MU nOTes

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

The Department of Occupational Therapy at Misericordia University recently hosted Amy Lamb, O.T.D., O.T./L., F.A.O.T.A., president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, on campus for a series of meetings and a special presentation to students and faculty in the program.

Dr. Lamb, an expert on health care policy and reform, prevention and wellness, spoke to students, faculty and local practitioners during the town hall meeting. She addressed legislation, advocacy, mental health and the importance of funding, leadership and fieldwork in the specialty field in health care.

She is the immediate past-vice president and past chair of the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee, and the owner of AJLamb Consulting. Dr. Lamb has a valuable combination of clinical practice as a registered occupational therapist and health care policy experience at the state and federal levels.

--Paul Krzywicki, Manager of Public Relations, Misericordia University

Misericordia University, a Catholic liberal arts institution established in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, fosters intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and respect for persons in an environment where all are welcome.

Pi Theta Epsilon Places 4th in the Nation

Misericordia University's Psi Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon earned the Most Valuable Player Award and placed fourth in the nation as part of the national St. Catherine Challenge that raises money for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation's research grants.

St. Catherine Challenge is a student-led initiative to support the profession of occupational therapy by raising funds for occupational therapy research grants. Forty four schools participated to raise over $43,400 for AOTF Intervention Research Grants.

Pi Theta Epsilon Yard Sale fundraiser for OT Research on Saturday, April 8th.

MVP AWARD

Pi Theta received the MVP Award and placed 4th in the national St. Catherine Challenge. Pi Theta officers, from left, Kaitlin Sauder, vice president; Lauren Apgar, treasurer; Dr. Joseph Cipriani, professor, occupational therapy and faulty advisor; Jillian Robinson, president, and Mollie Robinson, secretary.

Spring OT Clinics held at Misericordia University

The Misericordia University Occupational Therapy Department held a Sensory Social Training for Preschool children with Autism. The group is an occupational therapy sensory social group designed for children between 3 and 6 years of age. During the weekly group, children were engaged in carefully designed play-based activities to promote sensory regulation and improve social skills with similar aged peers. Dr. Orley Templeton, OTR/L along with 8 Masters degree students from the Occupational Therapy Program facilitated the group. The group was held once a week for a 14 weeks in the Spring Semester.

The Occupational Therapy Department also held a Handwriting Group for Preschoolers in the Spring Semester. The Handwriting for Preschoolers is an occupational therapy group designed to help preschool aged children improve their handwriting in preparation for kindergarten. During this weekly group, children were engaged in carefully designed play based activities to improve their fine motor and handwriting skills. Dr. Orley Templeton, OTR/L along with 4 Masters degreed students from the Occupational Therapy Program facilitated the group. For more information about OT clinics visit *http://www.misericordia.edu/page.cfm?p=634*.

Fall Prevention Clinic

Weekend MS OT students participated in a geriatric fieldwork through a campus run Fall Prevention Clinic. Community dwelling elderly were invited to participate in 9 sessions where they were instructed on fall risks and ways to prevent falls, and were instructed in an exercise program to increase strength, flexibility and balance. The program was designed as an Interprofessional educational experience and included both PT and OT students. The group leaders were Dr. Lori Charney, OTR/L and Dr. Nicole Evanosky, DPT. The picture was taken on the final clinic day where all participants celebrated the Christmas holiday.

-Dr. Lori Charney
Assistant Professor & Department Chair

Fall Prevention participants celebrated the Holiday season and the last day of the clinic.

MU Spring Fest & Color Run 2017

The Misericordia University Student Government Association held the 5K Color Run/Walk and a Children's Carnival as part of the Spring Fest Weekend on April 28-30, 2017. The community-wide event featured children's carnival games and prizes.

Proceeds from the event benefited the David A. Evans Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at Holy Redeemer High School. The scholarship is dedicated to students at the high school who plan to attend Misericordia University. The fund was established by Dr. Dawn Evans, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy.

-Jolene Miraglia

OT students Allison Hausman (left) and Deirdre Stevens at the 3rd Annual Color Run.

Misericordia University students and community members at the 3rd Annual Color Run.

MU Color Run winners David Lutchko and Nicole Schwartz!

Color run participants get sprayed!

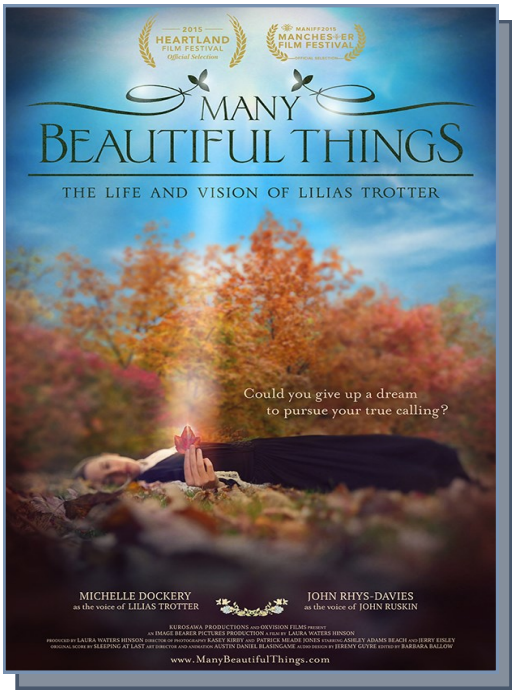
Manning the cotton candy machine at the annual Carnival Days for children and students at Misericordia University were juniors Kaitlynn Kuchta and Leanne Para and senior Heather Bennett.

MU OT will Present *Many Beautiful Things*

The Department of Occupational Therapy at Misericordia University is screening the movie, "Many Beautiful Things,'' in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall on Saturday, June 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m., as part of a fundraiser for the Deutsch Institute's Verve Vertu Art Studio. The Beyond Harmony a cappella group, comprised of Misericordia University students, also will perform before the movie.

"Many Beautiful Things'' is a documentary that chronicles the formerly untold story of Lilias Trotter, one of the world's greatest female artists. The film takes viewers to Victorian England and an era when "women were thought incapable of producing high-end art,'' according to the film's plot summary. The documentary shares the story about how Trotter surrendered her promising career in art in order to help those most in need. She became a missionary to Algeria.

Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the following locations: **Verve Vertu Art Studio, 24 Main Street, Dallas, 570-675-1465, Ochman's Coin and Jewelry, 2607 Memorial Highway, Dallas, 570-675-5872, and Sun Tan City, Dallas Shopping Center Route 309, Dallas, 570-675- 7259.** Tickets will also be available by contacting: Johanna Evans, MU CACE Office, 570-674-3021, Jolene Miraglia, MU OT Department, jmiragli@misericordia.edu 570-674-6391, Grace Fisher, MU OT Department, gfisher@misericordia.edu 570-674-8015 and Barb Roberts, Community Liaison, aroberts198@comcast.net 570-362-2800.



The Verve Vertu Art Studio, 24 Main St., Dallas, is an arts apprenticeship program for the Deutsch Institute, which provides recreational and leisurely activities to people with special needs. The studio enables the artists with special needs to tap into their creativity using a wide range of mediums, including watercolors, acrylics, fibers, batik, wool needle felting and inks.

-Paul Krzywicki

Manager of Public Relations, Misericordia University

OTI Club & Weekend Students

The OT International Club organized a lunch-time study break for weekend students and weekday students to meet and hangout. This was a great time to get to know each other and talk about why we love OT.

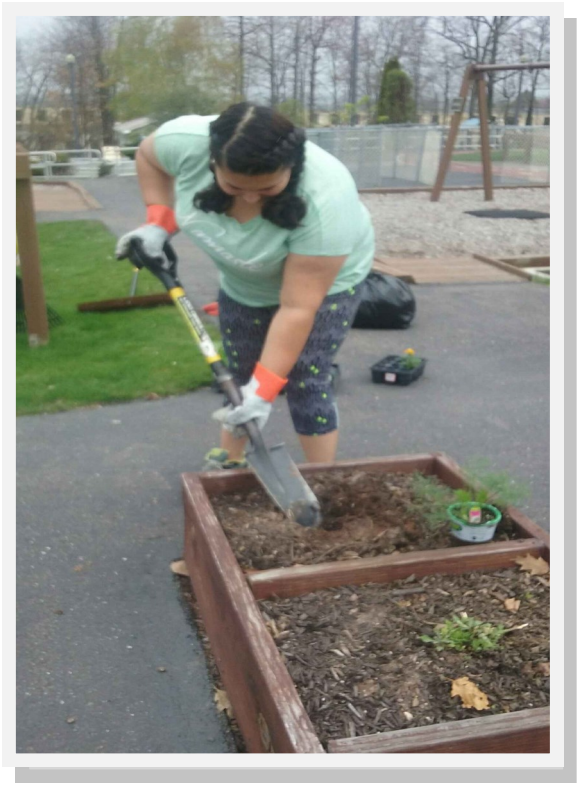
- Mariah Thomas, OTI Club President

Annual Santa Brunch

Children enjoying the craft activities at the Santa Brunch.

MSOTA members at the Alumni Association's 18th Annual Brunch with Santa on December 3, 2016.

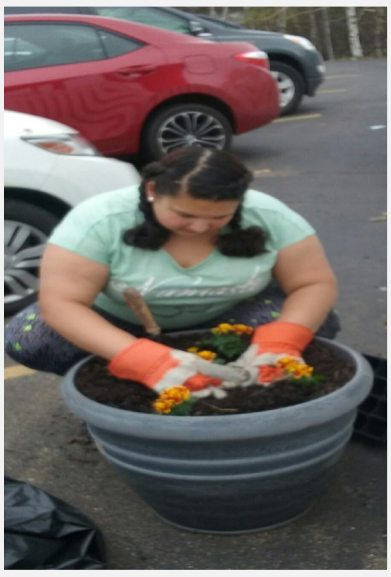
OT Students Lend a Helping Hand



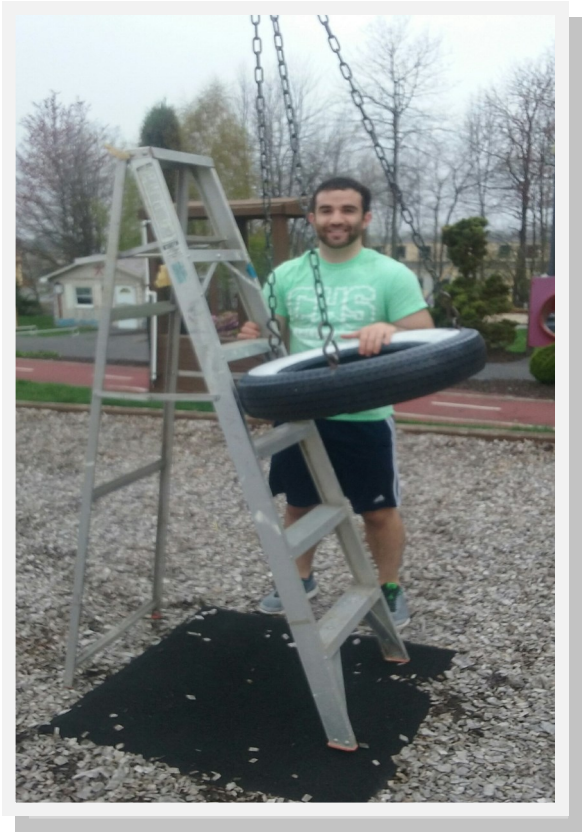
HELPING HANDS

Level I students helping with Spring time set up of the community playground at Helping Hands Society Non-Profit Preschool in Hazleton PA.

Hannah Corbacio, OTS



Natasha Chandra, OTS



Michael Castaldi, OTS

OT Students Place 1st in AOTA/EBS Knowledge Bowl

The Misericordia University Occupational Therapy Department is proud to announce that the student team of Alyssa Auer, Deirdre Simpson, Allison Hausman, Deirdre Stevens, Kerrie Hall, and Victoria Freda won First Place at the AOTA/EBS Knowledge Bowl this past Saturday April 1. The Bowl was part of the AOTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Approximately 14000 occupational therapy professionals attended the conference. The Misericordia University OT team competed against 9 other teams from: Salus University, Adventist University of Health Sciences, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis, Pacific University, Duquesne University, University of St. Augustine, Stony Brooke University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Indianapolis.

The winning Misericordia University team from left to right: Kerrie hall, Victoria Freda, Allison Hausman, Deirdre Stevens, and Alyssa Auer.

All 10 teams simultaneously answered 7 rounds of 5 questions per round during a two hour competition, while audience members from all 10 schools cheered their teams on. Questions were designed to test student knowledge of key information related to occupational therapy practice, including knowledge about medical conditions, patient/client safety, occupational therapy evaluation, and occupational therapy intervention services. Misericordia started out slow, but soon gained momentum, moving up to third place before the final round. At the end of the final round it was announced that the University of Indianapolis placed third and Duquesne University placed second. About 70 Misericordia students and faculty waited with much excitement to hear the final first place winner. The fans erupted with excited applause when it was announced that Misericordia had moved up to first place and was the winner of the competition. The final scores were very close with Misericordia earning 26.54 points, Duquesne earning 26.51 points, and University of Indiana having 26.25 points.

All 5 team members are from the MU OT upcoming May 2017 graduation class, and they will take their National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Examination this summer. Misericordia has an excellent pass rate on the boards, with the past five years having the following Misericordia University Occupational Therapy NBCOT exam pass rates:

2016-pass rate 100%
2015- pass rate 100%
2014- pass rate 98%
2013- pass rate 100%
2012- pass rate 97%

-Marianne Puhalla
Staff Writer, Misericordia University

OT Department Faculty News

Lori Charney, OTD, OTR/L was recently appointed Chair of the Misericordia University Occupational Therapy Department. Dr. Charney is a 1993 graduate of College Misericordia where she received her BS in Occupational Therapy. She has worked as an OT in various practice areas including home health care and adult inpatient rehabilitation with a focus on stroke, spinal cord, oncology and orthopedic specialty areas. She also has extensive experience in the public school system where she developed a district wide sensory program, an assistive technology program, and an outdoor sensory playground. Dr. Charney returned to Misericordia University to obtain a post professional master's degree in OT in 2011 and a clinical doctorate in 2014. Her doctoral capstone was the development of a sensory/social summer camp for students with autism which included a research component to determine the effectiveness of pairing sensory activities and social skills instruction to improve social participation. She has continued in this line of research and has presented at the national and international level with the most recent presentation at NUI Galway, Ireland at the COTEC-ENOTHE international conference in 2016. Dr. Charney, who is an assistant professor, teaches introduction to OT, geriatric intervention, occupations in autism, school based therapy in the post professional program, program development in the doctoral program, doctoral capstone mentor, Level I fieldwork in Fall Prevention clinic, and is a research chair in the weekday program.

Faculty News & Publication Announcements

Dr. Dalomba Accepted for Publication

Dr. Elaina Dalomba's article entitled, "Occupational Adaptation as a Construct: A Scoping Review of Literature" Grajo, Boiselle & DaLomba, 2017, was accepted for publication in the Open Journal of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Dalomba has recently been selected to be a section editor for Developmental Disabilities Special Interest section Quarterly publication through AOTA.

Dr. Kahanov and Dr. Dalomba Accepted for Publication

Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Educator Practices and Preferences in Clinical Education was accepted for publication in The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Dr. McLaughlin Appointed to AOTA Roster of Fellows

Dr. McLaughlin was recently appointed to the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) Roster of Fellows at the annual Awards and Recognitions Ceremony during the Spring AOTA Conference & Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia.

AOTA 2017 Annual Conference & Centennial Celebration

Pictured from left: Dr. Joseph Cipriani, Professor; Allison Hausman, OTS; Dr. Jennifer Dessoye, Assistant Professor

Pictured from left Shifra Leiser, OTD, OTR/L; Dr. Dawn Evans, Dr. Lori Charney and Dr. McLaughlin at the AOTA 2017 Annual Conference and Celebration.

Pictured from left: Deirdre Stevens, OTS; Stephanie Dougherty, OTS; and Jacqueline Cormier, OTS.

Pictured from left: Ashley Salerno, OTS; Kaylin Miley, OTS; Nicole Kelly, OTS; and Desirae Waltman, OTS.

AOTA 2017 Conference & Centennial Celebration

Pictured from left: Rose Siciliano 16'; Brittany Lohr, OTS; Danielle Makadon-Malone 16'; Amanda Casem, OTS; Maria Weidemoyer 16' and Samantha Rehrig 16'

Alyssa Auer, OTS (left) and Quinn Fohlinger, OTS at the AOTA 2017 Conference.

From left: Jeremy Kuba, OTS; Erin Soulsby, OTS; Molly Betz, OTS; Kayleigh Elser, OTS; Brittany Morgan, OTS; Lauren Apgar, OTS; Olivia Natale, OTS; Heather Bennett, OTS, Dr. Dawn Evans, Assistant Professor; Elizabeth Pfisterer, OTS

AOTA 2017 Conference & Centennial Celebration

Olivia Powers OTS (left) and Brianna Kubishin OTS

Pictured from left: Alexis Campbell, OTS; Jeffrey Kramer, OTS; Jennifer Snyder, OTS; and Allison Alexander, OTS.

For a complete list of MU OT conference presentations visit http://www.misericordia.edu/uploaded/documents/academics/ot/AOTA_2017_CONFERENCE_PRESENTATIONS.pdf

100% NBCOT PASS RATE

Pass rates are reported for all schools online on a state by state basis. Program results from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) can be found online at https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx. The 2016 pass rate for the Misericordia University OT entry level program was 100%.

Misericordia University Occupational Therapy Department is on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/MisericordiaOT/?fref=ts

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our Occupational Therapy Programs and Services.

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