



## Inside AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy  
Foundation

Fall 2012 Volume 16 Issue 2



### From the Desk of Charles Christiansen, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What part will you play? This is a question that has been on my mind. As we enter the last two months of the year, it is natural for our thoughts to turn to the coming seasonal holidays, and to reflect on the year nearly completed as well as the year ahead. It seems that years are always defined by key activities and by the people who do them.

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### Cara Archer Joins AOTF Staff

Cara Archer joined the Foundation as Development Associate and Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Coordinator in August. Previously, Cara served as development associate and events coordinator with The Prevention of Blindness Society, where she coordinated the society's annual gala, American Girl Fashion Show, and other fundraisers. Cara has more than 10 years of experience as a fundraising and event management professional. Cara has also served as Customer Service Coordinator at the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).



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### AOTF Sponsors Good Samaritan Design Workshop

AOTF sponsored seven occupational therapists to participate in an innovative design workshop organized by The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society's Vivo: Innovation for Well-being. The workshop, held in Omaha, Nebraska on August 28-30, 2012, involved nearly 60 individuals organized into four teams who were challenged to imagine creative new ways for serving elders and their families. AOTF co-sponsored the Good Samaritan workshop with AIGA - Nebraska (a professional design association). The Good Samaritan Society is the largest not-for-profit provider of senior care and services in the United States and sees these events as one way to bring innovation to senior care. [Read more](#)

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### AOTF Announces New Scholarship Endowments

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### AOTF Dates to Remember

**AOTA Annual Conference and Expo  
-- April 25-28, 2013, San Diego,  
California**

Mark Your Calendar for



Fred Sammons



Sharon and Bob Ryan

AOTF announces four newly endowed scholarships: the Fred Sammons and Barbara Rider Endowed Scholarship of the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association, the Fred Sammons Endowed Scholarship of the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association, the Linda Botten Endowed Scholarship, and the Robert and Sharon Ryan Endowed Scholarship. [Read more](#)  
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## Pi Theta Epsilon Annual Meeting Well Attended



PTE Executive Board, Cara Archer, and Mindy Hecker at the Student Conclave in November.

More than 70 Pi Theta Epsilon members attended the Annual PTE Business meeting during the AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave in Columbus, Ohio on November 9. PTE's Executive Board (President Kim Schoessow, Vice President Emily Kringle, Treasurer Rachel Proffitt and Secretary Sally Stevenson) introduced the new PTE Coordinator, Cara Archer. They also reviewed "Chapter in a Box", a flash drive given to every chapter which contains PTE's history, bylaws, and provides forms, information, and examples to help students create, run, and grow their chapters.



PTE President Kim Schoessow presents the President's Award to the University of Toledo's Natasha Smet.

This year's President's Award was given to the University of Toledo's Alpha Omicron chapter in recognition of their sponsorship of Dr. Susan Murphy's lecture on research fidelity. Natasha Smet accepted the award on behalf of her chapter. The members then shared the scholarly activities in which they participated. The deadline for next year's [President's Award](#) is October 1. [Read more.](#)

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## AOTF Events at the AOTA Conference in San Diego

Watch for these and other AOTF events at the [AOTA Conference](#) April 25-28, 2013. Registration begins January 2013.

- **Research Colloquium**
- **Breakfast with a Scholar**
- **Gala in the San Diego Air and Space Museum**
- **Garden tour**

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## AOTF Staff

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[Pamela Spears](#)

Associate Executive Director for Administration and Director of Information Resources and the Wilma L. West Library  
[Mindy A. Hecker](#)

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## AOTF Fellowships Support Research Training in Aging at Johns Hopkins

In June, 2012, the Center for Innovative Care in Aging at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing sponsored an institute centered on research involving behavioral interventions.



Dr. Juleen Rodakowski, recipient of an AOTF fellowship.

Laura Gitlin, PhD, a well-established scientist whose work focuses on activity-related interventions for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias, was instrumental in planning the conference. During the institute, the attendees focused on a host of important issues, including developing interventions suitable for funded research, measurement, recruitment of subjects, and ethical issues.



Dr. Chiung-ju Liu, recipient of a AOTF fellowship.

AOTF was proud to provide matching fellowships to support the attendance of two promising scientists whose research is directed toward aging: Juleen Rodakowski, OTD, OTR/L a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Pittsburgh, and Chiung-ju Liu, PhD, OTR an assistant professor at Indiana University-Purdue University (IUPUI) in Indianapolis. [Read more.](#)

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## Wilma L. West Library Launches OT SEARCH Update to Great Success

In mid August, The Wilma L. West Library launched the updated and upgraded OT SEARCH (our bibliographic database) and have seen an over 500% increase in usage. The database now includes color images of book and journal covers and enhanced ways to search for items. Another new feature is the ability to download search results in APA citation format. A survey of institutional users found them to be pleased with the enhancements. In addition to the improvements to OT SEARCH, the Library continues to expand its collection with the addition of new materials. The collection now includes over 3,500 monographs (books), and 34,000 specific articles.

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## Make Your End-of-year Donation to the AOTF Online!

You can make a real difference for so many people in our profession. A gift to AOTF supports research and publications, scholarships, leadership development, and the Wilma L. West Library, the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country.

Take advantage of end-of-year charitable tax deductions and receive your tax receipt immediately when you make your end-of-year donation to AOTF online at [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org).

A gift of appreciated securities, including stocks or bonds, is another easy way to make an end-of-year gift to AOTF. Make your gift by electronic transfer. Contact us at 301-652-6611 x2555 for delivery instructions on how to make a transfer from your brokerage account.

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## From the Desk of Charles Christiansen (continued)

With new staff on board, the Foundation has doubled down on its work to provide scholarship and fellowship support,

to partner with AOTA and other organizations to advance health care innovations related to helping people participate, and to focus its efforts on making progress on the vital centennial goal of helping occupational therapy improve its position as a science-driven and evidence-based profession for the 21st century.

Although our office staff is few, we benefit from the donated creativity, time and energy of many volunteers who serve on our board, on our committees, and in other capacities to support our publications and fundraising activities. It's clearly a team effort.

Of course, monetary gifts large and small also help us do our work. Many of our supporters offer gifts in tribute to people who have inspired them, to loved ones recently departed, or as part of their wills and bequests, or planned gifts. In this way, they are leaving important legacies and making their mark on a human enterprise that grew from a small group of committed founders nearly a century ago.

How will you leave your mark on the progress of occupational therapy? What part will you play in helping to write the grand story of the profession's vital role in health care? Whatever path you take -- thank you! We welcome your participation and support for our work!

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## In-Vivo Design Workshop (continued)

During the three-day experience, design teams visited assisted-living and long-term care facilities, interviewed elders, and surveyed Pennant Place, a planned mixed-use development site in nearby Papillion, Nebraska. A twenty-acre parcel of land in this development, owned by the Good Samaritan Society, provided a real-life context for the design teams. Each design team created a vision for Pennant Place that addressed a specific age-related issue such as isolation, dementia, informal caregiving, and the environments and services that enable elders to flourish. The Good Samaritan Society intends to use the ideas that came out of the design workshop in developing senior services on this property and in future projects.

AOTF design team experts included Julie Bass, Charles Christiansen, Lisa Ann Fagan, Rene Padilla, Dory Sabata, Patricia Schaber, and Catherine Sullivan. Stacy Smallfield, an occupational therapist and innovation designer at the Good Samaritan Society, was one of the main organizers of the event. AOTF and the Good Samaritan Society are also exploring future collaborations including opportunities for research stemming from the work of the teams and at other Good Samaritan Society locations.

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## Newly Endowed Scholarships (continued)

Fred Sammons founded Sammons BeOK, Inc., a leading and early distributor of equipment and supplies for occupational therapy and rehabilitation which eventually became Patterson Medical Inc. A fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association and a recipient of AOTA's highest honor, the Award of Merit, Sammons is one of only six honorary life members of the board of AOTF. Sammons' partner, Barbara Rider, is former chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University and has served in leadership roles in Michigan and nationally. She also established an endowed lectureship at Western Michigan University. "We need to be sensitive to the changes in job opportunities for occupational therapists. We must strengthen and create visibility for our state associations and be progressive...supporting students now and in the future will help get us there," said Sammons of his long time commitment to AOTF and his inspiration to endow two scholarships.

Linda Botten, who died in 2007, was the American Occupational Therapy Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) advisor to the American Medical Association and served on the Montana Governor's Board of Occupational Therapy Practice. Botten established a hand therapy practice that grew to five locations in California and helped to launch a lymphedema screening clinic at the Santa Barbara Cancer Center. Her children established the scholarship to commemorate her career as an occupational therapist and advocate for patients and the profession.

Sharon Ryan earned her degree in occupational therapy at the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Sargent College at Boston University. Her professional practice concentrated on adult and geriatric education and involved supervision of advanced students completing fieldwork in occupational therapy. She was elected to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Board of Directors in 2002, for a three-year term, was elected vice president in 2004 and re-elected to the position in 2007.

Ryan and her husband, Robert Ryan, retired CFO and senior vice president of Medtronic, Inc. established the Boston University Ryan Center for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, as well as the Boston University Goode OT Test Library and scholarships at Cornell, Boston University, and the University of Pittsburgh. "Bob and I have always been committed to education," said Ryan. "Bob was the first member of his family to go to college. My father was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the pharmacy school at the University of Pittsburgh. [Because of] our shared commitment to education, it's important to us to help students, particularly students from an under-represented minority, who want to pursue their passion and finish their education," she said.

Endowed scholarships create lasting legacies because the principal is protected from the ups and downs of the market and awards are based on its earnings. Learn more about AOTF endowed scholarships and consider making a gift to support deserving students at [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org).  
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## AOTF Fellowships Support Research Training (continued)

Dr. Rodakowski is pursuing work aimed toward persons with chronic disabilities following stroke. In thanking AOTF for its support, she commented that the institute experience was "incredibly valuable" and "provided in-depth feedback on my own developing research program developing dyadic interventions for caregivers of individuals with chronic disabilities."

Dr. Liu also thanked AOTF and observed that "information learned at the conference [was] stimulating and helpful for a functional intervention program that I am currently developing for the purpose of late life physical disability prevention."

AOTF is pleased to partner with organizations and institutions such as Johns Hopkins School of Nursing to provide matching fellowships for participation in advanced research training that address current priorities. AOTF will continue to offer fellowships to the JHU institute next summer. The Foundation is committed to additional efforts to develop the capacity and infrastructure necessary to support occupational therapy scientists.

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## PTE Annual Meeting (continued)

Following the meeting was a doctoral panel featuring Shannon O'Brien OTD, OTR/L, from the University of Southern California; Andrew Persch, MS, OTR/L, PhD candidate from the Ohio State University; PTE officers Kim Schoessow, OTD, OTR/L of the Frank Stein & Paul S. May Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation, San Francisco Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, Palo Alto, Dominican University of California; and Rachel Proffitt, OTD, OTR/L also from the University of Southern California. The panel discussed the variety of paths to obtaining a doctorate and how to utilize this degree in several different areas of practice. PTE executive board members also served as mock interviewers and résumé critics at the AOTA/NBCOT practice interview session.

The 2013 PTE annual meeting is scheduled for November 15 in Jacksonville, Florida at the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave. Learn more about PTE on [Facebook](#) and [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org).  
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## About Us

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable, scientific and educational organization founded in 1965. Its mission is to advance research, education, and leadership in the field of occupational therapy and raise public awareness of the importance of enabling individuals to participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances. For more information: [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org).  
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