

# SOTA

## West Virginia University SOTA April Newsletter



- AOTA Conference
- Buddy Night
- CarFit

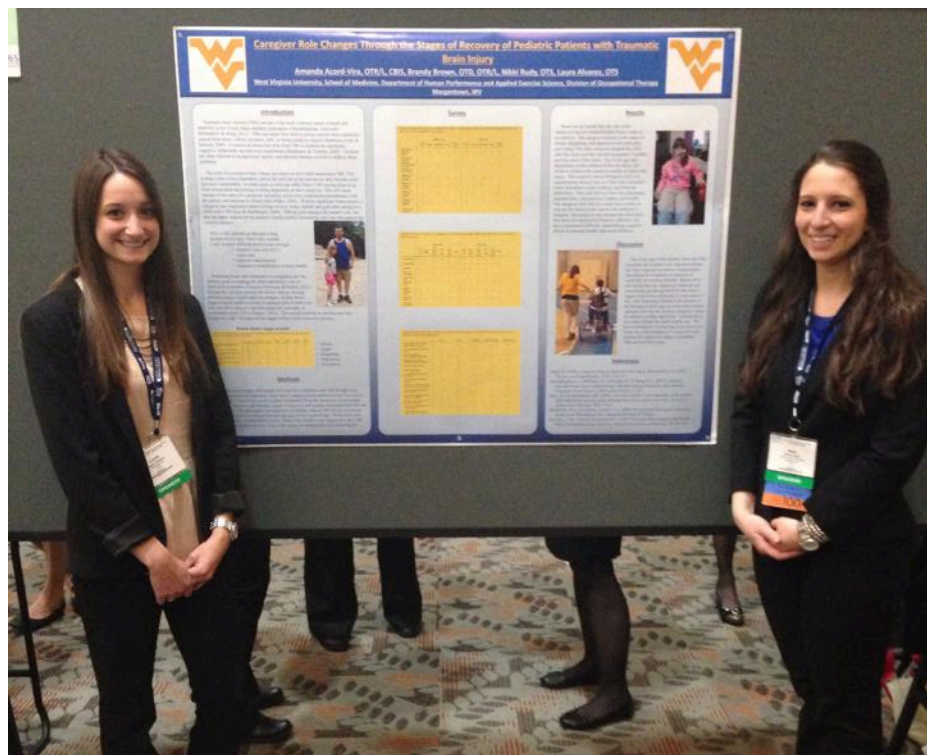
- Kid's Fair
- Relay for Life
- OTs are #1

- Vera Bradley Bingo
- Congrats
- Panera!

## AOTA 94th Annual Conference & Expo

Our research project was chosen to present at the 2014 AOTA conference submitting our literature review to AOTA. Our research project is *Caregiver Role Changes Through the Stages of Recovery of Pediatric Patients with Traumatic Brain Injuries*. Both of us are very passionate about the pediatric population so we are interested in seeing how caregivers are affected by a child's TBI and how this ultimately has an impact on the recovering child. Amanda Acord-Vira and Brandy Brown are our research chairs for this project and we are very appreciative to them for helping us to succeed in our research. While at the AOTA conference we were given the opportunity to speak with countless people in the field of occupational therapy. We were able to share our research with them, but we also learned a lot from so many respected occupational therapists. This was such a valuable experience for not only our education, but for our futures as occupational therapists. Since we are early on in our research we have limited results, but we look forward to continuing our research into our third year.

Nikki Rudy and  
Laura Alvarez





# Welcome Class of 2017!



Buddy Night took place on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Health Science Center, where the class of 2016 welcomed all 40 of the newly accepted students of Occupational Therapy into the program. The Class of 2017 consists of 35 females and 5 males. As everyone found their buddies, the class of 2016 set up some games in order to “break the ice” with the incoming class. Through a map activity we learned the incoming class of 2017 has students from all over, ranging from Virginia to New York. Later on in the night, the class of 2016 offered helpful advice to the new students including expectations for their first year in the program, how to better prepare for anatomy lab, and helpful tips as to where students can purchase dress clothes/ polo’s. A slide show of important events and memories over the past year was made by Kate Wagoner and helped to showcase that while the OT program can seem daunting at times, there are rewarding experiences and memories that take place throughout the duration of the program that will last a lifetime. Buddy night concluded with a tour around the Health Science center and lastly, the first photo of the Class of 2017. On behalf of the entire West Virginia University Occupational Therapy Program, I would like to give a warm welcome to the Class of 2017. Good luck to you all over the years to come! We look forward to seeing you all around campus!

Jessica Willoughby, Class of 2016

# CarFit!

AAA and SOTA held a community event on March 22<sup>nd</sup> called CarFit. CarFit is a free service to the community in which trained volunteers provide information to enhance the safety of individuals behind the wheel.



Volunteers from SOTA and the community helped to conduct CarFit check-ups and were an integral component to making the event a success. Anne Cronin and Amanda Accord helped to head the student body and were the occupational therapists present to address any specific needs of individuals. Several local business and healthcare facilities provided items to place in bags as a thank you to individuals that came for a "check-up". These contributors included: Hand and Upper Extremity Rehab, HealthSouth, Mon Healthcare, Fairmont General Health Plexus, West Virginia Discount Medical, Reliable Healthcare Solutions, AAA, and Right at Home. The goal in the future is to host more CarFit events and get the word out to the community that SOTA is a powerful presence. Thank you to all who participated in and made the event possible.  
Emily Garland, Class of 2016



# KID'S FAIR!



The WVU Hospital Kid's Fair was held this year on Saturday, April 5 from 10am to 3pm. The theme was superheroes and everywhere you looked you could spot a Batman, Spiderman, or Wonderwoman. Kids could enjoy games, shows, and even sit in an ambulance while their parents and guardians received information on how to help their child live a healthy lifestyle. Many booths also provided screenings for the children to be assessed with. The SOTA booth had three games, including egg toss into colored bowls, balloon tennis, and a bean sensory bin. All the children seemed to enjoy the games and got a lollipop just for participating, which is always a crowd pleaser. We also provided information on play and appropriate toys for children. This is such an unique experience and is fun for all involved as demonstrated by first year Sherain Thomas, "I'm from Oak Hill, West Virginia and I've never seen any organization host a kids fair before. We have things such as Camp Kismet and Energy Express during the summer along with many other programs dedicated to educating the children. However, none seemed to be quite as focused on health like this one. There were multiple healthcare organizations involved at the kids fair and it really attracted the community. I enjoyed helping with the kids fair and I hope that I can take what I learned from the experience back to my home town and share it with others!"

Meggie Menarcheck, Class of 2015



## Relay for Life!

On Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> members of SOTA helped to make West Virginia University's Relay for Life a huge success. 77 members joined the OT team to fundraise for cancer research. These efforts raised \$2,740 towards the event's total of \$96,390. This year, the OT team was also fortunate to have help from the Pre-OT club. The Pre-OT club organized several Sweet Frog Fundraisers and sold t-shirts to benefit our fundraising goal.

Students who attended the event volunteered selling t-shirts, water, and lollipops. Through these efforts our team raised a significant amount of money for cancer research while promoting OT within our community. We were one of very few teams who remained at Relay the entire night. There was a constant "sea" of OT shirts seen walking around the track. Out of our 77-team members numerous students also dedicated their time to the Relay for Life committee. These members ensured the event ran smoothly by attending meetings and working the night of the event. Regardless of how exhausted these members were, they could be found cleaning up after the event. I could not be more proud of the

Occupational Therapy program's involvement in Relay for Life of 2014! Thank you all for your support and fundraising efforts!

Rebecca Shark,  
Class of 2016

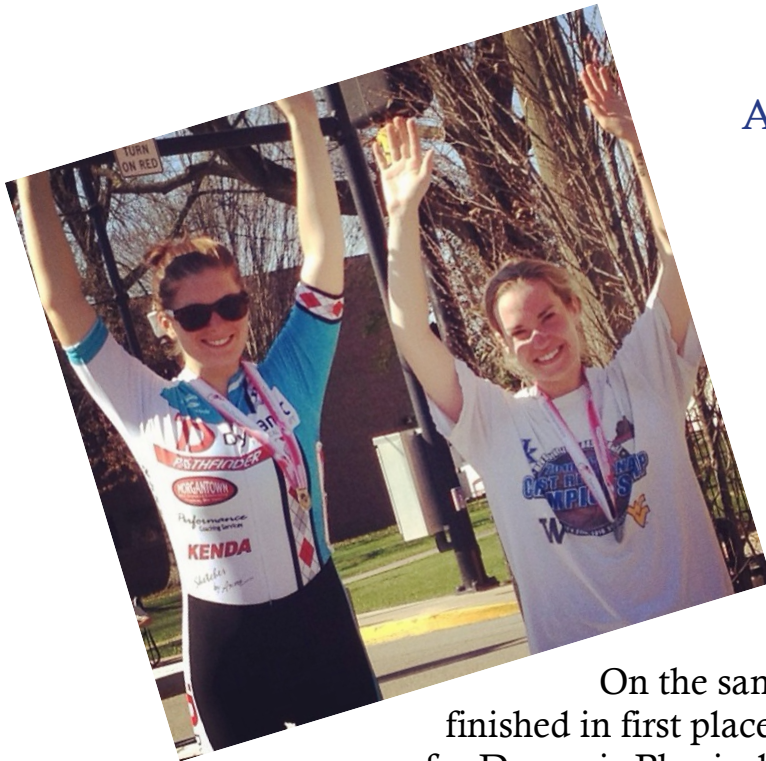




## OT Students are #1!

On Saturday, April 12th, 2014, the WVU Pre-Occupational Therapy Club hosted the first annual “Run for FUNction”. The purpose of this run was to promote Occupational Therapy throughout the community. One way that we accomplished this was by providing pamphlets about Occupational Therapy to the runners. We also decided to donate part of the proceeds from the run to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Overall, this was a successful event and the WVU Pre-OT Club looks forward to hosting this event for many years to come!

Josh Eppinger, Class of 2017



At the Run for FUNction,  
second year Eric Lopez  
finished in first place!  
Congrats, Eric!

On the same day, first year Cara Bacher finished in first place with her public cycling team for Dynamic Physical Therapy in Clarksburg. Cara completed the most laps within the 45-minute closed loop track and won the title of state champ!

# Vera Bradley Bingo

## Coming Soon!

On September 27<sup>th</sup> our program will be hosting its very first Vera Bradley Bingo! This event will take place at St. John's Parish, between 12:00-2:00pm. Although we are still in the process of getting everything finalized, this is something SOTA is very excited about. Currently we have 14 Vera Bradley bags for bingo, (courtesy of Taylor Zont's mother). SOTA is looking for sponsors for each bag that we have, that way we can make a profit at bingo night. All of the money made the night of the Vera Bradley Bingo will be spilt up between SOTA charities. We are asking all the SOTA members to go around to businesses and see if they would like to sponsor a bag, or donate something for bingo - every little bit helps! Also if this is something that you are interested in and want to get more involved you can email Megan Carbacio to become a part of the Vera Bradley Bingo committee. We really need a first year student to be a part of this committee in order to learn the ropes so that next year they can help coordinate the event. During summer break try to make an effort to ask business around to help support us, we need the participation from all SOTA members in order to make this a successful event!

Jessica Willoughby, Class of 2016







Congratulations to the grads as they finish up their last fieldwork, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> years for entering their last year in OT school and to the 1<sup>st</sup> years as they finish up their first fieldwork and their first year!

Happy OT month,  
Good luck on finals,  
And have a great summer!

Don't forget! – Panera will be provided Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-2PM for students that are in good standing.