



Inside AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Spring 2015
Volume 20 Issue 2

*Celebrating fifty years of advancing
the science of occupational therapy*



Research Matters!

Thank you to our AOTA conference event participants and supporters for making our presence so successful. Our Research Matters! campaign continues and we welcome your support.

Letter from the CEO

As I begin my new role as CEO of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, I want to say how excited I am to work on behalf of the occupational therapy profession and community. The mission of the AOTF is to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. Having spent my entire professional career in medical science education and research, and non-profit healthcare-related management, I can think of no better place for me to utilize my cumulative professional experience than the AOTF. I promise to work hard on your behalf and to advance the OT profession by supporting all of you, from students training to enter the profession to seasoned practitioners and researchers who have been contributing to bettering quality of life their entire careers.



In celebration of the AOTF's 50th anniversary, we have initiated a special fundraising campaign, "Research Matters!". As someone who has spent his entire adult life doing research or fundraising to support research, I absolutely embrace the mantra. Research does matter, and that research translates into better evidence-based occupational therapy practice. Research matters and so does your support. I ask you to join me in our efforts to take the Foundation and the OT profession to the next level. I look forward to working with all of you.

*Scott Campbell, PhD
Chief Executive Officer*

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Intervention Research Grants





Florence Clark, Glen Gillen, and Carolyn Baum (left to right) started the morning with a thought-provoking Breakfast with a Scholar.

Featured Scholars Draw Sell-out Crowd at AOTA Conference in Nashville

The 2015 Breakfast with a Scholar drew a sell-out crowd with a *Charlie Rose style* conversation between luminaries Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA about the past and future of occupational therapy. Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA of Columbia University moderated the discussion.

The participants discussed the important advances the profession has made in its quest to become science-driven and evidence-based, noting the extraordinary evolution of research in the field brought about by established scientists, leading academic programs and a growing number of talented emerging young investigators. The work of the profession in emphasizing the importance of research within the Centennial Vision, and the impact of intervention grant support were cited as key factors in the evolution of the profession; along with the importance of collaboration and mentoring in maximizing the relatively small number of qualified scientists in the discipline.

Drs. Baum and Clark agreed that the expanding number of academic programs is challenging the supply of qualified faculty and that succession planning in established research centers is necessary to avoid losing momentum in advancing theory and research. The discussants agreed that more serious efforts are needed to assure that the field's demographics better reflect the characteristics of the changing population trends in the United States.



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Breakfast with a Scholar Sponsor

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Breakfast with a Scholar Table Sponsors

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Gala Sponsor

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Friend

Kristine Haertl, PhD, OTR/L



The AOTF booth at the AOTA Conference in April celebrated our 50 years of advancing the science of occupational therapy..

AOTF Spotlighted the Intervention Research Grants

AOTF announced [eight new awards](#) for [Intervention Research Grants](#) this year. Priority populations for these awards, as identified in the AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda (2011), included developmental disorders, preventable secondary conditions, motor impairments, and mental disorders. AOTF received generous support for the FY2015 IRGs from NBCOT, AOTA, and the St. Catherine Challenge.

There was a lot of buzz near the AOTF booth at the AOTA Conference in Nashville for the striking panels showcasing the awardees of the FY2014 and FY2015 Intervention Research Grants (IRG). Many conference attendees enjoyed learning about the principal investigators and their research. Several of the IRG awardees were available for meet and greet sessions at the AOTF Booth.



Dr. Julie Bass, AOTF Director of Research, also offered a short course on the AOTF Intervention Research Grants at the annual conference. Researchers and scientists who attended this session received detailed information on the history of the program, the priorities and process for 2015-2016, eligibility criteria, and strategies to strengthen proposals. A discussion session at the end of the course provided participants an opportunity to ask questions related to their individual projects.

Watch the [AOTF website](#) for 2016 IRG application information and deadlines.

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The State of the Science Symposium: A New AOTF Event

The State of the Science Symposium (SoS) premiered at the AOTA Conference in Nashville. The purposes of the SoS are to:

1. summarize scientifically validated evidence that guide best practice, and to
2. identify gaps in the evidence and research priorities that that must be addressed to support future practice.

Each SoS will address one topic and seek to answer the following questions:

- What is our current knowledge?
- What are the recent advances in research and some of the burning issues?
- What are the areas of certainty and uncertainty in research? Where are the gaps in our knowledge?
- What are the take home messages that support best practice, educational curricula, and future research?

This year, the SoS looked at sensory factors and asked: What is our current knowledge on sensory factors and their impact on daily life across the lifespan?

To answer this question, internationally renowned scientists, Leeanne Carey, BAPPSC (OT), PhD and Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, completed scoping reviews of the peer-reviewed literature on this topic. Grace Baranek, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Scott Frey, PhD responded to the presentations and moderated discussion of best practice for occupational therapy given the current state of the science.

Editor-in-chief of *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, Dr. Sherrilene Classen, is excited to facilitate publication of the symposium papers in a forthcoming supplemental issue. These papers are expected to become a valuable resource for practitioners, students, educators, and researchers.



AOTF Chair Diana Ramsay, L&L Society Chair Ellen Kolodner, Kristine Haerti, AOTF CEO Chuck Christiansen, and L&L Society member (and *OTJR* Editor-in-Chief) Sherrilene Classen share a toast.

Leaders & Legacies Society Inducts Founding Members

Over half of the founding members of the Leaders & Legacies Society (L&L), accompanied by family members and friends, came together in a champagne reception and brief induction ceremony at the AOTA Conference.

The reception, held before the 50th Anniversary Gala, brought honored leaders together to reminisce about their experiences in serving the profession they love and to share their appreciation at being inducted into the new society. The inductees received certificates of membership along with corsages to identify their special status.

Retiring AOTF CEO Chuck Christiansen and Board Chair Diana Ramsay welcomed the inductees by paying tribute to their service and introduced Ellen Kolodner who was appointed chair of the L&L leadership committee. Kolodner spoke briefly of her work conceptualizing and organizing the new society and joined Chair Ramsay and others in a toast to its aims and aspirations. Special recognition was accorded to Maren Voss, graduate student and AOTF intern, for her extraordinary efforts in supporting the development of the society.

In their remarks, both Ramsay and Kolodner noted that the new society is much more than a roster of award-worthy individuals. They observed that membership conveys an obligation to inductees to remain engaged in the profession through volunteer efforts that advance the work of the Foundation and improve awareness of its vital programs in research, education, and dissemination. Society members will be organized into volunteer circles to undertake key projects aligned with the multifaceted work of the AOTF.

More information about the Leaders & Legacies Society, including nomination forms, a list of members, and information on the volunteer circles can be found on the [AOTF website](#).



Representatives of the winning team (left to right) St. Catherine Program Director Karen Sames, Professor Kristine Haertl, student representatives Taylor Horton, Jill Sohre, Allison Gilbert and Professor John Fleming are congratulated by AOTF CEO Charles Christiansen (center).

Second time's a Charm for St. Catherine University



The second annual [St. Catherine Challenge](#) was once again a great success! Fifteen schools raised over ten thousand dollars in this friendly competition to support and raise awareness of occupational therapy research to guide practice.

These programs include: St. Catherine University, Boston University, College of St. Scholastica, Creighton University, Florida International University, Ithaca College, Spalding University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of North Dakota, University of Puget Sound, University of Southern California, University of Toledo, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Washington University in St. Louis.

The winner of this year's challenge was, for the second consecutive year, St. Catherine University. Second place was awarded to the University of North Dakota and third place to Washington University at St. Louis. Two special awards were given this year; the Biggest Stretch Award went to Boston University and the Most Successful Newcomer Award went to Spalding University.

Additional information about the St. Catherine Challenge is available on the [AOTF website](#). Any questions? [Email us](#) for information.

Champagne and
Chocolate Fuel the Dancers
at the AOTF 50th Anniversary
Gala



AOTA President Ginny Stoffel and NBCOT President Barbara Larson were presented AOTF plaques of appreciation for their respective organization's support of AOTF's programs.



Nancy Prendergast and Dave Clark on the dance floor.



Corky Glantz and Cynthia Epstein share a moment.



Winnie Dunn and Linda Kohlman-Thomson were all smiles.

Wilma L. West Library and Archives Contain Everything OT

Ever wonder what is in the [Wilma L. West Library](#) and archives? The library collection dates from 1911 and includes a wide range of resources such as all 12 editions of *Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy* (*Occupational Therapy* was the original title) as well as Mary Reilly's collection of books about play. Among the diverse artifacts preserved in the archives is an original cape from a reconstruction aide, A. Jean Ayres' jacket, the original charter and brass plaque from the OT Program at the Philadelphia School of OT, and more than 3,000 photographs of OT leaders and programs.

If you are planning a visit to Washington, DC/Bethesda, add the library to your visit. Appointments can be made by contacting the librarian, [Mindy Hecker](#).



OTJR: Positioning for the Future

Sherrilene Classen, PhD, MPH, OT Reg. (Ont.), FAOTA editor of AOTF's research journal, [OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health](#), has outlined a vision to position the journal as an eminent inter-hemispheric journal that publishes high-quality research on evidence-informed and science-driven practices, showcases the global nature of occupational therapy, explicates the synergies between occupational therapy and occupational science, and supports measurable, effective, and meaningful innovations to address society's occupational needs. Dr. Classen has named Anita Bundy, ScD, OT, FAOTA, University of Sydney; Isabelle Gélinas, PhD, OT(C), erg., McGill University; Timothy Reistetter, OTR, PhD, FAOTA, University of Texas Medical Branch; Debbie Laliberte Rudman, PhD, University of Western Ontario; Elizabeth Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L FAOTA, University of Pittsburgh; and Michelle Woodbury, PhD, OTR/L, Medical University of South Carolina as associate editors. In addition, Liliانا Alvarez Jarmillo, PhD, MSc, OT, University of Western Ontario is the assistant editor. *OTJR's* editors met in Nashville to discuss ways to move the journal towards its vision and will continue to develop a plan over the next several months. If you haven't already, please take a look at [OTJR](#).

Congratulations to *OTJR's* new publisher, SAGE, winner of the [International Academic and Professional Publisher Award](#), for its digital innovation and drive to increase multimedia interaction. AOTF is proud to be part of Sage's publishing world which includes the *British Journal of Occupational Therapy* and the *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Members Recognized at AOTA Opening Ceremony



From my seat at the front of the room with the AOTF Board of Directors during the AOTA opening ceremony in Nashville, I stood up when PTE members were asked to stand. As I turned to scan the room, the number of OTs standing was incredible. [PTE](#) represents one of several groups of individuals directly impacted by AOTF and includes many students, clinicians, faculty, and researchers who will go on to impact the science of occupation. This group has grown immensely since the University of New Hampshire's Alpha Chapter was established in 1958, and I am excited to see the continuing commitment to research by both student and alumni members in the next 50 years.

The annual PTE Alumni Reception held at the AOTA Conference is an opportunity to meet and greet with fellow honor society members from across the United States. This year we had a phenomenal turnout of 115 attendees, including alumni and student members, as well as faculty advisors. During the reception, we gave a brief overview with updates and shared some of our goals for the coming year. We are thrilled to see so many student and alumni members taking advantage of the opportunity to network and collaborate during this annual event.

Emily Kringle
PTE National President

AOTF to Offer over 50 Scholarships in 2015-16 Academic Year

AOTF is in the process of awarding \$50,000 worth of [scholarships](#) to outstanding occupational therapy students from the 2014-15 academic year. Updated announcements will be made in early June.

We are pleased to announce that [OccupationalTherapy.com](#) has donated two \$5,000 scholarships to be awarded yearly joining [North Coast Medical](#)'s scholarships as our most generously funded awards. Kappa Delta Phi National Sorority continues its commitment to OT education for the 42nd year!

AOTF will begin accepting online applications in August 2015 from students currently enrolled full time in either a professional occupational therapy educational program OR an occupational therapy assistant program. Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit and leadership potential. Complete information and a full list of available scholarships can be found on our [web site](#). Questions? Contact [Jeanne Cooper](#), scholarship coordinator.

AOTF 2015 Recognition Awards

AOTF presented 10 recognition awards during AOTA's Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Joint AOTA - AOTF Presidents' Commendation in honor of Wilma L. West

Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA
(Posthumously)

AOTF Academy of Research

Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA
(Posthumously)
The Ohio State University

Naomi Josman, PhD, OT(I)
University of Haifa

Mary Jane Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L
Thomas Jefferson University

AOTF A. Jean Ayres Award

Patricia Bowyer, EdD, MS, OTR, FAOTA
Texas Woman's University

AOTF Virginia Scardina Award of Excellence

Diana A. Henry, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Henry Occupational Therapy Services, Inc.

AOTF Meritorious Service Award

Alfred "Chip" J. Chiplin, Jr., JD, MDiv, CPE
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.

AOTF Leadership Service Commendation

Sandra Rogers, PhD, OTR/L
Pacific University

Stephanie Singleton, OT/L
Lovelace Rehabilitation Hospital

AOTF Certificate of Appreciation

Kathleen Matuska, PhD, OTR/L
St. Catherine University

AOTF invites nominations of individuals who have made exemplary and significant contributions toward the occupational therapy profession. Nomination information can be found at on the [AOTF website](#). Completed nominations are due October 1, 2015.

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 the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. For more information see [www.aotf.org](#) or write us at aotf@aotf.org.



