

WUSOTA Newsletter

WUSOTA Washington University Student
OT Association



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April 2011

A Message from the President: Rosie Thede

As I look back on this past year in WUSOTA, I am so impressed with what my classmates have achieved. This year, WUSOTA has connected Wash. U. students to our community through service projects that bring WUOT students out into our community and professional development events that bring members of the community to Wash. U. WUSOTA has connected Wash. U. students to each other through fantastic social events. And WUSOTA has connected Wash. U. students to our profession through inspiring advocacy efforts. Thank you to everyone who participated this year, particularly our amazing Exec Board, for all of the work that you did! I can't help but feel proud to have been a part of this organization, and I couldn't be more pleased to pass the baton to such a promising group whom I know will bring more exciting events to WUOT next year!

CJ Burhans: WashU ASD Representative

I am both thrilled and honored to be the Assembly of Student Delegates representative for the Washington University OT program in the 2011-2012 year. Erin Eitzmann, former ASD representative, set the bar high with her example and leadership this past year but I have no doubts that I am up to the challenge. I recently attended the AOTA conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where I also attended the annual ASD meeting. It was a great opportunity to network with OT and OTA students from all across the country, share ideas and learn from current leaders in AOTA. I am pleased to report that our program was recognized by the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee for our contribution during this past year's Student Challenge. From the experience and knowledge gained at conference I am confident that this coming year will be enriching for our faculty and student body as we focus on keeping policy in the spotlight. Mark your calendars for Capitol Hill Day to be held in Washington D.C. on Monday, September 19, 2011, and AOTA's Student Conclave to be held in Providence, Rhode Island from November 11-12, 2011. Stay tuned...there is more to come!

Welcome to the new board for 2011-2012

President: Sarah Cheatham

Secretary: Joyce Dadekian

Treasurer: Marisa Sevick

Advocacy:

Brittany Minor and Lizz Rizki

Community Service:

Katherine Hutson and Keisha Foster

Culture:

Hali Hutchinson and Frances Montanye

Fundraising:

Joe Brey and Diane Cerulli

Job Fair:

Lauren Stone and Lisa Tiltges

Media Relations:

Cathy Crawley and Sarah Lauterbach

Professional Development:

Ashley Hermes and Sarah Thompson

Social:

Lia Poeder, Brittany Perez, and Allison Smith

ASD Rep: CJ Burhans

IAC Chair: Erin Sanborn

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Upcoming Events -

Summer 2011

- KATY TRAIL BIKE RIDE
- CHECK OUT
WWW.WUSOTA.ORG FOR
THE LATEST AND GREATEST
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Advocacy Committee

The advocacy committee has been hard at work promoting our profession of occupational therapy for National OT month! Committee members put together a case around a theme: "Occupational therapists promote health through participation." The case included pictures of people across the lifespan in different environments and participating in different occupations. The case also included assistive technology, a basketball wheelchair, and a modified driving system. In addition, members put up a poster in Farrell (the medical school building), where we passed out sugar cookies with messages about occupational therapy to medical students, faculty and staff. To promote advocacy through our student body we hosted weekly OT challenges, which challenged students to explore the AOTA website to find answers. We also teamed up with the WUSOTA community service committee to create a donation drive for St. Louis children who are in need of school supplies and clothes.

We hosted a letter writing party to thank national websites that included information about OT and to reinforce all the great skills we have to offer. In addition, at the end of this month, we are going to an elementary school fair to present health topics and information about what OTs do. It's been a busy but exciting month as we spread the message of occupational therapy!

Fundraising Committee

Thanks to the fundraising committee, no students were lacking in OT gear this semester! The committee started off the year by selling OT car decals as well as classy WashU OT fleeces in different styles and colors. In addition, the committee wrapped up the semester by selling WashU OT t-shirts and sweatpants – great as gifts for friends and family or a treat for yourself!

Job Fair Committee

The job fair committee worked hard to plan and organize the job fair on February 24. The community was very supportive with their donations for the raffle. Despite the downpour, more than 150 OT and PT students stopped by to visit with the 25 vendors from around the United States. Kelsey Nelson, job fair committee chair, would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help stuff envelopes in order to make the Job Fair possible!



The hardworking team show off the OT Month display in the lobby of 4444



Liz Rizki passes out cookies to spread awareness of OT on the med campus

Checking out all the available information



Checking in the students as they came in out of the rain

Talking with one of the many vendors



Cultural Committee

Cultural committee hosted a Passover Seder this spring. The event gave students a great opportunity to learn some customs and traditions of another religion and culture. A big thank you to all who attended!



All smiles while sharing a Seder meal

Community Service Committee

The community service committee has been keeping quite active this semester, providing many opportunities for students to put their skills and interests to use throughout the St Louis area and beyond. From gardening with Gateway Greening to helping prepare meals for Campus Kitchen or Hope Lodge; how about the opportunity to dress up for a Senior Prom or a Red Dress fundraiser, no matter your talents — they could be used! St Louis HELP found many uses for some extra hands, putting them to work cleaning donated equipment in preparation to pass on to new users. We continued to support the troops through Care Packages with basic necessities for daily care and reminders of support from back home.

Coordinating with other committees within WUSOTA and other parts of campus helped to expand the options even more, from Relay for Life to a university wide Food Drive, we were able to help make ourselves known on the wider campus. Within WUSOTA we paired with the advocacy committee to collect donations for the kids at Queen of Peace, and are helping to staff the Iveland Elementary Fun Fair, spreading the word about OT and our potential roles in schools and child development.

The community service committee has kept themselves and our fellow students quite busy this semester, and look forward to continuing the tradition in the fall.

International Assistance Committee

IAC was busy this semester with last minute fundraising at Noodles & Co., as well as an always entertaining Trivia Night. They were off to Guatemala before they knew it. Their adventure filled week included working at an orphanage, a school developing an OT program, a Mayan special education school, a pediatric clinic, and a hospital. The students still found time to participate in local culture and have some fun. It was a trip that will not soon be forgotten!



Speaking with a PT program, and sharing ideas about OT and its importance

Anini school and orphanage



Enjoying the sights, sounds, and culture of Guatemala



Social Committee

Soulard is known for its fantastic Mardi Gras parade and party. The social committee organized a meet-up and the dreary weather proved NOT to be an obstacle for fun – students had a great time celebrating!

SOAP note writing, goal writing, task analyzing – OH MY! In April, the social committee organized many events to give students a break from school and mix in some fun. The first event included a game and snack night. For those who were not able to make it to the AOTA conference this year, the committee got students together for a happy hour at McGurk’s Irish Pub. To wind down the semester, the social committee will be hosting a lunch potluck to give students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to share some of their favorite dishes with one another. Of course the spring semester would not be complete without the annual Theraball. This year it will be held at Maggie O’Brien’s Restaurant and Irish Pub. It will include dinner and a DJ so students can engage in the popular and enjoyable occupation of tearing up the dance floor! Feeling a little cooped up? The social committee has you covered! Dust off the bike and stretch those legs – the semester is going to wrap up with a 25-mile bike ride on the Katy Trail, which follows Lewis and Clark’s path up the Missouri River and includes beautiful scenic views.

WUSOTA OFFICERS
President: Rosie Thede
Vice President: Ashley Hermes
Secretary: Amanda Felber
Treasurer: Stephanie Heath

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Advocacy:
CJ Burhans
Katie Johnson
Community Service:
Dorothy Porcello
Stephanie Walker
Cultural:
Kari Teweles
Fundraising:
Abby Williams
Job Fair:
Kelsey Nelson
Professional Development:
Allison L’Hotta
Juliana Valente
Social:
Rita Karsbaek
Connie Ribley
Media Relations:
Jessy Garcia
International Assistance Ad-Hoc:
Melissa Lorin
ASD Rep:
Erin Eitzmann

FACULTY ADVISORS
Kathy Kniepmann



Soulard Mardi Gras Parade and Party

Social Night at McGurks



Media Relations Committee

AOTA issued a challenge to share how schools around the nation advocate for OT. With the help of other WUSOTA members, Jessy Garcia rose to the challenge and created a beautiful website showcasing the many ways we work to promote OT on different levels.

Check it out: <http://www.wix.com/wusmot/urft2011>

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development committee brought in some great speakers via Skype this semester. Bethany Taylor Gardner, a 2007 OTD graduate of WashU, spoke about her role working for Progressive Health at the Toyota Motor Manufacturing plant in San Antonio. At the Toyota manufacturing plant, Bethany assesses workers in ergonomics and educates about injury prevention.

Diana Baldelomar, an OT in Boston, Mass., spoke about her work in cultivating urban renewal in her community. In collaboration with the Food Project, they are a community-based urban agriculture program that works to improve access to quality food and engage local youth through participation.

The committee also put together a resource packet for graduating students with tips as they start searching for jobs. Thank you to the PDU committee for continuing to help OT students expand their horizons.

Stop by for a visit!
www.wusota.org