Why did you Become an Occupational Therapist?

During the past week I had the spontaneous opportunity to talk about the profession of Occupational Therapy and the path that I took to join this profession three times. And each time it left me feeling a little more rejuvenated and I would like to think left the person I was talking to thinking about why they do what they do, or even if Occupational Therapy is for them or a loved one.

With this in mind, I have a little antidote for you as we near April, Occupational Therapy Month.

Whenever I get frustrated with a client, or think that “they can never be helped”, I am reminded of the story of Helen Keller. Here was someone who was so out of control and seemingly barbaric that everyone including her parents had given up on her. There was no hope. Yet one person, Anne Sullivan, kept trying and wouldn’t give up, and because of her, the world was able to experience the wonderful lectures and writings of the mind of Helen Keller. That is what Occupational Therapists do and that is why I became an Occupational Therapist, to help that one person. To make a difference for someone that I may or may not ever know about. To not give up on someone.

You do that every day at your work and at your home. You do it naturally. You do it because you have embraced the profession of Occupational Therapy.

So why have you become an Occupational Therapist? Go on to OTAO’s Facebook page and tell us. I bet our stories will not be dissimilar.

--Sara Pickett, OTR/L
OTAO President
Recognizing Retirees and Honored OT’s

We are starting to have a greater number of Oregon occupational therapists reaching retirement age. I am also being told that we, as a professional organization, are allowing a valuable resource to slip right through our fingers. Presently, the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon’s Bylaws include an Honorary OT/OTA membership classification, along with their Rights and Privileges. These rights and privileges include: participation in all regular/called meetings of OTAO, voting on all issues pertaining to bylaws, elections and other matters presented by the board, serving on committees, receiving information, and holding office.

Know that in this coming year, we are going to relook at our verbiage in the Bylaws to better clarify and identify active retirees and honored OT’s (members who have been active OTAO members during their careers who are able to have their association fees waived). We are also working on a better system for tracking all of our retirees. Finally, we are also looking at having more retiree representation on our board.

If you, or a retiree that you know, would like more information or if you would like to be involved in any of the above, please feel free to contact me at janhc@easystreet.net.

Thanks,
Jan Cuciti

A Message from our Incoming President

Hello everyone! I would like to introduce myself in my new role. I am Jan. I am currently an OT/OTA member. I am treasurer. I seem to not like saying “no” and am on the conference committee, as well as helping out with our website. July 1st, I become OTAO president. I have to confess; that intimates me a bit. It is no longer just me, or a committee. I will represent us. So, I have been spending a great deal of time thinking about what us, in the sense of OTAO, means.

I like quilts. I like the whole history of early Americans not wanting to pay a linen tax to the English, and patching their old quilts. I like that soon there were patches on top of patches and we were making crazy quilts. I also like that we morphed that further into patchwork quilts that told stories and celebrated occasions. That seems so OT to me. Makes sense that I love the quilt that our honorary (retired) OTs made.

In my mind, OTAO is part of an Oregon occupational therapy quilt.

- We have the Oregon OT Licensing Board as the backing. One piece, always there, keeps us contained, solid, a firm foundation
- I see us as occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, students, retirees, our worksites, Pacific, Linn-Benton, and all other sites and opportunities as the patches and blocks of our Oregon quilt. We can start in one block. We can be in many blocks. We can move or change blocks. We can make new blocks. That is, in my mind, one of the beauties of occupational therapy
- Now for my big ta-da, for how OTAO fits into this analogy. I believe that OTAO is the batting. It can be soft. It can cushion us. No matter if you should decide to change squares, we will be assisting you with networking, education and advocacy (always in the background). But how thick or thin, or soft or cushy depends on all of us. We have the Board who I see as the stitching or knots. Personally, I see the knots as isolated, people doing things for the good of the organization; but, with not a lot of help. Of course, me - I like the stitching; lots of connecting, getting to be in lots of square. So, with this said, we have some board positions open. If this is not the time for a huge commitment, why not think of volunteering for a short term project. And, if even this is too much, be a member. Recruit others to be members. The work that OTAO does is not limited to just our members. Our lobbyists lobby for all. Our OTAO annual conference does not exclude non-members. Our Board does not say, “Sorry, but….” We can all do our part to make us cushy, soft, and keep us protected and warm.

I look forward to the people that I will meet, the work that we will do, the differences we will make in lives that we touch. Join me, join us. Thank you. Jan Cuciti (janhc@easystreet.net)
OTAO 2014 Conference,
Friday 17 & Saturday 18 October 2013,
Holiday Inn, Wilsonville

*Call for Papers online at www.otao.com.
*Silent Auction info in Summer.

Keep an Eye Out—
OTAO Elections!

Later this month, an email ballot will go out to all members for the following OTAO positions:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- OTA Representative

Please keep an eye out so you have a say in who helps lead our professional organization.

Thank you!
Representative Assembly— Busy Meeting Coming Up!

The AOTA Representative Assembly (RA) has an online meeting schedule from March 14th – 20th, 2014 in place of the face-to-face meeting at the AOTA conference in Baltimore this year. Motions being addressed include the following:

MOTION 1:
We move that the Representative Assembly adopt a position on the importance of programmatic accreditation of all professional degree programs* majoring in the study of occupational therapy. We further move that the RA recommend that the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education consider offering accreditation to post-professional doctoral programs.

*Professional programs: (1) associate-degree-level programs for the occupational therapy assistant; (2) masters-degree-level programs for the occupational therapist; and (3) doctoral-degree level professional doctorates (e.g. OTD). This does NOT include academic doctoral degrees such as the PhD or D.Sc.

MOTION 2:
I move that the Speaker charge the CCCPD to develop a student version of the Professional Development Tool and to seek the collaboration of ASD in the development of the student version of the tool.

MOTION 3:
I move that the Speaker charge the President to request that OT and OTA Program Directors appoint or elect a representative to serve on the RA as a member with voice and vote. Secondly, if this motion passes, I move that the bylaws, policies and procedures be modified to reflect this change.

MOTION 4:
I move that the RALC appoint an ad hoc committee within the RA to review and develop leadership initiatives that will foster leadership skills within the RA and facilitate succession plans for growing leadership for future leaders across the profession. The ad hoc committee is requested invite representative(s) from VLDC and ASAP to work in collaboration in developing initiatives that will benefit all three.

In addition to the above motions, the RA will be reviewing several official AOTA documents. Further information can be found at the AOTA RA website at: [http://www.aota.org/AboutAOTA/Get-Involved/RA.aspx](http://www.aota.org/AboutAOTA/Get-Involved/RA.aspx).

New Representative

On another note, this will be my last meeting as the Oregon RA Representative. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed representing Oregon over the last 5 years at the Representative Assembly as well as my participation with the OTAO Board. Please join me in welcoming Erica Bartleson, MOTR/L as your new Oregon Representative to the RA! Contact information for Erica will be provided when she officially takes office in July, 2014. Welcome, Erica!

OTLB Update— Renewals are Here

The OT Licensing Board started renewal online in March. Go to the web site at [www.oregon.gov/otlb](http://www.oregon.gov/otlb) and see the link on the home page. You will put in your name, license number (If you do not have it with you check the licensee Look Up on the home page) and the last 4 # of your SS number.

If you have any questions please contact Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us or Nancy.Schuberg@state.or.us or call us at 971-673-0198 or 971-673-0202.

Some therapists have asked about the new Ethics/Law exam – it is not required for your renewal, only for new license applications. However you can take it for a free CE.
The 2014 Legislative Session Adjourns
By Niki Terzieff and Bill Cross, OTAO’s Government Affairs Advocates

Only two days before the constitutional deadline, the 2014 February Legislative Session adjourned with little fanfare on Friday the 7th of March. The short Session is limited to 35 days and the Legislature used nearly each and every one of them. The prevailing opinion upon entering the Session was that Oregon Legislators should only be making small technical fixes to bill passed previously, and balancing agency and program coffers - it does fall at the “half-way” point in the budget cycle. As it too often goes in politics, however, we saw a handful of major items that worked (or attempted to work) their way through the compressed process. The tone in the building fluctuated wildly with each committee hearing under high stakes and fast pace - even creating emotional outbursts at times.

With only five weeks to move a bill through both chambers, your advocacy team worked at a furious pace to stay ahead of the deadlines - essentially one at the end of each week - and ensured that OTAO can claim yet another Session of success! We continued our vigilance regarding developments in healthcare transformation and eyeing agency budgets, but there were some policies that popped up that we wanted to engage in, and in short order. In fact, the OTAO Advocacy Day on the 26th allowed OTs and OTAs to communicate directly with Legislators and their staff regarding the important issues below:

One of the bills that gave OTAO an opportunity to be a positive influence and advocate in the affirmative was HB 4108. Introduced by a Democrat in the House, Alissa Keny-Guyer and a Republican Senator, Bill Hansell, HB 4108 begins a regionally diverse pilot program for the repurposing of durable medical equipment. For patients of OTs across the state this is an important step in the right direction to making sure that DME is not just recycled - saving money and allowing better access to treatment - but that it is repurposed correctly. The Oregon Health Authority will now work with community warehouses and within the agency to create standards regarding the proper cleaning, and importantly, proper fitting upon redistribution. At each step along the way, this bill passed unanimously (given the exception of one vote in full Ways and Means, on a principle of spending taxpayers dollars - period). The hallmark of a good program, it sailed through even with the $75,000 price tag attached.

Your advocacy team also paid close attention to the rule-making and beginning implementations of the Behavior Analysts Regulatory Board, created last session out of the SB 365, a bill that increased ABA therapy coverage for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We will continue to monitor and engage in these hearings to ensure that there is no undue burden on OTs who utilize ABA Therapy as a portion of the treatment options. OTAO understands the goal of this bill is to increase access to medically necessary, effective practices and will work to keep that the reality for patients who see OT’s or ABA Therapists. The section of this bill that allowed for increased insurance coverage for children with ASD will go into effect in January of 2015, after an Oregon Court upheld a handful of families' claims against Providence.

(Continued on page 6)
2014 Legislative Session Adjourns (Cont’d from page 5)

As always, working in conjunction with the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board, OTAO’s Advocacy Team tracked a couple of other pieces of public policy making:

**SB 1560:** Increased health plan coverage of Telemedical services: the OTLB is writing rules on use of Telehealth for OTs presently. This bill languished in the Senate Health Care Committee but may reappear on the docket during 2015 full Legislative Session.

**HB 4059:** Created a Joint Legislative Committee to review state agency process, requirements and fees to determine effectiveness/efficiency. The OTLB and your advocates are always going to protect against folding your licensing board in with other boards. This bill simply sat on the desk in the Ways & Means Committee upon adjournment but will likely come back in 2015 as it has re-appeared consistently for the past handful of Sessions.

When all is said and done, incumbents and new appointments alike all seem to have weathered this third annual short-session. Now for elected officials, it will be off to an extended campaign cycle. This year Representatives Gelser (D- Corvallis) and Dembrow (D- NE Portland) will work for the title Senator and newly minted Representatives Ann Lininger (Lake Oswego) and Barbara Smith-Warner (NE Portland) will face their first Legislative races each. The outcome of this campaign cycle may bring a 17 vote majority in the Senate, a margin Democrats in the Senate believe is sorely needed given the conservative nature of some of their members districts. In the House, generally unpredictable this far out from the General election in November, we will continue to see new faces appear to challenge incumbents from both parties. The deadline to file to run for office is March 13th.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions by emailing Bill Cross at bill@wvcross.com or Niki Terzieff at niki@leadingedgepublicaffairs.com.

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**People to People Announces Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Rehabilitation Delegation to Cuba**

Dr. Karen Jacobs – Former President and Vice President, American Occupational Therapy Association – will be leading a unique overseas cultural and professional exchange opportunity in August 2014.

People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs is coordinating a delegation of therapists and rehabilitation professionals who will travel in and around Havana, Cuba from August 1-9, 2014.

This delegation will seek to increase collaboration with Cuban professionals and organizations on topics of mutual interest in the therapy and rehabilitation arenas. This will be combined with approved activities highlighting the sights and sounds of the country. Delegates will enjoy insider views of the therapy and rehabilitation professions in Cuba and experience the culture in ways that most travelers never do, from exploring small, local neighborhoods to observing professional counterparts in their element.

Program details and an application form are available by calling 877.787.2000 or emailing citizens@peopletopeople.com. Further details on the itinerary can be found online at www.peopletoplacepeople.com/karenjacobs.

**Travel to Cuba for U.S. citizens is very limited. Under license (CT-2013-305247-1) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, you can legally visit Cuba with Ambassador Programs, Inc. (People to People Ambassador Programs) if adhering to the guidelines outlined on the delegation’s website.**
Technology and Occupation: Implications for Future Practice and Science 
May 2

Morning Session
8:00 Networking and Registration
8:30-11:30 Keynote presentation
11:30-1:00 Lunch and Auction

Technology and Occupation: Implications for Future Practice and Science

Occupational therapists have been technologists since the beginning of the profession. Meaningful occupation rarely exists without technology and the meaningful use of technology is never without an occupational context. In fact, this uniqueness differentiates occupational therapy from other professions. Dr. Roger Smith discusses this fundamental relationship, both for its direct implications on OT practice and on a metaphysical level. The symbiotic relationship of technology and occupation demands that the profession constantly and relentlessly update itself. Dr. Smith posits that as technology advances, OT practice, research and professional preparation must keep pace or we will become obsolete.

Roger O. Smith, PhD, OT, FAOTA, and Fellow of RESNA is Professor of Occupational Science & Technology in the College of Health Sciences and directs the Rehabilitation Research Design & Disability (R2D2) Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His academic background has prepared him for highly interdisciplinary practice, education and research related to disability and technology. Dr. Smith has published and presented widely in the area of disability access, assistive technology and functional performance measurement. Dr. Smith also often cites that important components of his OT “roots” are from the Pacific Northwest, where he first practiced OT.

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PRACTICE PROJECTS AND RESEARCH CASE STUDIES

Afternoon Sessions located on the adjacent Health Professions Campus, 190 SE 8th Ave., Hillsboro


1:15 Student-practitioners present practice projects.

Concurrent sessions include new projects and updates on our longstanding projects:

• Ant Farm – Community Youth
• Nicaragua Project: Elder health
• Fuling Orphanage Project (China)
• Many other new projects will be presented as well

4:15 Awards Ceremony and recognition in the Atrium

QUESTIONS | CONTACT INFO
Questions, please email Kelly Hering at khering@pacificu.edu, or (503) 352-7345; registration confirmation will be provided by email. Certificate verifying 6 hours of CE will be provided at day’s end.

LOCATION

Lacey Health Education Center (LHEC)
190 SE 8th Ave., Hillsboro, OR

Parking is limited. Please take the MAX train if possible. You can walk 1/2 blocks from MAX.

REGISTRATION FORM

☐ Registration Fee (includes lunch) $60.00
☐ FW Educators within past 2 years $20.00

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/State Zip: ______________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Employer: __________________________

Special Needs: ______________________
FW Educator: Yes No Dates: _________

Payment by Check or Visa/Mastercard
Make checks payable to Pacific University
☐ Check ☐ Credit Card
Credit Card #: _______________________
Exp Date: __________ CVV#: __________
Please send or fax your registration by 4/18/2014 to:
Kelly Hering, Admin. Asst., fax: 503-352-7360
Pacific University, School of OT
190 SE 8th Ave., Suite 366, Hillsboro, OR 97123

AUCTION

The Pacific Student Occupational Therapy Association will have a silent auction to raise funds for their professional activities.
Distributed electronically, the Viewpoint is published by the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon.

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Guidelines for contributions: News and feature articles are welcomed. Submitted articles should be practice related, accuracy of information is the responsibility of the authors. Publication of articles is primarily for informational and educational purposes and not for promoting or endorsing one particular technique, procedure or philosophy over another. OTAO disclaims any liability or responsibility for individual use of applications or procedures or techniques described. Subject matter presented in “Letters to the Editor” column reflects the personal opinion of the author(s) and is not meant to represent the policy or opinion of OTAO. Photos should be black and white, at least 3x5 in, with good definition of detail. Deadline for receipt of articles is the 20th of the month preceding the desired month of publication (contact the editor for details). Submitted materials cannot be returned. Copies of the newsletter are available from the Executive Office for $10.00

Subscription Rates: Subscription is a benefit of OTAO members and is included in yearly membership rates.

Change of Address: Should be provided to OTAO via mail or E-mail as provided above, or done online by the Member. Newsletters are mailed 3 class and will not be forwarded by the post office. Yearly membership is renewed in July; applications must be received by November 1 for members to be included in the annual membership directory.

Advertising: All ads should be submitted to: Desiree Keplinger, OTAO, PO Box 7133, Aloha OR 97007, or via email at: otao@otao.com, by the 15th of the month preceding the desired month of publication. OTAO is not responsible for statements made by its advertisers; unless so stated, publication of advertisements does not reflect an official endorsement of the OTAO. Prepayment must be received prior to inclusion of advertisement. Advertising rates can be viewed at: www.otao.com/Advertising

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

May 2: Pacific U. School of Occupational Therapy Research & Practice Symposium
Technology and Occupation: Implication for Future Practice & Science
Featured Presenters: Roger O. Smith, PhD, OT, FAOTA, RESNA Fellow

May 3: OTAO Board Meeting

October 17-18: OTAO Annual Conference

Submit an article for publication or an idea to make the newsletter a useful and engaging benefit of membership. Contact the Editors at otao.viewpoint.editor@gmail.com.

Occupational Therapy Licensing Board (OTLB) has a handy website for your questions at http://www.oregon.gov/OTLB/Pages/index.aspx. At If you have any questions, please contact the Director, Felicia Holgate at Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us or call 971-673-0198.