



Stony Brook
University

SOTA Newsletter

Fall 2012

School of Health Technology and Management
Occupational Therapy Program

Getting Involved in the Community: HLVS “Babysitting Night”

By: Kristina Albert, Class of 2014

The Hagedorn Little Village School (HLVS), *Jack Joel Center for Special Children*, is a not-for-profit school providing education and therapeutic services for children with developmental disabilities. Approximately five hundred children attend the school, with ages ranging from birth through elementary school. The occupational therapy services offered provide individualized treatment sessions, as mandated by their Individual Education Plans (IEP's), to help children improve in various areas, including: sensory processing (there is a sensory gymnasium on site), upper extremity strength and coordination, prehension and fine motor development, visual-motor skills, perceptual-cognitive skills, activities of daily living, and self-care skills. In addition, since occupational therapists are part of the multi-disciplinary team, they consult with the classroom staff, as well as other therapists.

In May 2010, “Babysitting Night” was introduced for HLVS families. This event benefits both the child and their family, by providing them with a night of fun occupation-based activities. In the past, Stony Brook OT students have volunteered at this event, and found the experience rewarding and beneficial in their understanding of occupational therapy in that setting. This event gives students the opportunity to obtain hands on experience working with children with various diagnoses, such as: autistic spectrum disorders, social/emotional issues, speech/language delays, motor impairments, visual impairments, and/or substantial medical issues.

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Student Perspective: Delegate at AOTA Conference

By: David Valvano, Class of 2013

The Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) is made up of elected OT/OTA students from all around the country. Their mission is to support the student members of AOTA by communicating their interests and advancing their professional contributions. Having the opportunity to represent Stony Brook OT as the student delegate was an exciting and rewarding experience. This past April, in Indianapolis, I attended the ASD annual conference as well as AOTA's annual conference. I was responsible for communicating the highlighted topics to the Stony Brook OT population. The ASD annual meetings occur in the two days leading up to AOTA's annual conference. During these meetings, I had the opportunity to speak with delegates from OT programs all over the country. I heard some of the most impactful and passionate OT professionals share their responsibilities, experiences, and expectations for the future of the profession. A few weeks after the conference, I emailed a powerpoint presentation to the students highlighting the important topics from all of the lectures I attended. The four-day trip truly opened my eyes to a new avenue of occupational therapy that we don't directly get to experience in our curriculum. The world of politics, healthcare, and policy are what ultimately shapes our practice. Having the opportunity

to hear the president of AOTA, Florence Clarke, and the director of Federal Affairs, Tim Nanoff, speak of these issues helped me understand the importance of active and passionate membership in our nationally recognized organization. AOTA is the most important organization we can be a part of. Although many students are not aware of the benefits of membership, I can assure you that our costs go much further than access to AJOT. With our membership we help fund the AOTPAAC (political action committee). They define what occupational therapy is to policy makers and convince them of our value. Not many of us would be comfortable in that position, as we may still get tripped up defining what we are in school for to our friends and family. In the end, this experience was one that I'm very grateful for. Not only has it raised my awareness of how our membership works and the policies surrounding our practice, it has sparked a passion and respect for representing occupational therapy on a larger scale.

"...helped me understand the importance of active and passionate membership in our nationally recognized organization"

Next year's conference will be in San Diego, California. Elections for the delegate position will be held in December. If any students are interested and have questions, feel free to e-mail Dave at: dave.valvano@gmail.com

Stony Brook SOTA Community Events



“The Barbie’s Angel Foundation” Toy Drive: (Now-October 26th)

A community service project where donated Barbie dolls, beanie babies, matchbox cars, and action figures will be shipped to Mexico and distributed to the children at Christmas time. Drop-off boxes will be available in OT classrooms for any donations from the HSC community.

For more information, contact Jacklyn at:
jacklyniannitti@yahoo.com

Breast Cancer Walk for Beauty (October 14th)

Join us for a 6K walk on Stony Brook campus to support breast cancer research at the Stony Brook University Medical Center and to buy wigs for cancer patients in need. <http://stonybrookmedicine.edu/walkforbeauty>



Chili’s Fundraising Night: (October 17th)

All are invited to eat at the local Chili’s throughout the day where 10% of the proceeds will go to the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) at Stony Brook University. See the attached flyer for more information!

Spooky Walk: (October 26th)

Come join us for a fun night to raise money for children and adults with special needs who attend Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck. With only a \$15 price, this 45 minute haunted walk is sure to be a fun social event for the OT community. For more information, go to <http://www.spookywalk.com>



OT Global Day of Service: (October 27th)

To participate in our global day of service, Stony Brook OT students will be volunteering at the annual HANDS Halloween Costume Party benefiting adults with special needs. For more information, contact Jacklyn at: jacklyniannitti@yahoo.com

***Look out for more upcoming events in November:
Middle Country Beer Garden Fundraiser - (November 18th)*
1st Annual OT Family Thanksgiving Pot-Luck - (November 14th)****

**Date subject to change*

(Continued from page 1)

Volunteers are also vital in making this event successful. According to Jon Feingold, Executive Director, “our students require a very intensive adult to child ratio for their educational and recreational activities. Volunteers enable us to offer a safe ratio by giving us a larger pool of qualified adults to run this program.” Occupational therapy students, who previously participated in this experience, recommended it to their fellow OT students, and plan on doing it again. Morgan Weissman, class of 2014, stated “It felt great to be able to help the parents have a night out to focus on themselves! The kids were fun to be around, and I recommend all OT students to get involved.” Chelsea Igoe, class of 2014, went on to mention that “parents of special needs children experience a lot of stress and many were grateful for the opportunity to be able to take a night off knowing their child is well taken care of.” Personally, the most rewarding experience of the night was getting everyone involved in the activities. The volunteers helped the students participate in arts and crafts, dancing, and various gym activities. Some of the children experience issues with socialization, and the volunteers were able to get them to “bust a move” on the dance floor, a moment that brought a smile to everyone’s face.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Hagedorn Little Village School “Babysitting Night”, a date will be announced soon. If you would like more information about the school, and the events held there, visit the website at: <http://www.littlevillage.org>. In the mean time, stay involved in the OT community and keep an open mind to any other volunteering experiences!

Alumni

Connection

Aarty Dayaram, Class of 2010

Currently, I’m working in Early Intervention/CPSE and in adult acute rehab. Having the field so broad, and being able to be in so many different practice areas has been hard since I like everything. The faculty at Stony Brook is amazing, and no matter what, I can always contact them for advice and they are always there with an open heart. I would like to thank all of them! And to all the future OT’s, keep your heart open and dream big. The possibilities are endless!

Casey Minardi, Class of 2010

Currently, I work at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital located in White Plains, New York. Burke provides yearly rotations to the 7 different units available. I started on the Double joint replacement/amputee unit and currently work on the Brian Injury/Spinal Cord Injury unit. I learn something new everyday from a co-worker, patient, or caregiver. So far, I have taken four continuing education classes, and have been certified as a Kinesio-Taping practitioner. I’ve been a clinical fieldwork supervisor for level 1 and 2 students and Occupational Therapy volunteers. I absolutely LOVE my job, which is an amazing feeling! Some advice for current students, when school gets you stressed, put on "Boogie Shoes" by KC and the Sunshine Band and have a little dance break. Major stress reliever!

Joann Dang, Class of 2010

After graduation, I dove into pediatrics. In the first year, I worked with children with Asperger’s Syndrome between 11-17 years old. The following year I switched over to younger kids with mild to moderate developmental delays from mainly preschool to school age, which I completely feel more comfortable with. As for the future, I will most likely continue treating the pediatric population, but I may also look into designing adaptive equipment for adults and children with physical dysfunction.

2012-2013 SOTA Executive Board



Jessica
Hammer



James
Descalso Jr.



Sandy
Chung



Danielle
Hefets



Jacklyn
Iannitti



Lauren
Santoro



Nina
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Community Service Chair: Jacklyn Iannitti- jacklyniannitti@yahoo.com

Social Chair: Lauren Santoro- LaurenDSantoro@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair: Nina Tikkanen- ntikkanen@gmail.com

Historian: Samantha Truono- srtruono@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kimberly Waletitsch- kimberly.waletitsch@gmail.com

Liaisons:

1st year: Erin Skelly- erin.skelly@stonybrook.edu

2nd year: Lauren Jaklitsch- Jakllm98@gmail.com

3rd year: Joseph Brunner- jbrunner@ic.sunysb.edu

Weekend 2nd year: Raquel Mahon- raquel_mahon@yahoo.com

Weekend 3rd year: Joshua Diaz- jdiaz726@gmail.com

HSA Delegate: Chelsea Igoe- chelsea.igoe@stonybrook.edu

Notes from the Chair

By: Dr. Eva Rodriguez

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SOTA Calendar: October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 SOTA meeting 12-1pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Fundraising Comm. Meeting 12-12:30pm	11 Newsletter Comm. Meeting 12-12:30pm	12	13
14 Breast Cancer Walk for Beauty 8:30am	15	16	17 Chili's Fundraiser Comm. Serv. Meeting 12-1pm	18	19	20
21	22 Fundraising Comm. Meeting 1-1:30pm	23	24 Newsletter Comm. Meeting 12:30-1 pm	25 E-board meeting 9-10am	26 Spooky Walk 6pm	27 Global Day of Service (HANDS) 12:30-3:30
28	29 Social Comm. Meeting 1-1:30	30	31 HSC Fall Festival 11:30- 1:00pm			

SOTA Calendar: November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Newsletter Comm. Meeting 12-12:30pm	2	3 Wknd. SOTA Meeting
4	5 Social Comm. Meeting 1-1:30	6	7 SOTA meeting 12-1pm	8 Fundraising Comm. Meeting 4-4:30pm	9	10
11	12 Comm. Serv. Comm. Meeting 1-2:00pm	13	14 Fund. Comm. Meeting 12-12:30pm - Newsletter Comm Meeting 12:30-1pm - SANE event	15 OT Pot Luck 12-1pm	16	17
18 Beer Garden Fundraiser	19 Social Comm. Meeting 1-1:30	20	21 Thanksgiving Recess	22 Thanksgiving Recess	23 Thanksgiving Recess	24
25	26	27	28 -E-board meeting 12-1pm -HSC Winter Fest	29	30 Babysitting Night 6-8:30	

CHILI'S IS PROUD TO SUPPORT SBU STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (SOTA)



With each flyer presented on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 Chili's will donate 10% of the sales you bring in to your organization. Let us do the cooking and support Student Occupational Therapy Association at the same time.

SBU Student Occupational Therapy
Association (SOTA) night is:

October 17, 2012
from 11am - 11 pm

only at:

Chili's - South Setauket
280 Pond Path

South Setauket, NY 11720-2006
631-580-2842 - www.chilis.com

We look forward to seeing you here.



Give Back Night flyer required with each check to receive credit for the sale. Sale cannot be included in donation amount without flyer. Offer only valid on the date and location stated above. Donations will not be given on sales made prior to or past this date.

