

ALOTA NEWS

FALL 2011

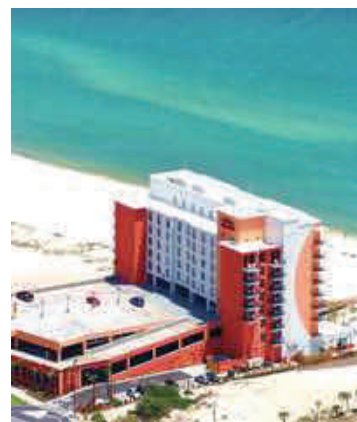
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: YOU ASKED – WE LISTENED!

This year's Fall Conference is going to be spectacular! We have made several changes this year in response to the course evaluations over the past few years.

- **New accommodations:** This year's conference will be at the new Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach that opened in April 2011. The rooms are less expensive and the conference space is brand new.
- **Upgraded audiovisual system:** The Hampton Inn has onsite technical support to assist us with any issues.
- **Catered reception:** Eat! Catering will be hosting our event this year, providing a wider selection.
- **Dual tracks:** Saturday will consist of two tracks, one geared towards the adult client and one geared more towards the pediatric population.
- **Pre-conference wheelchair and seating course** offering an opportunity for more CEUs.
- **High quality speakers:** This year we have *Bob Lujano* as our Keynote speaker (from the movie *Murderball*) on Sunday, and speakers from premiere facilities across the Southeast including *The Shepherd Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and Children's of Alabama.*

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Valley McCurry, MBA, OTR/L



PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE: WHEELCHAIRS AND SEATING DONE RIGHT

This is a beginner course for **occupational therapists and physical therapists** involved in evaluating people with disabilities for the need for appropriate wheelchairs and seating equipment. This course is designed to provide OTs and PTs with basic knowledge to help improve the seating and positioning needs of their clients and determine the need for further evaluation or change in equipment based on the client's goals. OT and PT students will benefit from this course in preparation for assessing seating and mobility needs in their future practice.

About the instructor: Cathy Carver, PT, MS, ATP is currently a physical therapist in outpatient at UAB/Spain Rehab Center in Birmingham, AL. Her practice involves working with adults with neurological impairments and doing seating and mobility evaluations. She was credentialed as an Assistive Technology Practitioner through RESNA in 2003. The majority of her 14 years of clinical experience has been in adult neuro-rehab with a special interest in spinal cord injury. She has been doing seating and positioning evaluations and fittings for 7 years primarily with adults with SCI, TBI, Stroke, spina bifida, CP, MS, and ALS. She has done multiple presentations and courses on wheelchair evaluations, equipment, and seating assessments for therapists and DME suppliers. Also, she works for AQA/Alabama Medicaid reviewing requests for custom manual and power wheelchairs for children and adults to determine medical necessity. She received the "Innovations in Physical Therapy Award" from the ALAPTA chapter in 2009 for her work with starting the Locomotor Training Program at UAB. She has been a member of the APTA including the Neurology Section since 1996 and a member of RESNA since 2003.

RESNA is pleased to provide 0.75 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for registered attendance and successful completion of this educational program. Pre-approved for 12 hours by the State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy.

ALOTA is an AOTA Approved Provider – 12 hours provided.



Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach, AL
September 15-16: Thursday and Friday morning prior to ALOTA Fall Conference
Registration for the two events is separate.
Cost: \$135.00 Register at ALOTA.ORG
or mail checks to P.O. Box 55674, Birmingham, AL 35255
Call (205) 937-0420 for information



CONGRATULATIONS MEGAN WEAVER FOR RECEIVING THE 2011 OTA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Megan is a 25-year-old former teacher from Gadsden AL. She taught in the Gadsden City School System for 2 years, and worked there in various capacities for 5 years before deciding to become an OTA. She enjoyed teaching because of the enormous reward it offered, but has found that the reward is the same if not greater in occupational therapy. She loves seeing her patients progress and return to living independently. She has just completed her second fieldwork in Pensacola, FL and will be graduating in August from Wallace State Community College.



2011 OT AWARDS AND OTS SCHOLARSHIP STILL UP FOR GRABS!

We want to recognize our peers for a job well done. Please take the time to nominate someone you know who does good work as an OT. There will also be an ALOTA Student Scholarship awarded at the Fall Conference. Encourage all OT students in Alabama to apply. You can download all forms at www.alota.org. Please send all nominations to the Recognitions Chair, Tracy O'Connor at toconno@usouthal.edu.

Applications must be received by September 1.


We will be recognizing the school with 100% student membership with a pizza party! **So do not forget to join ALOTA!**

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR 2011

It was a busy year for us on the government affairs front. As you know, the leadership in the Alabama legislature changed hands to the Republican Party for the first time in over 100 years. While ALOTA is bipartisan, the change is significant in that it resulted in different leadership at most key positions in our state government. That means a big part of our effort leading up to and including the last session was to make sure that we worked on **developing relationships** so that our legislators know us, so that they can appropriately represent your interests as an occupational therapy practitioner.

Perhaps the main focus of the legislative end of things was in **working collaboratively with the Alabama PT Association** on finding mutually agreeable language for the proposed overhaul of their practice act. This should be a topic of interest to you, as it has the potential to affect your practice and your clients. ALOTA worked closely with ALPTA and AOTA on this issue. ALOTA successfully negotiated with ALPTA on behalf of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy to include favorable terms for the use of functional training related to movement and mobility in the physical therapy bill, but the bill failed to pass out of committee. Subsequently, another bill was introduced that would provide only for direct access to physical therapy services (i.e., this was the only focus of the bill, versus a complete practice act overhaul). This bill also did not make it out of committee. We will continue to work collaboratively with our PT colleagues on this, likely for some time, as this is something that will be continued to be pursued by the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy and ALPTA.

What can you do? Joining ALOTA or renewing is critical, as it is your membership dollars and your attendance at our continuing education conferences that helps support our lobbying efforts. Also regularly checking the website during the legislative session is another small thing you can do (www.alota.org). Or, even more convenient, follow us on **Twitter and/or Facebook**. Our Twitter homepage is **@AlabamaOTAssoc**, and on Facebook we can be found at Alabama Occupational Therapy Association. Throughout legislative sessions, we will tweet government affairs updates, alerting you if there is an immediate need to call your legislators. We will also keep you updated on things throughout the year, like conferences and other things of interest to all OT practitioners.



If you have already registered for an ALOTA conference this year, you've probably noticed our **new website**. It's much more dynamic, and is better integrated for usability on Facebook and Twitter. Part of the efforts in our website overhaul has also been to develop a new logo for our organization!



We have been working on a **new ALOTA logo** for some time now and we expect to be able to debut it at the fall conference at the business meeting, so be on the lookout!

**ALABAMA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
FALL CONFERENCE TENTATIVE AGENDA
ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA
September 16-18, 2011
10 CEUs**

Friday, September 16th, 2011

11:30-1:00 Registration

1:00-2:00 Elsie McKibbin Lecture - Spirituality and Occupational Therapy

Gwendolyn Gray, Ph.D, MA, OTR/L Tuskegee University

2:00-3:00 Occupational Therapy in Alabama Q&A

Ann Cosby, ASBOT Executive Director; Valley McCurry, ALOTA President; Jay Murrill, ALOTA Lobbyist; Chris Eidson, ALOTA Government Affairs Chairperson and ASBOT Chairperson

3:00-3:30 ALOTA Board Meeting

3:30-3:45 Break and Vendors

3:45-4:45 Care of the Spinal Cord Injury Patient

Jennifer Huggins, OTR Shepherd Center

5:00-7:00 Awards Ceremony, Reception and Posters Presentations

Saturday, September 17th, 2011

Track A

8:00-9:00 Balance and Vestibular Rehabilitation

Lori S. Miller, MSPT, ATC/L, CSCS Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center

9:00-10:30 Using Assistive Technology and Accessible Design to Promote Aging in Place

*Jewell Dickson, MPH, OTR/L, ATP; Greshundria Raines, OTD, MPA, OTR/L, CAPS
Alabama State University*

10:30-10:45 Break and Vendors

10:45-12:15 Upper Extremity Prosthetics

Brian Horton, ABC certified/licensed prosthetist Biotech Limb and Brace

Track B

8:00-9:00 Developmental Care of the Sick Infant

Bernadette Poirer MS, OTR/L; Martha Herbes-Sanger MS, OTR/L Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

9:00-10:00 Occupational Therapy and Pediatric Ventilator Dependence in Alabama

Johanna Siemon, OTR/L; Payton McBride, OTR/L Children's Hospital of Alabama

10:00-10:15 Break and Vendors

10:15-12:15 Use of Challenge Course Activities to Promote Social Skills in Persons with Asperger Syndrome

Sandra Groger, OTD, OTR/L

Sunday, September 18th, 2011

8:00-9:00 Treatment of Closed Tendon Disruptions of the Hand

Kelli Anderson, OTR/L, CHT UAB Orthopaedics

9:00-10:00 Keynote Speaker

Bob Lujano Lakeshore Foundation

10:00-11:00 Me the OT?

Niki Croft, COTA/L Wallace State Alumni

For special group rates be sure to use the group code "AOT" when you make your reservations via 1-800-HAMPTON.

Reservations must be made no later than August 26.

Alabama Occupational Therapy Association
(ALOTA)
P.O. Box 55764
Birmingham, AL 35255

The Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA) is a members-only organization consisting of occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, occupational therapy students, and corporate sponsors. ALOTA is the state-based professional organization and public voice for the occupational therapy profession within Alabama. ALOTA is a state affiliate of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the national professional association. ALOTA and AOTA share the common goals of working to advance the profession of occupational therapy, the public's awareness of and access to needed occupational therapy services, and the contributions of occupational therapy to health, wellness, productivity and quality of life.



2011 ALOTA FALL CONFERENCE DETAILS INSIDE!

2011 Keynote Speaker

Bob Lujano was born in Wichita, Kansas and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington (B.A. in Pre-Law). He holds a M.S. in Sports Management from the University of Tennessee. He's also a quadruple amputee. On January 7, 1979, he lost limbs below the elbow and above the knee, due to a rare blood disease called Meningococemia, which is a rare form of meningitis. On October 4, 1979, he met and was blessed by Pope John Paul II. In the 10 years of playing quad rugby he was won 5 US Quad Rugby National Championships with the Lakeshore Demolition of Birmingham, AL and won 3 medals playing rugby for Team USA. A Gold ('99 World Wheelchair Games), one Silver (World Championships), and one Bronze (2004 Paralympics). He was also one of the athletes featured in the award winning movie, "Murderball". For 7 years he has worked at the Lakeshore Foundation, an official US Olympic and Paralympics Training Site, as Coordinator of Athletics.

Fall Conference Registration

Sign up for:	Time	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> ALOTA Members	All 3 Days	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members	All 3 Days	\$160.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ALOTA Members	2 Days	\$70.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members	2 Days	\$130.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Member	All 3 Days	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Non-Member	All 3 Days	\$40.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate any disability related accommodations that are needed in the space below:

Registration Deadline: September 9, 2011

*Registration forms, membership applications, as well as online payment via *Paypal*TM is available at www.ALOTA.org.
Make checks payable to **ALOTA** and mail to P.O. Box 55764, Birmingham, AL 35255*