

At-a-Glance

Rush University's Occupational Therapy Newsletter

Winter 2016

OT of the Year

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Molly Bathje, MS, OTR/L, was presented with the 2015 Illinois Occupational Therapy Association (ILOTA) OT of the Year award during the annual ILOTA conference. She received this award based on the many contributions she has made to occupational therapy both clinically and academically in the preparation of future OTs.

Bathje continues to explore new ways in which she can contribute to the profession. At the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference & Expo, which is being held in Chicago in April, she is serving as the Accessibility Chairperson on the AOTA 2016 Local Conference Committee. She also recently assumed the role of ILOTA Newsletter Coordinator.

Bathje is also working on completing her dissertation for her PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences from Western Michigan University.

Notes from the Chair



Dear Colleagues,

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of occupational therapy practitioners from throughout the country and world for the AOTA 2016 Annual Conference & Expo so we can show off our city and show some Midwest hospitality. The AOTA conference is always such a rewarding time to gain new professional insights and network with old and new colleagues, but it's even better when it's in your own hometown.

The past few months have been busy for the faculty. Last week we submitted our Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) self-study and will welcome our on-site evaluators in May. We have also been progressing with our transition from quarters to semesters and from an entry-level MS to an entry-level OTD program, pending Illinois Board of Higher Education and ACOTE approval. The process has provided an opportunity to examine our program and build on our already strong foundation to prepare students at the doctoral level for practice and leadership in the profession.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the departure of Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, SCEM, CAPS, from Rush. She left Rush in January 2016 to join the faculty at Western Michigan University. While at Rush, Wagenfeld contributed greatly to the scholarly activities of the department and provided excellent educational opportunities for our students. On behalf of all the faculty and students, we wish her the best of luck in her new role at Western Michigan.

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

Faculty Awards and Acknowledgements

Rebecca Ozelie, DHS, OTR/L, BCPR, is the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator on the ACOTE Educational Standards Review Committee. Ozelie co-authored the article "National Survey of Fieldwork Educators: Implications for Occupational Therapy Education" along with Mary Evenson, Michael Roberts, Jennifer Kaldenber and Mary Alicia Barnes. The article was published in the October 2015 issue of the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Mary Ellen Stoykov, PhD, OTR/L, presented at talk entitled "Movement Based Priming" during a symposium at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) 92nd Annual Conference, held in Dallas, featuring Drs. Sangeetha Madhavan and Edelle Field-Fote. The purpose of the talk was to introduce and inform clinicians about methods of enhancing neuroplasticity. Selected for her expertise, Stoykov will also be presenting this month in Los Angeles at the International Stroke Conference Nursing Symposium. Her presentation is entitled "Neural Priming for Stroke Rehabilitation: Movement and Sensory Priming for Individuals With Severe Upper Limb Impairment."

Congratulations to Brenda Koverman, MBA, MS, OTR/L, who was recently promoted to Post Acute Care Service Line Administrator. In this position, Koverman will be overseeing Rehab Admissions/Liaison Group, Rehab Documentation Audit, Johnston R. Bowman (JRB) Apartments and JRB facility projects – helping Rush to develop a more comprehensive post-acute strategy. This is an exciting step forward for Koverman as the first occupational therapist to ever hold this position at Rush. Koverman will continue in her academic role and oversee the clinical side of OT.

Student Publications and Kudos

Megan Doherty co-authored an article for the September 2015 ILOTA issue of *The Communique* about OT student involvement in the Disabilities Pride Parade this past July.

Carolyn Maddock lent her student voice in an article published in the September 2015 ILOTA issue of *The Communique*. The article, entitled “Interdisciplinary Approach to Optimizing Child Development Through Play, Language Acquisition, and Nutrition,” highlighted the work of an interprofessional group working in a day care that serves young and low-income current and expecting mothers. This group has begun a therapeutic playgroup and is working to make a difference in the lives of both the mothers and children. This project was funded through a Rush University Community Engagement grant.

Maddock provides a well-rounded view of not only the importance of the interdisciplinary approach, but also of the parents’ involvement in the treatment of their child. She emphasizes how vital the parent information sessions are in conjunction with the playgroups to giving the child understanding, confidence and continuous developmental stimulation. Maddock also describes how the OT interventions that are used primarily to promote motor development are also linked to both cognitive development and the development of social relationships.

Points of Interest and Highlights from ILOTA

At the 2015 ILOTA Annual Conference in St. Charles, Illinois, Rush was well represented by faculty, clinicians and students.

Rebecca Ozellie, DHS, OTR/L, BCPR, was invited to present on “Educating Future OT Practitioners: Exploring Models for Fieldwork Supervision.”

Brenda Koverman, MBA, MS, OTR/L, Lydia Royeen, MS, OTR/L, Megan Kral, MS, OTR/L, Adam Steuer, MS, OTR/L, Joel Bove MS, OTR/L, Meghan Crisp, MS, OTR/L and Kristie Trenkle, MS, OTR/L, all presented short courses.

Linda Olson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, presented a workshop along with Gail Fisher of University of Illinois at Chicago, Divya Sood of Governor’s State University and Lisa Mahaffey of Midwestern University entitled “Enhancing Client-Centered Practice Through Building Your Occupation-Based Toolbox.” The four presenters believe this is the first time that professors from the local occupational therapy programs have collaborated to present at a local or national conference.

James Hill, OTR/L, presented a workshop on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), giving evidence and preliminary outcomes data that would support the use of ACT by occupational therapists.

On the Research Platform, students Alison Mercier, Maggie Lannoye and Kelli Panter presented the results of their graduate research project alongside their research advisor, Molly Bathje, MS, OTR/L.

Students Tessa DeDominic, Clare Griner, Kristen Singley, Alexandra Gilroy, Allison Hoffman and Kathleen Schmitt along with their research advisor, Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, SCEM, CAPS, presented posters highlighting the results of their graduate research projects.

Growing Solutions for Autism

With the help of their research advisor, Dr. Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, SCEM, CAPS, students Kristen Singley, Clare Griner, and Tessa DeDominic recently published an article in *Autism Parenting Magazine*. Their article, “Growing Solutions for Autism: Simple Ways Nature Can Soothe,” came out of their research with the Julie + Michael Tracy Family Foundation Growing Solutions Farm in the Illinois Medical District in Chicago. Using the lens of occupational therapy, these three young women talk about how engagement in meaningful occupations is central to a person’s identity. “Active participation in everyday activities gives us a sense of self and a better quality of life.”

The Growing Solutions Farm is an endeavor that engages young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder with others to increase participation in their community. The article addresses how working the farm facilitates the development of vocational and social skills. These three upcoming OT professionals provide a real sense of what occupational therapy does by pointing out that farming can facilitate emotional and sensory regulation. (autismparentingmagazine.com)



SOTA and Student Involvement

The Class of 2015 Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) group completed several fundraising activities focused on raising funds for Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago. They raised enough money to purchase a piece of therapy equipment for the OTs to use with their patients.

Since our last newsletter, classes of 2015, 2016 & 2017 SOTA have raised funds to compete in the St. Catherine’s Challenge (an intercollegiate competition designed to fund and promote OT research).

In the spirit of Christmas, class of 2017, SOTA adopted two families from Simpson Academy, a nearby high school. Both families included young mothers with babies who were in need of essentials for the winter. Wrapping up diapers, wipes, clothes, baby books and more for these families was a way for the OT students at Rush to make a positive impact on these families and bring them some holiday cheer.



Pictured
Class of 2017