

NORTH DAKOTA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION



August
Edition 2, Volume 11

A Message from the NDOTA President:

Dear fellow OTs!

I hope you have all been enjoying summer fun! The NDOTA board is very proud to announce that we have allotted \$1,000 this year to support various community projects. We hope to increase this amount annually, based on a percentage from the number of members we have (**More members = More support of the community!**). We are excited about taking NDOTA directly into our communities!

Several of us took part in the Limitless Fashion Show on March 24th in Minot, which showcased kids and teens with differing abilities wearing clothes from local boutiques. NDOTA sponsored the stress balls that were requested, and we offered karaoke and books to read while they were waiting for the show to start. Thank you to Sheri Martin, Geena Leschisin, and Kate Robert for coming out to take part!

Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports was the second recipient of this year's sponsorship. NDOTA sponsored the facility and an activity for the participants and their families at Prairie Grit's first annual overnight Adventure Camp that took place at Pelican Lake, Camp Metigoshe, from 1pm on June 29th to 1pm on June 30th.

Also, we are bringing back Senior Day at the ND State Fair! NDOTA will have a booth and OT volunteers (you!) to educate and support our wonderful seniors! We will be educating on home safety tips and giving away prizes!

***We have \$400 left and are looking for one more community need to sponsor this year and are open to your ideas!**

Contact ndotacommunications@gmail.com if you have any ideas, photos to share, questions or comments, or would like to get involved! Thank you for representing our amazing profession! Get involved – It matters!!

Warm Regards,

Heather Dibra, NDOTA President

VP of Legislation and Practice Co-Chair

NDOTA is excited to introduce you to the newest member of the BOM group. We are welcoming **Megan Peterson** to our board as the VP of Legislation and Practice Co-Chair. She will be serving alongside Cory Vatnsdal-Geck in this position. Megan Peterson is an occupational therapist working at Anne Carlsen Center Early Intervention in Fargo. Within her work, she is most interested in population health and mental illness and their effect on family dynamics. She most recently went to the Mountain Plains ATTC conference on giving care to family units of individuals with SUD. As a result of the conference, Megan's new goal is to bring more psychosocial frameworks into the early intervention system in Fargo. In her free time, Megan reads countless journal articles on politics, discrimination in all aspects of human life, and mental health. She plays the violin and a Norwegian folk instrument named the hardanger fiddle. She is excited to join NDOTA and to help occupational therapists across North Dakota be seen and heard in legislative sessions.

Student of the
Year
Catherine
Swiderski



Professional of
the Year
Cindy
Anderson



Wells Fargo District

The Wells Fargo district has welcomed a new district chair. Please welcome Sarah Nelson to the BOM for NDOTA.

My name is Sarah Nelson. I graduated from the University of Mary in December of 2017 and have been a practicing OT for over 2 years now. My specialty is pediatrics with my interest areas being primitive reflex integration, infantile feeding, and behavioral management (and much more)! I currently work at Essentia Health in Fargo, ND in the outpatient pediatric therapy department as their only pediatric OTR. I look forward to getting more involved in NDOTA and getting some excitement going in the Wells Fargo district!

Representative Assembly Update

The Representative Assembly met on April 4th during the 2019 Annual AOTA conference in New Orleans. The first motion focused on updating the policy on entry level education requirements for both OT's and OTA's. Following a robust discussion the RA voted to support dual entry-level degree levels. OTs may earn an entry-level master's or doctoral degree, and OTAs may earn an entry level associate's or bachelor's degree. Motion 2 was a policy on recommended versus mandated education levels. This motion was defeated by the members of the representative assembly. More data must be collected with an initial report on outcome data due to the RA for discussion at the Fall 2019 meeting. The third motion to expand education and practice for OTA's was adopted with minor amendments. The commission on Education(COE) and the Commission on Practice (COP) will investigate current and future OTA education and practice, review AOTA documents and standards and define what and if any changes in OTA roles, functions and supervision requirements are warranted to facilitate future OTA practice. An initial report and recommendations will be discussed at the Spring 2020 RA meeting.

My term as a member of the representative assembly for North Dakota was completed on June 30, 2019. Thank-you for the opportunity to serve. Please join me in welcoming Cindy Janssen, the new representative assembly member for the state of North Dakota.

Warm regards,

Julie Grabanski

NDOTA in the Community:




At Prairie Grit's Adventure Camp



Limitless Fashion Show in Minot



NDOTA members at Limitless Fashion Show



Save the Date! October 11th – 12th, 2019

VP of Education: Save the Date!

The upcoming **NDOTA Annual Conference** is just around the corner! Our planning committee has been busy planning a great conference for us all this year. It will take place in Bismarck on **October 11-12, 2019**. Highlights this year include:

Friday evening:

Social/ Poster Presentation: This will take place at the Radisson Hotel. Come share appetizers and beverages with fellow OTs, catching up with friends or perhaps making new ones! University of Mary and UND students will have the chance to have their scholarly projects on display.

Special Interest Section (SIS) Speaker – TeleRehab – **Marsha Waind, OTR/L**, will go over some new updates regarding this topic and how reimbursement of this service works in North Dakota.

Saturday:

Pediatric Track:

Robert Constantine, OTR/L, is an expert in visual and neurological rehabilitation with over 20 years of experience guiding patients to recovery from visual disorders that result from brain injury, stroke, and developmental delays. He is a member of the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association, a unique interdisciplinary organization that brings together the tools of optometry, occupational and physical therapy to improve outcomes for patients with neurological diagnoses. Mr. Constantine has a Facebook page, "Vision Rehab OT", where he has provided OTs additional information to help treat visual patients. Currently, Mr. Constantine travels about the country educating therapists on vision therapy for both pediatric and adult populations.

Adult Track:

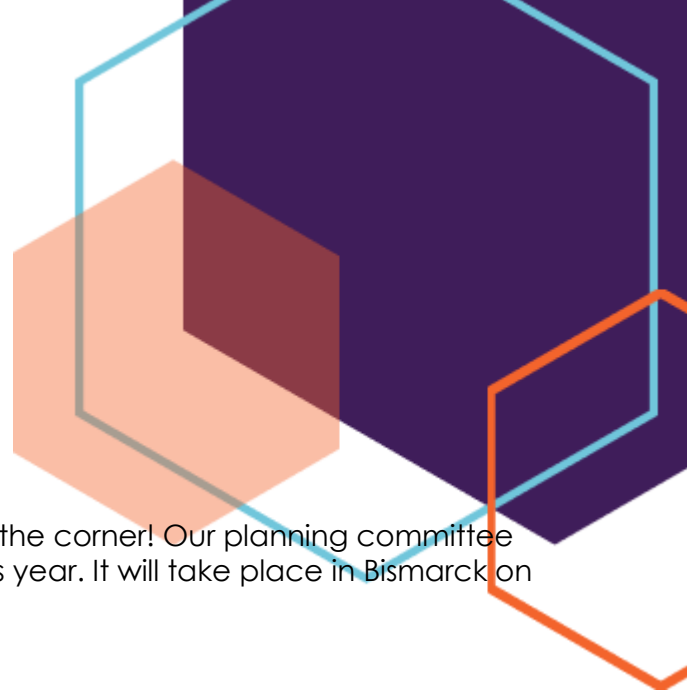
Aimee Volk, MS, OTR/L, is the Vision and Independent Living Services Administrator for the ND Division of Vocational Rehab.

Amy Brunner Oswald is a Vision Rehabilitation Specialist with North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind.

Together, they have come up with a great presentation to help our patients who experience low vision or visual deficits. They have expertise in areas of low vision assessments, proper lighting in homes to accommodate for low vision, assistive technology, and eccentric viewing. Please visit the NDOTA website for further information regarding the speaker's biographies, course outlines and learning objectives, and registration information. A book of rooms has been set aside for NDOTA members for October 11th at the Radisson Hotel. Mention "NDOTA" to get the discount rate.

We look forward to seeing you this fall in Bismarck!!

Shawna Wing, MS, OTR/L
NDOTA VP of Education



Meet your NDOTA Student Representatives

Courtney Haugen

Hometown: Dickinson, ND

OT Program: University of North Dakota, MOT

Graduation: May 2020

Hobbies: Outdoor activities, concerts, traveling

Post grad plans: Interested in travel therapy as it would allow me to see what our wonderful profession has to offer



Alyana Marie Louise Simpron

Hometowns: Cebu City, Philippines/Bismarck, ND

OT Program: University of North Dakota, MOT

Graduation: May 2020

Hobbies: Traveling, hanging out with my dog, hip hop dancing, being outdoors

Post grad plans: Work in an inpatient acute care in psych or physical disabilities

Parker Hoey

Hometowns: San Jose, CA/Devils Lake, ND

OT Program: University of North Dakota, MOT

Graduation: May 2020

Hobbies: Spending time with friends and family, being outside, reading, and taking care of my plants

Post grad plans: Work in pediatrics and pursue NICU therapy



Morgan Clements

Hometown: Osage, MN

OT Program: University of Mary, MOT

Graduation: April 2019

Hobbies: Spending time with family at the lake, traveling with friends, and trying new cooking recipes!

Post grad plans: Interested in travel therapy or I'd like to explore my interests in acute care with adults or sensory integration in pediatrics!

NDOTA Website Updates

Greetings fellow OT's,

I am so excited to announce a few changes to the NDOTA website. We have changed the front page to allow easier access to the login area. You will also notice instead of one picture at the top we now have several slides to rotate. Currently, you will see photos from last years conference highlighting our student of the year, Catherine Swiderski and OT of the year, Cindy Anderson. There is also a photo from a volunteer experience some of the BOM participated in, the Limitless Fashion Show. The website now has a forum section that is focused on adult, pediatric, conference and other questions. We have also added a job openings section and continuing education section. Lastly, a section for student surveys has been added for those individuals completing their Master's, Doctorate or Capstone Project. I encourage you all to check out the website as we continue to work towards improving this to make it a member benefit to use. If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions for the website, please feel free to email me at ndotawebmaster@hotmail.com.

Warm regards,

Sheri Martin

NDOTA Webmaster

Call for nominations

It is time to submit nominations for:

- Student of the Year
- OT of the Year

If you have an individual you would like to nominate for these awards for the upcoming fall conference, please go the www.ndota.com and click on the quick link for nomination forms!

District Chairs Openings

We are also looking for individuals to step up as district chairs for:

- Northwest Pioneers
- Red River

We would love to hear from you if you are in these districts, if you are not sure which district you are a member of, please email me at ndotawebmaster@hotmail.com or if you have questions on what the job duties are please call me.

Sheri Martin, 701-771-8949