



Fall 2022

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Season's Greetings! Looking back over this past year, I am excited for all of the great things that have been accomplished for our profession and our organization during 2022. One of those accomplishments includes the steps taken to establish the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact in our state.

This is a monumental task, and the Legislative Chair and committee members have been instrumental in moving this initiative forward.

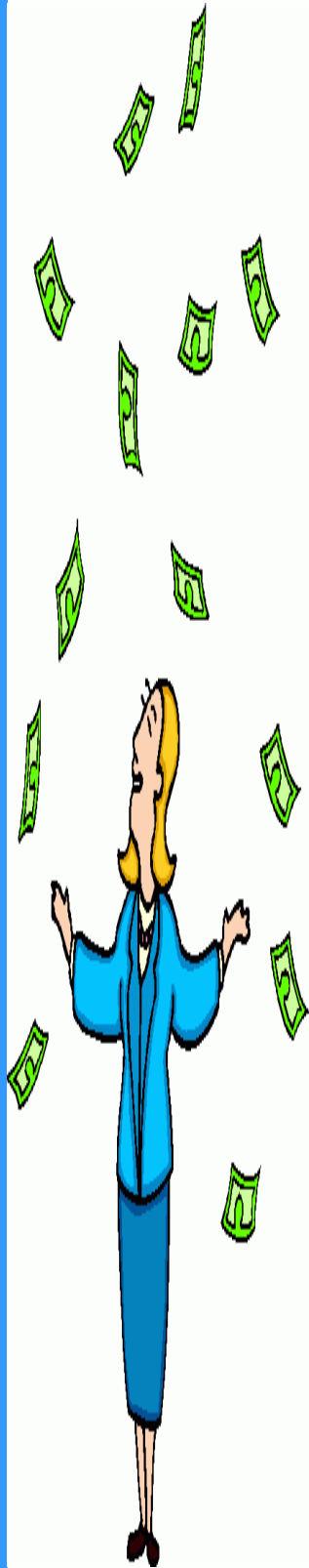
Additionally, the MSOTA 2nd Annual Fall Retreat was held in September. This yearly event is a great time for the committees to meet face to face to plan events and discuss goals for the upcoming year. Thank you to all of the volunteers who showed up ready to work. We had a very productive day with representation from all across the state!

As I write this farewell message, I am reminded of how honored I have felt to serve in this capacity over the past 2 years. I would like to sincerely thank the MSOTA members and volunteers for your support, encouragement, and engagement during this time. To Robin Parish, President-Elect, and all the members of the MSOTA Board, I am excited to see all that you achieve in your continued service to the occupational therapy practitioners of 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. Finally, I pray that you and your family will be able to take some time to enjoy this special season! I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Megan Ladner, DHA, MS, OTR/L
Luke 2:5-20





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



The end of the year is upon us and, as you know, CMS likes to update everything in October each year. There is always lots of information to weed through so, I hope, I can condense and keep you as informed as possible. This information is, by all means, not all-inclusive.

MS PHE Extended

In October, MSOTA sent out an email blast to let our members know that the MS State Department of Health PHE waivers expired on October 13, 2022. This meant that all exceptions that were made throughout COVID were no longer valid. MSDH has extended the PHE waivers until January 11, 2023 so all exceptions can continue until that time. The MS Advisory Council for Occupational Therapy has requested that MSDH put this in writing on their letterhead for official use. As soon as they do that, it will be posted to the MSOTA website.

Medicare 2023 Deductibles and Premiums

The Part B deductible for Medicare Part B plans is \$226.00 which is a \$7.00 decrease from the prior year. If the Medicare patient has Medicaid as their secondary or they are enrolled in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program, they would not be financially responsible for the annual Part B deductible.

Cigna Insurance Changes

In October, MSOTA sent out an email blast to let our members know that Cigna has adopted the 15% payment reduction when services are rendered in whole or in part by a PTA or an OTA and the CQ or CO modifiers are appended to the claim. This change began on October 15, 2022, for Mississippi. In addition, as of this same date, Cigna will only pay a maximum of 4 units per patient, per day, per provider (discipline).

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

CMS Released FY23 IRF Final Rule

On July 17, 2022, CMS released the final rule for IRF's which includes the following:

- Overall IRF payments for FY23 are estimated to increase by 3.2% compared to FY22,
- 5% cap on annual wage index to balance changes in providers' wage index payments
- Expanding the IRF quality data reporting requirements so that IRFs will begin collecting data on all IRF patients, regardless of payer, beginning October 01, 2024.

CMS Released FY23 SNF Final Rule

On July 29, 2022, CMS released the final rule for SNF's which includes the following:

- Estimated increase of 2.7% in MedA payments to SNF compared to FY22,
- Recalibration of the PDPM parity adjustment factor of 4.6% (excluding COVID diagnosed pts)
- Issuing several changes to the PDPM ICD-10 code mapping
- Adoption of the Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) as a new process to measure the SNF QRP beginning in FY24
- Not apply the SNF 30-Day All Cause Readmission Measure for the FY23 program year and add 3 new measures for FY26 and FY27

I hope you find this information useful in your particular setting. If you have any questions or would like additional information on a particular topic, please feel free to reach out to me via email at mississippiota@gmail.com.





Happy November!! It's hard to believe that we are already into the busy season of holidays and end of year parties. It's certainly a time to take care of yourself and not spread yourself too thin during these busy months. Achieving a mental state that focuses on one's awareness of the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations, is known as mindfulness and can be very helpful during stressful times. Mindfulness is just as important for us as therapists as it is for our patients. So, remember to take time to be present in the moment this holiday season and adopt habits that reduce stress and help you to relax.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, our members. My name is Moira Mills, I have been a practicing occupational therapist since 2002, I have practiced in NC, RI, VA, CA, MS and have been an assistant professor at UMMC's OTD program since October 2021. I am honored to serve as your new MSOTA CEU Chair. I would like to thank Erica Reeves for serving as the CEU Chair these past few years and for all her hard work in planning and organizing the MSOTA conferences. I hope to continue that dedication and I look forward to working with our members to provide relevant and fun conferences for all of Mississippi's occupational therapists.

The MSOTA board has been busy planning our upcoming conference in February and I hope to see you all there as we will have a great group of speakers for all practice areas, to include Mindfulness, Pediatrics and some topics to appeal to the generalist OT such as low vision and neuro. We are looking at a day of various workshops, another student conclave, more hands-on sessions, and a greater expanse of topics to keep us all in the know of our ever-changing environment. We hope to make conference just as successful and engaging as 2022 was! Please let us know if you would like to volunteer or have any vendor opportunities to explore by contacting Moira Mills at moiramills37@gmail.com.



JOIN TODAY

MSOTA Annual Conference 2023

February 25, 2023 at the Muse Center in Pearl, MS

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities

Attendance is not required for sponsorship. If you are unable to attend conference, Please consider being a Non-Attending Exhibitor. Please contact Natalie for more information.
All sponsorships are tax deducible (Tax ID 76-0756978)

Sponsorship and Exhibitor payments are due January 31, 2023.

Questions on sponsorship, please call Natalie 601-850-8544 or ngnordan@mail.com

	Platinum \$750.00	Gold \$500	Silver \$250.00
Company or Product Signage & Logo Recognition at Sign-in and Luncheon	✓		
On-Site Exhibit booth with Networking <u>opportunities</u> and product demonstrations includes 8 ft table, lunch for 2 attendees) exhibit time is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Set up at 7:30)	✓	✓	
Attending therapists contact information (if they have opt-ed in during registration)	✓		
Free Conference Registration for 1 attendee	✓		
Sponsor Recognition Rolling Marquee Loop on projector screen during Registration, breaks and <u>meal times</u>	✓	✓	✓
Pre-, Post- and during conference Social Media Spotlight on public MSOTA Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.	✓	✓	✓
Social Media Spotlight in Private Group of over 1,000 MS OT Practitioners **More visibility to OT Clinicians. During Conference Spotlight by "Facebook LIVE" to <u>provide Q&A</u> and company introduction to our followers.	✓		
Advertising block in the Virtual Emailed Newsletter- <u>sent to ALL licensed OT practitioner in the State of MS</u> Platinum 1/2 page, Gold 1/4 Page, Silver 1/8 Page	✓	✓	✓
Company Logo on <u>MSOTA</u> website with direct hyperlink and contact information	✓	✓	✓
<u>3 minute</u> Company/product introduction or Video played for entire conference room.	✓		
Sponsorship Thank you from Podium	✓	✓	✓
Printed Sponsor and/or Product information in Course Program <u>Material</u> (Tiered and sized by Sponsor Level)	✓	✓	✓
Designated time to present Company or Product during the State-wide Student Conclave! PERFECT for Recruiters and Products!	✓	✓	



MISSISSIPPI OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Join **US** for an educational and networking event with Mississippi's greatest Occupational Therapy Providers!

Legislative News

Happy Fall everyone. I hope everyone is enjoying the nice Fall weather and spending time with friends and family. Your Legislative Committee has been at work monitoring national and state affairs along with our AOTA state affairs liaison. We really appreciate their engagement with MSOTA over the last several months.

In September, we had our MSOTA Bootcamp where the Legislative committee met in person with all other MSOTA committees to set goals and initiatives for the 2023 Legislative session. As planned, the Legislative committee has expanded to include several new members who are excited to serve and bring new expertise and insights to MSOTA legislative committee. Our current committee members include:

Robin Parish- Chair

Glenda Hux

Pamela Claypool Hardwick

Lorraine Street

Linsey Lawrence

Mallory Vance Peden

Mendez Vaughn

Gayle Magee

Katy Cassidy

Jessica Singleton

Melanie Hudson



(Jessica Singleton, Pam Claypoole Hardwick, Katy Cassidy, Robin Parish, Gayle Magee, Melanie Hudson, Mendez Vaughn, and Megan Ladner)

Our current agenda for the 2023 session include:

- ◆ Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Legislation: We are working with AOTA liaisons to introduce the legislation in both the House and the Senate during the 2023 session. We are currently in talks with possible sponsors in both houses and in the process of securing a lobbyist to assist us during the 2023 session.

Legislative News continued

- ◆ A **New School-based OT task force** was formed to explore legislation effecting this area of practice.
- ◆ We continue to **monitor national and local legislation and policy matters** with the collaboration with AOTA Health Policy and State affairs.
- ◆ **OT Legislative Day- SAVE the DATE: January 25, 2023 at the state capitol.**

We are aware that MSOTA is only as strong as our membership. If you are interested in policy and legislation please reach out to us and consider serving on the legislative or other committee of interest. If this is not a good time for you to serve, please continue to engage as a member and encourage all MS OTs to invest in our profession by maintaining their membership.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Best Wishes from your Legislative Committee as we enter the holiday season.

Robin

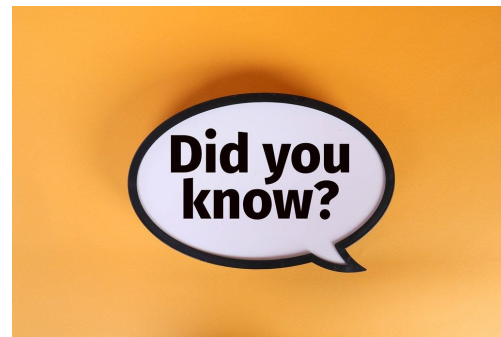
Robin Parish, DHA, MA, OTR/L,
CHT

President-Elect MSOTA

Legislative Chair MSOTA



As you know, the Mississippi State Board of Health (Board) regulates the occupational therapy profession in the state of Mississippi. This regulation is done with the advice and counsel provided by the Mississippi Advisory Council in Occupational Therapy (Council). The Council consists of 5 members who serve 3-year terms. These members are nominated by their peers. The Board regularly seeks nominations and referrals from the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association when a position on the Council is being vacated. The current Council members include:



Scott Cockroft, OTR/L

OT Member January 2017 – present
Chairman January 2019 – December 2022

Kristy Cole, OTD, OTR/L

Member January 2021 – present
Chairman Elect, beginning Chair position January 2023

Michelle Pierce, OTA

OTA Member January 2017 – present
Board Secretary January 2019 – December 2022

Cheri Nipp, OTR/L, SCLV

OT Member January 2021 – present

A Public Member

The Council meets regularly during the first month of the year. Additional meetings are held when necessary. MSOTA and the Council have developed a good relationship in which we communicate matters directly affecting the OT profession and work together to provide the best and most accurate information possible to the MSDH Board.

The MSOTA Spotlight is on...

YOU!!

Connect with Us!

We are working to build our social media outlets to help you feel connected to other OT's in the state. Follow us @mississipiota to stay up to date on activities within the association. We would also love to highlight members in our OT spotlights as well as emerging small businesses and practices. If you have a great nomination for the spotlight, direct message us on our Instagram page or email Natalie Daniels at ngnordan@gmail.com.

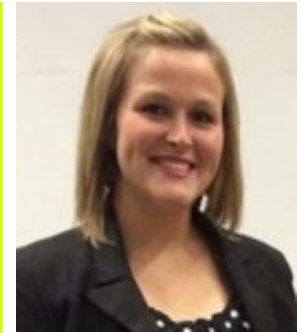


Membership News!!

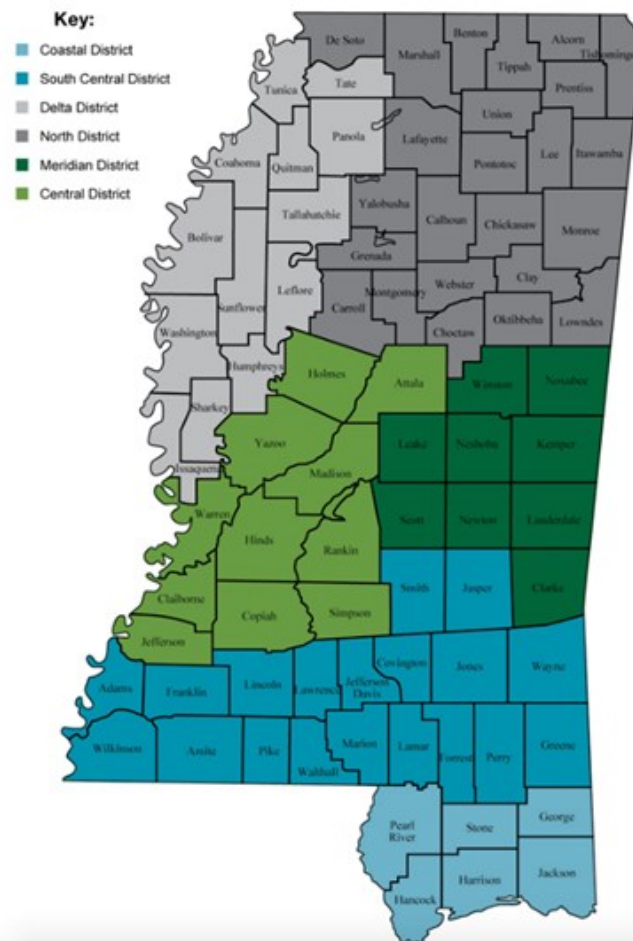
We have a total of 233 MSOTA members, which are made up of 170 OT members and 63 OTA members.

Membership numbers broken down by district North: 54, Delta: 12, Central: 98, Meridian: 15, South Central: 29, Coastal: 20, and 3 not listed.

We have 168 student members. Student Membership numbers by school: UMMC: 114, Holmes CC: 8, ICC: 14, PRCC: 4, South Alabama: 1, St. Katherine Univ: 6, St. Augus(ne: 1, Eastern KY: 1, Wingate Univ: 1, and 17 not listed.



Heather Calnan
Summers, Membership
Chair



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Central District held a social event on Thursday, November 3 at Fertile Ground in Jackson; there was a great turnout for a relaxed evening of connecting with fellow practitioners. The annual MSOTA Conference is scheduled for February 25, 2023 and will again be held at the Muse

Center in Pearl. Although the conference is held in the Central District area, it is a wonderful opportunity to come together for some great CE courses and networking with other practitioners from around the state.



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

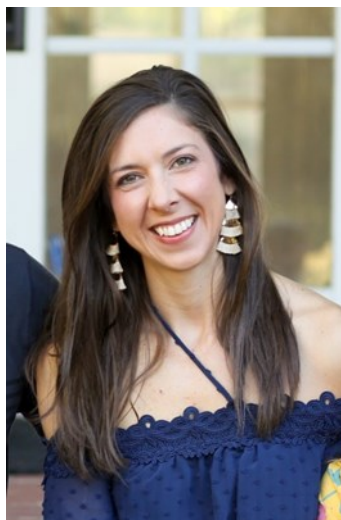
CENTRAL DISTRICT, CONTINUED

We will plan to host another district-wide social event in the spring season/after the conference; be on the lookout for more information around that time. Lastly, if you have any specific topics you would love to learn more about please reach out to me and let me know. I will do my best to schedule CE courses (free to members) that best suit the interests locally- but I need to know what those interests are in order to best serve the district. I am always available through email for any questions/comments/concerns. I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season!

Kenley Smith, MOTR/L, BCP

Central District Chair

Kenley_smith@comcast.net



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

COASTAL DISTRICT

We held our first social on Thursday, October 20! As of now, we plan to have at least one per quarter at a different location along the coast. These socials are our way to network, encourage, and share ideas with one another as well as receive updates from the latest MSOTA meetings. Be watching our social media pages for the date and location of our next social sometime in February and plan to attend and bring a friend! If you have any ideas you would like to share with our district, you can email me at rsmccaffery@drayerpt.com. I look forward to meeting many more of you at our next social event and watching our membership numbers grow!

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

MSOTA Coastal District Chair



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DISTRICT

Courtney Everett and Kelli Greer are the new Co-Chairs of MSOTA's North District.



Courtney graduated from Mississippi University for Women with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2004 and from Belmont University in 2011 with her Master's in Occupational Therapy. She is the owner of Safe at Home, a mobile outpatient practice that treats clients in Oxford and surrounding areas.

Kelli holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from University of Mississippi, obtained her PTA license in 2014 and is a recent graduate of Belmont University with her Masters in Occupational Therapy. She lives in Blue Springs, MS and is currently working in SNF, outpatient and home health settings.

Courtney and Kelli are both passionate about increasing awareness of occupational therapy and MSOTA within the North District. If anyone is interested in being more involved in MSOTA please contact Courtney at courtney@safeathomems.com



MSOTA DISTRICT NEWS

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Hey life giver backers!

We need your mind or your ear. I am Danielle Whittington and I am your South Central District chair for MSOTA. I haven't seen many of you in awhile, so that means we need some more CEUs in our area! I am talking to YOU all, you have great skills and voices we need. What do you have to share? What interventions are you having success with? Have you found an area of interest and want some feedback and input from others? What problems do you want answers to? All of these things are GREAT places for us to start, in developing our CEU topics. Email me at danielle.r.whitt@gmail.com if you are willing to just give an hour of your time to our profession and your fellow therapists. I will help build it for us. Can't wait to hear from you!

Love,

Danielle Whittington, OTR/
L, CLVT, NBCT



SCHOOL NEWS

Holmes Community College



The fall has been an active time for faculty and students. Our program partnered with the MS Braves on September 13th to promote the profession and highlight the role of occupational therapy in mental health. Students interacted with patrons with several sensorimotor games and activities aimed at identifying sources of and addressing anxiety.

This collaboration also served as a fundraiser as our first-year students worked several concessions with a percentage of the profits going to our program. In addition, this night allowed for attendees to donate hygiene and grooming items for our toiletry drive. Throughout the months of August and September, our students collected various toiletry items in order to donate to We Will Go Ministries located in downtown Jackson, MS. Donations were bountiful and were delivered to We Will Go on October 4th. Lastly, our program applied for a small grant which was approved two weeks ago for \$3700. Beginning next January, we will use those funds to purchase items for our “sensory corner.” I have to praise Sydney Sullivant, OTD, who completed her capstone at Holmes in 2021; she was instrumental in putting together the grant proposal and I cannot thank her enough for efforts and hard work. I look forward to sharing details about our “sensory corner” as the next semester progresses.

D. Cade Montague, MOTR/L
Program Director



SCHOOL NEWS Continued Itawamba Community College



Sophomore Students, Class of 2023

In just a few short weeks fall semester 2022 will come to a close. Our freshmen OTA students will have completed their first semester just as our sophomores are preparing to move on to Level II fieldwork and their final semester before graduation. Their smiling faces can be seen in the attached pictures!

Next month students will be nominating and electing SOTA officers for the freshman class. This is always an exciting time, as new officers' step into their respective leadership roles. We are already gearing up for community service opportunities such as taking part in Night to Shine in February.

Our sophomore class held a raffle for a fall goodie basket, raising approximately \$400. The money raised will be used to give back to the community at the end of the spring semester.

OTA faculty met with our advisory committee on October 21. We have strong support from our industry advisors and the turnout for this meeting was excellent. The importance of having this group to discuss academic and clinical issues impacting our students and their success can't be understated.

Mr. Zach Wooten was introduced in our last newsletter. He has done a fantastic job jumping in and teaching our Concepts course like a pro. We are blessed to have him as the newest addition to our faculty.



Freshmen Students, Class of 2024

SCHOOL NEWS Continued

Itawamba Community College

As always, the faculty of the OTA program are grateful for our fieldwork educators who give so much of themselves as they invest their time and impart their knowledge and expertise in educating our students. Thanks for all you do. You are appreciated!



Sophomore and Freshmen Students

As we quickly approach the holiday season, we would like to wish all a blessed Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Until next time..... ICC OTA Faculty & Students - Roll Tribe!!!!
The ICC Faculty -Dee Dee Lomenick, Shannon Fraiser, Candace Miles, Zach Wooten

SCHOOL NEWS

Pearl River Community College

PRCC OTA Program is winding down the ultra-busy fall semester. Last week, the year 2 students took a tour of the TK Martin Technology Center in Starkville and were able to experience w/c, computer and communications assistive technology.



The program welcomed 20 new wonderful souls as the class of 2024! This picture is from first day of class.

They were nervous that day, but are now settled in and like a family.



The program wants to send thanks to all our level I fieldwork educators. Thank you for being a part of the program that we could not exist without!

Tim Pulver, M.Ed, OTR/L, Program Director



Tim Pulver, M.Ed, OTR/L
Program Director
PRCC

SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

The OT program at UMMC has been very busy this fall semester. There are too many activities to list them all, but here are a few things our OT students have been doing as part of their courses this semester.

Our first year students have been deep in their neuroscience course, but they have also taken some breaks to participate in activities across campus and in the community. During an interprofessional education (IPE) activity, they taught students from the UMMC School of Nursing how to complete patient transfers and bed mobility using proper body mechanics. The nursing students then demonstrated how to obtain a patient's vital signs, including blood pressure and respiration rate. The OT1 students also participated in Backpack Awareness Day by visiting local elementary schools to educate students on how to properly pack and wear their backpack.



Our second year students recently celebrated “Halfway Day”, meaning they are halfway finished with the OTD curriculum! They have also engaged in an IPE activity with dental hygiene students where they demonstrated how to safely transfer a patient from a wheelchair to the dental chair. Most recently, they spent the afternoon volunteering at the 8th Annual SON Valley Fall Festival.



SCHOOL NEWS Continued

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Finally, our third year students are wrapping up their final level II fieldwork and preparing to begin their capstone experience in January. We are very appreciative of the support offered by our fieldwork educators and our capstone mentors! You are a vital part of the education of our students.



In departmental news, the OT faculty surprised our sweet Sandy Lowman with a party to celebrate 40 years of continuous service at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Sandy continues to serve the faculty and students in her role as Executive Assistant with a smile on her face and a wealth of departmental knowledge. Also, Dr. Robin Davis will be retiring in December. She has been a true asset in role as Academic Fieldwork Coordinator by carefully placing countless students for their level II fieldwork rotations. We will miss you, Robin!

Megan Ladner
Chair, UMMC OT Department



CONTACT US

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MSOTA WEBSITE

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WHY SHOULD YOU BE A MEMBER?

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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