

WVU Occupational Therapy E-News

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Mon 7/31/2023 1:20 PM

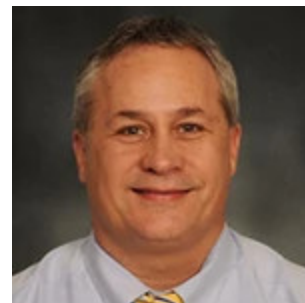
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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Our July 2023 edition of the WVU OT E-News will once again feature the accomplishments and positive impacts of our alumni, faculty, and students.

The spring 2023 semester culminated with the graduation of WVU's 25th Occupational Therapy Master's Program graduating class. The event marked the beginning of the Division of Occupational Therapy's 25th anniversary celebration, which will include a number of events over the next year. Prior to the graduation ceremony at the WVU Coliseum, students, families, and faculty gathered at the WVU Mountainlair to celebrate the many successes of the 2023 MOT graduating cohort. Student award winners included Haleigh Parsons, Madison Bailey, Chloe Payne, Kaylee McKenzie, Kassie Frohnafel, Chandler McCormack, and Olivia Hinkle along with the leaders of the Student Occupational Therapy Association. In addition, [Ester Jones](#), MOT program alum and Chief Compliance Officer with Odyssey Rehabilitation, was the recipient of this year's outstanding alumni award.



Spring 2023 also marked the first pinning ceremony for the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program. Together with the MOT 2023 (December 2023) cohort, students participated in the long-standing tradition marking the transition to level II fieldwork following two years of occupational therapy coursework. The highly attended event included a visit from WVU Mountaineer Mascot Mary Roush and an inspiring speech from [Missy Covert](#), MOT program alum and Rehabilitation Director at Camden Clark Medical Center.



The 2023-2024 academic year will mark 25 years of graduating students with the MOT degree. To commemorate our [25th anniversary](#), the Division of Occupational Therapy will continue our efforts throughout the 2023-2024 academic year through a number of events including continuing education events and

networking.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The Division had a notable presence at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Kansas City. Seven faculty led a total of nine presentations over the four-day event in April, highlighting many of the innovative and impactful research, service, and teaching currently happening within the Division.

In addition, [Dr. Amy Burt](#) received the AOTA Interprofessional Collaboration Award and [Dr. Jacob Greenfield](#), via his role as WVOTA President, received the ASAP Healthcare Reform / Advocacy Award for the Association's work on the fair co-pay bill. Fifteen students from the WVU Doctoral and Master's programs joined the faculty at the event.

Faculty and students also attended the West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury Conference with five students presenting their research projects as part of the conference poster session and [Dr. Heather Livengood](#) presenting on interventions for common vision-related deficits associated with traumatic brain injury.

[Dr. Steven Wheeler](#) and [Dr. Amanda Acord-Vira](#) were recently featured in the AOTA podcast Everyday Evidence. This episode reviewed the Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults with traumatic brain injury and is available to [listen online](#).

EXPLORE MORE

*“The Pride of West Virginia”–The Mountaineer Marching Band
is proud to present our
2023 Feature Twirlers!*



Join us in congratulating second year MOT student Kristen Cox who will continue to serve as feature twirler in the Pride of West Virginia, the Mountaineer Marching Band. Cox is preceded by a number of proud OT alumni who participated in the Mountaineer Marching Band over the years as instrumentalists, drumline members, and color guard members.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

As leaders in the field of occupational therapy, WVU OT alumni continue to achieve success and recognition. Please join us in congratulating the alumni who have earned certifications and recognitions recently.

Building upon robust clinical experiences, WVU MOT alum [Amanda Baltusnik, OTD, OTR/L, CSRS](#), has earned a Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Shenandoah University. Currently working full-time in the school system, Baltusnik also earned the Certified Stroke Rehabilitation Specialist (CSRS) credential in 2020 and launched a mobile outpatient occupational therapy clinic. She has been a clinical instructor for a number of fieldwork students and was nominated for clinical instructor of the year at Shenandoah University.

Alum [Lindsey Elliott, MOT, OTR/L](#), was recognized with the Employee of the Year Award at Therapy Services LLC. Building upon her experience from a local inpatient rehabilitation setting, Elliott currently provides outpatient occupational therapy services to adults and

children with a variety of conditions. She recently obtained her Certified Autism Specialist certification and is the Autism Center Supervisor. Her current projects include designing a sensory gym space, community integration, and developing an Autism parent support group for the community. In addition to her roles as an occupational therapist, Elliot also is a mom of triplet toddlers, enjoys listening to podcasts, and also serves as a majorette instructor and theatre choreographer.

[Luke Davis, MOT, MBA, OTR/L](#), was appointed by Governor Daniel J. McKee to the Permanent Advisory Commission on Traumatic Brain Injuries to represent community-based services in Rhode Island. Combined with his educational and clinical expertise, Davis currently serves in the role of Regional Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation Services in Rhode Island for the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network. In this role, he has oversight of nine outpatient clinics in the Care New England network for Kent Hospital, Women & Infants Hospital, and the CNE Medical Group. Additionally, he provides oversight for inpatient therapy at Women & Infants Hospital.

Congratulations to [Katie Decker, MOT, OTR/L](#), on her recent promotion to the position of Area Director of Operations with Century Solutions.

Know a WVU OT alum who should be featured? [Submit nominations via our online form.](#)

CONNECT WITH US

A renewed commitment to alumni relations and outreach is among the many goals of the Division's strategic plan. Current initiatives include a virtual journal club, Division-sponsored continuing education, electronic newsletter and annual report and AOTA Conference social events. Those interested in participating can contact [SueAnn Woods](#).

All alumni, friends, faculty, fieldwork supervisors, and current students are invited to our gatherings every month. If you have not participated in one of our prior events, please register using [our convenient online form](#).

For more information on the WVU Division of Occupational Therapy, visit our [website](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), or send us an [email](#). We look forward to hearing from you. Let's go, Mountaineers!

[Steven Wheeler, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, CBIS](#)
Professor & Chairman

STAY CONNECTED

Support Occupational Therapy

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