



# MU nOTes

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

The Misericordia Occupational Therapy Department hosted a 3 week sensory social camp for children with autism during the month of July (11-29) in Passan Hall. Eight children from the community participated in therapeutic group activities to improve their sensory awareness and social skills. The group was led by Dr. Lori Charney, OTR/L and she was assisted by 2 research fellows and 6 Level I OT fieldwork students. This program also served as a graduate research project and was partially funded by the Misericordia Faculty Research Grant and the Misericordia Research Fellows Grant.

-Lori Charney OTD, OTR/L

“The Sensory Social Camp comprises 15 OT treatment sessions where children with autism are encouraged to learn good social skills and strategies to deal with their sensory challenges.”

-Lori Charney OTD, OTR/L



1st row: Casey Kearney, OTS; Alexa Buday, OTS; Jenna Aimes, OTS; Ashley Redmund, OTS, 2nd row: Lori Charney, OTD, OTR/L lead researcher; Lauren Apgar, OTS research fellow; Naomi Calverley, OTS; Tyler Spires, OTS; Amanda Salak, OTS research fellow

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# OT STUDENT AWARDS



Pictured from left to right: Kyle Kurtek, Katarzyna Bialek and Rebecca Peterman

## 2016 OT MS WEEKEND PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

The occupational therapy student awards recognize outstanding academic achievement and fieldwork performance. Weekend students Kyle Kurtek and Rebecca Peterman were both awarded the OT Curricular Award and Katarzyna Bialek received the OT Fieldwork Award.

**Kyle Kurtek** - OT Curricular Award

**Rebecca Peterman** - OT Curricular Award

**Katarzyna Bialek** - OT Fieldwork Award



Pictured from left to right: Kristi Cianfichi, OTS 16'; Jenna Burgio, OTS 16'; and Amanda Casem, OTS 16'; Dr. Dawn Evans, Assistant Professor

## 2016 OT MS WEEKDAY PROGRAM AWARD RECEIPIENTS

Dr. Dawn Evans presented the following awards to members of the Weekday MS Program Class of 2016 at the May Student Service Awards:

OT Curricular Award - **Amanda Casem**

OT Fieldwork Award - **Jenna Burgio**

Dr. Stephen Heater Leadership Award -  
**Kristi Cianfichi**

# OT STUDENT AWARDS

The Misericordia University Student Occupational Therapy Association (MSOTA) received the Outstanding Student Organization Award.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Dawn Evans, Assistant Professor and MSOTA Advisor; Quinn Fohlinger, 2015-2016 MSOTA Senior Class Rep; Erin Soulsby, 2015-2016 MSOTA President; Allison Hausman, 2015-2016 MSOTA Secretary; and Kaitlyn Smalley 2015-2016 MSOTA Vice President



OT Weekend Class of 2016 celebrates their last day of class!

# MSOTA Organizes Backpack Awareness Event

MSOTA members participated in the Backpack Awareness Day Event held at Chester Street Elementary School, Wyoming Valley West School District on Thursday, November 10, 2016. The students provided the children of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades with information to reduce the likelihood of backpack related injuries. The students engaged the children by providing them information via presentation, an interactive skit, and video. Each child and backpack were weighed to provide them with the information needed to modify their behavior to encourage good health and injury prevention.

-Kathy Hughes Butcher MS, OTR/L  
Fieldwork Coordinator



1st row (from left to right): Jessica Gardiner, Kyle Soldevilla, Julianne Roth, Karen Spehalski, Mariah Thomas; 2nd row: Lauren Apgar, Brianna Gold, Ryan Horne, and Mollie Robinson

# OT Students Donate to City Mission

The OT 360 class: Occupational Therapy with Non-Traditional Populations, Working with Persons who are Homeless, presented this check with a class donation of \$200.00 to City Mission in Schenectady, NY.

City Mission exists to meet the needs of the poor in a manner that dignifies and strengthens the individual, the family, and the communities.



# OT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"I am really excited to be representing as an OT because I think the reason I advanced is my app looks at the whole person. It addresses parent stress and nurtures the parent first. It addresses motor and sensory skills in conjunction with learning language and it puts a lot of stress on kindergarten readiness."

-Aimee Ketchum OTR/L  
CNMI

Aimee E. Ketchum OTR/L, CNMI is the Owner/Creator of Aimee's Babies, LLC and a proud Misericordia University alumni of the OT Entry-Level Masters Program. Aimee's Babies is an early childhood development company, founded by a pediatric occupational therapist for parents, therapists, pediatricians and anyone trying to give a child the best start possible.

In addition to her role as the Owner/Creator of Aimee's Babies, Aimee was selected to participate in a national competition called the Word Gap Challenge. The Word Gap is the words that children from low income families don't hear in their first three years as compared to children from more affluent families. These children start kindergarten at a severe disadvantage and never really catch up. It has become such an issue in our country that at the 2014 Family Summit, President Obama initiated a call to action and challenged the US Department of Health and Human Services to use technology to bridge the word gap. They turned it into the Word Gap Challenge and opened it up to the private sector to submit proposals.

Aimee submitted a proposal to create an app and out of 85 submissions, only 10 were selected, including Aimee. Each participant won \$10,000 to make their products and received a mentor from the US Department of Health. Aimee's app, The Word Gap App, uses over 200 videos to demonstrate positive interactions between parents and babies. Creator of eight other early childhood development apps and three educational DVD's, Aimee saw this as an opportunity to use her technology skills and occupational therapy skills to educate parents and create an awareness of the word gap. Aimee advanced to phase 3 of the national competition and was awarded \$25,000 for continued development and testing of her app.

She will present the results of her research to the Department of Health in March of 2017 to compete for the grand prize of \$100,000 and the opportunity to have the Department of Health market her app as a national solution to the word gap problem.

The Occupational Therapy Department and Misericordia University community wish Aimee the best of luck and continued success in Washington D.C.. We are so proud of you!

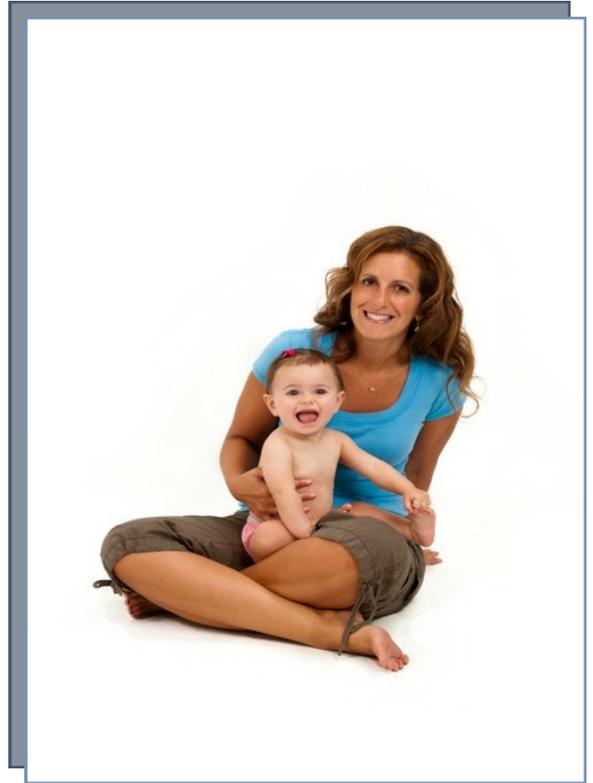
For more information about the Word Gap Challenge visit <http://thewordgapapp.com> and <http://www.aimeesbabies.com>.



## THE WORD GAP

**By age three, children from low-income families are likely to hear 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. This is known as the "word gap," and it can have serious consequences for our children.**

*-thewordgap.com*



# MSOTA at MU!



**MSOTA Officers at Freshman Night 2016**

MSOTA holds a night of fun and participation for all incoming freshman. Officers and club members demonstrate sensory equipment, provide a presentation on the OT program and MU, eat lots of pizza and snacks and welcome all freshman into the MU family. The event is held in September each year.



MSOTA members at the 2016 MU Club Fair



MSOTA members attended the CEO food drive distribution for the Thanksgiving season.



MSOTA Second Annual Bonfire to support disabilities.

# MSOTA Supports Out of the Darkness Walk

MSOTA supported club advisor Dawn Evans in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness Walk held in Wilkes-Barre, PA in September. MSOTA members tied blue ribbons on street lights and trees that lined the walk and helped organize equipment. Club members and officers participated in the walk to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention.

*-Dawn Evans OTD, OTR/L*



## Pumpkin Carving at the Meadows in Dallas, PA

MSOTA Club members assisted residents in the Meadows Nursing Home with carving pumpkins for Halloween.



# OT Department Faculty News



## Dr. Dessoye selected to AOTA's Academic Leadership Institute

Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Dessoye recently received notice that she is one of 25 occupational therapists from across the country selected to participate in the **American Occupational Therapy Association's Academic Leadership Institute**. Dr. Dessoye will participate in a two day introductory leadership workshop in Alexandria Virginia in August 2016. She will then complete a series of 7 monthly modules, engage in monthly group mentoring meetings, conduct a self-assessment, and complete career development planning. The program encompasses a total of 55 contact hours. Detailed information is available at <http://www.aota.org/education-careers/educators/academic-leadership-institute.aspx>



## Dr. Cipriani Appointed as Co-Chair for the 2017 St. Catherine's Challenge

Dr. Joseph Cipriani, Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, has been appointed as one of the 3 national faculty co-chairs for the **2017 St. Catherine's Challenge** by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation in Washington D.C. The AOTF is the national research organization affiliated with the American Occupational Therapy Association. Dr. Cipriani will join colleagues at Columbia University and St. Catherine University as a co-chair to raise \$50,000 nationally for occupational therapy research.



## Kathy Hughes Butcher MS, OTR/L Accepted to AOTA Mentorship Program

Fieldwork Coordinator, Kathy Hughes Butcher, was accepted into the **American Occupational Therapy Association Mentorship Program** for Academic Fieldwork Coordinators in October 2016. Congratulations Kathy!

## Dr. McLaughlin Appointed to AOTA's Roster of Fellows

Associate Professor Dr. Ellen McLaughlin will be appointed to the **American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows** at the upcoming Spring 2017 American Occupational Therapy Association conference in Philadelphia. This distinct honor will recognize her as a "Passionate Educator, Expert Consultant and Devoted Mentor." Congratulations Dr. McLaughlin!

## Faculty Publication Announcements

Assistant Professor Elaina DaLomba, PhD, OTR/L received notice that her pilot study publication, **The Effects of Sensory Processing Differences and Behaviors of Toddlers on Parent Participation: A Pilot Study**, was accepted to the Journal of OT, Schools and Early Intervention.

Professor Joseph Cipriani Ed.D., OTR/L research article, **Integration of International Service Learning in Developing Countries within Occupational Therapy Education: Processes and Implications**, was accepted for publication in Occupational Therapy in Health Care, published online Nov 2, 2016. The article will subsequently be published in the print version of the next journal issue.

# OT Weekend Students Share *Meaningful* Items

The Weekend College OT Class of 2019 completed an assignment called an Occupational Configuration in their OT 103 course instructed by Jennifer Rugletic-Washko MS, OTR/L. This assignment is a culminating experience in which one comes to understand if their lives are balanced or imbalanced in regard to the eight areas of Occupation. The pictures of the weekend occupational therapy college students share some of the meaningful objects that are a part of their occupational lives. The students presented their completed Occupational Configuration projects along with their meaningful objects in an expression of their use of time this semester in their (OT 103) - Introduction to Occupational Therapy course.

-Jennifer Rugletic Washko MS, OTR/L



Top Row from left to right: Ian Wallace, OTS; Ashley Emmons, OTS ;

Bottom row: Andrea Gibson, OTS; Melissa Schlosser, OTS

## HP 615: TREATMENT AND EVALUATION OF PEDIATRIC FEEDING ISSUES

*Instructors: Dr. Jessica Piatak, OTD, OTR/L and Kristina Carraccia, MS, SLP-CCC*

This course provides an extensive overview of evaluation and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. The course will review typical development of developmental and feeding milestones to set a scene for evaluation and treatment of feeding, eating, and swallowing dysfunction. The course will focus on oral motor dysfunction, tube-feeding, sensory issues, positioning and handling, and behavioral management related to feeding/eating. Additionally, conditions that effect feeding/eating are explored along with medical and therapeutic assessments. Videos, case studies, and research articles to ensure evidence based practice will support student learning. Students will leave this course with the information needed to complete a thorough evaluation and design a solid treatment intervention plan for clients with feeding, eating, and swallowing dysfunction.

**Hybrid Course:** Online for Term B of Spring 2017 semester and meets one weekend (March 25 and 26), during semester.

## HP 630: CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN AN INTERNATIONAL SETTING

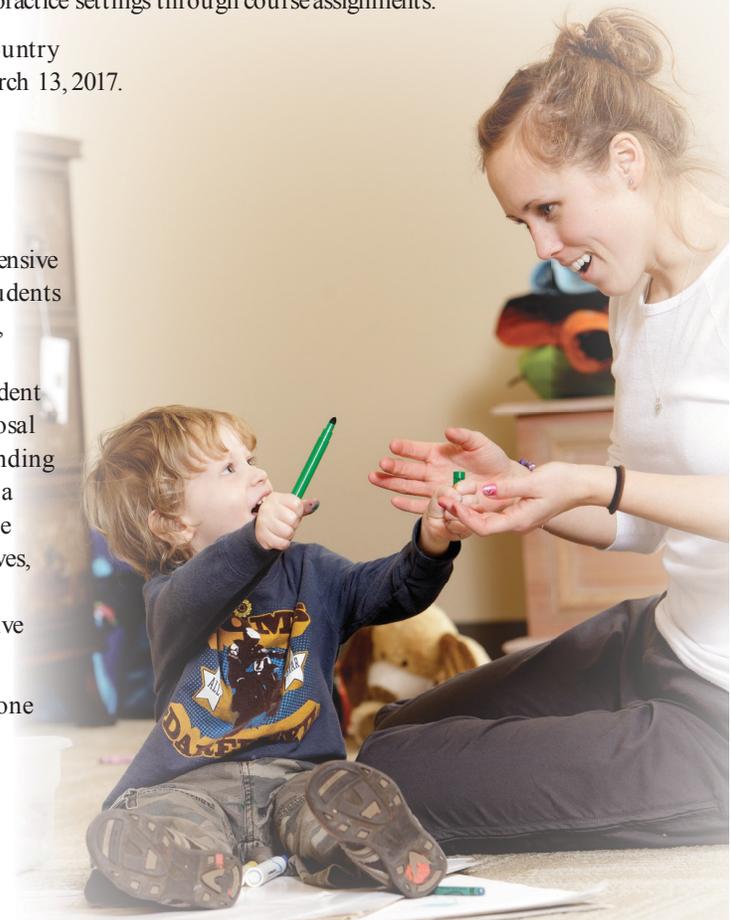
This course is designed to provide an opportunity to expand clinical knowledge in the areas of early childhood development, psycho-emotional development, and program development, including community needs assessments. The course content and learning will occur in a service-learning format, in which student will travel with faculty outside the United States for the primary portion of the course. The most relevant issues in promoting development for institutionalized and post institutionalized children as well as family training for foster care providers are presented with reflection upon existing evidence within the fields of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology, nursing, psychology, and neurodevelopment. The students will apply the course content to their clinical and professional practice settings through course assignments.

**Hybrid Course:** Online all semester. In country travel during Spring Break, March 4 – March 13, 2017.

## HP 670: GRANT WRITING

This course is designed to provide an extensive overview of the grant writing process. Students will learn how to identify a funding need, develop a case for support, and research potential funding opportunities. The student will develop a comprehensive grant proposal that directly responds to an identified funding opportunity. The various components of a grant proposal are explored, including the introduction, problem statement, objectives, methodology, evaluation, budget, and summary sections. Strategies for persuasive writing techniques are presented.

**Hybrid Course:** Online all semester with one on-campus date of January 14, 2017 from 8 am to 12 noon.



**PEDIATRIC CERTIFICATE  
GRADUATE COURSE  
DESCRIPTIONS  
SUMMER 2017**

**HP 600: ADVANCED PRACTICE PEDIATRIC  
ISSUES AND TRENDS**

*Instructor: Orley Templeton, OTD, OTR/L*

This course is designed to explore the most recent issues and trends in the area of pediatric occupational, physical therapy and speech language pathology. The course will focus on evidence-based practice, mentorship and leadership, and community based practice within the current profession of the student. The students will apply the course content to their clinical and professional practice settings through course assignments.

**Online Only**

**HP 625: SENSORY INTEGRATION  
TREATMENT AND EVALUATION**

*Instructor: Tricia HoffLaCour, MS, OTR/L*

This course is designed to provide an extensive overview of sensory integration theory, neurology, evaluation and treatment related to clinical practice for occupational, physical therapists and speech language pathologists. Sensory integration theory is explored in relationship to function and occupation. The most relevant evaluations and treatment interventions are presented as well as a critical review of effectiveness research in sensory integration. The students will apply the course content to their clinical and professional practice settings through course assignments.

**Hybrid Class:** Meets both on campus for 4 dates

**HP 665: SEATING IN PEDIATRIC  
PRACTICE**

*Instructor: Karen Kangas, OTR/L*

This course will assist treating clinicians in increasing their knowledge and skills when using seating strategies for their children. Seating needs for children include safe passive transport within the community and their environment, adequate support for eating, as well as support for independent postural control for task participation. This course will focus on all the needs for seating, including seating needed for postural management of the child, as well as seating for the child's development of postural control.

**Class meets on campus 5 days.**

**HP 635: SCHOOL BASED PEDIATRIC OT & PT**

*Instructor: Lori Charney, OTD, OTR/L*

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with intermediate level knowledge related to the provision of best practice occupational therapy services within the educational environment. Practices particularly relevant to the school setting in terms of assessment, individualized educational planning, intervention, re-assessment and discharge will be discussed. Additional course topics will include legislation, service provision models, evidence based practice in the schools, consultation, effective teaming, and advocacy.

**Class meets online only.**

**ALL CLASSES ARE 3 GRADUATE CREDITS AND REQUIRE ON-LINE  
TUTORIAL FOR BLACKBOARD DISTANCE EDUCATION TOOL**

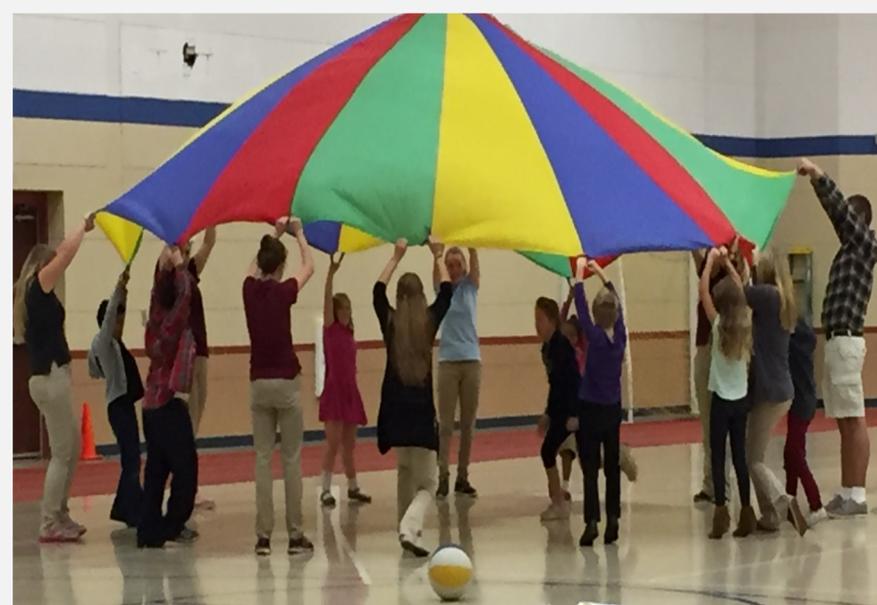
**For more information please contact Pediatric Certificate Coordinator,  
Dr. Orley Templeton at [otemplet@misericordia.edu](mailto:otemplet@misericordia.edu)**



# Service Learning with Children

**S**ophomore OT students participated in service learning activities for OT 220 Human Development with children in grades kindergarten through eleventh from Rock Solid School. OT students created two different groups for each grade level, one group had an anti-bullying theme and the other group had a fitness theme. The service learning project was an invaluable experience tying classroom content on child development with social participation and occupation with children.

*Dawn Evans OTD, OTR/L*



## AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave

The Occupational Therapy Department is proud to announce that two Pi Theta Officers attended the 2016 AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave this year in November in Dearborn Michigan. President Jillian Eberly and Vice President Kaitlin Sauder represented MU OT at the annual Pi Theta Business Meeting.

Jillian was asked to speak at the meeting, which has representatives from most Pi theta chapters nationwide, about our successful fund raiser flea market sale, and discuss strategies on how to get students involved in raising money for St Catherines Challenge.

*-Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., OTR/L*

# Undergraduate Research Fellowship Poster Presentation

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Poster Presentation was held on October 17, 2016 in Insalaco Center. Lauren Apgar and Amanda Salek served as Dr. Charney's research fellows during summer 2016. The title of the poster was **"The Effectiveness of Sensory Social Group Intervention Protocols on Social Participation for Children with Autism via Single Subject Design"**. Data was collected during a camp held on Misericordia's campus during July. Partial results were disseminated through a poster presentation with other students research fellows from many different departments.

Lori Charney OTD, OTR/L



Pictured from left to right: Lori Charney, OTD, OTR/L and Lauren Apgar, OTS, research fellow.

# OT Students Participate in Veterans Day Event

Sixty children from the McGlynn Center in Wilkes Barre came to campus to celebrate Veterans Day at MU. We had a generous response for volunteers to run the program from our junior class. MU students planned several physical activities that promoted and educated the children on fitness, teamwork, and respect for one another. These are all values of the US military. Dr Templeton gave an introduction and reminder of the purpose of the holiday and then the children had an hour and a half of FUN! They left with a goody bag full of



healthy snacks (generously donated by the Flornezo family). Dr. DaLomba, who organized the event with the students ahead of time, but had to be out of town for a family emergency, said she was touched and proud of these students' dedication and follow through to this project in her absence.

-Elaina Dalomba, Ph.D, OTR/L

# Air Force Recruiter Visits MU

On June 26, 2016 Air Force Recruiter Sergeant Ray Fernandez met with approximately 15 weekend MS OT students to inform them about a health care career in the US Air Force. Misericordia would like to thank Sergeant Fernandez for meeting with our students and visiting our campus!



## 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 2015 pass rate for the Misericordia University OT entry level program was 100%.

## Contact Us

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

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