

WVU Occupational Therapy E-News

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Division of Occupational Therapy JANUARY 2021 NEWS UPDATE



The Fall 2020 semester has been unlike any other in the history of WVU's [Master of Occupational Therapy](#) program. The coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented challenges to clinical fieldwork, on-campus learning and program admissions. Despite these potential barriers, our clinical partners, students, faculty and staff have worked within the necessary precautions to continue all aspects of program operations. The use of a hybrid delivery model during the pandemic has increased lecture content in online formats. Lab activities have continued on campus with a commitment to social distancing, use of masks and gloves, frequent handwashing and enhanced sanitization of equipment, furniture and the general lab setting. With COVID-19 cases continuing to rise locally and across the country, it is anticipated

that this approach will remain in effect through the spring 2021 semester.

Davis promoted to Vice Chair

Shortly after Dr. Wheeler assumed his position as Chair of the [Division of Occupational Therapy](#), [Dr. Diana Davis](#) was appointed Division Vice Chair. According to Wheeler: “Diana has a great work ethic and is an established leader within WVU as well as at the state and national levels.” Davis is past president of the West Virginia Occupational Therapy Association and currently serves as a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Representative Assembly. Davis will also serve as Program Director for the developing entry-level [Occupational Therapy Doctorate](#) (OTD) program, which is currently in the process of accepting its inaugural cohort with a May 2021 start date. The OTD program received candidacy status from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) in December 2020. The OTD program will now begin the process of completing the full accreditation self-study. An on-site evaluation will be completed by ACOTE before the first class completes the academic curriculum.

Renovations slated for Occupational Therapy lab

After more than 20 years of use, the Occupational Therapy lab, located on the first floor of the Health Sciences Center, will undergo a much-needed renovation during the Spring 2021 semester. The project includes sectioning off areas to facilitate greater access to the lab by students and faculty throughout the day. Technology upgrades, a newly designed activities of daily living apartment area, and a conference room/library will be among the changes that will supplement the current teaching area and makers space.

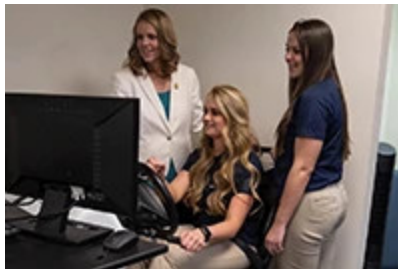
Occupational Therapy outreach activities expand

A renewed commitment to alumni relations and outreach is among the many goals of the Division’s strategic plan. Current initiatives include a virtual happy hour, Division-sponsored continuing education, a quarterly 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 informal virtual happy hour gathering on the first Thursday of every month. Please join us Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021, anytime from 8-9 p.m. EST. Children, pets and/or coworkers are invited to make guest appearances, as well. If you have not participated in one of our prior events, please register using [our convenient online form](#).

EXPLORE MORE

WVU Division of Occupational Therapy continues legacy of excellence in teaching



The WVU Division of Occupational Therapy is proud to have been awarded four excellence in teaching awards among faculty members. Two OT faculty members received 2019 School of Medicine Distinguished Teacher Award honors. Dr. Amy Kurowski-Burt received the senior-level award, while SueAnn Woods received the honor at the junior level.

Funding for WVU Division of OT service and research reaches unprecedented levels in 2020



Despite the coronavirus pandemic, faculty from WVU's Division of Occupational Therapy have emerged as leaders on a number of external grant-funded projects impacting numerous areas of clinical practice and educational outreach. In total, Division faculty serve as principal investigators on more than \$1 million in externally funded projects for the 2020-'21 academic year. These important projects will expand the impact of occupational therapy in three critical areas affecting West Virginians: traumatic brain injury, opioid addiction and assistive technology.

Retired toxicology professor returns to pickleball with help from WVU Occupational Therapy

When a hand injury impaired retired toxicology professor Dr. Mark Reasor, he lost the ability to play pickleball. As a sport involving elements of badminton, tennis and ping-pong, hand function is essential to safe and successful performance. Dr. Reasor attended occupational therapy sessions with Certified Hand Therapist SueAnn Woods, MOT, OTR/L, CHT, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy at West Virginia University.

Wix innovates level 1 fieldwork for Occupational Therapy students



Combining her personal passions of OT education, telehealth and spina bifida awareness, Dr. Amy Wix, OTD, OTR/L, recently innovated a virtual level 1 fieldwork experience for Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) students. When the COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of available fieldwork sites, Dr. Wix rose to the challenge and created an innovative experience for students.

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](#), Ph.D., OTR/L
Professor & Chairman*

STAY CONNECTED

Support the Division of Occupational Therapy

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