

WUSOTA

Washington University Student Occupational Therapy Association

Program in Occupational Therapy • Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Letter From the President

It has been a pleasure to be a leader of this group of energetic, passionate WUSOTA members. I was extremely impressed by how quickly the first years jumped into the swing of things and fit right in with the hustle and bustle.

From meals at the Hope Lodge to the gingerbread-building contest, NORC workdays to OT advocacy talks to physicians, students took advantage of the many opportunities to interact with fellow students and colleagues as well as serve those outside of the WUOT community.

The Executive Board started working hard over the summer to

make the 2012-2013 year a hit, and the fabulous ideas and plans continue to flow. I am very grateful for their hard work and perseverance in making sure all WUSOTA events are a success.

I am continuously inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication of the Executive Board and this student body, and I hope that you find yourself inspired as well! I look forward to another great semester in spring 2013!

-Lexi Florian

2012 - 2013 WUSOTA President

Job Fair

The Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Job Fair committee spent the fall preparing for the upcoming job fair. The annual job fair is going to be held on February 19, 2013 in the Eric P. Newman Education Center from 4-8 pm. The job fair is open to OT and PT student from the surrounding area. There were about 500 students who attended last year and about 35 vendors from across the country as well. The coordinators are already expecting more students and vendors this year. Door prizes and PDU's will be given out, so dust off your dress clothes and come ready to impress!



WUOT students pose at the 2012 Job Fair in Farrell Teaching and Learning Center.



The 2012 Job Fair was attended by approximately 500 people around the St. Louis area and over 35 vendors across the country.

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Advocacy

The advocacy committee has been hard at work promoting occupational therapy! Over the summer and fall semesters, members of the committee have been advocates for occupational therapy by giving a total of seven presentations to medical residents. The lectures included information on the scope of practice of occupational therapy, theories, and case studies. These presentations will continue next semester, with one presentation scheduled per month.

A letter-writing campaign was also held during the semester. Students met to advocate for the federal legislature to come to an agreement on a budget for next year. If a decision is not reached, a process of sequestration will occur, potentially cutting millions of dollars to mental health and preventative health programs. Students took an active role in advocating for OT by printing and mailing letters to their senators and representatives.

The advocacy committee is looking forward to next semester, as they have many events planned! April is OT month, and students will be hosting different activities to promote occupational therapy throughout the month. Additionally, a Health Professional Student Leadership Council (HPSLC) lecture about the curriculum in occupational therapy will be presented and is open to the entire medical school.



Faculty team members with their winning Gingerbread House.

Professional Development

This semester, the Professional Development committee hosted three lunch talks: Dignity Harbor, a documentary by Mike Gualdoni about the homeless population of the St. Louis Area hospice and palliative care by Season's Hospice of St. Louis, and self-management in cancer survivors given by Courtney Dauwalder and Jo VanderLinde.

In addition to hosting lunch presentations, the committee also organized a trip to Leaps and Bounds, a sensory integration clinic in St. Peters, MO. The event had a great turnout and the committee is planning on organizing another trip next semester for those who were not able to make it the first time around. Thank you, Professional Development Committee, for continuing to provide students with ways to broaden their horizons.

Fundraising

The fundraising committee started the year off with the annual Program in Occupational Therapy sweatshirt sale. They sold 170 sweatshirts to students, faculty, and alumni and raised over \$1,900, which was a great start to the year. This year was the first time that the committee reached out to alumni for support, and this proved to be a great success.

As an end of the semester fundraiser, the committee organized the second Annual Gingerbread House Contest. Students and faculty built and decorated gingerbread houses in teams. The teams had an hour to be creative and construct the best gingerbread house. The first place was claimed by the faculty team.



Student team during the Gingerbread House Contest.

Community Service

The Community Service Committee had a very busy semester! They were involved in many events, including: Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Alzheimer's Walk, Autism Speaks Walk, NORC Work Days, selling Bridge Bread (made by residents at the Bridge and sold in the 4444 building), volunteering in the Bridge Resource Room, and Holiday Drive (donating gifts, food, and clothing to families in need).

A new project was started this semester, as a volunteer day was held with Caring Solutions. Caring Solutions is an organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities by helping them find appropriate housing placements in the greater St. Louis area. Eighteen students volunteered on October 6 by painting at three homes of three Caring Solutions' customers.

Hope Lodge dinners were continued throughout the semester. Hope Lodge is a lodging facility run by the American Cancer Society for cancer patients and their families. Students volunteered to help cook, set-up, serve food, and socialize with the patients. These dinners are a great success and will be continued next semester! Another NORC work day and participating in Relay for Life are also scheduled for the spring semester.



Wash U OT students prepared and served a special meal to the residents and their families at Hope Lodge this semester.

Media Relations

A big thank you to committee members Laura Manson, Katelyn Eisenberg, and Susan Lee for their contributions to the newsletter. The committee would also like to thank Jennifer Hunter for her help in creating a new template for the WUSOTA newsletter.



Students pose for a picture after participating in the Alzheimer's Walk.



Second-year student Keland Scher entertains the residents at Hope Lodge.

Culture

On November 27, 2012, the Cultural Committee hosted a film screening of *Color of Paradise*, featuring a boy from Iran who is blind. The film illustrated the process the boy's father comes to cope with his son's disability, reflecting the hardships which are often felt by the families of individuals with disabilities.

Next semester, the committee is planning on hosting an event for Deaf Culture, (possibly including an introductory course on American Sign Language), cultural lunch, and many more.

Social

The Social Committee has planned many events throughout the semester, providing opportunities for students to get together outside of the school building. The committee started off with a successful orientation for the first years with a scavenger hunt, trip to the St. Louis Zoo, PB & J picnic and ice cream social.

The committee also introduced a modified Big/Little Sib program this year, where 3-4 first-year students were paired with two second-year students. The Big/Little Sibs stayed in touch throughout the semester as the second-years helped the first-years survive the first semester of graduate school.



First-year students pose at the Saint Louis Zoo.

International Assistance

The International Assistance Committee (IAC) is dedicated to promoting participation and independence of individuals in need in developing countries worldwide. To help meet this goal, the committee organized several speakers and events to heighten students' awareness about international endeavors. The committee hosted a documentary screening for Half the Sky, a film about "turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide," focusing on issues such as sex trafficking, maternal mortality, sexual violence, and education.

The committee also hosted a Skype session with Susan Coppola, an AOTA delegate for the World Federation of Occupational Therapy which provided an opportunity to discuss the role of occupational therapy in international affairs. The committee also promoted World Disability Day on December 3 by hosting a discussion of ways to "remove barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all."

Individuals involved in the Guatemala service trip have been hard at work to get ready for the trip, which will take place over winter break in January. Many fundraisers have been completed, including speed dating, a kickball tournament, and trivia night. Pizza Wednesday, where committee members sell pizza every Wednesday in the Program lobby, was started this semester as well. Good luck and safe travels to IAC members as they travel to Guatemala this January.

The float trip, traditionally the biggest event organized by the committee, was once again a huge success this year with a great turnout of over 85 people. Students also participated in a trip to the City Museum in St. Louis and Eckert's Farm in Belleville for apple picking. A pumpkin carving event was organized to get the students prepared for Halloween, and a costume contest followed on November 1. The committee wrapped up the semester nicely with a Holiday/Ugly Sweater Party, providing a rare opportunity for the first, second, and third year students to get together.

The Committee is planning on a lot of events for the coming semester, including Theraball on April 6, which is traditionally the highlight of Spring Semester!



Halloween costume contest participants with faculty judge Jeanenne Dallas.

Executive Board 2012 - 2013

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Professional Development	Annie Kramlinger, Kelly Schwieterman
Social	Ashley Bruck, Keland Scher, & Elizabeth Williams
ASD Rep	Brittany Perez

For any questions regarding the WUSOTA newsletter, please contact Susan Lee at leesuj@wusm.wustl.edu.

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