

# WUSOTA

Washington University Student Occupational Therapy Association

## Message from the President

The 2014-2015 Washington University Student Occupational Therapy Association (WUSOTA) executive board planned numerous great events this spring! We kicked things off by raising money towards the St. Catherine's Challenge, a friendly competition to raise funds for American Occupational Therapy Federation (AOTF) scholarships. The Washington University Occupational Therapy (WUOT) program received third place in this competition, and was recognized at AOTA's 95th Annual Conference and Expo on April 16 -19 in Nashville, Tennessee.



Jenna Rebhun

Our community service efforts continued through events with organizations around the community, including the Team Activities for Special Kids (TASK) Social Night Valentine's Day party and Hope Lodge dinners. Attendance was high to the annual OT/PT Job Fair, with more than 200 occupational therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy assistant students.

The student body was heavily involved in the disability dining experience, Caring Solutions Adopt-a-Home Day, Health Professional Student Leadership Council (HPSLC) Case Study Nights, "OT in Pediatric Oncology" lunch talk, letter writing campaigns and Hill Day events. I want to personally thank all of the executive board members that I had the pleasure of working with this past year. These events were all very successful, and your time and effort made this past year a positive experience for the entire WUOT student body.

WUSOTA leadership has officially transitioned to new executive board members, and I know this new group of students will continue to strengthen the WUSOTA student organization.

- Jenna Rebhun, OTD/S '16  
WUSOTA President

## Advocacy

The Advocacy Committee was hard at work promoting the field of occupational therapy! On Feb. 27, the committee hosted an "elevator speech" workshop in which the committee heads, Melissa Feeley, MSOT/S '15, and Brie Hussey, OTD/S '16, role-played "good" and "bad" elevator speeches, reviewed writing tips and developed fieldwork site-specific elevator speeches. Attendees shared their speeches, and the group gave constructive feedback.

The Advocacy Committee held another letter writing campaign on March 27, urging legislators to repeal the therapy cap for good.

The committee decorated the display case in the front lobby for OT month in April. The theme was "OT for the Ages," showcasing the role of OT throughout the lifespan. The committee heads also spearheaded an OT spirit week during that month, encouraging students to wear their OT gear and to dress as their favorite occupation.



## AOTA 2015

Students attended AOTA's 95th Annual Conference and Expo on April 16-19 in Nashville. Gillian VanderTuig, MSOT/S '15, (top photo) helped out at the Program's booth. Morgan Fry, MSOT/S '15, Brie Hussey, OTD/S '16, and Katherine Ross, OTD/S '16, (left photo) pose with AOTA President Ginny Stoffel, PhD, BCMH, FAOTA, at the conference.



## Job Fair

The annual OT/PT Job Fair on Feb. 26 was a huge success thanks to the efforts of the Job Fair Committee. Despite inclement weather, more than 200 OT, PT and OTA students from Washington University and six surrounding area schools attended the job fair at the Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC).

The committee thanks the more than 20 employers that graciously gave their time to attend and support the event. It was a great experience for students to work on their resumes and their job interviewing and networking skills.



Job Fair Committee Chairs (left to right) Macy Miller, OTD/S '16, Erin Sherman, MSOT/S '15, and Heather Annis, MSOT/S '15, worked hard all year to make the event a success.

## ASD

As the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) delegate for the WUOT program, Brie Hussey, OTD/S '16, continued to bridge the gap between AOTA and OT students. This semester, she held an AOTA informational meeting, encouraging students to attend AOTA's 95th Annual Conference and Expo on April 16-19 in Nashville, Tennessee. The day before the conference began, Brie attended the ASD meeting. She heard from several leaders in occupational therapy and participated in various sessions.

## Community Service

The Community Service Committee planned several events this semester. They started things off on Feb. 13 with TASK's Social Night Valentine's Day party, where students volunteered to provide crafts, games and snacks for children and teens with disabilities. On Feb. 23, students brought food dishes to the Hope Lodge dinner for the residents who stay there during cancer treatments. In addition, students helped paint the inside of a home for Caring Solutions Adopt-a-Home Day on March 21. The committee finished strong by joining the PB&Joy university-wide food drive, which supports Operation Food Search, an organization dedicated to ending hunger in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area.

## Cultural

The Cultural Committee held a couple of events this semester, which further enhanced students' cultural competencies as they prepare to become OT practitioners. The committee held a disability lunch on Feb. 24 in the cafeteria. This event featured case studies for different disabilities, including low vision, hearing loss and sensory issues. Students each had a case study to act out during lunch to see how it impacted them. A short discussion session followed, and students shared that they became more aware of how different disabilities can affect social interaction and other daily activities. On April 7, the committee held a religion forum, where religious leaders of different faiths held a panel discussion. The panel included a Christian Scientist, a Buddhist and a Muslim. Each panelist described the way that their religious beliefs and values impact their expectations of a health-care professional. The students were engaged and asked questions at the end of the session, showing their increased sensitivity to and knowledge of different faiths.

## OT Hill Day

Feb. 25 was OT Hill Day in Jefferson City, Missouri. More than 200 OT and OTA clinicians and students rallied at the capitol to advocate for the profession and to push for a bill that would bring co-pay parity for OT services. WUSTL students also participated in a Virtual Hill Day by emailing their legislators, encouraging them to attend OT Hill Day events and to support the co-pay bill.



## Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee continued raising funds for WUSOTA by selling tank tops, tumblers and clipboards. The committee thanks everyone for their support during their various fundraisers and looks forward to seeing the new ideas developed by next year's committee.



## HPSLC

The Health Professional Student Leadership Council (HPSLC) is an organization that promotes and advances collaboration among students in the health care field. Holly Carlson, MSOT/S '15, served as the HPSLC representative for WUOT this past year.

On Feb. 24, HPSLC started off the semester with a case study night, where students from six different health care disciplines (OT, PT, audiology, medicine, pharmacy and nursing) collaborated in a case-based learning event. Two OTs from Barnes Jewish Hospital oncology served as expert panelists. Congratulations to Amanda Gauthier's team for winning!

HPSLC also held a community service week, comprised of four events in early April with the following St. Louis organizations: Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Louis Arc, Gateway Greening, Crisis Nursery, and Gateway 180. Volunteers from the various disciplines pulled together to serve these different community organizations. First-year student Koob Moua, OTD/S '17, was the co-leader for the Gateway Greening event on April 4. On April 7, HPSLC held an organ donation lunch talk in honor of National Donate Life Month. The talk featured representatives from Mid-America Transplant Services, and students from all health professions were invited to enjoy Chipotle while learning about their role in organ donation.

HPSLC held their annual elections, which allowed candidates to give one-minute speeches to voice their intentions and hopes for their desired position. Sadie Walker, OTD/S '16, will serve as HPSLC's treasurer next year.

## Media Relations

The Media Relations Committee continued to update the WUSOTA Facebook page with current WUSOTA news and upcoming events for students, faculty and alumni. Please visit our Facebook page at <http://on.fb.me/1P4ofji>.

Committee Chair Nikki Alvarez, MSOT/S '15, personally thanks her committee members for their hard work this year, and looks forward to what the new committee has in store for the future.



## MOTA

As the Missouri Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) student representatives, Savannah Sisk, MSOT/S '15, and Jianna Fernandez, OTD/S '16, were busy acting as liaisons between the students and the MOTA board.

On March 21, the MOTA board hosted a student seminar in the auditorium entitled, "Continuum of Care for Cerebral Vascular Accidents." Students from different OT and OTA programs in the St. Louis region learned about the different approaches that therapists in acute care, inpatient, skilled nursing, outpatient and home health settings take when working with individuals from this population. Students had the opportunity to ask professionals questions about their setting, treatments, evaluations and involvement with other areas of the occupational therapy process. Speakers included Kelly Baranyai, OT on the inpatient brain injury team at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis; Mary G. Falcetti, OT for AW Healthcare in home health; Cindy Kempf, director of clinical services for RPI Therapy Services; Carol Ponciroli, private practitioner in home care; Charisse Rickles, OT at SSM Day Institute program in Kirkwood; and Julie Rosenfeld, director of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Saint Louis University Hospital.

## Executive Board 2014-2015

President .....	Jenna Rebhun
Vice President.....	Brianna Beattie
Treasurer.....	Morgan Fry
Secretary.....	Sadie Walker
Advocacy.....	Melissa Feeley and Gabriel Hussey
ASD.....	Gabrielle Hussey
Community Service .....	Maggie Biggs and Remy Orlins
Cultural.....	Akos Asare and Caren Mandelbaum
Fundraising .....	Erin Boyle, Sara Killian and Morgan McGinnis
HPSLC .....	Holly Carlson
Global Awareness .....	Lacey Burchett, Celine Dammond and Lauren Rencoret
Job Fair .....	Heather Annis, Macy Miller and Erin Sherman
Media Relations .....	Nikki Alvarez
MOTA Representatives.....	Jianna Fernandez and Savannah Sisk
Professional Development....	Salma Hussain and Kelly Taylor
Social.....	Emily Baker and Stacey Runback

**Congratulations to the 2015-2016 WUSOTA executive board!  
We can't wait to see what you have in store for the organization.**

## Executive Board 2015-2016

President .....	Brianna Beattie
Treasurer.....	Kate Heidorn
Secretary.....	Amy Fjerstad
Advocacy.....	Rachel Harris and Sam Talisman
ASD.....	Sam Talisman
Community Service .....	Sara Rutherford and Niraj Shah
Cultural.....	Tania Andrade and Kristina Vance
Fundraising .....	Lindsey Desutter, Chris Enke, Elizabeth Szymke and Arielle Yarbrough
HPSLC .....	Sadie Walker
Job Fair .....	Grace Eisenberg and Lindsey Kehlenbrink
Media Relations .....	Katrina Christopher
MOTA Representatives.....	Felicia Foci and Gloria Sipakati
Professional Development....	Melissa Brottman and Michelle Voss
Social.....	Stefanie Fitterer and Lena Menkes

## Advisors to Executive Board

Student Activities Coordinator.....	Jessica Dashner, OTD, OTR/L
Design and Layout .....	Michele Berhorst

## Professional Development

The Professional Development Committee held several PDU lunch talks this semester. The committee hosted an “Adults with Cognitive Disabilities” PDU lunch talk on Feb. 2, where a representative from Paraquad came to speak with the students. Paraquad is a nonprofit organization in St. Louis that aims to empower people with disabilities to increase their independence in all aspects of society. The informative talk covered how to serve the mental health population and the role of OT in community health.

On Feb. 23, the committee hosted a “Travel OT” PDU lunch talk in which a representative from Aureus Medical discussed what travel OT entails. She also reviewed job interview tips and answered questions about this unique type of OT setting. Finally, the committee held a “Pediatric Oncology” lunch talk, where WUOT alum Amy Westfall, OTD '04, OTR/L, who works in oncology and hematology at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, shared her experiences. The students learned about OT’s role with children and adolescents fighting and surviving cancer and hematological conditions.

## Social Committee

The Social Committee focused all their efforts in hosting this year’s Theraball event, aka “OT Prom!” Theraball is a semi-formal event to celebrate a year of hard work and accomplishments for all OT students. This year, it was held at Mandarin Lounge in the Central West End on March 28. Students let loose on the dance floor while enjoying delicious appetizers and the ever-so-popular photo booth!

**Students enjoying the  
Theraball photo booth.**

