

# At-a-Glance

Rush University's Occupational Therapy Newsletter

Fall 2018

## Telehealth

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Lauren Little, PhD OTR/L, is an assistant professor for the Rush University Department of Occupational Therapy. She received her doctoral and postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Little does intervention work with families of young children with autism spectrum disorders, with a focus on innovative methods of service delivery such as telehealth. She has authored numerous publications about working with families and sensory processing. Two of her most recent articles include "Sensory Subtypes in Preschool Aged Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder," co-written with Scott Tomcheck, John Myers and Winnie Dunn, published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* earlier this year, and "Sensory Patterns in Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and Typical Development" co-written with Evan Dean, Scott Tomcheck and Winnie Dunn, published in the *Journal of Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*.

In 2015, Little received the AJOT Cordelia Myers Best Article Award. This past spring, she was awarded one of the AOTF Intervention Research Grants for her research on expanding telehealth for underserved families of children with developmental conditions. You can find more information regarding her current project, telehealth intervention for families, at [telescopecenter.org](http://telescopecenter.org).

## Notes from the Chair



Dear Colleagues,

As I write this note, the faculty are enjoying the transition from summer to fall and the ongoing transition of our entry-level master's program to the entry-level doctoral program. In August, we celebrated the graduation of our last master's class and in September welcomed our second OTD cohort. Although challenging, the academic transition has been a great opportunity for us to modify our curriculum in a way that not only reflects AOTA's Vision 2025 but also meets the needs of the community we serve. This past year we welcomed two new faculty members – Laura VanPuymbrouck, PhD, OTR/L, and Bridget Hahn, OTD, OTR/L – who have a practice background in physical disabilities and an appreciation for disability studies. Paula Costello, OTD, OTR/L, our doctoral capstone coordinator, has been busy during the past year organizing the doctoral capstone aspect of the curriculum, and our first cohort of students are busy developing their doctoral experiences – an endeavor that is both exciting and frightening, especially for this first group that will be the role models for countless cohorts to come!

As many of you know, long-time faculty member Beverly Myers passed away this past spring. She was an OT for more than 40 years, and she was a part of the Rush community for more than 25 years. Throughout her career she touched the lives and hearts of hundreds of clients and students. Bev was instrumental in getting our Rush University Occupational Therapy Alumni Association (RUOTAA) started. In recognition of this, the RUOTAA board voted to rename the Alumni Fund the Beverly J. Myers Alumni Fund. Anyone who would like to make a donation can do so by going to <https://bit.ly/2OGmDe8> and designating the Beverly J. Myers Alumni Fund under Specify Other Designation.

-Linda M. Olson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

## Tour de West Side

This fall, Rush OT students and faculty have been among the 500 Rush students and employees who have participated in The Tour de West Side. Every year Rush students organize five 5K walk/runs through the neighborhoods that surround Rush. This year, these events were held in Garfield Park, Little Village, Austin, Lawndale and Pilsen.

The Tour de West Side campaign is aimed at increasing health, wellness and economic vitality in West Side neighborhoods. It also supports the Rush Anchor Mission of hire, buy, invest and volunteer locally.



## OT Faculty Awards and Acknowledgements



Molly Bathje PhD, OTR/L, was awarded the 2018 Rush University Excellence in Community Service Award. She received this award in recognition of her work with Back on My Feet, an organization that works with homeless individuals to provide skills development to assist with securing and maintaining housing and employment. She also volunteers with the National Louis University Path to Academics, Community and Employment (P.A.C.E.) program, which is a post-secondary certificate program designed to assist young adults with intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities. Last year, as a result of Bathje's work, the College of Health Sciences accepted their first P.A.C.E. intern, who is now a paid employee within the Dean's Office. The Department of Occupational Therapy is eagerly awaiting the arrival of our very own intern from the P.A.C.E. program.



Rebecca Ozelie, DHS, OTR/L, was recently promoted to associate professor. This promotion recognizes her excellence in education, scholarship and service. Students highly respect her and appreciate her guidance and mentorship through both the didactic and fieldwork aspects of the program. In acknowledgement of her classroom and fieldwork service, she received the 2017 College of Health Sciences Excellence in Mentoring Award and has been chosen as class hooder twice since joining Rush.



Laura VanPuymbrouck, PhD, OTR/L, completed her PhD work in disability studies, graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago, in May of this year. She also co-authored the articles "Occupational Therapy in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers" published in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy as well as "Community based services for people with brain injury: A national analysis" published in Rehabilitation Research, Policy and Education, with Carli Friedman, PhD, earlier this year.



Bridget Hahn, OTD, OTR/L, co-authored the article "Development, Implementation, and Use of a Process to Promote Knowledge Translation in Rehabilitation" with Jennifer Moore, Julia Carpenter, Anne Marie Doyle, Laura Doyle, Piper Hansen, T. George Hornby, Heidi Roth, Susan Spoeri, Rachel Tappan and Krista Van Der Laan, which was published in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.



# Congratulations to the Class of 2018

On behalf of the entire department, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Rush University Master's in Occupational Therapy Class of 2018! We are so proud of each and every one of our graduates and are looking forward to seeing their future contributions to the field of occupational therapy.

We would also like to take a moment to recognize a few of our graduates for their outstanding achievements during their time here at Rush:

Barry Brenner & Stephen Jankowiak – Cynthia Hughes-Harris Fieldwork Educator Award

Sarah R. Bronson – The Thomas Family Award

Lauren M. Henderson – The Occupational Therapy Faculty Award

Marlena I. Mosbacher – The Excellence in Mental Health Award

Lucy W. Parkhurst – The Jonathan Luke Darnall Award for Clinical Excellence in Pediatrics and The Susan Tracy Excellence in Fieldwork Award

Paige Panfil, Nicole Swiderski, & Elizabeth Walz – Rush Research Award

Julia Shimada – The SOTA Professionalism Award



Pictured above: Sarah Bronson & Steven Taylor; Nicole Swiderski, Stephen Jankowiak & Paige Panfil; Julia Shimada & Becky Ozelie; Lucy Parkhurst & Hillary Napier-Gondek

## Welcome Dr. Bridget Hahn



We would like to take a moment to welcome Bridget Hahn, OTD, OTR/L, as the department's new academic coordinator. In this role, she will work closely with staff and students to oversee the admission process and assist in the matriculation of new students. She will also help to coordinate course schedules and to prepare students for graduation, state licensure and the NBCOT exam.

Hahn received her master's in occupational therapy from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and her doctorate from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is joining us from the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, where she spent the last nine years working as a clinical occupational therapist, program specialist and an allied health training and orientation manager.

We would also like to congratulate Hahn on her completion of the Madison, Wisconsin Ironman a few weeks ago. The race, consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run, is considered to be one of the most difficult sporting events in the world. Hahn finished the race in 13 hours, 38 minutes and 14 seconds, putting her in the top 50 percent of all finishers.

We are very fortunate to have her joining us and look forward to working with her.