Message from the President

Dear NMOTA,

2013 has brought many new and exciting changes for NMOTA and I am more excited than ever to be involved with such a wonderful organization! I would first like to thank all Board Members, Committee Chairs and Committee Members for their leadership and service to NMOTA.

Thanks to the diligence of the Nominations Committee, your NMOTA Board has grown by leaps and bounds this year and we are working to serve occupational therapy practitioners in new and innovative ways. This increase in leadership has facilitated an increase in membership, brought about new continuing education opportunities and promoted occupational therapy in New Mexico in dynamic new ways.

The 2013 Legislative session brought about new challenges and opportunities for occupational therapy and with the help of our lobbyist, we successfully protected our scope of practice and participated in health care reform debates. As the healthcare landscape continues to change, it is imperative that we as occupational therapy practitioners and students are at the table for discussions. Ignoring healthcare reform is not an option if we want to continue to have a role in health care systems! As members of NMOTA, you know how important your membership is in supporting our profession. Please take time to educate your peers on the importance of NMOTA in protecting the interests of occupational therapy practitioners and students. Help your peers understand how NMOTA membership is not an option, but a requirement to ensure occupational therapy continues to thrive in New Mexico. If each NMOTA member recruited only one new member, the strength of our voice as an association would double!

NMOTA has moved into the digital world this year with not only digital newsletters, but video chat Board meetings and an online election. These new digital tools have allowed us to reach more practitioners while saving money at the same time. Please visit our website (www.nmota.org) for updates and information.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to announce the birth of my first child. Baby Halden joined my family March 22 and I am truly enjoying my new role as a mother.

Thank you NMOTA members for your commitment to the profession of occupational therapy through membership!

Sincerely,
Sarah Picchiarini MOT, OT/L
President, NMOTA
Greetings NMOTA,

This year we jumped into promoting OT at the state legislature in Santa Fe on February 10th. There were 70 of us in all, fantastic participation! We roamed the halls promoting OT with our big OT buttons on, our fact sheets, bill & committee finders and eagerness to promote our profession...as usual the weather cooperated by being very windy and cold! The UNM OT graduate students constructed hand outs and folders to give to legislators that educated about the incredible diversity and effectiveness of our profession; helping people to their highest level of participation through meaningful life activities. In our group were OT's from NM, OT graduate students from UNM, OTA's and OTA students from Brown Mackie and Western university. The 2nd year OT graduate students and I are already working on a plan to make legislative day even better this year than the last, hard to do, but we are on the mission!

A big thank you goes to our lobbyist Linda Siegle for giving us a heads up on a bill proposed by recreational therapists (RT) to obtain licensure in the state of NM, with their scope of practice looking almost identical to Occupational Therapy. With her help we headed the bill off and killed it. The board also decided to work in collaboration with RT's to enhance & foster our relationship, as well as strengthen and advocate for our profession by protecting our scope of practice.

We are thrilled to announce a collaborative effort with the UNM OT program to begin a Practice Scholar project/program. It’s still in the works, but we are so very excited to be creating an avenue for practitioners all across NM to have access to a learning opportunity that takes the “mystery” out of beginning their very own research project in their work place setting. This project supports our centennial vision of “being science-driven, and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society’s occupational needs”...stay tuned for more!

As we embark on the summer, I wish you all continued success in your careers as Occupational Therapy practitioners. Hope to see you at conference!

Sincerely,
Johanna Cubra, MOTR/L

NMOTA Electronic Officer Voting

Nominating Committee (Terry K. Crowe, Ph.D., OTR/L, Erin Cook, MOTS, IvyRose Gozales, MOTR/L, Patricia Huband, MOTS)

This year NMOTA officer positions (President-Elect, Vice President, and Secretary) will be determined using an electronic voting process. All NMOTA members will receive an individual email with a link to RegOnline.com, along with an invitation code to access the online ballot. Once on the webpage, members will be able to access a profile for each NMOTA candidate and then cast a vote. This process will be quick and easy, and members can be ensured that their votes will be cast anonymously. No names or other personal identification of members will be needed to cast a vote. The ballot will be accessible to all members on June 5, 2013. Voting will be open until June 20, 2013. Elected Officers will start on July 1, 2013. Below is the 2013 NMOTA Ballot.
Carla Wilhite, OTD, OTR/L

**Education**
- BFA in Fine Arts, University of New Mexico
- BSOT, University of New Mexico
- Master of Nonprofit Management, Regis University
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Creighton University

**Professional Work**
- My initial practice was in home health occupational therapy, with some acute hospital rehabilitation experience, for about 3 ½ years. I then practiced for approximately 10 years as a generalist working with farmers and ranchers with disabilities providing occupational therapy services in assistive technology and adaptive equipment, home and work modifications, developing supportive psychosocial programming, providing extensive case management, and leadership with advocacy and nonprofit lobbying. I provided fieldwork supervision and mentoring for over 16 occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students during this time. I also developed a comprehensive continuing education course for occupational and therapy professionals in the physical rehabilitation issues of farmers and ranchers that was adopted by several state Age Ability projects. I have earned certificates in Agricultural Health and Safety, as well as Ergonomics for Workers. I have transitioned into higher education, working as an assistant professor in OT graduate programs for the past 4 ½ years. My clinical and research interests have evolved around mental health, wellness, and disability issues in the rural and frontier Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions.

**Vision for NMOTA**
- I hold a vision for the state association to accelerate support for achieving AOTA’s centennial vision and furthering the mission of NMOTA in fostering collaborative relationships, ensuring proactive and assertive advocacy, providing professional development opportunities for members, and increasing the visibility and respectability of our practice in New Mexico. I also envision a membership organization in which ALL New Mexico OT’s find benefit in being a member and in being active supporters and volunteers of the association. Finally, I envision a financially secure organization capable of procuring resources, services, and benefits that accrue to members, the field of occupational therapy, and the people we serve.

Orlando Chavez, COTA/L

- I am a native New Mexican, attended NMSU/ANSC and ENMUR/OT Asst. I own Si Se Puede Therapy, LLC and have for the last 4 yrs. We provide OT services to several Home Health agencies and SNFs from Clovis to Carlsbad N.M. We also provide OT services to an outpatient clinic in Roswell.
- I am currently and have been Sec of the Dexter Board of Ed for the last 8yrs and was elected for four more in Feb. I also hold state certification as an Ombudsman and hold licensure from the NM Board of Veterinary Med in AI/PD and hold OTA licensure in the states of NM and Texas along with NBCOT certification.
- My vision for NMOTA is to help members and future members exceed their expectations in all aspects of our profession so that we may better serve our diverse clientele.

Johanna Cubra, MOT, OTR/L

- Johanna Cubra has served as VP on the NMOTA board since 2010. She received her BS in Family Studies in 1999, and her masters in OT in 2004 from the University of NM. She has worked in the school setting as an OT and with people in the re-integration process after being in the justice system. She currently works in early intervention and as part time employee with the University of NM working with families that are currently in the re-unification process, as well as families that are at high risk for drug addiction, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect. For fun Johanna is a fitness instructor at Body Language in Albuquerque.

- Her vision for NMOTA is to increase membership, improve and foster communication with professional organizations that have like-minded interests to educate and promote occupational therapy in order to foster collaboration, and continue to support NMOTA's voice in legislative issues both on a national and state level.

President Elect (one year) Vote for 1

Vice President (2 year term) Vote for 1
Annandhi Chandrasekaran, MOT, OTR/L

I’m a recent graduate of the MOT program at UNM and have started working as an Occupational Therapist in the In-patient department of HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital. I’m thrilled to finally start working as an OT after almost 15 years of looking for what I really wanted to do. In my previous career I worked as a software engineer, so I am fairly comfortable with technology, automating tasks, and using the MS office suite. I believe that I can draw on these skills in my role as the secretary of NMOTA. My vision for NMOTA is for it to be a state organization with strong ties to the OT community, encourage collaboration between OTs and professionals from other disciplines. I would like for the NMOTA website to be a portal where students and practitioners can share ideas and information, and learn more about and get involved in the advocacy efforts of the organization.

John Garrett, MOT, OTR/L

I have a Masters in Occupational Therapy from UNM. I have been working with students in rural areas of New Mexico. I would like to see NMOTA enrollment grow to strengthen our voice.

NMOTA Contest: The Reacher is in need of a Facelift and we need your help. Email Rocky Rodriquez at rocky.rodriguez@yahoo.com and think of a new name that could be used in the next newsletter. Winner will be notified at NMOTA 2013 conference, a special prize will be awarded if your idea is chosen.

rocky.rodriguez@yahoo.com
In the spirit of this year’s 2013 Annual NMOTA State Conference theme “Who We Are, What We Do, and How We Do It”…

A STUDENT-RUN and STUDENT GEARED seminar is being added to this year’s conference agenda. Take pride in being an NMOTA student member and join us at this year’s conference to learn from and work with your current student colleagues and OT practitioners.

Due to your feedback for more student-specific activities at the annual conference and an organizational effort to promote student involvement in NMOTA, an intercollegiate student-run seminar will be available at this year’s annual conference. Our aim is to bring future occupational therapist (OT) and occupational therapist assistant (OTA) students together to establish more unified and mutually beneficial relationships amongst current students and programs. We also hope to instigate positive collaboration between future and current OT and OTA practitioners. This hour and a half seminar will be focused in the spheres of educational endeavors, professional realm of practice, and importance of advocating for your profession. We plan to address OT and OTA current program training, practice roles as outlined by state and national guidelines, importance of participation in 2014 Legislative Day, and then utilize breakout groups to collaborate on case studies in a few select settings or scenarios. Current OT and OTA students will work with one another and current OT and OTA practitioners to better understand Who We Are, What We Do, and How We Do It from a student perspective. While taking great pride in being part of a state organization that values its current and future practitioners.

We are still looking for Master’s of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant students to collaborate on the design and implementation of this year’s seminar presentation over the summer and prior to the annual conference. If you are a current occupational therapy student at University of New Mexico, Brown Mackie College—Albuquerque, Western New Mexico University, or Eastern New Mexico University—Roswell and interested in working with student peers at a state level, please contact Jennifer Woolf (jwoolf14@salud.unm.edu) immediately. The deadline is June 5, 2013. Student committee members will be chosen on a first come, first contact basis. Email your interest in being a student leader today!

Calling All New Mexico Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant Students: Your Voice Was Heard! – By: Jennifer Woolf, MOTS at UNM
2012-2013 Graduating Class

Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell

Juana Aguilar
Kasandra Barraza
Bill Batte
Brenna Chavez
Isabel Clements
Loretta Contreras
Victoria Diaz
Daniel Downing
Allison Epps
Sara Garcia

Ashley Glascock
Aide Jimenez
Ioei Larez
Desiree Mendoza
Shannon Mosier
Alicia Munoz
Erica Newton
Emiliano Perez
Joanna Sanchez
Tracy Seney

Emily Bergman
Geralyn Bradley
Tammy Comerci
Erica Covarrubia
Mellissa Dietz
Jayme Fite
Amanda Hill
Jose Hoover
Kayla Mayberry

Vanessa Molina
Crystal Netz-Arenivar
Tim Nottingham
Joseph Ragin
Gabriel Reyes
Kaydene Soto
Mason Stanley
Alyssa Vargas
Sarah White

Membership Campaign Kicks Off

The NMOTA Membership Committee has created a new membership campaign focused on the theme of PRIDE in being a member of NMOTA. The campaign will kickoff using Constant Contact to send electronic communications to prospective members. Constant Contact is an effective and inexpensive way for organizations to get their messages out. The email will have a link for prospective members to reach the Membership Page of the NMOTA website where they can join up online.

Although over 1,000 occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are practicing in New Mexico, only 210 are dues paying members of NMOTA. With the weight of health care reform bearing down on state level decision-makers, every member counts. It is also shaping up to be a "Perfect Storm" in New Mexico as far as the year 2014 is concerned. Not only is the Affordable Care Act rolling out, the OT Practice Act must undergo a Sunset process, during which new rules, regulations, and scope of practice must be hammered out through the legislative process. There are NO guarantees in the process. We also expect new challenges from the proponents of scope of practice for recreation therapy that closely mirrors and infringes on the practice of occupational therapy in New Mexico.

New Mexico Occupational Therapy Association Announcement

Being a Member is a Matter of Pride!

Really, it's as simple as that. Being a member of NMOTA is a matter of pride to New Mexico occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students. When you say you are a member of NMOTA, it means you are a part of an active group of professional practitioners, advocates, policy makers, leaders, and game changers. The future success of occupational therapy in New Mexico rests in your hands and in your support of NMOTA. During uncertain times of health care change, reimbursement issues, and turf wars- standing together matters now more than ever.

Will You Grab Your Piece of the PRIDE?

Go ONLINE and Join Right Now!
Call for Student Posters/Projects

2013 New Mexico Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference
O3 in 2013
Occupation: Who we are
Occupation: What we do
Occupation: How we do it
September 6-7, 2013
Albuquerque Marriott (Louisiana and I-40)

The 2013 NMOTA Conference Committee is now accepting student poster/project proposals.

In order to be accepted, poster/project proposals must be received by August 20, 2013. This deadline is to ensure that ample space can be provided for optimal viewing at the September 6, 2013 Sunset Soiree, at the Albuquerque Marriott.

Presentations can illustrate and/or describe student projects, student involvement in school activities, or any other meaningful aspect of your participation in your Occupational Therapy academic career; easels will be provided. A focus on the aspect of “occupation” must be included in the poster itself or in your discussion with attendees.

The following is just one website that might offer guidance for a poster presentation. http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/bio/posters.html

Registered attendees of the Sunset Soiree will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending the student poster/project presentation. After setting up of poster/project, Student Presenters must remain next to their poster/project and be available for questions for at least 45 minutes, at the beginning of the Sunset Soiree, on September 6, 2013.

Please include all requested information below, in a Word format, and submit to Gerri Duran at gerandran@comcast.net, with any questions about the Call For Posters/Projects or general conference information.

In appreciation for the time, effort, and commitment to your state professional association, all student NMOTA members submitting a proposal for a poster/project (and cleared to present) will only have to pay $25 to attend the 2013 NMOTA Conference (to help off-set the cost of lunch and refreshments). Each Submitter will be provided with the code necessary for the $25 online registration fee.

1. Submitter’s (s’) Full Name(s) and Credentials:
2. Are you a current member of NMOTA or other state OT association?
3. Are you a current member of AOTA?
4. Title of Poster/Project Presentation:
5. Email for each presenter:
6. Contact Phone:
7. Present School/Work Site and/or Fieldwork Site:
8. Size of Poster/Project:
9. Will you need an easel?
10. If you are exhibiting a project, how much room will you need? Will you need a table on which to place your project? Any needs for electricity/power strips/cords?
11. Brief description of Poster/Project Presentation (100 words or less):
12. Short Biography of each Presenter (30 words or less):
13. Other comments/questions.
Greetings to All,

This year’s annual conference is set to bring new perspectives, innovative concepts, and fresh energy to your daily practice. I look forward to seeing each of you at this year’s conference. Although last year was my final year as conference chair, our new Co-Chairs and I will continue our tradition of providing an excellent venue for continuing education and professional fellowship.

See you in a few short months!

Gerri Duran

Save The Date:
September 6-7, 2013 - NMOTA Conference
Anne Fisher is Professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy, Department of Community Medicine and Rehabilitation, Umeå University, Sweden. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1969; and a master’s in occupational therapy in 1977, and a doctorate in therapeutic science in 1984, both from Sargent College of Allied Health Professions, Boston, MA.

Dr. Fisher is an internationally recognized expert in occupational therapy theory, functional assessment, and instrument development. The focus of her research has been on the development of occupation-centered tools that support the implementation of occupation-based and/or occupation-focused occupational therapy services. Among them are (a) the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS) that is used to evaluate a person’s quality of ADL task performance; (b) the School Version of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (School AMPS), the only existing observational assessment of a student’s ability to perform schoolwork tasks that have been assigned by the teacher and performed within the student’s natural classroom milieu; and (c) the Evaluation of Social Interaction that is used to evaluate the quality of social interactions of persons when they are engaging in natural social exchanges with typical partners. She has also developed the Occupational Therapy Intervention Process Model, a professional reasoning model that enables occupational therapists to implement occupation- and client-centered services to their clients.

Dr. Fisher has published more than 100 articles in refereed professional journals and more than 30 books or books chapters. Dr. Fisher is a member of the Academy of Research of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation; and she was awarded the A. Jean Ayres Award in 1991 in recognition of her efforts refining and synthesizing the theories of sensory integration and the Model of Human Occupation, for excellence in teaching, and for innovative research in measurement and functional assessment. She was the 1997 recipient of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship for distinguished contributions to theory and functional assessment. In November 2000, Dr. Fisher was awarded an honorary doctorate (hedersdoktor) from Umeå University, Sweden, and is the first occupational therapist ever to have been so honored by that institution. In 2001, she was named University Distinguished Professor at Colorado State University, an honor bestowed on only 10 faculty who have made significant national and international contributions to their profession. As a researcher, she has received funding from the National Institutes of Aging, Swedish Research Council, and American Occupational Therapy Foundation, among others. She serves of several editorial boards, including Journal of Applied Measurement, Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy, and the American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Anne Fisher, ScD, OT, FAOTA

Dr. Lamb is the Vice President of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy at Eastern Michigan University, and owner of AJLamb Consulting. She is the immediate past chair of the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC). She brings with her the valuable combination of clinical practice as a registered occupational therapist combined together with health care policy experience at the state and federal levels. Dr. Lamb’s expertise includes health policy, prevention and wellness, and occupational therapy as a career.

Dr. Lamb received both her Bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy and her post professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Lamb got her policy start in the Minnesota House of Representatives working with the Health Policy committee. She was the paid lobbyist for the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association from 2000-2008.

Dr. Lamb’s clinical practice spans from private practice, school based pediatrics, acute care, and elders. Prior to her current position she was an Outpatient Director with Brookdale Senior Living managing the outpatient therapy clinics and home health rehabilitation services in assisted living and independent living communities in the Denver Colorado area. In 2012, Dr. Lamb was selected to join the AOTA Roster of Fellows. In 2011, she received the Lindy Boggs advocacy award from the American Occupational Therapy Association for her leadership in advocacy and political action in the profession of occupational therapy. Therapy Times included her on their Most Influential list for 2007 for her contributions at the state and federal level in advocacy and health policy development.

In her volunteer leadership positions, Dr. Lamb is part of the team that helps occupational therapy professionals understand the policy agenda of the association and the role they as health care professionals play in advocacy, she organizes the grassroots, educates others on issues, and spends time on the hill with members of Congress to meet the needs of the Association. Dr. Lamb speaks regularly to groups on health policy issues impacting practice and benefits of consumers and provides participants with practical ways to get involved in the process and make their voices heard. She currently resides outside of Dexter, Michigan with her husband Nathan and their two children Gabby (11) and Josh (9).
Since the beginning of our profession, engagement in occupation has been valued as our primary therapeutic agent as well as the goal of intervention. While there are few today who would not support this idea, we continue to struggle with implementing our beliefs through “what we do” and “how we do it.” Contributing to this problem is our failure to use terminology in a manner that clearly defines what and how we do what we do in occupational therapy research, education, and practice.

I will, therefore, first discuss three key occupational therapy terms: occupation-centered, occupation-based, and occupation-focused, and propose that they represent an occupation-related taxonomy that we can use to more clearly define and describe for ourselves and others what we do and how we do what we do as occupational therapists. Then, with a goal of fostering critical self-reflection among occupational scientists and occupational therapy researchers, educators, and practitioners, I will go through the stages of the occupational therapy process outlined in the Occupational Therapy Intervention Process Model (OTIPM) and demonstrate how a more precise use of this occupation-related taxonomy can facilitate maximizing the power of...
UNM OT 20th Reunion News

The University of New Mexico-OT Division is having a twenty year reunion of alumni, friends of OT, program founders; past and present faculty, advisors, and guests who would like to celebrate this milestone achievement. The event will be held at the Marriott Pyramid on Saturday, September 28th, 2013. Plan for the festivities is still under way, but the event promises to be a lovely evening of food and drink, mariachi music, and plenty of time for reminiscence and reacquainting with school friends. Class representatives are assisting with the planning, however, some alumni have not been found. If you are an alumni and have not been contacted, or are interested in learning more about the reunion event, contact Janet Werner, at phone 505-272-6967 or e-mail wer-ner@salud.unm.edu

Advocating for Continuing Education Opportunities: The Student Perspective

By: Rachel Gillespie, MOTS

February 8th, NMOTA and the UNM OT Program partnered to bring a group of dynamic, eager OT and OTA students to the roundhouse for our annual Legislative Day. The learning experience included: reaching out to legislators, articulating the inherent benefits of OT services for our community, advocating for our rights as students and future practitioners, and navigating the legal process as a collaborative OTA – OT team. Through this process, I began to develop a stronger drive for advocacy, and pride for our profession. I am eager to take on the responsibility of advocating for my field, and have found a niche in NMOTA as the new Continuing Education Committee Chair.

This summer marks the completion of my first year of Graduate Occupational Therapy coursework. The importance of becoming an active member of my profession has driven me take on this new role. As a student, I am in the fortunate position of learning under the direction of a diverse group of practitioners and professors on a daily basis. The provision of evidence-based research, best-practice intervention and hands-on learning has deeply broadened my skill set. My goal is to extend these same opportunities for enriching professional growth to practitioners in our community. I look forward working with NMOTA and advocating for valuable learning opportunities for us all.

Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities
Torticollis Workshop
Saturday, May 18th 2013.

Calling all United States Service Veterans:

If you have served or are currently serving please e-mail me at rocky.rodriguez@yahoo.com. We would like to Honor you in the upcoming news letter. Simply e-mail me with branch of service, how many years and if you are currently serving.

Student Research and Service Awards at UNM

Ellen Cousineau
Carolyn Thurman-Rustvold Community Spirit Award

Kaycee Hinckley
HealthSouth-Leadership, Service, and Professional Commitment Award

Jessica Salazar Sedillo
HealthSouth-Research and Scholarship Award

Amy Murtagh and Allie Weber
Sheila Mun-Bryce Research Award

Miranda Rouw
Department of Pediatrics Scholar Award

Micci Dill Boyce OTR/L & Johanna Cubra, MOTR/L
Distinguished Alumni Award
### NMOTA Contact Information

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“We envision that occupational therapy is a powerful, widely recognized, science-driven, and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society’s occupational needs.”

- AOTA Centennial Vision