

FLORIDA
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THERAPY
ASSOCIATION

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

- G'Day from the President 2
- OT Meets FL Gov. Charlie Crist 3
- FOTA DAY at the Capitol 4
- News from the Capitol 5
- ONLINE EDUCATION : FOTA WEBINARS 6
- FOTA AWARDS WINNERS 7
- FLOTEC: Superior Fieldwork Educators 10

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FOCUS



SPRING ISSUE

APRIL 2010

IN MEMORIAM –

Marian Sue Glattauer Dudley, OTR, FAOTA.

Occupational therapy in the state of Florida recently lost a champion for excellence. Suze Dudley passed away from an extended illness on April 5th, 2010, surrounded by her family. Suze's contribution to the education of OT Practitioners was legendary. She served as tenured faculty at FIU for many years, before leaving to develop the educational program at Nova Southeastern University. She was known to tackle new projects and to push the boundaries of education. Along with Diane Ward, Suze developed the software 'Fieldwork Clerk' which continues to be used by educational programs to schedule fieldwork. A team player, Suze is fondly remembered by her past students as one who would go the extra mile for them.

Her lifetime of service within FOTA and AOTA contributed greatly to the OT profession in Florida.

In 1987, Suze was awarded a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Assn in recognition of her service. The idea to coordinate and the implementation of the Great Southern Occupational Therapy Conference (GSOTC) with others is one of her legacies. This originally was planned as the Southern OT Conference that would be located in a southern city and no-one involved with the initial planning knew the success that this event became. Suze was the person that worked behind the landscape; whether it was the educational program, organizing speakers, formatting a schedule. Her hours behind the scenes were

many and contributed to the success of this event.

Within FOTA, Suze held many offices and was well respected as President. She mentored new Presidents and other leaders as they worked for FOTA. Her support of FOTA saw her spending many hours and years of involvement and leadership to her State Assn. Suze was awarded an Honorary FOTA membership for her contribution to FOTA some years ago.

Even in 2009, shortly after becoming ill, Suze was still working on behalf of FOTA. As President, I needed some advice on information

needed for a Committee task.

Reaching out to Suze was easy and within days, I had the information I needed for FOTA – she always had the time to assist or comment whether she knew you or not... the fact is if you were working on behalf of FOTA, then that was all she needed to hear!

So, as we all remember Suze Dudley, let us remember her husband Bob, her children and grandchildren. But let us also remember her legacy. As Bob wrote on April 5th, 2010:

"Suze went to heaven today at 9:20am. She died peacefully in her sleep. Her last thoughts were about you and the good

times you shared with her. Suze's life enriched us all. Think about her often, when you see a sunrise, a sunset, a rainbow, a clown and brightly colored balloons. God blessed us with her life and easy death. Now... she belongs to the Ages"

Respectfully submitted by; Sara-Jane Crowley, OTR/L and Debra Misrahi, MS, OTR/L.

Remembering



Suze Dudley

A "Day on the Hill" For FOTA. Day at the Capitol on March 31, 2010.



G'Day from the President



*FOTA President
Sara-Jane Crowley*

As you read this, FOTA will have hosted a successful 'Day on the Hill' in Tallahassee and be finalizing plans for our Annual Business Meeting to be held at the AOTA Convention in Orlando in April. In 2009, the Executive Board looked at the membership classification of Honorary Membership. Following work by an Ad Hoc Committee, the Board approved unani-

mously a new policy. The objective criteria and procedure for this will allow FOTA to increase our Honorary Membership numbers appropriately, with a new nomination form to be posted on the FOTA website. As part of the new criteria, it was decided to grant **Honorary Membership** to all past and future recipients of FOTA's highest honor – the **Louise Samson Leadership Award**. This award is given to OT Practitioners who have demonstrated a significant contribution in leadership to FOTA and the profession of OT. Historically, this award is not granted every year.

Our membership is growing and one of our recent membership initiatives – Sustaining Membership is offering OT Practitioners another option to apply/renew membership.

There will be several more membership initiatives launched at our Annual Meeting in Orlando on April 30, 2010. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at that meeting – please come and join us as we celebrate FOTA, our achievements and our Strategic Plan.

Sara-Jane Crowley,

In 2010, FOTA will be bestowing Honorary Memberships to:

Debora Oliveira, Ed.S., OTR/L (1997 winner)

Dana Woods, OT

Barbara Ingram-Rice, OT, CLT, LMT (2005 winner)

Belkis Landa Gonzalez, Ed.D., OTR/L (2006 winner)

James Hammond, MA, OTR/L (2009 winner)

Editor's Notes: This FOCUS Issue: Recognition, Advocacy, and Remembrance.

As newly appointed editor, it is my distinct honor to welcome you to this spring issue of FOCUS. This issue represents a great opportunity to inform you of the latest news and events happening in the FOTA community. More importantly, this issue is devoted to the recognition of the personal contributions of many great OT professionals both past and present. From outstanding fieldwork educators, to our honorary members, to the winners of awards of excellence, and scholarship funds. Perhaps most importantly, is the time taken to reflect, give thanks, and pay tribute to the lives of special individuals like Suze Dudley, who spent years in the service to our profession and our consumers.

This issue also allows us to acknowledge the great efforts and advances being made toward the future of our profession through outreach to the Florida community and Legislature. With the inspiration of our past and present leaders, we can look forward to our future challenges with a sense of hope and enthusiasm as we pause to celebrate— Happy OT Month! Brent Cheyne OT



**Dr. Kurt Hubbard
meets with FL . Gov.
Charlie Crist**



**FOTA WEBMASTER
and COORDINATOR
OF GOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS
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OT Meets with Florida Governor

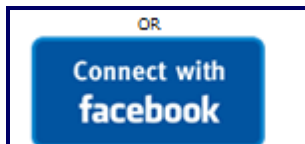
Fellow FOTA members,

I recently had the unique opportunity to speak with our Governor Crist at a reception on February 28th 2010. Even though this was an informal small gathering, I thought it was an opportune time to bend his ear about issues related to OT. In the short time we spoke, we discussed the Medicare therapy cap exceptions process and how this impacts our practice. Another important issue I brought to him was that PT was opening up their practice act to expand their role to include some of the areas that are traditionally within OT's expertise. This gave me a wonderful opportunity to educate him as to what OT does and the unique abilities that we possess. This conversation was about 5 minutes long (a lifetime

for a one-to-one conversation with a politician). He stated that he would keep this in mind and I referred him to the Florida OT advisory board (that he appoints) or myself if he had further questions. I followed up this discussion with a phone call to Gov. Crist's office the following Tuesday morning (March 2nd). As coincidence would have it, his office informed me about some very good news. The good news was that President Obama signed the Temporary Extension Act of 2010 (HR 4691) into law. The main function of this act is to suspend the 21.2% reduction in payments to providers under the Medicare physician fee schedule. Another provision included in this act is that it reinstates the therapy cap exceptions process until March 31, 2010. It is still under inter-

pretation if the exceptions process is retroactive to the first of the year however. In the next coming months I plan to keep calling Gov. Crist's office about our causes with the hopes of his office listening in this primary election year for Florida's Republican Senate nomination. This hotly contested race may give us a unique opportunity to get our voices heard on many issues including maintaining the Medicare cap exception or to abolish the cap all together. So, let's keep the pressure on our elected officials!!!!

To be continued.....
Kurt
Kurt K. Hubbard, PhD(c),
OTD, OTR/L
Assistant Professor
University of St.
Augustine for Health Sciences



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FOTA DAY AT THE CAPITOL



FOTA at the Florida State Legislature: Elena Vizvary, Barbara Ingram-Rice, Debbie Murphy-Fischer, and Sara-Jane Crowley.

We were there were you? FOTA hosted a Day at the Capitol on March

31, 2010. Officers: President Sara-Jane Crowley, VP Elena Vizvary, Government Affairs Coordinator, Barbara Ingram-Rice and AOTA PAC Regional Coordinator Debbie Murphy-Fisher were joined by students at FAMU OT Program to promote the profession of Occupational Therapy to our legislators. We sat in on some of the senate and house sessions when they were discussing bills pertinent to health care and OT. See some of the most pertinent updates in **“News from the Capitol”**.

Physical Therapy has filed a bill in the Senate to update their practice act. However this bill is not moving this session. The senate is not spending any time on it because there is not a companion bill in the house.

Also during the FOTA Day at

the Capitol FOTA representatives of FOTA and FAMU students were recognized in the Gallery of the Senate by Senator Peaden. So Tallahassee definitely knows more about OT than they did before. So again I ask, where were you?

It was an awesome opportunity to impact the legislative process in support of the profession of Occupational Therapy.

A Huge Thank You to the Students and Faculty of the FAMU OT Program for their support of FOTA during the FOTA Day at the Capitol. Submitted by Barbara Ingram-Rice



FOTA Officers with FOTA Lobbyist Larry Gonzalez

FAMU OT Students on “Hill Day”



FAMU Students conduct the “Competition on the Hill”
Sign reads-
WHO’S GOT THE POWER ?
THE HOUSE
OR THE SENATE
TEST YOUR GRIP STRENGTH

**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY**





**FOTA Lobbyist
Larry Gonzalez**

News from the Capitol:

This is a brief update on key Medicaid issues moving in the Legislature this session:

Medicaid Reform. The House Health and Family Services Policy Council approved the filing of a committee bill which was referred to the House Health Care Appropriations Committee. This committee is scheduled to meet one week from tomorrow (Tuesday, April 6) and this bill could be heard at that time. This is the bill that would change the current policy of assigning most Medicaid patients who don't voluntarily choose a health care plan to Medicaid HMOs. Under this bill (see attached) AHCA would instead assign 65% of Medicaid patients who refuse to choose a health care option to "medical homes". The bill would not only establish medical homes as the model for Medicaid, but also would direct the State Department of Management Services to establish a medical home model for the State Group Health Plan. On the Senate side, the companion bill has been referred to the Health Regulation Committee and is co-sponsored by Senator Gaetz, who chairs the committee. That committee meets next Wednesday afternoon, however, the agenda will not be available until this Friday.

Medicaid Behavioral Health Services. SB 476 requires the funds returned to the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) from behavioral health plans that do not spend at least 80 percent of their capitation rate on behavioral health care services, as required by law, must be deposited in the Medical Care Trust Fund and reallocated to the community behavioral health providers in the network of the plan making repayments. Providers must use the funds for any Medicaid-allowable type of community behavioral health and case management service. This bill has cleared two committees in the Senate and its companion bill (HB 583 is in the House Health Care Appropriations Committee that will be meeting next Tuesday.

Health Care Fraud. SB 752 by Senator Gaetz is a clean-up bill to soften some unintended consequences of SB 1986 that passed in 2009 and put licensees who committed felonies many years ago in jeopardy of losing their license even though they subsequently paid their penalty and have now become productive, law-abiding citizens. The bill has cleared on committee and is now in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. HB 7069, a similar bill dealing with background screening of health care providers has already passed the House and is Messages in

Medicaid Home and Community-based Services. SB 1468 reduces the annual maximum expenditure to each client assigned to the Agency for Persons With Disabilities and establishes a budget program for delivery of home and community-based services. The bill expects to save \$25 million/ year. HB 5303, the companion bill, and SB 1468 are both moving quickly through their assigned committees.

FOCUS Trivia Question: What's the difference between a capital and a capitol? The word capitol is used to refer to the building where a legislature (such as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives) meets while the word capital refers to the city which serves as the seat of government.

FOTA Online Education



**Elena Vizvary OTR/L, FOTA
Vice President**

EDUCATION

FOTA's webinar series is underway! This has to be the most convenient way to secure quality continuing education! Imagine - you are at home—in comfy clothes—maybe even your pajamas! There's no extra money spent on travel (gas, babysitter, accommodations, meals away from home). The presenter is nationally known and is speaking on a topic that is relevant and reflects current practice issues. Wow - it doesn't get any better than this!

Plus, if you register for any LIVE webinar presentation,

you can use these 2 continuing education hours towards the 14 live hours you must complete before your license renewal date February 28, 2011. All live webinars are scheduled 7:30 to 9:30pm. Or, if you prefer, you can sign up for the recorded version of any live webinar. The recorded, or "ON DEMAND" webinars are available to you for 30 days to listen to whenever you'd like and as many times as you'd like.

So here's to professional on-line learning!

See you in cyberspace, Elena Vizvary, MS, LOTR. FOTA Vice President and Education Chair.

The upcoming **Live Webinar Events** schedule includes:

May 25
"Hot Topics in School Therapy"
Leslie Jackson,
MED, OT,
FAOTA

June
"Ethics for the Intermediate OT Practitioner"
Barbara Kornblau,
JD, OTR/L, FAOTA

July 15
"A Primer in Pharmacology for the Rehabilitative Professional"
Barbara Gladson,
OTR, PT, PhD

On-Demand webinars currently available:

"The OT Practice Framework: Domain and Practice" Debra Chasanoff MED, OTR/L

"What Every OT Should Know About Vision Impairment in Older Adults" Mary Warren MS, OTR/L, SCLV, FAOTA

Registration fees for live webinars: \$60 members, \$75 non-members

Registration fees for on-demand webinars: \$50 members, \$60 non-members

Complete webinar and speaker information plus webinar registration at www.flota.org

Check this website link often and look for more webinars to be added. Don't forget your FOTA member discount on registrations. A great way to save money!



Congratulations to
all the Winners?

*“If I have seen
further, it is by
standing on the
shoulders of
giants”
-Isaac Newton*

The FOTA Awards Committee is proud to announce the 2010 winners!

The David D Clark Award of Excellence:

This award is for longstanding and significant contribution to the profession of occupational therapy and FOTA in Florida.

Winners Are:

Emily S Pugh MA, OTR/L, LHRM

Emily has been a member of FOTA since 1983. She Co-Chairs in the development of the FOTA Strategic Plan and has served on many FOTA Ad Hoc committees. She is the AOTA RA Representative and does a great job of keeping everyone informed about changes that affect all occupational therapists. She is also an educator for the FL Board of OT Practice teaching ‘The Prevention of Medical Errors’ courses.

Betsy B Burgos MA, OTR/L, ATP

Betsy has held numerous offices within FOTA and other professional organizations. She is passionate about sharing the special skills of occupational therapists around the world. She convinced all of her students to join FOTA and AOTA and to maintain those memberships throughout their careers. She is involved with many civic organizations and has worked with Safe Kids to do car seat checks as well as Hunger and Homeless Coalition for their annual homeless count survey by providing translation services for the Spanish speaking research project. Thanks Betsy for sharing your knowledge and heart with others so freely.

FOTA Award of Recognition:

This award is for outstanding contribution to the recognition and advancement of occupational therapy in Florida. We are fortunate to award 4 winners this year.

Tia Hughes OTR/L

Tia is the Program Chair/Director of the OTA Program at the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences. Tia is always active at the grassroots level in terms of networking and connecting OT practitioners through local forums first in Broward and now Central Florida. She has also served on the 2009 FOTA LCC and in 2010 she is a member of the AOTA LCC. Congratulations Tia for all your efforts.

Saritza Guzman-Sardina M.ED, OTR/L

Saritza has been involved with FOTA since 1998. She has been an OT Practitioner for many years with her current focus on education of OTA students. She has been the Chairperson for FLOTEC (FL OT Educational Consortium) and has worked with the FOTA for a professional and dynamic relationship which advances occupational therapists. She was a member of the FOTA Ad Hoc Committee to evolve the FOTA Lela Llorens Award to include OTA research.

David D Clark OT, FAOTA

David has worked tirelessly for FOTA members as well as FL OT Practitioners and students over many years. He has held multiple positions within AOTA, FOTA and GOTA. David's passion for Occupational Therapy is evident with his involvement to ensure the success of the Association. Since retiring from clinical practice and management in 2000, David continues to promote OT within his local, state and national communities. He has attended every AOTA Convention (except one) since 1964 and all 18 Great Southern OT Conferences. With his decision in 2008 to leave Florida....FOTA lost one of our champions! David in honor of your willingness to go the extra mile - after mile - after mile Thank YOU.

FOTA Award of Recognition continued:

Lauren Green COTA/L

Lauren has consistently sustained the efforts of the Pensacola Bay Area Occupational Therapy Forum since its inception. She is the glue and the GO TO practitioner holding the group together and moving them forward. She has been the Forum secretary for the past 3 years and never tires of volunteering her time, energy and expertise. She has been instrumental in organizing two annual day long CEU events

and quarterly CEU/Forum meetings. She is a catalyst for hard work and effective results. On behalf of the FOTA Executive Board and your fellow practitioners, thank you for your sustained leadership in support of our profession and the Pensacola Bay Area Occupational Therapy Forum.



Lt. Col. Myra McDaniel served in the Army for over 20 years as chief of Occupational Therapy at several Army hospitals and was an active member of AOTA for 52 years. Myra McDaniel had a passion for serving her professional association and the scholarship bearing her name will award senior OT and OTA students who have demonstrated similar passion for the profession of occupational therapy.

Myra McDaniel Student Scholarship Fund

The Myra Fund grants funds to full time students in an ACOTE accredited OT or OTA program. The student must be a member of FOTA and AOTA and be able to demonstrate participation and leadership activities in the upcoming years.

Jennifer Hudak Schevidy

Jennifer is currently enrolled in the Orlando Keiser University Occupational Therapy Assistant program. She expects to graduate in 2010. She has volunteered for Spe-

cial Olympics and currently drives an hour and a half one-way to school each day. She does all this and still maintains a 4.0 GPA. Jennifer, your hard work and determination have not gone unnoticed. You already exhibit a passion for excellence as a student in the Orlando Keiser OTA Program and we are certain you will continue your passion for leadership and excellence following graduation. Congratulations and Best Wishes for continued success!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

FOTA MISSION

The mission of FOTA is to serve as a collective body to support, develop, and represent the occupational therapy profession for the advancement of the practice and to better serve the consumer.

Florida OT Events

The 4th annual College of Allied Health and Nursing Ethics bowl was held on Wednesday evening February 3, 2010.

During this college event, 3-5 member teams from each participating CAHN program debate an ethical scenario in a series of

three rounds. The ethics bowl winning team is selected by a panel of judges for the team's ability to clearly articulate the ethical dilemma and their stance, explain their rationale and apply ethical principals in their argument. The



College and the OT Program are extremely proud of the MOT team members pictured here right to left are year II students, Kayleigh Fessenden, Jennifer Prugh, Courtney Scotchlas, and year I students, Michelle Roe and Laura Burke. Also pictured are OT ethics team coach, Dr. Cathy Peirce, OT faculty cheerleaders and supporters, Dr. Sandee Dunbar and Dr. Judy Parker and OT faculty,



Sarasota/Manatee Pediatric Interest Group

The Sarasota/Manatee Pediatric Interest Group (PIG) met in the evening January 19, 2010 at the Elk's Lodge in Sarasota. Dr. Bobbie Vaughn, USF Associate Professor, spoke on "Positive Behavior Support: An Assessment-Based Approach to Supporting Children with Autism and Related-Disabilities". Dr. Vaughn works with The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at USF and had excellent real-life examples to illustrate her presentation. The PIGs are occupational, physical or speech therapists and others who work with children in local community based or school settings. They are not incorporated, and have no dues or specific membership roster. The group has been in existence for many years and continue to meet periodically to network and share current best practice information.

If you would like to be added to the Sarasota/Manatee PIG e-mail list to be notified of future meetings,

please contact Katy Brand <katybrandATverizon.net>



The OT SOUTH BAY FORUM was held in January at Life Care Center of Sarasota with speakers from COMFORT KEEPERS HOME CARE with a presentation to practitioners on In-Home Care: Expanding Awareness of Service Options and Technologies. The South Bay Forum meets Jan, April, July, and Oct. of each year in the Sarasota-Manatee Areas.

Contact Brent Cheyne at brentcheyneATyahoo.com

FLOTEC RECOGNIZES SUPERIOR FIELDWORK EDUCATORS IN FLORIDA

This April at the AOTA convention the Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA) presented awards to the nominated recipients of the **Fieldwork Educator of the Year for the state of Florida**. The Florida Occupational Therapy Education Consortium (FLOTEC) recognized the dedication and efforts of six Fieldwork Educators. Each was recognized with a plaque, for their efforts providing exemplary mentorship's with students from various schools throughout Florida.

These recipients were nominated by students under their tutelage, and/or Academic Fieldwork Coordinators. FLOTEC extends its appreciation once again to those award recipients, without whom educational institutions could not turn out quality Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants!!! Respectfully submitted by Robin Richmond OT/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Polk State College, OTA Program. On behalf of FLOTEC .



<http://floteceducation.org/>

SUPERIOR FIELDWORK EDUCATORS IN FLORIDA

Cindy Cooley, MSOTR/L Director of Occupational Therapy Independent Living Inc, Tampa

Monica Weller, MS, OTR/L. Therapy Spot, Inc, Boca Raton

Marsha Hoffner, OTR/L Life Care of Winter Haven, Winter Haven

Rosemary Boisvert, MS, OTR/L, CAP. Director of Adult Intensive Treatment Services Transitional Living Center Southwest Florida Addictions Services

Beth Pakulski COTA/L

Leni Ulrich, OTR/L, Pediatric Therapy Associates Plantation, FL

Darren Taylor OT/L, Manor Pines Convalescent Center, Ft. Lauderdale.

FLOTEC Vision Statement

"DEVELOPING A PROACTIVE MIND-SET TO ELEVATE FIELDWORK EDUCATION TO NEW DIMENSIONS, THUS ENSURING THAT THE PRACTITIONERS OF TOMORROW WILL EMBRACE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES."

(Donna Costa, 2006)

Target your Occupational Therapy job search.

Find your next OT position at the
FOTA JobLink



Those big, commercial job boards are inundated daily with new job seekers posting resumes and searching thousands of jobs online. In all that clutter, it's so easy to get lost in the crowd. But when it comes to making career connections in the occupational therapy industry, more and more employers are turning to the Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA). FOTA, a leading OT association has created the FOTA JobLink to help employers find qualified candidates with OT professional skills to fill their open positions. Where better to post your resume and search for a new job than on the same destination that companies in your field are turning?

Get your resume noticed by the people in your field who matter most. Whether you're looking for a new job, or ready to take the next step in your career, we'll help you find the opportunity that you've been looking for.

Visit the FOTA JobLink today to search job listings.

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AN EASY WAY TO JOIN FOTA!

Now membership in FOTA is easier than ever! On the payment page of the Membership Application or Renewal form, choose "Sustaining Membership" and your credit or debit card will be charged just \$7 a month for OT and \$4.50 a month for OTA membership.

We hope this makes membership more affordable and you never have to worry about renewing! Of course you may stop your membership at any time, but you won't want to miss out on all the great benefits of FOTA Membership!

What does the FOTA do for you?

Here are just a few reasons for becoming an FOTA member as FOTA:

- Advocates and promotes the growth of occupational therapy in FL
- Safeguards practice
- Pays a lobbyist for legislative issues
- Offers the FOTA Website, Listserv & Bulletin Board
- Sends FOCUS Newsletters
- Sanctions Continuing Education courses
- Discounts on conferences and offers continuing education
- Updates your clinical skills
- Provides access to exhibitors and vendors
- Membership looks good on your resume
- Offers the opportunity to take required courses for licensure
- Membership in Special Interest Sections
- Attendance at OT Regional Meetings
- Offers professional contacts and networking
- Recognizes people who have contributed to the profession
- Provides a liaison to AOTA
- Supports students with Leadership Funds



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