or just have some ideas you would like to share, please contact Cade at:

cmontague@holmescc.edu or (601)605-3337.

MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

Hope everyone is staying hydrated and cool, as we are in the middle of a hot and humid Mississippi summer. The Northern district will be offering a fall mini conference in September. It will be a 4 hour CEU course with guest lecturers Amy Moody, OTR/L and Jasmyne Searcy MOTR/L. The topics will include Home Modifications and Understanding, Adapting, and living with Brittle bones.

Jasmyne Searcy, MOTR/L, is an Occupational Therapist that graduated from the University of Ms Medical Center in 2007 with a Master's of Science degree in Occupational Therapy. She has been employed for 11 years at North Mississippi Medical Center's Outpatient Rehabilitation. Jasmyne is currently working with neurological patients with certification in LSVT, oncology patients using the STAR program, hand patients, as well as, seating clinic where she assesses patients for the appropriate wheelchairs. She also has experience in the acute care setting and skilled nursing. Jasmyne has been an advocate for patients with Osteoporosis for several years using "Sara Meeks Methods for treating OA". "Understanding, Adapting, and Living with Brittle Bones" course objectives will include the types of OA, risk factors, signs and symptoms, diagnostic tools, treatment ideas, modification and adaptations.

Amy Moody, OTR/L, CEAS is a 1998 Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Mississippi Medical Center with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy. Amy has worked for North Mississippi Medical Center for 20 years in a variety of settings including the acute rehabilitation/hospital setting, inpatient rehabilitation, home health, and outpatient rehabilitation. For the past six years, Amy has worked in the outpatient neurological and industrial rehabilitation settings. Amy was certified in the ErgoScience Physical Work Performance Evaluation in 2012 and has been performing Functional Capacity Evaluations since

that time. Amy has also been a Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist since 2013. In addition, Amy is certified in LSVT BIG Parkinson's Disease treatment as well as having achieved competency to provide treatment using the Bioness H200 neuroprosthetic and rehabilitation system. "There's No Place Like Home: Maximizing Independence and Safety Through Home Design and Modification" course objectives include identifying common barriers to home accessibility, identifying the main types of home design used to increase accessibility and the pros and cons of each, and benefits of a well-designed or modified home.

Northern District CEUs

Date: September 7, 2018

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Speakers: Amy Moody, OTR/L and Jasmyne Searcy MOTR/L

"There's No Place Like Home: Maximizing Independence and Safety Through Home Design and Modification"

"Understanding, Adapting, and Living with Brittle Bones"

MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

MERIDIAN DISTRICT NEWS

Hello from the Meridian District. In the past, we have had our meetings at Anderson Regional Medical Center North Campus Fitness Auditorium. It was a convenient “go to” place for meetings and Mini conferences. That is no longer available to us. I have been searching around and have yet to locate a Venue for our future meetings that will easily meet our needs. I welcome any input and suggestions for places for these meetings. Please e mail me at Shennings1@comcast.net. Once I locate and secure a suitable venue I will announce meeting times and the schedule. I apologize for the inconvenience . Thank you for your patience and continued support of MSOTA.

Scott White OTR/L,CHT, CSCS

DELTA DISTRICT NEWS

The Delta district is looking for a few good OT's to join MSOTA. If you have friends here in the Delta that do not belong to MSOTA, please encourage them to be engaged in our profession. I would love to have some input on a few topics of interest for CEU event. If you have something specific you would like to see/know, please let me know.

Brad Cooper, Delta District Chair

Brad.Cooper@northsunflower.com

MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

The Central District held a meeting/CEU event on April 19th. This meeting consisted of a one hour poster session presented by the UMMC OT/PT graduate students followed by a two-hour workshop on A Case Study using the AOTA Occupational Therapy Framework presented by Penny Rogers. This was the first time MSOTA and MPTA combined efforts for a joint presentation. This allowed our members to view more research projects as well as network with another discipline. The response resulted in over 40 attendees for this event! We look forward to hosting this combined event again next Spring.



UMMC OT/PT
Students

More recently, the Central District hosted a two-hour meeting/CEU event on August 2nd. Jasmine Wilson, COTA/L, Government Contract Specialist and Education Coordinator presented on Neuroplasticity: A Consistent and Repetitive Approach. This class was offered on a Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and we had 29 attendees. These events as well as other District meetings are free and open to anyone who wishes to attend. MSOTA members receive the CEU credit for attendance.



Penny Rogers, OTR/L DHA presents on a

Case Study using the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework

MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

COASTAL DISTRICT NEWS

The Coastal District held its last CEU meeting Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park Campus Technology Learning Center (TLC). Krista Madere, LOTR, CHT, an Occupational Therapist from our neighboring state of Louisiana, presented **“Current Therapeutic Management of Various Neurological Movement Disorders”** such as Parkinson’s disease, Essential Tremor, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebellar CVA and Dystonia. She has worked extensively with patients in managing the treatment of adults with orthopedic and neurological disorders, and is certified in NDT, Interactive Metronome (IM), LSVT, and Saebo. As the lead therapist of The Neuro Medical Center in Baton Rouge, LA, she invented and patented the Readisteadi® Orthotic Glove System for patients with the debilitating neurological movement disorders and conditions mentioned above.

During the course, she covered the anatomy of overactive muscles commonly observed in patients with neurological movement disorders, common movement disorders and their clinical presentation, and demonstrated various muscle inhibition techniques and theories. She also showed several interactive videos where she had evaluated, fitted, and treated patients and clients with the customized Readisteadi® orthotic glove fitting principles and common orthotic modifications. She also discussed other alternatives and treatment options to the glove system including interventions such as NDT, the Metronome, LSVT, and the Saebo Glove System. Eleven people attended and did not let the inclimate spring weather deter their enthusiasm for winning door prizes or gaining valuable knowledge.

The Coastal District will host another meeting and CEU event Saturday, September 8, 2018, at a location to be determined. Julie LeBlanc, MS, LOTR, SCLV, will present “Alternative Roles for Occupational Therapy Professionals” along with other speakers.

I also had the great opportunity to attend my first AOTA Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 17-21, 2018. I learned about servant leadership, a new format in leadership offered by AOTA in their Leadership Training, in one of the workshops. I also had the great privilege of attending the Representative Assembly meetings and State Leadership meetings along with the President and met so many other leaders. I cannot wait for the next AOTA Conference next year because it is so much closer to home—New Orleans 2019! If you have a chance, check out the new AOTA CommunOT chat room on the AOTA website because it is a membership forum to gain valuable information from your other therapy professionals about any topic!

Julie LeBlanc, MS, LOTR, SCLV
MSOTA Vice-President
Coastal District Chair

SCHOOL NEWS

Holmes Community College

The OTA program at Holmes Community College is eager to begin the fall semester. We have selected 18 students from an incredibly competitive applicant pool to begin the fall 2018 cohort. We graduated 14 students in May with a high rate of job placements and excellent pass rates on the NBCOT exam.

The second year class currently has 18 students. These students have recently completed a pediatric day camp for the children at Warren-Yazoo Mental Health (WYMH) on the Yazoo campus. During the camp, the OTA students provided the children with a multitude of activities to address their psychosocial needs, including teamwork skills, communication skills and self-esteem groups. In collaboration with the WYMH staff, Holmes' OTA students also developed treatment aimed to increase the participants' success in the community and at home. The students partnered with the local police force to build community ties and teach anti-bullying techniques.

The OTA faculty is excited to share that many updates have been added to the OTA classrooms. These updates include an interactive anatomy board, new multimedia technology, and an innovative floor plan layout to increase space utilization.

As always, we would like to thank our wonderful clinical instructors. It is their investment in our students that assist the learning experience for all.

We look forward to another great year!

Kana Williams, COTA/L
OTA Program Director
Cade Montague, OTR/L
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator



Class of 2019

End of Summer Luau



Class of 2019 Horses for Handicapped

SCHOOL NEWS **Continued**

Itawamba Community College

The fall semester at Itawamba Community College began on August 13th. We are excited to welcome 14 new freshman students. These students are to be commended, as they were chosen from an applicant pool of more than 150.

A graduation celebration was held on May 11th to honor the class of 2018. We appreciate Marcia Washington serving as our keynote speaker. During this celebration the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) provided monetary donations to recipients from KidSense, Glendale and Rosedale community homes, Camp-Tik-a-with-a (Special Needs Camp), the Mandy Green Foundation (Ronald McDonald House) and Cure for Carson (a former Ronald McDonald resident/St. Jude patient). We are very proud of these students and their commitment of service to these and other community projects.

Over the spring semester, our sophomore students engaged in many great learning experiences as they completed their Level II fieldwork rotations. As always, this would not be possible without the support of our clinical affiliates and the dedicated clinicians who give of their time and share their knowledge to prepare our students for practice. We thank each of you for your commitment to our program and the profession.

As we begin a new academic year we are eager to guide our students toward both personal and professional growth. We look forward to being part of this process and are excited about all of the upcoming opportunities they will have to learn and serve along the way.

Dee Dee Lomenick
Itawamba Community College
OTA Program Director

SCHOOL NEWS Continued

Pearl River Community College

In May, Pearl River Community College welcomed Michelle Haynes, COTA/L as the new OTA fieldwork coordinator. Michelle is a graduate of the program and is bringing both business and professional clinical experience to her new role. The program is excited about the new class of 20 students to begin in August. We had orientation in June and it looks to be a great group. In July the program enjoyed its 15th year volunteering at Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp. (Pictures below at Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp)



Afternoon group: Row 1 - Hannah Sykes, Alayna Barnes, Neosha Ruffin; Row 2 - Jessie Sykes, Arica Haeusler, Logan Pierce, Lauren Daniel



Row 1 - Ashley A. Smith, Carsyn McIntire;
Row 2 - Julia Malcom, Queila Ramos, Britton Ross, Karleigh Mahaffey;
Row 3 - Kevin Spencer, Tim Pulver

SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

The UMMC OT Department accepted its first class of entry-level doctoral students in May 2018. Faculty and students welcomed new students to campus at a “Base Camp Day”. Robin Davis, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, recently shared an email with all of our clinical sites regarding how the OTD transition will impact the fieldwork schedule beginning 2020. Christy Morgan, Chair, and Penny Rogers, Capstone Coordinator, have been traveling near and far to our clinical sites explaining the new curriculum and the new capstone experience. Our goal is to offer a similar session next spring to the MSOTA membership on the new OTD curriculum, fieldwork schedule and goals of the OTD Capstone Experience. The OT educational model creates an important partnership between schools and OT clinician educators. We appreciate our clinical partners and strive to always keep you informed of changes in our program which may impact you. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 601-984-6350. We would be delighted to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the transition of our program.



FIRST UMMC OTD BASE CAMP DAY STUDENT ORIENTATION

UMMC Student Occupational Therapy Association

This summer, members of the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) took a trip to the Smith Robertson Senior Center in Jackson, MS! The day began with a fall prevention presentation given by second year occupational therapy students, Jocelyne Olguin, Lacey Ainsworth, and Mallory Vance. The presentation included statistics on falls and tips to avoid falls.

After the fall prevention presentation, a very intense BINGO tournament was held! Prizes for BINGO winners included donations from SOTA members. These donations included snacks, word searches, crossword puzzles, toiletries, and other items. In support of fall prevention, night lights were also given out as BINGO prizes!

SOTA members had a blast getting to know some of the senior adults that attend the Smith Robertson Senior Center. It was a great opportunity to promote fall prevention as well as interact with community members.



Pictured from left to right (top row): Caitlin Smith, Lacey Ainsworth, Emma Carroll Waller, Holly Robinson, Brittany Fields, and Kaitlin Thrash (bottom row): Mallory Vance, Lindsey Griffin, Jocelyne Olguin, Tamara Crutcher, and Karlyn Grubb

MSOTA OFFERS STRONG SUPPORT FOR OT & OTA STUDENTS

Each year, MSOTA presents an Outstanding Leadership Award to a graduating student from each Occupational Therapy program in the state. This 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. Congratulations and much luck with your future careers! We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the future. The 2018 recipients of the MSOTA Leadership Award are as follows:

Ferris O'Bannon McGuire of Macon, MS

UMMC/MOT Program

Foster Maurice Allen of Plantersville, MS

ITT/OTA Program

Joshua Diaz of D'Iberville, MS

PRCC/OTA Program

MSOTA 2018 Student Sponsorship to Conference

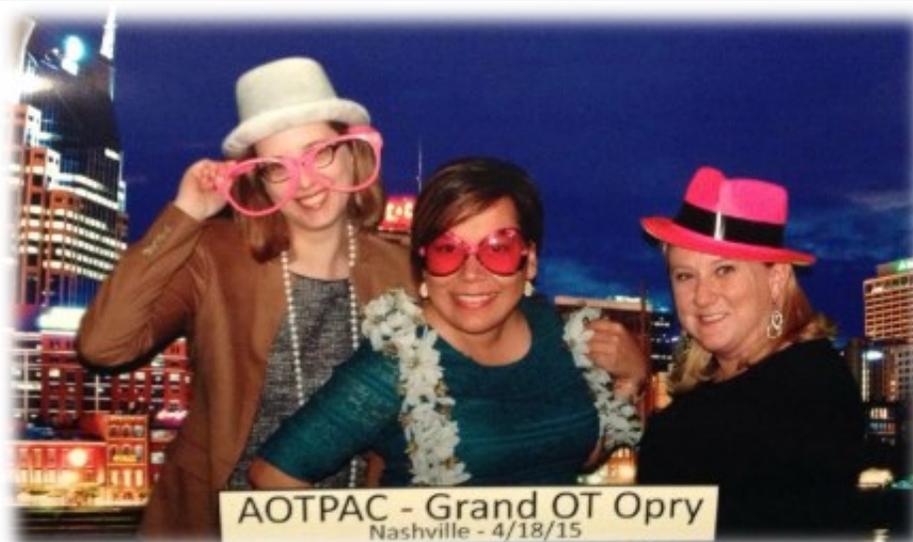
In anticipation of future volunteers and leaders of our profession, MSOTA attempts to support our students in as many capacities as possible. One of these opportunities is to provide financial support to a student wishing to attend the annual AOTA conference. Each year, MSOTA encourages students to submit a request of their intent and purpose of attending the national conference. A recipient is chosen by the Board and financial assistance is provided based on budget constraints for the year.

This year, MSOTA was able to sponsor Alaina Ulmer, a second-year UMMC/OT student. It was Alaina's desire to attend conference to learn more about pediatric and low vision treatment techniques and to gain professional growth and increase her knowledge about the profession in general. Following her trip, Alaina attended the Spring MSOTA Board Meeting to summarize her experience with the Board and to provide thanks in person for the opportunity. Alaina stated that it was an experience she would never forget!

Through memberships and sponsored events, MSOTA is able to provide funds for sponsorships and support of our students and future leaders. Thank you to all of our members for your support and generosity in giving us this opportunity!



Glenda Hux, MSOTA President, is pictured with UMMC OT student Alaina Ulmer. Alaina attended the spring board meeting to thank MSOTA personally for their financial support to attend conference.



Farewell Glenda!

MSOTA THANKS YOU

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OT





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MSOTA WEBSITE

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WHY SHOULD YOU BE A MEMBER?

 <p>MISSISSIPPI OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION</p> <p>MSOTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS</p>	<p>AUG 21, 2015 PEDIATRIC SUMMIT 8 A.M. - 3 P.M. UMMC STUDENT UNION JACKSON, MS</p> <p>SEPT 19, 2015 2nd ANNUAL RUN, WALK, & ROLL HOLMES CO RIDGELAND, MS</p> <p>FEB 3, 2016 LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DAY MS STATE CAPITOL JACKSON, MS</p>	<p>2015 Pediatric Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ FREE 4.5 CEU for attending MSOTA members➔ Registration is easy. Click here for all details! <p>Run, Walk, and Roll 10K/5K/Fun Run</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Public Event! Proceeds support the work of MSOTA➔ Registration is easy. Click here for all details! <p>Legislative Appreciation Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Public Event! Promoting OT Awareness at the Capitol➔ Details coming soon!
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JOIN NOW!

MSOTA T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE!

Purchase your official Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association t-shirt for \$15.00. The shirt features the state of Mississippi and the new MSOTA logo on the back. Pick up locations vary by district.

[SEE THE DESIGN >>](#)

FACEBOOK

Mississippi Occupational Therapy Assoc...

Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association
via American Occupational Therapy Association
2 hrs

**MAKE THE CASE THAT YOUR CLIENT
REQUIRES SKILLED THERAPY**

Can we make an updated one of these?? Those events are last years but I like this graphic as it showcases the website. What do you think?