

# REVISTA



ALAMO SOUTH | CAPITAL CENTEX | GREAT PLAINS WEST | GULF COAST EAST | RIO GRANDE | TRINITY NORTH

# HAPPY OT MONTH!

A large heart-shaped graphic. The top half is blue and the bottom half is green. It contains white text for 'OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY', a green banner with '#OTMONTH', and the website 'WWW.AOTA.ORG'. The background of the entire page is a field of pink and blue flowers.

OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY

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**# 114 Donatelli's Pathophysiology and Mechanics of the Shoulder with Lab with *Robert Donatelli PhD, PT, OCS***  
Denison, TX May 4-5, 2019  
Mesquite, TX August 24-25, 2019  
New Orleans, LA October 12-13, 2019

**# 324 Vestibular & Oculomotor Rehabilitation for Children *Rose Marie Rine, P.T., Ph.D***  
Houston TX October 4-5, 2019  
San Antonio, TX December 7-8, 2019

**# 345 Torticollis & Plagiocephaly Assessment & Treatment of Infants & Children ... "Pulling it Together" *Cindy Miles, PT, PhD. PCS, CNDT***  
San Antonio, TX June 29-30, 2019

**# 408 Disability and Posture... Therapeutic Positioning Solutions for Function and Sleep Recovery *Tamara Kittelson-Aldred, MS, OTR/L***  
Pasadena, TX June 21, 2019

**# 213 Visual Rehabilitation & Neuro Handling After a Neurological Incident... Concepts for Function**

San Antonio, TX  
August 10-11, 2019



***Michelle Mioduszewski, MS, OTR/L***

**# 306 CAN-EAT Approach ...Using medical, motor, & behavioral strategies in pediatric feeding *Krisi Brackett, MS, CCC-SLP***  
Richardson, TX June 21-22, 2019  
Houston, TX October 11-12, 2019

**# 334 Feeding Therapy: It's Not Just About Swallowing *Melanie Potock, MA, CCC-SLP***  
Dallas, TX May 3-4, 2019

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Revista OT Month

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:  
DEADLINE May 30, 2019**

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NOMINATIONS  
ARE DUE  
APRIL 30, 2019**

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

### President's Report – April is OT Month!

April is OT Month!

I have been an occupational therapist for more years than I wish to count. I love my profession. I suppose that is why, after so many years, I continue to advocate, voluntarily serve, and give back to this great profession. I'd like to ask today: Why (or should the question be "How") did you come to choose to pursue the profession of occupational therapy? Here is my story...

Back in the late 70s, as a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, I participated in the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association's Labor Day Telethon. Through that event, I was fortunate enough to host the MDA Poster Child. With this relationship, I became even more involved in the MDA. I was a representative for colleges in several states and participated in the National MDA conference. Meeting Jerry Lewis was a thrill. However, my life-changing event related to all this happened as a volunteer at the MDA's Texas summer camp. I was assigned to be the attendant for a 11-year-old named Darrell. He resided in a small nursing home near Giddings with brother who was also living with MD. His spirit and excitement toward his experience at this one-week summer camp was contagious.

During my first day at the camp, I discovered a small pond that, according to the camp coordinators, was stocked full of catfish. As an avid freshwater angler, I immediately thought, "These kids need to fish!" We arranged for children to be transported by bus to the pond, and with ace bandages, gait belts, and all sorts of other items, I fabricated various means for these kids to hold a fishing pole. I will never forget Darrell catching his first fish. The means by which I had secured his cane pole were less than effective, and it slid out of his hands; the pole took off across the pond. Darrell, on the bank and full of excitement, was jumping up and down in his chair. He was screaming, "I caught a fish...get it, get it!" I quickly asked fellow counselor to watch Darrell, and without hesitation, I jumped into the pond, swam to the pole, and came back to the bank with a large catfish for Darrell to have. He was so proud and, of course, we had a wonderful catfish dinner later that evening. Throughout the remainder of camp, counselors and camp leaders began to hear of Darrell's catfish tale. I received many accolades and strong suggestions that I should be an occupational therapist, given my ingenuity and creativity in facilitating fishing as a leisure activity for the children at this camp.

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# SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS YOU



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

As I reflect on occupational therapy month, I would like to express my concern for the sustainability of TOTA. On March 8th, I had an opportunity to meet with a small group of OTD students and their professor, Jennifer Summers, from the University of St. Augustin in Austin. During this meeting, Lea Wise, the OT Board Coordinator of the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE), noted that there are more than 16,000 licensed occupational therapy practitioners in Texas. At the time of this article, there were only 1,751 TOTA members. Of that 1,746 members 843 were students. This is alarming because the cost of student membership is only \$30. What is more alarming is that once these students enter into practice, only about 4% will transition into professional memberships. The question TOTA board members have asked for years is why? One student stated that the comment I made that “legislators want to know how many members TOTA actually represents” stuck in her mind. How can we explain to our legislators and stakeholders that only 908 licensed OT and OTA practitioners in Texas are members? Another student asked how TOTA marketed the value of TOTA membership and what TOTA does to support occupational therapy practice in Texas. All the students agreed that advocacy for the profession is the most valuable benefit of TOTA membership. Some educational programs pay TOTA membership fees for their students and we are very thankful for their support. There are a few educational programs that require their students become members of AOTA but not TOTA. Why not support the professional association where your educational institution is based and where most of your students will work?

Part of my role as executive director of TOTA is to manage the finances of the organization. Last fall I met with our CPA who emphasized that our sustainability lies within our membership. In Texas you must be licensed to practice and, if you do not maintain your license or meet the requirements to renew it every two years, you are subject to disciplinary action. Membership in TOTA is voluntary and there is no retribution for not becoming a member of this professional association. When an organization becomes unsustainable, the symptoms of that problem show up in the finances. However, organizational sustainability, or the surviving or thriving of TOTA, depends on much more than effectively managing of the organization's finances. Practitioners and students must find value and significance in being a member of TOTA.

During this national occupational therapy month, it would be amazing for TOTA to become at least 8,000 members strong! TOTA board members, committee chairs, and committee members work extremely hard to support occupational therapy practice and the consumers we serve. Make the commitment to become a member of TOTA and get involved. I would love to hear the reasons that discourage you from becoming a member. What can TOTA do to win your support?

As the 86th Texas legislative session comes to an end, we have already begun to plan for the 87th session in 2021. If TOTA is going to continue its efforts to advocate for occupational therapy practice in Texas, it's going to take more than 1,746 members. Here are some of the things that TOTA did for occupational therapy personnel in Texas, both members and non-members during the current session:

- advocated for occupational therapy practitioners to be included in the definition of mental health providers in Texas
- met with legislators to support efforts for Medicaid therapy rate restoration.

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# BE THE FROG...TOTA 2019 DAY AT THE CAPITOL

By John S. Luna, OTR, OTD



John S. Luna,  
OTR, OTD

Inspiration often comes when we least expect it. Last week, I had the rare opportunity to see the classroom from the other side of the podium. I settled in

to listen to the second day of first year occupational therapy students summarizing selected Eleanor Clark Slagle lectures. As the students progressed through their summaries of Suzanne Peloquin's 2005 lecture (link included in the references), they concluded by citing the familiar parable of the two frogs. For purposes of brevity, I will summarize the parable as cited in Peloquin's 2005 Slagle lecture.

A group of frogs was traveling along when two of them fell into a deep hole. The group of frogs stood around the edge of the hole where their two companions had fallen, saw the depth of the hole, and told the two frogs that their situation was hopeless. The two frogs should give up and resign themselves to their fate. After hopping with all their might for some time, one frog heeded the calls of the frogs standing



outside the hole, gave up, lay down, and died. The remaining frog ignored his pain and continued to jump with all his might before he finally sprang from the pit. The other frogs surrounded him and while celebrating his freedom asked him, "Why did you

continue jumping when we told you it was impossible." The frog explained that he was deaf and when he looked up to see the frogs gesturing, thought they were cheering him on. Peloquin noted, "What he perceived as encouragement inspired him to try harder against all odds" (2005).

On February 19, 2019, a record number of occupational therapists,





occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy students descended on the state capitol in Austin Texas for the TOTA Day at the Capitol. More than 200 practitioners leaped into action, traveling distances as far as 300 miles for opportunities to meet with their elected officials and advocate for the profession and clients alike. The 86th legislative session holds many challenges for our profession. Peloquin's (2005) advice remains applicable today. We must reframe our perspectives and see the opportunities where before we saw challenges: opportunities for occupational therapy in mental health; opportunities for occupational therapy in the school setting; opportunities for occupational therapists rendering services under managed care programs in Texas.

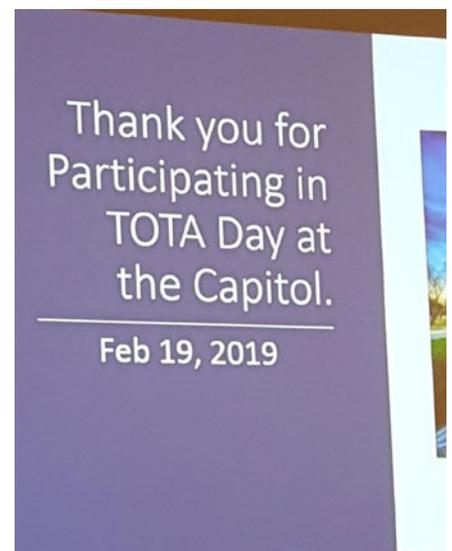
While March 8th was the last day for bills to be filled in the Texas



legislature, we must continue to jump at every opportunity to create changes that support the delivery of occupational therapy services. We must remain united as a community of practitioners to further the profession as we meet the dynamic needs of society. Finally, we must be more like the frog who, against all odds, miraculously leaped out of the hole. Like the frog, "...we can reframe challenges to our ethos as calls for its reclamation. The challenges can cheer us on" (Peloquin, 2005).

#### References

Suzanne M. Peloquin, (2005) Embracing our ethos, reclaiming our heart. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*; 59(6):611-625.



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR LEADERSHIP

By Rachele Elliot, Nominating Committee Chair

**“Leadership is not about the next election, it’s about the next generation.”**

— *Simon Sinek*

Have you wanted to serve in a role with TOTA but don’t know where to begin? Election season is upon us and there are positions up for grabs in each and every district. Your nominations committee for 2019 is available to help answer questions you may have about open positions.

## POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION:

### STATE POSITIONS

President Elect  
Vice President  
Secretary

### DISTRICT POSITIONS

Alamo South:  
Secretary, Vice Chair

Capital Centex:  
Chair, Treasurer

Great Plains:  
Secretary, Vice Chair

Gulf Coast:  
Chair, Treasurer

Rio Grande:  
Secretary, Vice Chair

Trinity North:  
Chair, Treasurer

The candidate application is available at <https://www.tota.org>. Completed applications are due by April 30, 2019.

Serving our profession and serving our peers is the heartbeat of TOTA. Without you we wouldn’t exist. Please make sure you to thank the following TOTA members for volunteering to help with 2019 nominations: Linda Barnett, Trinity North; Estrella Barrera, Capital Centex; Rachele Elliott, Great Plains West; Roel Garcia, Alamo South and Esmerelda Lizcano, Gulf Coast East District.

## PRESIDENT’S REPORT, continued from page 3

That was a long time ago. What a memory. It amazes me how many rewards and personal benefits we receive as OTs. I challenge you to reflect and share your story of how you have been impacted and how you impact others by being an OT. We have a great profession that impacts people’s lives. Advocate for OT and your clients. We need your story and your support. 

Happy OT Month,  
Robin Clearman, OTR, CLT  
TOTA President

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT, continued from page 4

- provided comments to the Texas Department of Insurance Division of Worker’s Compensation in support of removing the exemption status for CARF accredited facilities and setting one fee schedule for work-hardening and work conditioning services.
  - testified before various legislative committees.
- And as always, TOTA continues to provide quality continuing education opportunities.

Membership growth is essential. There are many complex and dynamic dimensions that must be sustainable in organizations. In our organization, membership growth will ensure the sustainability of TOTA.

**Support the Professional organization that supports you.**

## #TOTA800strong

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Best,

Judi  
[Judith.joseph@tota.org](mailto:Judith.joseph@tota.org) 

### References:

1. <https://managementhelp.org/organizational sustainability/index.htm>

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS DEADLINE April 30, 2019

For more information regarding **requirements, open positions, and important deadlines**, please visit the [State and District Offices](#) page.

The Call for Nominations is currently underway. Please complete the following form to submit your information for consideration or to recommend another member to the nominating committee. If you have questions regarding nominations or elections, please contact the nominating committee at [elections@tota.org](mailto:elections@tota.org).

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION](#)

# HAPPY OT MONTH FROM THE AOTPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

**Brent Braveman, OTR, PhD, FAOTA**



*Brent Braveman,  
OTR, PhD, FAOTA*

**O**n behalf of the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC) and as the Board Director for Region IV

(Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin), I wish you a happy Occupational Therapy Month!

I would like to tell you a little bit about AOTPAC and about the likely legislative priorities for the profession, AOTPAC, and AOTA's Federal Affairs team in the coming year. If you are not familiar with AOTPAC already, here is a brief description: "AOTPAC is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan, unincorporated committee of members of AOTA. The purpose of AOTPAC is to further the legislative aims of the Association by influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any Federal public office, and of any occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, or occupational therapy student member of AOTA seeking election to public office at any level (as permitted by law)" (AOTA, 2019). AOTPAC carries out its mission in two broad ways: 1) through advocacy on legislative issues of importance to the profession of occupational therapy and promotion of such advocacy, and 2) through fundraising for donations to candidates for federal office who do or might support the legislative aims of AOTPAC in support of the profession. It is important to note that AOTPAC is able to pursue donations

only from AOTA members and their immediate family members.

The AOTPAC is comprised of a board of directors made up of six appointed members, each of whom represent a geographical region and a chairperson who may or may not also represent one of the regions. Board members are occupational therapy practitioners with a history of political advocacy and a deep commitment to promoting occupational therapy. The roster of board directors and their contact information can be found at <https://www.aota.org/AboutAOTA/Get-Involved/Leadership/Leadership/AOTPAC/BOD.aspx>. As director for Region IV, I am proud to say that I am also a member of the Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA)!

While AOTPAC focuses much of its energies on fundraising, we also promote advocacy on behalf of the profession in general. One simple way that every occupational therapy practitioner can participate in political advocacy is to contact their U.S. senator and representative. Our elected representatives pay attention to the voices of their constituents, but, as you might expect, the larger the number of personal messages received advocating a particular stance on an issue, the more likely they are to really listen. You can contact your elected representatives by phone, by email, or even better by an in-person visit to their offices in your home city or state or their federal office on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. To find your members of Congress, their contact information and some information about them including staff and congressional committees upon which they serve, you can go to the AOTA website using the following link: <http://aota.capwiz.com/aota/dbq/officials/>.

It may be important to know your "zip + 4" code if your zip code are is split with different representatives representing different portions. Contacting your elected officials may be intimidating at first, but AOTA and AOTPAC can provide many resources and assistance. If you have never contacted or visited your senators or representatives, you may benefit from visiting the "Take Action" webpage on the AOTA website at <https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Take-Action.aspx>. Here you will find helpful information on ways to advocate for OT and tips for writing a letter to a member of congress. You will also find a link to "Take Action Now!" which will lead you to information on current and past legislative priorities. As of the start of each new congressional session, the slate is wiped clean and bills must be reintroduced before they can start the process of becoming laws. As of the submission date of this article, specific bills we may want to support are not available, however it is likely that we will pursue advocacy on the following issues in the 116th Congress:

- Medicare home health legislation to allow occupational therapists to open home health therapy cases under Medicare by conducting the initial assessment and comprehensive evaluation.
- Legislation to expand coverage of telehealth services provided to all Medicare beneficiaries, specifically including occupational therapy.
- Opportunities to promote the status of occupational therapy practitioners in providing mental health services.
- Continued efforts to highlight

Continued on page 15

# LOOKING BACK: FIELDWORK EDUCATION MARKS 75 YEARS AT TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

By Shannon Levondowski, OTD, OTR, BCP, SCSS



Shannon Levondowski, OTD, OTR, BCP, SCSS

As part of their professional education, all occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the United States

participate in clinical education (AOTA, 2018). Within occupational therapy practitioner academic programming, the longest of these experiences is level two fieldwork in which the student spends 4 or 6 months (depending on degree level) learning the application of coursework from the classroom. All occupational therapy practitioners have to navigate through fieldwork. Some sail through the waters smoothly while others need a lifesaver along the way.

All occupational therapy programs must have an identified Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFC) to support students in their fieldwork experiences (AOTA, 2018). The AFC is the only faculty member primarily responsible for meeting accreditation standards related to the fieldwork experience (AOTA, 2018). The AFC represents a balance between two worlds: clinical and academic. Nearly all students in OT and OTA programs have to collaborate, negotiate, beg or even cry with academic fieldwork coordinators at some point during their educational journeys. It is not uncommon for AFCs to know of family challenges, student needs or unexpected student surprises (such as pregnancy) as part of their close relationship with the student. Within an academic program, the AFC



## SCHOOL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

role requires both a deep and wide skill set across clinical, academia and student environments.

### Texas Woman's University: A Tale of Three AFCs

As Texas Woman's University celebrates the 75th year of occupational therapy education, reflective stories and artifacts from early occupational therapy education are being made available for the community to explore as part of the celebration. Artifacts include a variety of historical items such as original crafting tools, weaving, woodworking and uniforms. Snapshots of fieldwork past include one of the original typewriters and placement cards from the mid-1960s.

Texas Woman's University has had three specifically designated AFCs. Prior to that, fieldwork placements and monitoring were managed by the program director. These three participated in a reflective interview regarding their roles and the students they served. The interviews were completed in two sessions, one with two AFCs and one session with all three AFCs from TWU's faculty. Two of the AFCs are retired and one remains on faculty. The interviews were analyzed for themes in experiences within the role. The narrative below captures the key themes shared by the AFCs over the past fifty years of fieldwork education at TWU.

### Process & Procedure

The OT program at TWU (TX State College for Women) was established in 1944. From 1944 to the late 1960's fieldwork was defined and handled differently than how it is implemented today. There have been many changes to accreditation in occupational therapy programs and, with that came more requirements, policies and procedures for the individual responsible for fieldwork, the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the School. Starting in the late 1960s, fieldwork standards required a specific faculty member to support the paperwork, communication, and the student educator relationship.

### The Early Years: 1970s to 1990s

The earliest fieldwork records kept on file at TWU, tucked away in thin black journal books in a large file cabinet in the fieldwork office, reported experiences dating back to 1967. At that time, students participated in three rotations in three different clinical areas over the course of nine months. Nearly all students participated in rotations at Veteran's Affairs hospitals in Texas as well as a local psychiatric hospital. The types and length of the rotations reflected the accreditation standards of the time (Evenson & Hanson, 2019).

[CLICK HERE TO READ ENTIRE ARTICLE](#)

# TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY – 75 YEARS OF EDUCATING LEADERS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

By Noralyn Pickens, PhD, OT, Cynthia Evetts, PhD, OTR, Francie Baxter, PhD, OT, FAOTA

Texas Woman's University was created in 1901 by an act of the 27th Legislature. Originally named the Girls Industrial College, the institution began classes in 1903. It was, charged with a dual mission that continues to guide the University today: to provide a liberal education and to prepare young women with specialized education "for the practical industries of the age." TWU was at the forefront of occupational therapy in the state of Texas when the occupational therapy program was established in 1944. The School of Occupational Therapy at TWU is celebrating 75 years of providing occupational therapy education. Today, the School continues to develop leaders and practitioners who think critically and reflectively to combine the art and science of practice.

In 1943, Mary Marshall, Director of the Art Department, drafted plans for the development of a course in occupational therapy at the (now named) Texas State College for Women. Soon, students in the Art Department could major in occupational therapy. Fanny Bowles Vanderkooi, OTR, who had been a reconstruction aide providing occupational therapy during World War I, was the only instructor. The first class in 1944 included 23 women, a mix of freshmen, sophomores and juniors. The requirements for enrollment included: be in good health and mental condition, be able to pass a physical exam, and be at least 21 years of age with the ability to graduate before the age of 35<sup>1</sup>

"People you should know," a paper in the 1953 February issue of AJOT, described Fannie Vanderkooi as "the 'driving force' behind the expansion of the profession in Texas... it is a joy to be with her to receive some of her contagious enthusiasm for whatever project may be at hand."<sup>2</sup>

In 1950 the full Department of Occupational Therapy was created.

Our illustrious directors and deans included Rena Worthington, Cruz Mattei, and Ruth Whipple Pershing, who oversaw the development of the Houston and Dallas locations. Initially, students began a BS in OT in Denton before transferring to one of the medical centers to finish their degrees. The Houston and Dallas centers later became autonomous locations with direct enrollment. A leader in occupational therapy education, TWU was in 1967 the first educational institution in the state to be granted legislative approval to provide the MOT degree. For many with baccalaureate degrees in OT, TWU became their post-professional home by providing the MA in occupational therapy.

Dean Grace Gilkeson shepherded growth in the School of OT, increasing the faculty to 25 members and enrollment to more than 800 students in various levels of program. A major accomplishment under Dean Gilkeson's leadership was the establishment of the PhD in Occupational Therapy. Undergirding the PhD curriculum was the development of the Theory of Occupational Adaptation (Schkade & Schultz, 1992; Schultz & Schkade, 1992), created by a team that included TWU faculty Virginia White, Jean Spencer, Harriett Davidson, Kitty Reed, Janette Schkade and Sally Schultz, along with special consultant Lela Llorens. The PhD program continues to develop leaders in research and education that, together with graduates of all of our programs, provide leadership in hospitals, clinics, schools, community-based programs, and faculty for colleges and universities across the world.

TWU served the citizens of the State and TWU through offering timely programs in "direct admit" and "OTA – MOT Bridge" programs in the early 2000s guided by the thinking of deans and directors Janette Schkade and later Sally Schultz. In 2014, TWU was awarded legislative approval to offer

the post-professional OTD under the direction of Catherine Candler, another first in the state. Now under direction of Cynthia Evetts, we are at a milestone of service to the profession and the state of Texas. Having graduated over 7500 entry-level practitioners and nearly 100 doctoral degrees, TWU is poised for continued greatness.

We are "pioneer proud" of all of our alumni who are providing compassionate care, building and maintaining quality programs, educating practitioners with an eye on the future of this great profession. We are calling out to our alumni - we want to gather your stories of achievement, including the "everyday successes" of your clinical and professional lives. Submit your current information, updates, and stories through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/dim5E6JsjsG5YnPD3>. We are building a world map of our alumni – let us know if you want to be added.

The Texas Woman's University School of Occupational Therapy is a community of influential advocates, educators, and researchers committed to the power of occupation to promote adaptation, participation, and well-being across the lifespan. Join us in celebrating our community at AOTA New Orleans Friday April 5th 7:00-9:00 pm the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in the Nottoway room on the 4th Floor. See you there!

<sup>1</sup> Vera, Ashley N. (2012). *The oral and written history of the development of the Houston Center, School of Occupational Therapy*, Unpublished Academic Professional Project.

<sup>2</sup> Murphy, L. S. (Ed). (1953). People you should know. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 7(2), 76.

\*Reconstruction aides were not occupational therapists. See Low, The reconstruction aides." In *AJOT* January 1992.



# STUDENT

# ZONE

## A VISIT TO COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

Kimatha Oxford Grice, OTD, OTR, CHT



Kimatha Oxford Grice,  
OTD, OTR, CHT

An interdisciplinary group of twelve health professions students and two faculty went to Coventry, England. The disciplines represented

included OT, PT, Respiratory Care, Nursing and PA. Three first year OTD students as well as Kimatha Grice, OT faculty, were part of the group. The week-long experience included interacting with students at Coventry University, attending some of their classes, and visits to local hospitals. The students worked on a case studies in interdisciplinary teams and then presented these for a panel of Coventry faculty on the last day. The UT Health students did very well and were excellent ambassadors for not only the university, but also their respective disciplines.

The students were pleasantly surprised to see how similar the health professions function in the two different countries, most of the differences being in the “systems” or how health care is funded. One big difference between OT in England and the U.S. is that the British OTs are still very much involved in the delivery of mental health services. In addition to the learning experience, there was time for some sightseeing and eating fish and chips! 🇬🇧



# UT HEALTH OT STUDENTS EXPLORE TERAPIA OCCUPACIONAL IN YUCATÁN, MEXICO

By Bridgett Piernik-Yoder, PhD, OTR Associate Professor & Chair



*Bridgett Piernik-Yoder, PhD, OTR Associate Professor & Chair*

Spring break is not only a break from classes at UT Health San Antonio, but it is the time when numerous students in the School of Health Professions engage in

international learning experiences through travel opportunities coordinated by the dean's office. One such trip offered this year enabled seven OT students to travel to Mérida, Yucatán, from March 9 through March 17, 2019, to learn about OT services, healthcare, and cultural perspectives of health in the Mayan region. The students were accompanied by Dr. Bridgett Piernik-Yoder, Associate Professor and Chair of Occupational Therapy at UT Health San Antonio.

The group was hosted by Drs. Martha and Stan Hartgraves, founders of the Instituto Interamericano de la Salud (INTSA). INSTA is an educational institute that offers both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree curriculum in occupational therapy developed using ACOTE standards of education. The goal of INTSA is to build the capacity of the OT profession in Yucatán because most providers of therapy in the region are educated as generalist rehabilitation providers, but do not have an emphasis in OT. There is critical need to enhance the education of OT professionals in the region to increase the availability of OT services rooted in OT theory and models of practice. Because of the dearth of OT providers in the region, typical OT interventions are often taken up by other professionals such as physical therapy, psychology or social work but without the benefit of the knowledge of the OT theories and models to guide the implementation of the intervention. The nearest available



degree specifically in occupational therapy is in Oaxaca, which is an 18-hour bus ride from Yucatán.

The group from UT Health San Antonio spent time with the INTSA OT students and together visited numerous facilities to observe the

delivery of therapy services. These included state-supported facilities that provide services ranging from early intervention, geriatric and vocational programs to support the transition to employment for people with disabilities, as well

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## BEGINNING THE JOURNEY TO OT PRACTITIONER: WE CRAWL BEFORE WE WALK

By **Brittney Burton**

as rehabilitation clinics in a rural community. The group experienced many powerful lessons in observing the commitment of OTs working in various facilities. Janna Roberts, OTD I student, said of the experience, "OT is such an adaptive profession, so it was very meaningful to see how OTs in Yucatán used limited resources to adapt and make things work for them to meet the needs of their clients."

The group also visited the CRIT Yucatán and had the opportunity to participate in a problem-based learning class with rehabilitation students at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. They also learned about Mayan health beliefs and health practices from a social anthropologist who works in the community as a *yerbatero*, a healer who specializes in the use of herbs and plants. They also learned about the unique physical and mental health needs of residents of Yucatán, as it is the state with the highest level of disability and highest rates of suicide in Mexico.

The true educational benefit of international experiences such as this one is they allow an examination of cultural perspectives that can only occur in a context that is not one's own. Victoria Ramirez, OTD student, said, "Although you know the OT process is culturally driven, you can't see it or fully appreciate unless you leave your own culture." Ivan del Bosque, OTD student, summarized the experience well by saying, "To see OT across international borders was truly a breathtaking experience."

Thank you, Dr. Bridgett Piernik-Yoder, Associate Professor/Chair of Occupational Therapy at UT Health San Antonio for sharing about UTHSA OT students' international learning experience.

**Share YOUR international OT experience! Send your information to: Evangelina (Vangie) Moncayo, your TOTA International Chair at [moncayovangie@gmail.com](mailto:moncayovangie@gmail.com).** ➔



*Brittney Burton*

Not that long ago, in my first semester of OT school, I was assigned an old Slagle lecture to read and critique. I don't remember the purpose of the assignment, but I remember

feeling a strong connection between my experiences as a new OT student and the overarching theme of the lecture. It was the 1974 Slagle Lecture by Mary Fiorentino called "Occupational Therapy: Realization to Activation." This lecture paralleled the development of a child throughout the stages of mobility and the development of the student occupational therapist during the learning process. "How fantastic!" I thought, "I definitely feel like a baby right now!"

This touching Slagle lecture paints a picture of how a child begins life in the apedal phase where sensory input and stimulation from the environment are critical to development. The child is ripe for learning but is completely dependent on others for knowledge and growth, just as the student occupational therapy practitioner begins the journey to becoming an OT/A in the apedal phase of learning. Growth and knowledge are obtained through stimulation from meaningful and timely information provided by faculty and mentors at school.

Moving forward, the child develops into the quadrupedal stage of development through interaction with the environment and new experiences, while the student OT practitioner continues into this phase in much the same way by beginning to put learned information to use. Looking back, this brings memories of school lab experiences and the moments when

we first conceptualized everything we read in books and learned from lecture. It was those little "light bulb" moments, when I, together with my classmates, started to sit up and crawl. During fieldwork rotations, I quickly realized that my ability to "cruise" was dependent on a competent and confident field work educator. I distinctly remember the fear I felt when she let go of my hand and expected me to take my first steps as a novice clinician.

Returning to Mary Fiorentino's lecture, she states that children develop and grow to meet the needs of the environment as they enter the bipedal phase of development. In parallel, the student occupational therapist begins to meet the needs of the environment by synthesizing and applying the knowledge obtained in context. Fiorentino uses this comparison to describe her personal experiences and frustrations as a newly graduated occupational therapist in a time when the protocols of the profession did not meet the demands of the changing health care field or the needs of her clients. She emphasizes the need for adaptation, growth, and support to provide stimulation to new therapists so that they do not become underdeveloped "quadrupedal therapists" for the rest of their OT professional lives.

Interestingly, I feel that I relate more to Fiorentino's Slagle lecture now than I did as a student. I have been a practicing clinician for one wild year, and I can definitely say that over the last year, I tripped and stumbled on many occasions as I learned to be confident on my own two feet. I continue to rely on the support of my mentors, coworkers, and friends to hold my hand when I feel unsteady. I often feel overwhelmed, thirsty for new knowledge, with a desire to "know it all" so that I can give my clients the best possible care every time I

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# 2018 AWARDEES – ROSTER OF MERIT

By Helen Cohen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA



Helen Cohen, EdD,  
OTR, FAOTA

I am a clinician/scientist on the faculty of the Department of Otolaryngology, Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston. As an occupational therapist and a sensorimotor physiologist, half my time providing vestibular rehabilitation service for patients who have disorders of the vestibular system and age-related balance problems and half my time engaged in research on vestibular and balance disorders: diagnosis and testing, intervention, and epidemiology. My concerns as a clinician guide my research; my research informs my clinical practice.

I have always loved the basic concepts of occupational therapy: 1) that the ability to engage in purposeful activity is a hallmark of health – and the corollary from motor control theory that normal motor behavior is goal-directed, which is a concept that occupational therapists and assistants know from our everyday practice, 2) that we can use purposeful activities to improve health, and 3) that we can help people to gain or regain health, for self-actualization, to become more independent and better able to care for themselves and to participate in the activities that are important to them. I love the diversity of a field that allows us to help people improve the quality of their lives from the very first days to the very last days, from basic physical needs of essential motor skills to high level conceptual skills needed for job performance and community engagement. Our interests are

reflected in a wide range of methodologies and interventions, all of which should be evidence-based. Not all of them are, but we can strive to meet that goal. The effort to meet that goal and, in the process, to discover new knowledge and to improve the quality of patient care, drives me.

TOTA represents us to the State of Texas, to the legislature and to various state offices that need to know about our unique perspective and valuable work so that we can maintain licensure, increase access to practice opportunities, and be paid! The longer I am a therapist (and that is a long time!), the more I appreciate the value of that work. TOTA is also well-organized to help members participate in the local and state communities of therapists – useful for professional networking, but also important for validation of our foundational ideas. TOTA has some excellent mechanisms for continuing education: I enjoy the monthly district CE programs, now available to most TOTA districts via WiFi, to stay informed about the diverse reach of our field. If not for these presentations, I would be solely focused on my work in my clinic. Those programs help me to keep my perspective. The wonderful friends I have met through TOTA have kept me grounded, helping me to stay connected to the broader community and our common ethos. To be honored by the people who know you is very special. I feel honored to have been appointed to the TOTA Roster of Merit. Therefore, the award has a place of honor in my office, topped off by a purple hat to remind me of a friend and colleague who is no longer with us.

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY,  
continued from page 13

work with them. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen. Sometimes I have a bad session, and I feel a loss for the time I might have wasted. But my mentors, coworkers, and friends remind me that every day is a learning experience, and every failed session is fruitful soil for growth.

Yet I continue to search for knowledge, new ideas, new evidence-based treatment protocols with the potential to further my ability to make change in the lives of the people I lay hands on every day. This desire to grow, along with many conversations with fellow new graduates and students, has inspired me and the other members of the TOTA membership committee to create a place for students and new grads to seek knowledge and receive support. With this in mind, I would like to introduce a new and unique resource for the student and new graduate members of the Texas Occupational Therapy Association. We will be launching a new blog specifically geared towards students and new graduates as a way to provide inspiration, support, and knowledge during the journey from an apedal OT student to a confident bipedal practitioner. Our hope is to create a space for the dissemination of valuable and helpful information throughout development, to serve the community at large, and to provide a channel for OT/A students across Texas to share their experiences and support each other. Beginning on April 1st, in celebration of OT month, we will be going live with posts from OT students, new graduates, and seasoned practitioners to inspire and to support our growing OT community. Don't forget to log into the TOTA website for access to the Student Corner and to join in on the fun!

## Reference

Fiorentine, M. R. (1975). *Occupational therapy: Realization to activation*. [Eleanor Clark Slagle lecture]. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 29, 15-24.

# 2018 AWARDEES

## TEXAS OT OF THE YEAR

**John Luna OT, OTD**



This person displays professionalism, leadership and service to the profession at the local, state, and/or national level. This person has

at least five years of experience in the field of OT, contributes above and beyond his/her typical job responsibilities, and demonstrates sustained membership to professional organizations including TOTA. This person demonstrates exceptional contributions to the profession with consideration of the following criteria: provides fieldwork supervision, contributes works to professional journals, volunteers in his/her community to further OT awareness, membership in additional professional associations, additional certifications (CHT, NDT, etc.) and demonstrates advocacy in the profession.

## TEXAS OTA OF THE YEAR

**Christine Hamilton, OTA**



**What do you value about membership in TOTA or TOTA?**

TOTA keeps our little world of therapists well-informed and well-connected!

### **Why are you a member of TOTA?**

The organization is a great source of information keeping me up to date with the latest news and needs for advocacy. This is especially important for me as a COTA, given the continuous policy changes and challenges we face to ensure that we are remaining in our scope of practice.

### **What you love about occupational therapy?**

Every day is different which requires

a lot of creative thinking, especially in the inpatient setting where I work. I have become very passionate about caring for patients with traumatic brain injuries and strokes and supporting them and their families each step of the way. It's nice to go to work every day knowing that I am surrounded by people who are all working toward a common goal- to give people back their dignity and independence.

## HORIZON AWARD

**Adele Brunson, OTR, MOT**



**What do you value about membership in TOTA or TOTA?**

TOTA is a supportive professional organization that advocates

for each and every OT and OTA in our great state. I value the effort and time that TOTA spends to keep OTs up to date on current political and professional issues that we face.

### **Why are you a member of TOTA?**

I am a member of TOTA so that I can give back to a profession that has given me so much joy! I am a member of TOTA to be a part of the vast networking opportunities available via monthly CE meetings, fabulous conferences, and board service, as well as opportunities to meet outstanding professionals who have been in the field for many years and have so much knowledge to share.

### **What you love about occupational therapy?**

I love that occupational therapy gives people their lives back - giving them opportunities to continue to do what brings them joy and satisfaction. I love the many hats that OTs can wear, and the value OT brings to every population, age, and diagnosis.

## HAPPY OT MONTH, continued from page 8

the role occupational therapy practitioners can play in addressing the opioid crisis such as in pain rehabilitation.

- Multiple efforts related to shifting from volume-based payment to value-based payment and advocating for reimbursement to reflect the value that occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants bring as part of the total health care solution.
- Legislation to promote continued funding for occupational therapy in schools, skilled nursing facilities, home health and private practice as well as other areas.
- Lymphedema related legislation to cover compression supplies for cancer survivors with lymphedema.

These issues represent practice in both traditional settings that demonstrate OT's distinct value and initiatives demonstrating the distinct value OT can play in new practice settings addressing all aspects of health (C. Metzler, Personal Communication, 2019).

I hope that I have been successful in providing useful information about AOTPAC and about how you can begin to advocate through contact with your elected senators and representatives. I challenge each of you to make the commitment to contact your members of congress at least once this OT month. If you have any questions or would like any assistance, feel free to contact me at [bbraveman@gmail.com](mailto:bbraveman@gmail.com). Happy OT Month!

### *References*

*American Occupational Therapy Association. (2019). American Occupational Therapy Association Political Action Committee (AOTPAC). Online at: [www.aota.org/AOTPAC](http://www.aota.org/AOTPAC).* 🇺🇸

## 2018 AWARDEES

### ACADEMIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

**Lisa Simon, OTR**



This award is given to recognize a faculty member in an occupational therapy program who has made outstanding contributions to

academic education in the following areas: a) exhibits innovative teaching skills and serves as a role model; b) makes substantial contributions to the profession in the forms of presentation, publication and research; c) provides community service through membership on state or local OT boards, chairs committees or is an officer of a community organization. The nominee demonstrates professional responsibility by membership and participation in professional organizations.

### AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

**Kim Broussard, OTR, MOT, OTD, MSW**



This award is given to an individual, clinic, facility, research group or district, which has demonstrated a short-term

innovative or exceptional activity in clinical occupational therapy.

### CLINICAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

**Kelly Parmet, COTA**

This award is given to an occupational therapy practitioner who demonstrates



exceptional contributions in some or all of the following areas: a) development and/or revision of a facility's fieldwork

program; b) exhibits expertise in student supervision; c) trains student supervisors; d) contributes to the profession through in-service education/publications. This clinician demonstrates professional leadership by participating in local and state organizations and encourages professional behaviors in others.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM AWARD

**ALS Team at Houston**

**Methodist Hospital**

**Pam Glazener, OTR, ATP; Dr. Stanley**

**Appel, Dr. Ericka Simpson, Chara**

**Lally, PT; Carolyn Martinez, SLP;**

**Dena Furman, Dietary; Rebecca**

**Axline, SW; Karen Toenis, RN Clinic**

**Coordinator, Dr. Venessa Holland,**

**Pulmonologist**



Recognition of a team of interdisciplinary professionals which includes an occupational therapy practitioner who have made significant contributions in some or all of the following areas: a) participation in community projects that affect the lives of persons served by the profession; b) participation in patient advocacy activities; c) involvement in legislative activities to improve the quality of life of persons served by the profession; d) participation

in joint research efforts; e) participation in a non-traditional program. A written statement with specific examples should describe the achievements of the team.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP

**Amy Honeck**



Recognition of a student member of TOTA who has made outstanding contributions and has shown leadership in one of the following

areas: a) participation in community projects that positively affects the lives of persons served by our profession; b) active involvement in a leadership capacity in local or state professional organizations related to occupational therapy and/or the persons served by the profession; c) participation as an advocate for the profession or for the persons served by the profession. A written statement should describe the specific achievements of the person.

### LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

**Major Erik Johnson, OTR**



An individual or group which has made a significant contribution to TOTA or the profession of OT in a special area through the

use of special talents or that goes beyond those of normal professional duties or responsibilities. (Can be given to individuals or groups, members of TOTA or not; both OTs and non-OTs).



## 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

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Dorit Haenosh Aaro  
Teri Powers  
Sophie Rydin

# GULF COAST EAST DISTRICT UPDATE

By Diane M. Collins, OT, PhD



*Diane M. Collins, OT, PhD, Interim Gulf Coast East Chair*

## The Value of Occupational Therapy

In a recently published study, researchers from Johns Hopkins University

investigated the association between how much money was spent on hospital services and the quality provided to the clients. In other words, are the clients getting what they paid for? Using Medicare claims data, researchers examined the relationship between hospital spending for 19 specific services and 30-day readmission rates for clients in three categories: 1) those with heart failure; 2) those with pneumonia; and 3) those with heart attacks. Some of the 19 specific services included in this study were pharmacy, new durable medical equipment, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, respiratory therapy, cardiology, operating room, laboratory, and so on. Researchers

determined that occupational therapy was the ONLY category where spending had a statistically significant association with lower readmission measures in all three client categories. What is even more important is that the authors were not occupational therapists, but faculty from the Departments of Health Policy and Management, meaning they were not biased toward the field of occupational therapy. Here is the article citation if you would like to read it yourself: "Rogers, A. T., Bai, G., Lavin, R. A. & Anderson, G. F. (2017). Higher hospital spending on occupational therapy is associated with lower readmission rates. *Medical Care Research and Review*. 74(6), 668-686."

In a different study by Szanton, Leff, Wolff, Roberts & Gitlin, (2016), researchers compiled an interdisciplinary team that included a registered nurse, an occupational therapist and a handyman to reduce the impact of disability among lower-income older adults by assessing and providing interventions towards each person's functional impairments

and fall risks in his or her home environment. They enrolled 281 adults aged 65 years and older who had both Medicare and Medicaid as well as a functional impairment that resulted in deficits in functional performance. They found that after completing the five-month program, 75% of the study participants improved their functional performance in ADLs and IADLs, while symptoms of depression decreased. The conclusion statement made by the researchers, who were a part of the Departments of Nursing, Medicine, and Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins University, was that "the program has the potential to improve older adults' ability to age in place." You can read this article at "Szanton, S. L., Leff, B., Wolff, J. L., Roberts, L., & Gitlin, L. N. (2016). Home-Based care program reduces disability and promotes aging in place. *Health Affairs*, 35(9), 1558-1563."

These researchers learned what we as occupational therapist clinicians have known all along – occupational therapy has value, not only to the hospital's bottom line, but also a tremendous difference to the quality of life and ability of the people we treat. By preventing just one fall for an elderly person, we may prevent a costly rehospitalization or even an expensive orthopedic surgery. Think of the pain and suffering we may prevent. Roberts and Robinson, in their 2017 AJOT article, recognized the vital role each occupational therapy clinician plays in the lives of older clients by looking more broadly at factors in the client's functional performance in his or her hospital room and home environment, including transfers into cars, to improve function and safety as clients return home. Bring on the Value-Based Reimbursement! We are ready. 🇺🇸

# CAPITAL CENTEX DISTRICT UPDATE

By Leslie Smart, Capital Centex District Chair



*Leslie Smart, OTR, DSc, Capital Centex District Chair*

Capital Centex District started the 2019 continuing education and meeting calendar with 3 new virtual sites! We now have

virtual sites in Waco and Belton, and the south Austin site has a new location. Many thanks to University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Ridgecrest

Retirement and Health Care, and Remedy Staffing, respectively. We are looking forward to using the TOTA virtual platform ZOOM for the next meeting.

Our first CE presentation of the year, "OT in Acute Care" by Mark L. Mathews, OTR, was well attended. On April 16th we will have our OT month membership drive.. TOTA President Robin Clearman in person and John Luna via ZOOM, will speak. Their topic is "changes in the Healthcare Landscape Affecting OT. 🇺🇸

# GREAT WEST PLAINS DISTRICT UPDATE

By Matthew Wymore, OTR, OTD, CHT, COMT



Matthew Wymore,  
OTR, OTD, CHT,  
COMT

February 19th was a wonderful day to be an occupational therapist in the state of Texas. It was great to see over 200 occupational therapists

across the state come together in support of our profession and meet with key lawmakers with the goal of making sure occupational therapy is in the minds of the decision makers and we are relevant with future health care legislation. Many occupational therapists from our district were able to represent the great plains region and enjoyed the experience. Ruth Dodd's, a 38-year expert clinician in adult rehabilitation had this to say. "I have wanted to come all of my life, and it was great to see so many OT's and meet with Drew Darby in his office." This reflection highlights the

importance of these trips, and how much fun they can be for therapists of all age and skill level.

On February 21st, Tori Blackington from the West Texas Rehabilitation center in San Angelo Texas provided the OT's of the great plains district a one-hour lunch CEU on sensory processing in children. There was a lot of interest in this topic, and it was well received by our OT's across the state.

On September 28th, our district is planning a all-day CEU event that will be held on the ACU campus. This will be a 8 hour CEU event, with our hope of bringing students and clinicians together for a day of learning and relationship building. We have four two-hour talks scheduled, and we will be releasing the lineup of speakers soon. We have been fortunate to have 4 experts in their respective area to teach us some new things in a lecture and lab format that will be exciting for occupational therapists

of all ages. Please mark this date and plan on spending all day Saturday on September 28th with OT's from across West Texas. We will also be having a get together that night, for some networking and fellowship. Please mark the date now, and there will be more to come soon about this event. ➔



Visit [www.tota.org](http://www.tota.org) for the latest news and district events

# THE GREAT TEXAS PTE CHALLENGE

By Sophie Rydin, OT, PhD, TOTF Development CHair



Sophie L. Rydin,  
OT, PhD

Many PTE (Pi Theta Epsilon) chapters of OT programs in Texas have been participating in the AOTF's annual St. Catherine Challenge to

support AOTF's research agenda nationally. It suddenly dawned on the TOTF Board members why the PTE groups are not raising funds for TOTF locally in Texas - because we don't have a challenge like St. Catherine. So, in celebration of OT Month this April, TOTF is launching the Great Texas PTE Challenge to raise local funds for the TOTF. More details on signing up and

submitting donations will be announced later.

We are calling on all PTE faculty advisors and student leaders in Texas OT programs to accept this challenge to compete for the top 3 places in fund raising. This Texas-size challenge (everything is bigger and better in Texas) **starts on April 1st and ends on October 31st**. We will announce the winners in a formal award ceremony at the annual TOTA conference in November.

Some of you may not know that the Texas Occupational Therapy Foundation (TOTF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that was incorporated in the State of Texas in 1996. TOTF works in coordination with the Texas

Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA), with headquarters in the TOTA office. The Foundation works to increase scholarly inquiry in occupational therapy, to increase evidence in and for occupational therapy practice, and to increase public awareness about the practice of OT. The mission of TOTF is to support and promote research related to clinical practice specifically developed by Texas OT practitioners. The Foundation has an annual competition for small grants for Texas OTs. Please visit TOTF website <https://www.tota.org/totf>, for more information.

Please feel free to contact me at [srydin@twu.edu](mailto:srydin@twu.edu) or 713-201-1270 with any questions or fund raising ideas. ↘

## 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](http://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](http://www.otbe.org)*



# UPCOMING GCED OT MONTH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

[www.tota.org/gulf-coast-east](http://www.tota.org/gulf-coast-east)

This year GCED will share OT Month activities and events hosted by its Members. GCED volunteers will post this information onto the TOTA social media sites.

Members can also share their post-activity/event photos and information.

For information about how to share your OT month event/activity, contact Sharon Hennigan, GCED Development Chair at [totagcedotmonth@gmail.com](mailto:totagcedotmonth@gmail.com)

Here are a few events being hosted by Houston TWU SOTA. These events are open to all OT practitioners – you are encouraged to participate with them. See event details on how to sign up and who at SOTA to contact for more details. <https://sotahouston.wixsite.com/sota/service>

## Run for the Rose- March 31, 2019:

- To join the TWU team, sign up on the website (<http://www.drarnierose.org/run-for-the-rose/>)

- TWU's team name is TWU SOTA
- If you are joining our team, then a SOTA rep will pick up your packet and have it the day of the event.
- SOTA is working to have a table in the expo hall. If obtained, they want everyone to meet there at approximately 7:30 AM.
- T-Shirts will be given out at the event and worn during the race and for any events afterward.
- Plan: if an event table is secured, then SOTA will have a station where kids and their families can participate in a sensory activity and come away with a cool token of participation. SOTA also wants to demonstrate the use of some adaptive equipment for the adults while letting them know more about the profession.
- Contact Megan Glosson, TWU OT Month Coordinator at [Mglosson@twu.edu](mailto:Mglosson@twu.edu) for more details and questions.

## Houston Foodbank- April 3rd, 2019:

- Keegan's Kitchen from 8 AM-12 PM. For information about

the Food Bank, <https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/ways-to-give/give-time/volunteerathfb/keegankitchenfaq/>

- SOTA is happy to have OT colleagues join them, however in order to participate colleagues must email Megan Glosson, TWU OT Month Coordinator at [Mglosson@twu.edu](mailto:Mglosson@twu.edu)

## Autism Speaks Walk- April 27, 2019:

- OT practitioners are encouraged to join SOTA. You must sign up on the website [http://act.autismspeaks.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=4381&pg=entry](http://act.autismspeaks.org/site/TR?fr_id=4381&pg=entry)
- To join, register with TWU's team. Team name is TWU SOTA.
- Contact Megan Glosson, TWU OT Month Coordinator at [Mglosson@twu.edu](mailto:Mglosson@twu.edu) to be added to their attendance list and obtain more details about the event.
- TWU SOTA will have a booth. They plan to meet at the booth by 7:00 AM.
- TWU students will be wearing their TWU Shirts and something blue, such as a headband, socks. ➔

## FROM THE EDUCATION CHAIR

By Sophie L. Rydin, OT, PhD

### New and Improved CE Review Procedures

The TOTA Education Committee has been working since last fall to develop a new and improved CE review procedure which was launched in February 2019. Here are some highlights:

1. With the established criteria for selection, we recruited 34 qualified CE reviewers from various districts for all 10 practice areas. Among recruits are well-respected clinicians and experts in their fields. Many of them will review CE submissions in multiple practice areas as supported by their strong clinical experiences (a minimum of 5 years required).
2. To ensure we have consistent process and standards among various reviewers for internal quality control and assurance, we incorporated the CE guidelines from TBOTE and created a CE Evaluation Form for all the reviewers to use. The CE submissions from both the districts and third-party vendors will be reviewed using the same standardized CE Evaluation Form.
3. Each course will be reviewed by 2 reviewers. If they disagree on a decision; a third reviewer will serve as a tie breaker.

This is a work in progress. We are still fine-tuning the logistics of the review procedures on the CE web page. With the addition of the new CE reviewers and the CE Evaluation form, we are making significant progress in advancing our CE review procedures to ensure high quality CE offerings to our members.

If you are interested in becoming a TOTA CE reviewer, please contact me at [sophie.rydin@hcss.com](mailto:sophie.rydin@hcss.com), or 713-201-1270. As usual, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. ➔



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