

# SOTA

West Virginia University SOTA Fall Newsletter



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## Grads Rock Capitol Hill!

By: Ashley Hudson



On 9/30/13 the WVU occupational therapy class of 2014 participated in AOTA's Capitol Hill Day. The grad class split up into groups in order to advocate for our profession during congressional meetings. One of the major bills that was discussed in these meetings was The Medicare Part B Outpatient Therapy Caps. Students spoke to the congressmen or health care liaisons about the importance on repealing the arbitrary \$1900 therapy cap for the Medicare Part B Outpatient, which limits the access to medically necessary rehabilitation services for all Medicare patients seeking outpatient services. It is so important to advocate for those that this cap affects including those receiving services in Part B settings including skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation agencies, hospitals, and outpatient clinics. This was such a great opportunity for the graduating class to advocate for their future patients and their profession!





## Halloween at HealthSouth

By: Cameron Jougras

On October 29<sup>th</sup> SOTA members lined the hallways of HealthSouth with their patients to handout candy to eager trick-or-treaters. Lots of candy was passed out and then the children participated in many Halloween themed activities. They enjoyed many OT related activities including painting pumpkins, bowling, and searching for items in buckets filled with mysteriously scary things. The kids and patients alike enjoyed this event and the activities provided. Big thanks to the SOTA students who helped out with this community event, and made everyone's Halloween special!

### **Future clinicians turn into minions!!!**



## SOTA participates in WVU's Trunk or Treat!

By: Cameron Jougras

Lots of SOTA students helped hand out massive amounts to candy to over 1000 kids attending WVU's annual trunk or treat. It was a great time to get together with other WVU student organizations and help out the community. Our theme was Despicable Me, and there were minions all around. Most importantly it was a chance to get word of our profession out into the world, and give back to the children.

## Autism Support Group – Halloween Style

By: Abbi Huggins

On Saturday, October 26th members of SOTA were fortunate enough to once again play a major role in helping to carry out a successful Halloween event with Playworks. The students were asked to create activities for adults and children who are at both ends of the spectrum of mental and physical abilities. Some of the activities created by the students included, but were not limited to a pumpkin beanbag toss, pin the bow on the skeleton, tabletop crafts, and sensory activities. It was estimated that 25 children and 12 adults were in attendance at the event and able to join in the Halloween themed fun. SOTA members were praised for their creativity and ability to engage the adults and children in activities that exercised motor skills as well as social skills.

## Homecoming was a huge success!

By: Taylor Zonts

Homecoming this year was a huge success for WVU's Occupational Therapy students! All three classes worked hard for weeks to prepare and put together the float for the parade on Friday, October 18. WVU SOTA's float featured state cutouts with words describing the field of occupational therapy, such as "holistic", "client-centered," "ADL's," and "stroke." A large banner on the back, with a hand-drawn "Mountaineer" made by first-year Kathleen Lago, made the float stand out.

While waiting for the parade to begin, students had fun singing and dancing with a children's dance/cheer team and interacting with other student organizations. Over sixty OT students helped during the parade by passing out candy to children and families that lined High Street and holding signs further promoting our profession. "The parade was so much fun! It was great teaching Morgantown about occupational therapy with the rest of my classmates," said first-year Allie Chieppo.





In addition to the success of the homecoming float, our own second-year Bryce Cumpston was crowned Homecoming King at the football game on Saturday, October 19. Congratulations Bryce and all of the OT students on their hard work to promote our profession and be involved in our community!



We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.

- Winston Churchill