



## Annual Donations

We as students are often the recipients of a great deal of assistance. Our course masters often partner with local non-profit organizations to bring us the best practical experiences. Clinical instructors across the nation give their time to help us to fine-tune our skills prior to practice. To give thanks back to the community, each year WUSOTA donates a portion of the funds raised to community organizations that embodies the mission of WUSOTA.

Congratulations to the following organizations who have been selected to receive a \$700 donation

from WUSOTA: Accessible Play, Peter & Paul Community Services - Safe Haven Program, ANINI (La Asociacion del Nino por el Nino), Central Institute for the Deaf, Pathways to Independence, Medcamps, St. Louis HELP, and Paraquad.

Additionally, as students we have learned the importance of advocating for our profession. Fortunately, the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC) assists in these endeavors. To support to future of our profession, WUSOTA has allotted \$2,400 to AOTPAC.

## New WUSOTA Leadership

Its out with the old and in with the new! Congratulations to the new leadership of WUSOTA and best of luck as you kick of the fall semester.

President: Rosie Thede

Secretary: Amanda Felber

Treasurer: Stephanie Lasota

Advocacy Chairs: CJ Burhans and Katie Johnson

Community Service Chairs: Stephanie Walker and Dorothy Pocello

Cultural Chair: Kari Teweles

Fundraising Chair: Abby Williams

Job Fair Chair: Kelsey Nelson

Media Relations Chair: Jessy Garcia

Professional Development: Juliana Valente and Allison L'Hotta

Social Chairs: Connie Ribley and Rita Karsbaek

International Assistance Committee: Melissa Lorin

ASD Rep: Erin Eitzmann

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## Farewell to Faculty Advisor Jackie Webel

Jackie Webel, student activities advisor and former WUSOTA President, is moving to Pittsburgh. Jackie has been instrumental in WUSOTA's success over the past few years. She provided guidance during our drafting of the new Constitution, facilitated

IAC's service trip to Guatemala, and convinced us to start the newsletter you're reading now. More importantly, she's been a friend to all of WUSOTA's members. We wish Jackie luck in all of her future endeavors.

## Wash U OT Students Contribute to AOTA's Assembly of Student Delegates

Students Jaclyn Tarloff, Mallory Hensley, and Whitney Wynder were elected to the American Occupational Therapy Association's Assembly of Student Delegates' Steering Committee and attended AOTA conference in Orlando this April to begin their duties. The steering committee is responsible for organizing the delegates meeting held annually prior to conference, assisting

with the set up of student conclave, and providing a student voice in several of AOTA's decision making bodies. Additionally, Erin Eitzmann is Wash U's delegate to the Assembly of Student Delegates. The ladies share some of their experiences below, and on the next page.

## Jaclyn Tarloff: Chairperson/Representative to the Board of Directors

During the 2010 AOTA conference I had the opportunity to begin my term as the Chairperson to the Steering Committee of the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) for AOTA. At conference, I worked with the 2009-2010 steering committee members to help prepare me for the year ahead. Through this experience, I was able to meet with many OT luminaries including outgoing AOTA president, Penelope A. Moyers Cleveland, incoming president Florence Clark, AOTA staff, and fellow OT and OTA students from around the nation. I also attended lectures from

many notable individuals in the OT community including Amy Lamb, Gary Kielhofner, and Ginny Stoffel. My favorite part of conference was watching the Representative Assembly (RA) vote on policy that will greatly influence our profession, including changes to the structure of AOTA. I look forward to carrying on the hard work of the steering committee members before us and advocating on behalf of students and new professionals. Thank you to all who voted in the 2010 AOTA elections. I am honored to have this opportunity.

## Mallory Hensley: Student Representative to the Commission on Education

Attending the leadership conference in Orlando prior to the AOTA Conference was one of the best and most inspiring experiences I have had thus far in graduate school. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to talk about how to continue fostering leadership skills after graduation with the likes of Dr. Florence Clark, Dr. Penny Moyers Cleveland, Dr. Gary Kielhofner, and others who have shaped our profession. Beyond that, the opportu-

nity to network with representatives from schools around the country was priceless. I think the other schools would agree that we all have so much to learn from each other. Jaclyn, Whitney, Erin and I came back to school armed with some great suggestions from SOTAs across the states and are excited to implement some in the upcoming school year to make our WUSOTA even more successful!

## Erin Eitzmann: Wash U ASD representative

I recently had the great opportunity to represent Washington University OT students at the Assembly of Student Delegates meeting at the AOTA conference in Orlando, Florida. What an awesome experience! Over the day and a half of the meeting I had the chance to meet students from OT programs all over the country to share ideas and concerns from each other's programs about things such as fundraising, advocacy events, and staying connected with national concerns. Additionally, we got to hear from many leaders in occupational therapy such as the keynote

speaker, Gary Kielhofner, as well as Florence Clark and Penny Moyers Cleveland, the incoming and outgoing presidents of AOTA, respectively. The whole event was very inspiring to me as a student and future professional, reminding me how great occupational therapy is, as well as of the responsibility we have even as students to stay involved and advocate for the profession. I am so excited to share what I have learned and experienced with Wash U OT students!

## Advocacy Committee

Advocacy committee got the word out about OT in several ways this semester. During OT Month, committee members worked to inform students in all programs about OT by decorating the main lobby at 4444, delivering cookies and information into first and second year med-student boxes, sending "Guess the AT" e-mails, and encouraging students to adopt OT spirit day. OT month was successful in reaching students in all programs at the School of Medicine and making our presence known during April.

At the Health Happening Fair, the advocacy committee partnered with professors Dr. Gronski and Dr. Hildebrand to elicit support from OT students to aid in informing people and colleagues in other programs about occupational therapy.

For the second year in a row the advocacy committee delivered a presentation about what occupational therapy is to students at the school of medicine. This year, the effort was supported by the School of Medicine Leadership Council and was joined by speakers from Physical Therapy and Audiology to discuss their contributions to healthcare.

In the future, monthly talks to the Internal Medicine Interns at the Wohl Clinic about occupational therapy in healthcare will take place starting in June 2010 and ending December 2010. Additionally, a series of talks are being discussed with the Goldfarb School of Nursing, presenting to their BSN and MSN nursing classes about occupational therapy.

## Cultural Committee

Cultural Committee hosted an Indian Dance seminar led by Aparna Kalyanaraman, a Wash U Alumni. The event was free for all OT students and was a great way to learn about the Indian culture while dancing! Thanks to Aparna for her talents and to all who participated.

## Fundraising Committee

This semester the committee sold sweatshirts and sweatpants, which turned out to be a huge success! Not only did people enjoy the classic design, but the fundraiser generated more than \$1,500 in profit for WUSOTA! There was also a spring-themed bake sale event.

The fundraising committee would like to thank everyone who made or bought baked goods, ordered t-shirts in the fall or sweats this semester, and supported WUSOTA! You all helped to make this year a great success for the fundraising committee and WUSOTA as a whole!

## Social Committee

Social Committee gave everyone a chance to kick back and relax, semi-formal style with Theraball. This year the event was held in the Farrell Teaching and Learning Center Atrium.



## Community Service Committee

The community service committee has certainly been active this spring semester. Several students took part in the various volunteer opportunities with the St. Louis Rugby Rams quad rugby team – who, by the way, placed second in Division II of the USQRA National Playoffs – WAY TO GO RAMS!!

In March, students participated in Relay for Life, an event that gives communities across the globe an opportunity to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. They put together a team to advocate about occupational therapy, explain an occupational therapist's role in working with individuals

with cancer, and teach about wheelchair mechanics and propulsion techniques. Teams are typically asked to have a representative on the track all times during the event, and because cancer never sleeps, relays are overnight events that can last up to 24 hours in length.

This April, occupational therapy students got dolled up and put on their dancing shoes for a night out at the 2010 Senior Prom. Everyone had a splendid evening listening to music, enjoying the sophisticated company, and dancing the night away. Overall it was a lot of fun and a great success!



**Relay for Life** Above, Jessica Dahms and Abby Foster show their spirit. Below, Wash U OT table. At Bottom: Adam Pearson and Nikki Weiner educate a participant on wheelchairs.



### Senior Prom

Above: Shalini Paka and Emily Kranichfield sign in Senior Prom attendees.

Top left: Danielle Cobb serves punch at Senior Prom.

At right: Jamie Olsen chats with some seniors participants.



## Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development committee brought some great speakers in this semester to help OT students expand their horizons. David Sykora, the Executive Director of the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging spoke about the agency's services to help older adults live independently in their home environment. Jennifer Miros, MPT, from the Cerebral Palsy Sports and Rehabilitation Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital spoke about adaptive sports equipment. Deborah Davidson, PhD, OTR/L, discussed her experiences as an OT working in child and adolescent mental

health programs. Finally, Colleen Dolnick, Community Outreach and Autism Response Team Coordinator for the St. Louis Chapter of Autism Speaks presented to students based on her experiences presenting a School and Community Toolkit to people involved in the school system to explain how members of the school community can support people with autism.

The committee also put together a resource packet for graduating students with tips as they start searching for jobs.

## Job Fair Committee

President: Jaclyn Tarloff  
 Vice-President: Rosie Thede  
 Secretary: Diane Synder  
 Treasurer: Janice Lin

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Job Fair:

Gary Johnson  
 Kortney Haage

#### Advocacy:

Sola Aiyebusi  
 Rachel Dargatz

#### Professional Development:

Whitney Wynder  
 Mallory Hensley

#### Fundraising:

Kaylie Stearns  
 Bryna Copes

#### Community Service:

Erin Eitzmann  
 Kirsten Halsen

#### Cultural:

Justin Barber

#### Social:

Aley Babb  
 Ali Castellano

#### Media Relations:

Andrea Sallee

#### International Assistance:

Sarah Burrows

#### ASD Delegate:

Ashley Brock

### FACULTY ADVISORS

Jackie Webel  
 Meredith Gronski

The 2010 edition of the WUSOTA OT/PT Job Fair was another huge success! More than 100 Job-seeking students attended the fair. Thanks to the increased efforts to attract candidates from outside of WUOT, the attendees included students from WUPT, SLU, and area OTA programs, as well as several practicing OT's. 30 Employers traveled from across the country to woo potential therapists. Some employers have a long history of recruiting at the Job Fair. Others, like St. Louis City School District and Special School District made their first appearance at the fair. Not content to

rely just on past success, incoming Chair Kelsey Nelson is already working hard on next year's Job Fair. That continued commitment to excellence makes a real impact on the employers, as several have already inquired about reserving space for next year. Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Job Fair Committee, we can be certain that the OT/PT Job Fair will continue to match employers with talented students for years to come. Congratulations to Chairs Kortney Haage and Gary Johnson and their entire committee for a job well done.

## International Assistance Committee

The International Assistance Committee lived up to their mission this semester, making their first overseas service trip. Eighteen students and faculty advisor Jackie Webel traveled with Service for Peace, an independent nonprofit organization, to Guatemala in March. The experience challenged the students to use all of the skills they had learned in school and expand their understanding of culturally sensitive practice. "The first day was absolutely chaotic," said IAC Volunteer Coordinator Adam Pearson. "The flow of operations went out the window. Every [IAC] member stepped up and said 'This is what I can do.' It was amazing."

On that first day, IAC members were given the opportunity to contribute in ways no other Service for Peace group had. The Director of the ANINI orphanage asked students to prepare an in-service to teach his staff about current best practices in sensory processing and sensory integration. The commitment to evidence-based practice was inspiring. "They were starving for knowledge," Pearson said. "The research we have here is ten years behind in getting there." The in-service succeeded thanks to contributions from the entire contingent, and was quite well-received.



Back home, IAC co-sponsored a talk by Mark Hanis, President and Founder of the Genocide Intervention network. Approximately 50 people turned out for guidance on how to get involved in genocide prevention at the social and policy levels.



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.wusota.org](http://www.wusota.org)

