

REVISTA



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OT Month 2020

#OTMAKESADIFFERENCE



TOTA and COVID-19

On behalf of the TOTA board of directors, I want you to know that we are concerned for your personal health. TOTA, along with AOTA, has been closely monitoring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding COVID-19. AOTA has done an excellent job keeping members and state association leaders informed.

The health and safety of our members and attendees is our highest priority. Following the CDC's March 15 recommendation that organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States for the next 8 weeks, TOTA is postponing all face-to-face programs through May 8.

We are constantly closely monitoring information from the World Health Organization (WHO), the CDC, and other federal agencies and global and local health organizations.

Please be assured that while we remain focused on your health and safety, we are also focused on continued service to you, our members.

District Meetings: We are using Zoom to conduct district meetings and CE events. Refer to the [TOTA website](#) for a list of current events.

We are doing our best to keep you informed of developments regarding the coronavirus which affects all areas of practice. We receive regular communications from AOTA and state regulatory bodies. Please visit the website for resources <https://www.tota.org/covid-19-resources>

Thank you for your continued support of TOTA.

Stay informed, prepared, and healthy,
Judi

Happy OT Month!

Revista OT
OT Month

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*Robin V. Clearman,
OTR, CLT,
TOTA President*

As I write this article, spring is upon us with its promise of new growth, new beginnings, and a real appreciation for life. April is around the corner and April is OT Month: our opportunity to recognize and appreciate our great profession. There are so many things to reflect on and to be thankful for, while at the same time we are currently faced with fear of a pandemic related to the coronavirus. I hope all of you are well and remain so. In this time of celebration, we are forced to face the realization that some things are out of our control. We must all remain calm and have faith that we will overcome and get through all of this with a renewed understanding. As health professionals, we must lead by example, remain informed, practice extreme caution and be supportive of our clients. Listen to your clients and be empathetic. We may not have the answers, but we can show that we care and hear their concerns.

In January 2020, your TOTA Board met over two days and hashed out a three-year strategic plan. Much was discussed with an understanding that we have much to celebrate, yet much to overcome and accomplish. The strategic plan focuses on sustainability, improving membership services, expanding CE opportunities, capitalizing on social media and our website, promoting our profession, and maintaining our unique scope of practice. Our detailed three-year strategic can be found on the TOTA website.

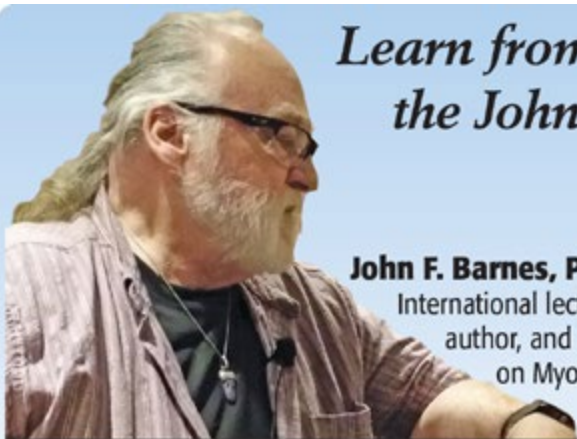
I am also excited to announce that I recently received notice that AOTA has recognized Texas for our sustained growth in AOTA membership. This has earned Texas an additional representative to serve in the AOTA Representative Assembly. AOTA will conduct an election for the second Representative during the 2021 election cycle.

I am sincerely very thankful that, although we may not all understand what the future holds, we are surrounded by those who have a common goal: to keep our profession strong and remain diligent in our endeavors. TOTA remains strong through membership support, continuing education opportunities, and legislative awareness. Let us celebrate together our history and broadcast our diverse profession. Make a personal goal to share with at least ten people what you love about OT and how we make a difference.

God Bless Y'all, and God Bless Texas,

Robin Clearman, OTR, CLT
TOTA President





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SAVE THE DATE

2020

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2020

DENTON, TEXAS

TOTA *Annual Conference*

Save money as early bird registration begins in August.

Want to get a head start? [Reserve your room with TOTA's exclusive conference rates at the Embassy Suites Denton Convention Center now before they're gone!](#)

For general questions regarding conference contact heather@tota.org

Vendor and exhibitor questions should be directed to Kami Lussan at Kami@tota.org

Mark your calendars and make your hotel reservations today to experience TOTA's annual educational conference and business meeting of the association coming this November to Denton, Texas!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

AOTA President
Wendy C. Hildenbrand,
PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA



329 Pediatric NDT Intensive Handling Techniques *Gail Ritchie, OTR, C/NDT*

San Antonio, TX August 1-2, 2020
Fort Worth, TX September 11-12, 2020

330 Sensory Systems: The Effect on Postural Control ... Understanding and Incorporating Sensory Strategies in NDT Treatment
Gail Ritchie, OTR, C/NDT Brenda J. Lindsay, PT, C/NDT

New Orleans, LA October 9-10, 2020
San Antonio, TX November 20-21, 2020

306 CAN-EAT Approach ...Using medical, motor, & therapy strategies in pediatric feeding
Krisi Brackett, MS, CCC-SLP

Stafford, TX July 24-25, 2020
Addison, TX December 4-5, 2020

345 Torticollis & Plagiocephaly: Assessment & Treatment of Infants & Children Impact on the Movement System of Infants & Beyond
Cindy Miles, PT, PhD. PCS, CNDT

Addison, TX July 18-19, 2020
Stafford, TX September 19-20, 2020

365 Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes ...NDT Principles for Gross Motor Development and Its Impact on Speech Sound Disorders
Patsy Tate, MS, CCC-SLP, C/NDT

Dallas, TX October 17-18, 2020

384 Kinesio Taping® Assessments, Fundamental Concepts and Techniques (Day 1-2-3 toward Certification)
Patricia Martin, PT, CKTI

Stafford, TX October 9-11, 2020

www.MotivationsCeu.com

HAPPY OT MONTH



Judith Joseph, OTR,
MA, CDRS, TOTA
Executive Director

Did you know that OT month began in 1980? The month of April was chosen to correspond with AOTA's Annual Conference & Expo. Forty years later we still celebrate in April although the AOTA conference took place last month in March. I hope you will share on social media how you are celebrating and promoting OT this month. Use the official hashtag, #OTMonth. When I reflect on the many ways I have celebrated OT month over the years, one of my fondest memories is an event that took place six years ago. The TWU students (Houston campus) instructed us on a flashmob dance routine. After receiving dance lessons, practitioners from all over the Texas Medical Center descended on the common's food court during lunch hour and broke out in a flashmob dance. The instructional video is still on our Facebook page if you would like to view it. It still makes me laugh and, those of you who know how serious Helen Cohen is regarding research, will enjoy seeing how this event even had her dancing. I believe the best dancer hands down was O. Jane Bowman, who recently retired from TWU.

In February, my NBCOT renewal envelope arrived with 35 years printed on the front in big bold letters. I posted it on my Facebook page with the comment, "#OTBoomer, please don't congratulate me, this is a Hoax, I am not this old, and I have not been practicing this long." This elicited several funny comments and snappy comebacks. It made me think about all the friendships and connections I have formed through this wonderful career. For OT Month 2020, I would like to celebrate the many OT practitioners and great moments I have experienced over these thirty-five years. There are several practitioners I consider friends and mentors. I am honored to personally know at least five Eleanor Clarke Slagle lecturers! I can scroll through AOTA's list of 100 people who influenced occupational therapy's 100-year history and count fifteen people I either know, have engaged in conversation with, been instructed by, and or had the opportunity to collaborate with on a project. One of my friends from college told me that she didn't know her aunt was famous until I treated her like she was "some sort of rock star." Her aunt is Lela Llorens. When I met her "Auntie Lela," at the 2009 AOTA conference in Houston, I was at a loss for words and could barely tell her my name. Occupational therapy is a great career and it is filled with some of the most amazing people. We make a difference in the lives of the clients and patients we serve.

So, here comes the plug for membership. TOTA was established for the benefit of professionals and students of occupational therapy (<https://www.tota.org/what-is-tota-2020>). There are many challenges affecting how we practice, where we practice, how our services are reimbursed, and what diagnoses we can treat. One of the primary goals of TOTA and AOTA is to advocate for our profession and ensure occupational therapy remains a viable and necessary in the future. **Take the time during OT Month to renew your membership if it has lapsed. If you are not a member, please let us know why. We need you. Happy #OTMonth everyone.**



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Web: www.tota.org

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2020 ELECTIONS:

Call for NOMINATIONS

The deadline for submission is April 30, 2020.

To all TOTA members:

It is time for annual elections of state and district board members. The available offices are listed below. Please review the by-laws for specific details and guidelines. Candidates can be nominated by completing the online nomination form which will be available soon.

STATE OFFICES: TREASURER

Article VI: STATE OFFICERS 6.1 Elected officers of TOTA shall be President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. a) These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and other such duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority and the Policy and Procedures Manual adopted by TOTA. 6.2 Eligibility. a) Any candidate for the office of President, President-Elect or Vice President of TOTA must have been a member of the Association for three (3) years immediately prior to the nomination deadline. b) State officers may reside in a border state, but must be licensed to practice in Texas. c) All officers shall maintain membership in good standing with TOTA and AOTA during their terms of office. d) No state officer can concurrently hold a position as an elected officer in AOTA, a district division of TOTA, or another state's OT membership organization.

6.4 Terms of Office. a) No officer shall be eligible to serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. An officer serving more than half a term is considered to have served a full term in that office, including in the case of appointment to that office. b) The President -Elect shall serve a one (1) year term. c) All elected state officers shall assume office upon adjournment of the annual business meeting at which their election has been announced. d) The President -Elect shall be elected in an odd numbered year and assume the office of President in an even numbered year. The Vice President and Secretary shall be elected and assume office in the odd numbered years. The Treasurer shall be elected in and assume office in an even numbered year. e) If a sitting President chooses to run for re-election, that person must state the intent prior to the election cycle of a President Elect.

TRINITY NORTH

VICE CHAIR
SECRETARY

ALAMO SOUTH

CHAIR
TREASURER

CAPITAL CENTEX

VICE CHAIR
SECRETARY

GREAT PLAINS WEST

CHAIR
TREASURER

GULF COAST EAST

VICE CHAIR
SECRETARY

RIO GRANDE

CHAIR
TREASURER

9.5 Eligibility. a) Nominees for District Chair must have been a member of the district for a minimum of one year prior to the nomination deadline. b) Officers must be licensed to practice in Texas and have chosen to be a member of that geographical district. c) All officers must remain TOTA members in good standing throughout their term. d) No District Officer shall concurrently hold more than one elected position in AOTA, a state office of TOTA, or another state's OT membership organizations.

CANDIDATES MUST SUBMIT A CURRICULUM VITAE/RESUME.

EACH NOMINEE MUST SUBMIT A POSITION STATEMENT SUMMARIZING QUALIFICATIONS, REASONS FOR WISHING TO ASSUME THIS LEADERSHIP POSITION, AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION AND TOTA.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

TOTA MEMBERSHIP

CLICK HERE TO
JOIN OR RENEW NOW!

Many issues that affect the practice of occupational therapy and affect your practice are determined at the state and local levels. It is important for you to become a member of your state organization to stay informed and advocate for your profession. Membership is a great investment in your career.

TOTA offers 12, 24, or 36 month rolling memberships which start when dues are paid and is available for renewal 30 days prior to the expiration date. TOTA provides an opportunity for members to pay for multi-year memberships at a discount. Your membership renewal can be found under your profile when you log in to the website.

LEGACY MEMBER

An individual who supports the activities of TOTA by paying dues in one and one-half times the membership fee.

PRESIDENTS CLUB MEMBER

An individual who supports and sustains the activities of TOTA by paying dues in the amount of twice the membership fee.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

An OT or OTA who has been recognized by a vote of the Board of Directors, also known as the Board, as having performed distinguished services in or for occupational therapy may be granted honorary membership for life.

TOTA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Esther Bell, OTR, FAOTA (1998)
*Robert K. Bing, EdD, OTR, FAOTA [b. 1929-d. 2003]
*Lenore Brannon, OTR [b. 1898-d. 1986]
Reggie Michael Campbell, OTR, MS, FAOTA (2016)
*F. Catherine Currie, OTR [b. 1915-d. 1998]
Donald Davidson, OTR (2001)
Harriett Davidson, MA, OTR (2015)
*Dorothy Jocelia Denn, OTR [b. 1912-d. 1999]
Virginia Chandler Dykes, OTR (1989)
Grace Gilkeson, PhD, OTR, FAOTA (1995)
*Nancy Griffin, EdD, OTR [b. 1936-d. 2014] (2000)
Gayle Hersch, PhD, OTR (2017)
*Margaret Hope Keeney, OTR [b. 1913-d. 2003]
*Lucile Land Lacy, OTR [b. 1901-d. 1994]
Jaclyn F. Low, OTR, PhD, FAOTA (2014)
*Cruz Antonia Mattei, OTR [b. 1924-d. 2011]
*Eileen S. McKee, OTR [b. 1923-d. 2010]
*Lillian Hoyle Parent, MA, OTR, FAOTA [b. 1921-d. 2016]
Suzanne Peloquin, OTR, PhD, FAOTA (2012)
*Ruth Whipple Pershing, OTR [b. 1923-d. 1998]
Caroline Ann Smalley Polliard, OTR (2000)
*Patricia Ann Truchon Ramm, OTR [b. 1928-d. 2007] (1990)
Kathlyn L. Reed, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, MLIS (2010)
*Irene Greer Robertson, OTR [b. 1921-d. 1996]
Gretchen M. Schmaltz, OTR (2002)
*Jane Foliart Sims, OTR [b. 1900-d. 1990]
*Geraldine Ann Skinner, OTR [b. 1924-d. 1991] (1989)
*Pearl Jones Tennyson, OTR [b. 1904-d. 1993]
*Lynn C. Tupper, OTR, MPH, MOT [b. 1947-d. 2015] (2013)
*Luanna S. Vana, OTR [b. 1918-d. 2008]
*Fannie Vanderkooi, OTR [b. 1894-d. 1990]
*Cary Starke Westhause [b. 1932-d. 2001] (1994)
*Virginia White, PhD, OTR, FAOTA [b. 1921-d. 2018] (2008)
*Rena Worthington, OTR [b. 1909-d. 2002]

*Deceased

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Carolyn Wheeler
Barbara Winthrop
Ronald William Weaver
Julie Seidens
Laura Hazel



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BENEVOLENCE ENDOWMENT (OTBE) UPDATE

By Regina Michael Campbell OT, MA, FAOTA



Reggie Michael Campbell, OT, MA, FAOTA

This article is written as a part of the celebration of Occupational Therapy Month to provide an update on the work of the Texas Occupational Therapy

Benevolence Endowment (OTBE) Foundation and to give a Texas “shout out” to the OT practitioners who support OTBE’s “acts of benevolence.”

Build it and they will come: In September of 2017, Texas OT practitioners looked for ways to assist colleagues impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The TOTA Board responded by providing a webpage link to connect the needs of OT practitioners with OTs looking for ways to serve. The situation generated a dialogue on benevolence. Prior to Hurricane Harvey, there were no state or national OT professional associations, documents, or standards of practice to guide and direct “acts of benevolence” to support OT practitioners.

Commitment: After reviewing the report from the TOTA-appointed Hurricane Harvey Ad Hoc Committee, the board determined that TOTA’s corporate status did not permit the organization to engage in the collection and/or distributions of funds to assist practitioners impacted by natural disasters and other significant life experiences. On recommendation of the committee, the TOTA board provided support for the establishment of the Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment (OTBE), an independent, not-for-profit 501(c3) foundation.

The AOTA Code of Ethics (<https://ajot.aota.org/article.aspx?articleid=2442685>), Core Values, Principles and Standards of Conduct

include commitment to benevolence as a professional value and ethical responsibility.. The Code states the profession is grounded in seven long-standing Core Values, one of which is altruism (demonstrating concern for the welfare of others) and cites principles and standards to guide ethical decision making. Principle 1 Beneficence states: “Occupational therapy personnel shall demonstrate a concern for the well-being and safety of the recipients of their services.” Not addressed in the AOTA Code of Ethics is the inclusion of OT practitioners as recipients of the OT’s core value of altruism or Principle of Beneficence. The OTBE was founded on the belief that, if one accepts that natural disasters and/or other significant life experiences can impact all persons’ well-being, safety, and ability to engage in meaningful occupations, then one in turn should advocate for “acts of benevolence” directed toward affected colleagues as an ethical responsibility of occupational therapy professional. “Whereas *beneficence* refers to actions or rules aimed at benefiting others, *benevolence* refers to the morally valuable character trait—or virtue—of being disposed to act to benefit others” (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/principle-beneficence/>).

Action: ACTS OF BENEVOLENCE

Early in the organizational development process, the OTBE Board acknowledged that needs of OT practitioners could far exceed available resources. Using the recommendations from the Hurricane Harvey Ad Hoc committee and discussion with OTs, the OTBE Board worked diligently to build an organizational governance infrastructure to provide “acts on benevolence” to support the delivery assistance. Seeking to be good stewards of available resources, the board established an OTBE benevolence grant process with a focus on providing grants of up to \$500 to support practitioners’



ability to deliver occupational therapy services. OTBE grants were available immediately following Hurricane Harvey. Inquiries about assistance were received but, for unknown reasons, no Hurricane Harvey applications were completed. OTBE benevolence grants continue to be available for OTs impacted by natural disasters and have been expanded to include other significant life crises. To date, one grant has been awarded to support TBOTE license renewal.

OTBE benevolence grants support in part occupational therapy practitioners’ abilities to maintain professional credentials in time of natural disaster and other significant life crises. OTBE grant awards are designed to include, but not be limited to, support for obtaining and renewing a TBOTE license and support in part for continuing education registration and/or travel. Funding for other costs related to sustaining professional credentials to support the delivery of occupational therapy services will be considered. For further information on the OTBE grant process see www.otbe.org. OTBE board members are available to answer questions.

Action: Advocates for Benevolence as a Profession Value

Nominations are open for leadership positions to support the mission of OTBE. Please contact me if you are interested. Please consider, in honor of OT Month, supporting the work of OTBE and the availability of OTBE benevolence grants by making a donation to OTBE to support “acts of benevolence” as a professional value.

*“Trees generously share their fruit.
Bees generously share their honey.
Flowers generously share their perfume.
Do likewise.”*

— Matshona Dhliwayo



Call for Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment Grant Applications

Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment (OTBE) Board is accepting OTBE Benevolence Grant Applications from OT practitioners and students. OTBE Benevolence Grant criteria and application can be found at www.otbe.org.

OTBE Benevolence Grants (up to \$500) are available to support OT practitioners' and students' ability to sustain the delivery of OT services (ie CEU registration/school expenses, OT professional membership fees, and/or other certification/license fees) following a disaster or other significant life event.

Board approved OTBE Benevolence Grants will be awarded based on available resources. OT practitioners and students are encouraged to share the OTBE Benevolence Grant application process with OT colleagues.

Donations to support the mission of OTBE can be made online at www.otbe.org



TOTF 2020 PTE FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

By Sophie Rydin, OT, PhD, TOTF Development Chair



*Sophie L. Rydin,
OT, PhD*

If your program participated in the PTE challenge last year, we thank you for your support. If you missed it for any reason, don't worry.

You have the

opportunity to participate this year as we officially launch our annual PTE fundraising challenge for 2020.

The fundraising challenge ends on November 5th. We will announce the three programs with the highest amount of money raised at the TOTA

annual conference (Nov 13 - 15) in Denton. Members of the top three programs will receive free tickets to the TOTF Fundraising event at the TOTA Conference. Details about this event will be announced along with the name of the speaker as soon as we have the information. The number of free tickets will be calculated based on the funds raised by the top three chapters divided by \$60/ticket (our cost is \$40/ticket).

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this challenge. My email is sydin@twu.edu. We hope to see a high percentage of participation this year. Thanks. 🇺🇸

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – DEADLINE MAY 31, 2020

Proposals are invited for presentation at the 2020 TOTA Annual Conference to be held November 13-15, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center.

This year our conference theme is “2020: Keeping Our Sights on Occupation.” We encourage you to incorporate this theme into your proposal and presentation.

All topic areas with relevance to occupational therapy will be considered. Proposals from occupational therapists, assistants and students are welcome, as are proposals from related professions.

Occupational therapy continuing education is defined as professional development activities that are directly relevant to the profession of occupational therapy.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL](#)

STUDENT ZONE

OTA PROGRAM MAKING STRIDES

By Kira Beal, OTR, OTD, OTA



*Kira Beal, OTR, OTD, OTA
Program Director, Dept.
Chair of Health Sciences*

An occupational therapy assistant program existed at San Jacinto College South Campus from 1995-2003.

Graduates of the program shared some information. However, the exact reason for closure is unknown. But all good things do not come to an end. With the high demand by students seeking careers in health care, San Jacinto College South Campus initiated analysis of the market and need for an additional health care program. An occupational therapy assistant program was chosen!

In 2015, OT practitioners from community facilities were invited by administration to convene to discuss a needs assessment of an OTA program. An OTA Advisory Committee was formed. After a year of meetings, I was hired as program director and continued to meet with members of the advisory committee to obtain approval of curriculum design (courses the program would offer), equipment/classroom supplies, and all things needed to start a program.

Fast forward to 2017. The admissions process began, faculty were hired, and the first cohort of students began coursework in the Fall 2018. Between 2017 and 2020, all the requirements of the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education

(ACOTE) were completed. The candidacy application (granted of candidacy), self-study (granted pre-accreditation) and the initial on-site visit were completed March 2-4, 2020. We are not allowed to report any official news regarding final accreditation status until received from ACOTE; however, the initial on-site visit went well!

That all these accomplishments completed in 5 years is due to the support of administration at the college, advisory committee members, members of the community, students, faculty, and staff. The OTA full-time faculty consists of Christine Joseph, OTR (Academic Fieldwork Coordinator), Sheina Farooqui, OTR, and Vicki

[Continued on page 12](#)



TOTA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2018-2019



Bridget Furlong – Graduated from Texas Woman's University-Dallas Campus in December of 2019.

I was hired during my last fall Level II Fieldwork at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, TX. I currently split my time between inpatient rehab and acute care settings. I occasionally assist in outpatient pediatrics. I absolutely love my job at TMC and working as a new occupational therapist. It has been a dream come true!

Advice to other OT students: "OT school is not easy, fieldwork is challenging, and the NBCOT Exam is tough; however, you chose this profession for a reason. As long as you keep that reason at the front of your mind, you are capable of overcoming the challenges and becoming at OTR! Keep going, it is all worth it in the end!"



Esther Karanja – Graduated from Tyler Junior College and relocated to California but plans on returning to Texas soon.

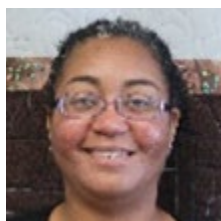
OTA PROGRAM... Continued from page 11

Thomas, COTA, and there are adjunct faculty as well. The OTA program at San Jacinto College has been actively involved in the community as our college is community-centered which flows well into client-centered practice of the profession. Our first cohort of 8 students in the newly established program will graduate this May. We have 12 students in our 2nd cohort and hope to admit an additional 12 students to start this fall in August of 2020.

Further information of the program can be found at the following website: <https://www.sanjac.edu/program/occupational-therapy-assistant>



OTA Faculty at San Jacinto College South Campus



Kira Beal, OTR, OTD, OTA Program Director, Dept. Chair of Health Sciences



Sheina Farooqui, OTR Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Core Full-time Instructor



Christine Joseph, OTR, Core Full-time Instructor



Vicki Thomas, COTA, OTA Program Director, Core Part-time Faculty 🇹🇽

2019-2020



Kinzie Milare –Texas Tech University
I am currently in my second year of MOT school and my last semester of academic material. I will be beginning fieldwork this summer and will complete the program December. 2020.

Advice to other OT students:

"Remember your 'why,' the reason you are pursuing this field, find others to run this race with, discover and plant yourself in a healthy and life-giving community, realize the importance and value of continuing education, and commit yourself to being a lifelong learner! Finally, enjoy the process. Graduate school is hard, but such a blessing! Take time to appreciate the people and enjoy the small things."

Jonathan Noah – Austin Community College

I'm currently within my 1st year in the OTA program at ACC. I anticipate graduating in the fall of 2021. 🇹🇽

OTA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

By Kelly Parmet, COTA



Kelly Parmet, COTA

The TOTA Annual Conference in November included a very successful OTA Forum. The following topics were discussed at the forum:

- OTA Entry Level Education
- Medicare Reimbursement Changes
- Medicaid Reimbursement Changes
- TBOTE Requirement Changes
- Updates to TRICARE Reimbursement for OTAs
- New SNF Payment Model

- Number of OTA programs, OTA students, and OTA jobs
- Advocacy for OTAs
- OTAs and Work Settings

Knowledgeable panelists provided practitioners and students alike with information and tools enabling successful careers.

Plans are underway for the 2020 OTA Forum. We are asking members to submit ideas for topics. You can email us with your suggestions for topics as well as questions, concerns, feedback, and any additional information at OTAforumTX@gmail.com. 🇺🇸

TOTAPAC COOKIE CHALLENGE

#CookieChallenge
#PutYourMoneyWhereYourMouthIs

You can copy and paste the following to your social media pages:

I took part in the Texas Occupational Therapy Association PAC Challenge. As part of the challenge, I will be making a donation to <https://www.tota.org/totapac>. I now challenge __, __, __, and __.

[Click here to watch John Luna explain the cookie challenge!](#)

VACANCY: The state Membership Committee Chair position remains vacant. If you are interested, review the detailed descriptions in the bylaws and email us at info@tota.org. The membership committee chair is responsible for the development and enhancement of services to the membership of TOTA.

EDUCATION CHAIR REPORT

By Sophie Rydin, OT, PhD, TOTA Education CHair



Sophie L. Rydin,
OT, PhD

The "Call for Proposals" for 2020 TOTA Annual Conference started on March 1st. We are accepting proposals until May 31st, 2020. The

conference theme this year is "Keeping Our Sights on Occupation." We welcome any research projects or presentations that align with our conference theme. Please follow the guidelines provided on the TOTA website and submit your proposals for a short course, long course, research forum, workshop, or poster before the deadline. This year, we have a team of 28 well qualified volunteers across

the state to review the proposals in their areas of expertise. Each proposal will be reviewed by two reviewers and, if the two reviewers disagree, a third reviewer will serve as the tie breaker. If you were ready to present at the now-canceled AOTA conference, please consider submitting a proposal for your presentation at the TOTA conference in November.

In response to the breakout of the corona virus, GCED is moving district meetings and CE presentations to online webinar for all their meeting sites for as long as needed. We have worked out the logistics of signing in, proof of attendance, and distribution of CE certificates. Please contact our executive director Judi Joseph if you need help setting up webinars

for your district meetings and CE presentations.

OT Month is here! Are you and your colleagues planning any activities to celebrate? To comply with the need for "social distancing" you may want to avoid activities with large gatherings or physical contact. You can use your social media tools to promote OT or share your OT stories with your social media network and friends. You may reach more people virtually.

Let your creativity flow to help you kick off your OT Month celebration. Don't let the corona virus stop you from spreading the OT spirit and values! As usual, please feel free to contact me at sophie.rydin@hcss.com, or 713-201-1270 with any questions or suggestions. 🇺🇸