

SOTA

West Virginia University SOTA May Newsletter



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SOTA shows up big at Relay for Life

By: Heather Koch

On Friday, April 19, WVU's Relay for Life main event took place in the WVU shell building. Despite the rain, many teams came out to support the fight against cancer. The building was filled with upbeat music, bright colors, and smiling faces. Every team had their own station where you could buy various items, including: food, jewelry, make tie dye shirts, and even get your face painted, just to name a few.

There was a "Survivor Lap" where cancer survivors take the first lap around the track celebrating their victory over cancer. At dark, the "Luminaria Ceremony" was held, as a time to remember loved ones we have lost to cancer, to support people currently fighting cancer, and to honor those who have fought in the past.

WVU SOTA showed their support at the event, by selling PuraVida bracelets. These bracelets were sold in a variety of cancer types with their corresponding colors. Over 60 bracelets were sold and all proceeds went to Relay. SOTA's Relay team has raised over \$5,000 this year and is in 5th place out of 90 teams at WVU.

Keep up the good work, so we can continue to celebrate more birthdays!





Easter at HealthSouth

By: Ashley Hudson

On March 26th SOTA members participated in HealthSouth's Easter party where the Easter bunny made an appearance. Everyone joined in crafts and snacks while they got their chance to take their picture with the Easter bunny. The bunny also went from room to room to spread the Easter spirit to all the patients at HealthSouth.

SOTA participates in local Kids Fair!

By: Cameron Jougras

On Saturday, April 27, 2013 the community of Morgantown held a kids fair at the Morgantown Mall. SOTA was lucky to have taken part in this event, and have such a great location for our activities. Some of the tasks we set up were geared towards children's occupations and daily activities. SOTA helped kids participate in hopscotch, soccer skills, ring toss, and hoop jumping as ways to improve and assess a child's development. The kids loved our activities, and our booth seemed to be on of the most popular, which may have had something to do with the candy we were handing out. The fair was very busy, and it was a great way to get our profession known throughout the community, and all the ways occupational therapy can benefit children in need. Several participants were already involved in Birth to 3 or an Early Intervention program, and were able to show off their progress to all of the SOTA members there. From assessing gross motor skills to building coordination, we as occupational therapy students were excited to be able to create and participate in one of the children's most important functional occupations – Play! SOTA had a great time, and there was an amazing turnout from the community to support us. Thanks to all who came and supported our profession and the children.



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

White Coat Ceremony

By: Kelly McIntosh

I attended the White Coat Ceremony with my fellow class officers held in the Mountainlair April 13th, 2013 for the class of 2014. The class officers, Breanna Hart, Amanda Marino, Cortney Goodnight, and Tiffany Oldaker, should be very proud of themselves for putting on such a successful event. The auditorium was completely packed with proud family members and friends eager to see their loved ones receive their white coats and pins symbolizing the successful completion of the extensive course work portion of the program.

The guest speaker was the Reverend at St Thomas A Becket, Julie Murdoch, who shared a touching story of her son Christopher who was critically injured in a car accident last year. She stressed how grateful she was for Christopher to have someone, such as his occupational therapist, so caring and compassionate to take care of him.

I want to conclude by saying congratulations to all members in the OT class of 2014 for making it this far in the program. All of you should be very proud of your accomplishments, and good luck this summer on your first level II fieldworks.

Our delegates our back! The first word from our student delegates at the AOTA national conference

After months of anticipating, fundraising, scheduling, and stressing, I had the privilege to join Meggie Menarcheck, Tiffany Oldaker, and Haley Powell as representatives from WVU at the annual Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) meeting and AOTA's 93rd annual conference and expo. We spent seven days in the beautiful city of San Diego, California advocating and learning about our profession.

The first part of our conference experience was spent attending the ASD. We met with hundreds of other OT and OTA students to discuss our role and the future of our profession. We heard several inspirational speeches from various AOTA leaders. We learned the importance of getting involved with AOTPAC and making sure our profession is clearly defined from others. We were also able to bounce ideas from other students about how they advocate, fundraise, and manage their SOTAs.

The week flew by, and before the four of us realized it, the country roads were taking us home. We not only returned with our suitcases overflowing with free goodies from the expo but with a fresh perspective and excitement to spread the love of OT!

By: Hannah Slanina



By: Tiffany Oldaker

We couldn't help but look like tourist as we walked out of the San Diego airport sporting our West Virginia attire. When people asked what brought us to California, I felt so professional to respond by saying we were there for a conference. With a record breaking turn out for the 93rd annual AOTA conference, about 6,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy students made the trip to beautiful San Diego. Tuesday and Wednesday were designated for the student delegates, where we heard from well-known speakers such as Amy Lamb, Gail Fisher and the current AOTA president, Florence Clark. We discussed amongst ourselves about SOTA and the similarities and differences at each school. We also learned about AOTPAC and the importance of political action for our profession.

I learned that OT is a small world, even though we exceeded the maximum capacity, according to the fire marshal, in the grand hall where the keynote speaker presented his story—which was a breath-taking and inspiring one! The expo was exciting and more than what it was hyped up to be. I can't put into words the way experiencing conference felt. But I do know that I will be returning in the future, and maybe, just maybe, it will be from an occupational therapist perspective next time.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!