

# VOTA VOICE

Virginia Occupational Therapy Association

Volume 3, Issue 2

## President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

Summer excitement is here and vacations loom around the corner for many of you. The VOTA Board meets in the summer to review proposed regulations for the new Occupational Therapy Assistant licensure, make some final decisions on the Fall conference, review the 2009 budget, and evaluate how well we have done to meet VOTA's organizational goals over the past fiscal year. All members are welcome at Board Meetings. Our next one will be on Saturday, July 12, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Sheltering Arms Rehab Hospital, Mechanicsville.

March 2, 2008 Governor Kaine signed our licensure legislation for Occupational Therapy Assistants who practice in Virginia. What a triumph for Occupational Therapy Practitioners in our Commonwealth. I would like to thank all of our members who provided the grass roots advocacy that made our quest a reality. The VOTA team of volunteers was made up of Michele Stoll, VOTA Legislative Chair, Sharon Hooks, VOTA OTA Liaison and your President. Legislative Consultant, Rebecca Bowers-Lanier provided expertise in grassroots lobbying, knowledge of the legislative process, and vast experience working with legislators in Virginia's House and Senate. Because of her suggestions the committee members in the House and Senate were educated about our bills before they even came up for discussion. Thank you to Ralph Kohl, from AOTA's State Affairs Group, who monitored our progress and provided resources and advice during the process.

The licensure bill goes into effect July 1, 2008. There will be a grace period while the regulations are being written. VOTA is seeking ways to find and notify all OTAs in Virginia. The Virginia Commission on Employment reports more than 500 OTAs were employed in Virginia in 2004.

Help us find the Occupational Therapy Assistants working in Virginia.

*(continued on next page)*



**Grace Williams,  
VOTA President**

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## President's Letter...continued

Encourage them to become members of VOTA. We need their input and support.

I attended the AOTA Conference in Long Beach, California in April. What an honor to represent VOTA at two days of Affiliated State Association Presidents meetings. It is always fun and educational to spend time with other State Presidents. We learn so much from each other about all the different aspects of running a successful state association. Lesley Winn, our VOTA vice president was there and attended an AOTA sponsored workshop on Conference Planning. Friday night of conference we collected all the VOTA members we could find at conference for dinner and conversation.

Lesley Winn and the Fall Conference Committee are working hard to

produce our September 27 – 28, 2008 conference in Portsmouth. The Speech and Hearing Association of Virginia had their spring conference at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel and I heard descriptions about the beautiful site, the excellent service, the fun old town and the water taxi. I look forward to seeing you there.

Be safe, have fun, and enjoy all the life activities summer offers.

Please get in touch if you have ideas, questions or just want to chat about OT in Virginia.

With warmest regards,

*Grace L. Williams, M.Ed., OTL, ATP  
President, Virginia Occupational  
Therapy Association  
fireball@comcast.net*

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Transitions Foundation, in Antigua, Guatemala, is seeking an OT or PT with experience working with spinal cord injuries to consult and/or visit their program. Spanish language skills are not necessary. Please visit the Transitions web site at [transitionsfoundation.com](http://transitionsfoundation.com). If you are interested in learning more, contact Sharon Sterling, VOTA Multicultural Liaison at [stersha@verizon.net](mailto:stersha@verizon.net).

## Check out VOTA's website at [www.vaota.org](http://www.vaota.org)

Did you know that you can:

- Find classified ads on-line?
- Search contact information for all VOTA members?
- Locate legislative updates that affect Occupational Therapy practice in our state?
- Read about what is going on at AOTA through our Rep Rap link?
- Learn about local OT happenings through our district links that are organized by zip codes?
- Find out about Continuing Education Opportunities?
- Locate contact information for all OT/OTA programs in the state?
- Read the VOTA VOICE newsletter?
- Contact all VOTA board members?
- Find scholarship & awards information?

## AOTA REP RAP:

# Updates from the Representative Assembly

The Representative Assembly (RA) of AOTA held a productive meeting in April at Long Beach, CA. Some of the highlights of the meetings include:

- Revised *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework* was adopted.
- Several leadership initiatives were approved despite some concern over the costs associated with these motions. AOTA President Penelope Moyers Cleveland urged the RA to not only consider cost but the impact and effect these motions would have on the profession. One of the motions approved is to implement the Coordinated Online Opportunities for Leadership (COOL) program. This online database will allow members to sign up and volunteer for leadership opportunities and will also enable AOTA to quickly locate volunteers with expertise and skills in particular areas.
- AOTA is advocating for either extending the therapy cap, scheduled to expire on June 30, 2008, or repeal the cap altogether. Please contact your Congress members to support the repeal for the therapy cap since it sets an arbitrary dollar amount on outpatient therapies.
- RA met their goal of 100% participation and raised almost \$11,000 for the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC) who are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The RA Leadership Team will be developing a statement challenging every

AOTA member to financially contribute to AOTPAC in this critical election year.

- Next year's AOTA Conference will be held April 23-26, 2009 in Houston, Texas. The theme for the conference will be *Linking Education, Practice, and Research*. Hope to see y'all there!

More information about the RA's actions are on AOTA's website under Leadership and Governance.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Representative for the last three years. Please contact Rebecca Argabrite Grove (Rebecca.ArgabriteGrove@loudoun.k12.va.us) and David Haynes (dhaynes@jchs.edu), your next RA team, if you have any questions or issues you would like AOTA to address.

**Thank you** all for your support of AOTA and our profession!

Your former legislative team leader,

Susan Lin [slin@su.edu](mailto:slin@su.edu)

**Congratulations to  
Whitney Dobyms our  
VOTA OTA  
Scholarship Winner!**  
**Thank-you to all who  
applied and everyone  
who contributed to  
make this possible!**



## OTA Licensure— The Next Steps

The summer months are here and bring visions of vacations at the beach, sitting poolside reading a good book, AND developing OTA Regulations for our licensure bill!

The next steps are in place for developing our OTA Regulations for Licensure. Gerry Milsky of Macaulay and Burtch (our lobbyist) met with the OT Advisory Board on June 3, 2008 to discuss development of the regulations. The Board meets again on June 23, 2008 and Gerry along with VOTA representation will be in attendance to discuss a draft of regulations.

Listed below are some questions, and answers, that will lend some guidance as we move forward.

- Now that the bill has passed, is there a timeline we are working from to develop, write, and implement the regulations?

Yes, the goal was to have the first working draft by the end of May. Currently we are awaiting some additional information from AOTA regarding what other states have adopted.

- Now that OTAs will be required to hold a license, how will the regulations be communicated to OTAs in the state that are not VOTA members?

This task will be handled by the Department of Health Professions. My expectation is that, since all OTAs are required to work under supervision, notification will be sent to all licensed OTs, who will in turn communicate the information to the OTAs working under their supervision.

- When the bill passed it stated we have 280 days to develop regulations; the bill goes into effect 7/1/08. Does this mean ALL OTAs must be licensed by 7/1/08 or is there a window of time to work licensure into effect?

The working estimate is that the effective date of the new regulation will be set at early December 2008. As you may know, the bill provided for 280 days from enactment for the Board of Medicine to promulgate regulations to implement the new law. Enactment occurred March 2, the Board has 280 days (let's call it 9 months) to draft a regulation and go through the required public notifications, hearings, etc. as required by the Administrative Process Act. Licensing under the new law will not begin until the date that is specified in the regulation. This will likely be on or shortly after the effective date of the new regulation.

- VOTA office has received calls from OTAs about licensure and they have been referred to the Dept. of Health Professions who are now referring back to VOTA again, what is the method to communicate information?

Since licensing is not going to begin until late 2008, at the earliest, the Department of Health Professions does not have any information to convey to OTAs who contact them at this time. As our efforts progress, VOTA will have a better idea of where the process stands at any given time, and in turn will be able to convey that information to OTAs. Put simply, OTAs have nothing to do until the regulation and licensing requirements go into effect.

We will keep you posted as we move through the process. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to contact myself, Sharon Hooks, OTA Liaison or Grace Williams, President.

*Michele Stoll, BS, OTA  
VOTA Legislative Chair*

**Check out the  
2008 Conference  
Ad...page 8!!**

# VOTA VOICE in Education

## Shenandoah University

Hopefully, we can stay connected with her for special events and projects.

Summer time at Shenandoah University is not a slow time. We are busy planning for the largest incoming cohort we have seen in a long time: approximately 25 new students are expected. This means hiring extra adjuncts, ordering more equipment and planning the logistics for teaching and learning. The new hybrid curriculum has proven to be a wonderful draw for our region. It is a very exciting time!

Several projects are in the works for the 08-09 school year. We will again be offering a continuing education activity during the SU Homecoming Weekend. Mark your calendars for October 24 and 25, 2008. Details of that event will be forthcoming. A second big event will be a one-day workshop on Social Stories by Carol Gray to be held March 11, 2009 on the SU campus. If you want to receive a brochure on that in the fall, please let us know.

Finally, we are saying "so long" to Susan Lin who will be taking a new position at AOTA beginning in August. She has been a wonderful part of the SU family and will be missed.

Deborah Marr, ScD, OTR/L

(Below: The graduates from Jefferson College of Health Sciences)



## Jefferson College of Health Sciences

### OTA

19 students graduated on May 9, 2008. There are currently 21 students ready to begin their second year classes this summer and we have 30 new students ready to begin this fall.

### OT

The new Master's level program has accepted its first class of 15 students that will begin professional classes this fall.

David A. Haynes, DHS, MBA, OTR/L

## Students

*Do you know about AOTA's Student Membership Circle? Earn school rewards by enticing every student in your program to join AOTA! Go to [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org) to find out more.*

## VOTA VOICE in Education

### Virginia Commonwealth University

April showers bring...May graduation and another full class of 40+ entry level students!

All of the faculty and staff at VCU are very proud of our Grad II class who participated in the graduation ceremony on May 17th. This class of 26 students is now completing their first Level II fieldwork. They will return to campus in January 2009 to celebrate their official completion of the program during the annual pinning ceremony. We are confident that this class has the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors to excel in the field of occupational therapy.

We are also very excited to welcome our new entry level master's class of 2010 who began their first course, Nature of Occupational Therapy, on June 4th. This class of over forty men and women from diverse backgrounds will certainly add to the tradition of excellence VCU prides itself on. Thank you Sandy Cash, Adriene Hall, and all of the members of the VCU graduate admissions committee who reviewed over one hundred

applications this year! Congratulations and welcome class of 2010!!!

April was also a busy month for our faculty, four of whom presented at the AOTA annual conference in Long Beach. Jayne Shepherd co-led a pre-conference workshop entitled *Strategies for Collaboration in School Based Practice*. This session focused on how OT's can effectively collaborate in the fast pace of today's education setting. Jayne's a co-author for a new book, "Collaborating for Student Success: A Guide for School-Based Occupational Therapy" which is now available from AOTA Press. Dr. Shelly Lane and Dr. Stacey Reynolds presented their research from the Sensory Processing And Stress Evaluation (SPASE) lab during the Sensory Integration Special Interest Section's (SISIS) annual meeting. The workshop was entitled *Physiological Mechanisms of Sensory Modulation Disorder: Current Findings from the Sensory Integration Research Collaborative (SIRC)*. SIRC is a group of individuals from across the country focused on researching the underlying mechanisms of sensory processing disorders and the effectiveness of sensory integration treatment. Dr. Marie Anzalone and Dr. Reynolds also presented data

from the SPASE lab program. Their research paper entitled *Behavioral Reactivity during a Sensory Challenge* focused on measurement of observable behaviors that occurred while children were presented with the different sensations. Finally, Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Al Copolillo (who was unable to attend the conference) presented a poster entitled *Sensory Modulation Disorders in Head Start: Indications of a Health Disparity*. Results displayed on this poster indicated that children enrolling in Head Start may be at higher risk for sensory modulation difficulties than other preschool populations.

Several VCU students also attended AOTA. Megan Bailes, from the entry level master's program, represented Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) and attended the PTE annual business meeting. Kelly Showalter and Liz Ridgeway from the OTD program and Linda Olson from the PhD in Health Related Sciences program were also in attendance. Liz and Linda also presented at conference. Liz led a short course on pediatric splinting while Linda led a course on infusing the occupational therapy practice framework across the practice continuum. In addition, recent PhD

## VOTA VOICE in Education

graduate of the Health Related Sciences Program, Dr. Christine Raber, lead a workshop related to her dissertation project, "Understanding volition: A key to supporting engagement in occupation for persons with dementia."

Dr. Jodi Teitelman also presented in April at the Southern Gerontologic Association meeting, in conjunction with Paula Kupstas and Lisa Furr. The title of their talk was *The Last Taboo: Academic and Service Provider Responses to Sexual Abuse in Older Adults*.

In May, Dr. Shelly Lane presented at the Virginia Occupational Therapy Association School System Symposium. Her sessions were titled: *A Fidelity to Treatment Tool for "Classic" Sensory Integration Treatment*, and *Sensory Processing and Integration: Is There Evidence to Support Intervention?*

In other news...

Dr. Dianne Simons leaves for Canada on July 9th. Dr. Simons and nine VCU master's and doctoral students will be participating in an elective course "Enabling Occupational Performance: The Canadian Perspective" in partnership with the University of Western

Ontario in London, Ontario. Students will have the opportunity to learn directly from Dr. Thelma Sumsion, who was one of the principal architects of the Canadian Model of Occupational Performance and who for the last 25 years has been a major contributor to the client-centered practice movement in Canada.

Congratulations to Dr. Marie Anzalone who got a service commendation from AOTA for her work on the Infant Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee in 2007.

Dr. Stacey Reynolds and Dr. Shelly Lane have received a grant from the VCU A.D. Williams Research Committee to continue their work in the SPASE lab. They will be recruiting children this summer ages 6-12 that are diagnosed with **High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome**. If you would be **willing to help with recruitment** for this project please contact them at (804) 828-2219. More information is available on the lab web-site: <http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/occu/research.htm>.

We currently have 5 OTD students implementing their Capstone Leadership Projects this semester

and will be completing the OTD this summer. These projects are exciting and diverse:

- Rebuilding Together in Chesapeake, Gracie Parker Bitgood
- Evidence-Based Practice Web Course for School-Based Occupational Therapists, Anita Wyrick
- Handwriting Intervention Program, Lynda Hill
- Occupational Therapy and ALS Practice Model, Kelly Showalter
- On the Move: A Safe Patient Handling Training Program, Sheri Michel

We have 10 other OTD students in various stages of the program and are continuing to accept applications until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Visit our website for more information: <http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/occu/programs/otd.htm>.

Finally, we are very proud to announce that this spring the VCU Occupational Therapy program was ranked **13th in the country by U.S. News and World Report**. That is two notches up from our previous spot at 15th. Thank you to all of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni who continue VCU's tradition of excellence!

Dianne F. Simons, Ph.D., OTR/L

**Virginia Occupational  
Therapy Association  
2008 Annual Conference**

**September 27-28, 2008**

**Portsmouth, VA**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- ◆ AFFORDABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION
- ◆ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- ◆ GREAT FAMILY FUN AT LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Your conference brochure will be arriving shortly!

**SEE YOU IN PORTSMOUTH!!**

Please contact the **VOTA** office at [VOTA@comcast.net](mailto:VOTA@comcast.net) for additional information!



Commodore Theater



Recreational Boating



Elizabeth River Ferry

**WILLETT HALL**  
PORTSMOUTH, VA



## Virginia Occupational Therapy Association

### July 1, 2008 to June 30th, 2009 Membership Application

#### INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

#### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS OUR BEST WAY TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF VOTA NEWS & EVENTS.

EMAIL :

SPECIALTY: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!!**

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES\*:

- OT MEMBERSHIP DUES \$55.00
- OTA MEMBERSHIP DUES \$35.00
- OT, RETIRED \$32.50
- OT AIDE \$30.00
- OT/OTA STUDENT \*\* \$25.00/\$10.00
- ASSOCIATE \$65.00

(ASSOCIATES INCLUDE OT FACULTY OR OTHERS WHO ARE NON-OT PRACTITIONERS)

\*Membership dues payments and scholarship or legislative donations are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

**\*\* Send in 10 or more student memberships, at one time, in a single envelope and each is only \$10.00.**

#### OPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

- STATE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (THIS IS NOT A PAC)
- SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- SUSTAINING MEMBER  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (AT LEAST 30% OF DUES)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you were referred by a VOTA member, please list his or her name. Anyone who refers 5 or more NEW members within a member year will receive the next year's dues FREE! Referred by \_\_\_\_\_.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:     CHECK ENCLOSED     VISA     MASTERCARD

ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

VOTA  
2231 OAK BAY LANE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23233  
PH 804-754-4120  
FAX 804-754-0801  
EMAIL: VOTA@COMCAST.NET  
WWW.VAOTA.ORG

#### I MAY BE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- |  |   |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS   | <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEGISLATIVE   | <input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUING EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> BYLAWS     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REIMBURSEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC AFFAIRS       | <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FUND RAISING  | <input type="checkbox"/> NOMINATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY    |

SERVING ON A VOTA COMMITTEE IS REWARDING AND FUN!  
YOU CAN DEVOTE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE TIME AS YOU CAN SPARE.

## District News

**Capital District**  
Includes zip codes: 224-225. 230-32, 238-239

**Allison Krumpe**  
**Capital District Chair**  
[allisonkrumpe@gmail.com](mailto:allisonkrumpe@gmail.com)

The Capital District has continued to stay busy since it's first meeting of the new year in February on driving rehabilitation with Penny Eissenberg, OT/L. Since then, members have continued to meet monthly through May to network, learn about different treatment approaches, and support one another in the profession.

Members met at the VCU OT Department in March to discuss motions being brought before AOTA's Representative Assembly. A teleconference with AOTA Representative Susan Lin was held with an open forum for questions regarding the pros and cons of the impending motions. This opportunity gave members a chance to become more informed on the decisions they were making with this year's vote. Though parking was considered a challenge by some, all who attended were able to relax and enjoy a pizza dinner.

In April, members met in the East end at Medical Facilities of America's Airport Drive location, Henrico Health

& Rehabilitation Center. Patty VanHorn, OTR/L, spoke on thermal and electrical modalities use. Members shared their experience with these modalities and specific treatment suggestions to enhance functional outcomes and the quality of life for a variety of patients.

Bioness, a popular electrical stimulation unit being used in upper and lower extremity rehabilitation, was the topic of the May meeting held at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Virginia. Edward Velasquez, MPT, Bioness Business Development Representative, presented on the H200 device and its use in upper extremity rehabilitation. Members were given an opportunity to use the device on one another. A question and answer period gave experienced therapists an opportunity to upgrade their current approaches, and new therapists and students an opportunity to begin learning about this exciting new technology. Members enjoyed Panera refreshments provided by Bioness to kick off a great evening of learning and stimulation!

The Capital District also stayed busy collecting items for a 'Summer Fun' basket to donate to the School System Symposium raffle. Many members contributed and their thoughtfulness is much appreciated. A volunteer from the district is currently being solicited to assist the Awards & Nomination Chair in reviewing of award applications. No volunteer has stepped forward as of yet, and the district chair will take on this responsibility until the position is filled.

As summer is approaching, the Capital District will break from monthly meetings and resume in September with a social to kick off the fall season. Many meeting ideas are in the works for the end of the year and suggestions are always welcome. If you would like to host or speak at a meeting, or know someone who would, please do not hesitate to volunteer. All those interested, please contact Allison Krumpe at [allisonkrumpe@gmail.com](mailto:allisonkrumpe@gmail.com). The Capital District wishes to thank all of its members for great participation and interest in the first half of 2008!

**South Eastern District**  
Includes zip codes: 233-237

**Amanda Leo**  
**Southeastern District Chair**  
[southeastern@vaota.org](mailto:southeastern@vaota.org)

It has been a very busy spring season for the Southeastern District. A district meeting was held in April to discuss and plan for district fundraising events. A great new pamphlet was sent out to over 130 district members with updates and information. The first fundraising event proved to be quite a success. A yard sale was organized by members Paula Naudziunas, Sharon Hooks, Mary Ellen Chesney, and Susan Hill. Many other members donated items and showed their support by manning tables and drumming up sales with local

bargain hunters! The Southeastern District would like to extend a special note of thanks to Langley Christian Church in Hampton for the use of their parking lot and support of our fundraising efforts.

In addition to meetings and yard sales, the Southeastern District has been rallying support for the upcoming VOTA fall conference to be held right here in Portsmouth. Although we are not a host district, we are doing everything we can to collect raffle/silent auction items from local attractions and sponsors, encourage

the representation of local vendors, enlist TCC OTA students to volunteer time at conference, and promote the event to our district members.

The district is continuing to provide members with educational opportunities. There will be a summer meeting in June with a presentation on "Getting Started in Evidence Based Practice" presented by Anita Wyrick, MS, OTR/L. It is sure to be a wonderful learning and networking experience. We are looking forward to a great summer with more events to come!

# District News

## Western District Includes zip codes:

Western District has been very active this spring! In February, we were honored to have Dr. Kathryn Kerkering, Developmental Pediatrician at Carilion Neurodevelopmental Clinic, speak to a large group on the 'The Early Identifiers of Autism'. Dr. Kerkering also instructed the group on the use of the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT). Most pediatricians in this area are now using the M-CHAT as a screener for Autism. If a child fails 2 or more of the identified critical items on the checklist OR fails three items or more, the child should be referred for a developmental evaluation. Often, because pediatricians do not have a good deal of time to spend with clients, it is the early intervention providers (OT, service coordinators, speech therapists, educators, etc...) that will contact the pediatricians with specific concerns. Dr. Kerkering's presentation was informa-

tive and thorough. Dr. Kerkering made time for an informal meet and greet. Practitioners from different areas throughout our region had the opportunity to ask questions and speak with her individually. Attendees were extremely impressed with her knowledge base and child/family advocacy. Dr. Kerkering also has a passion and respect for occupational therapy because she is quite familiar with our domains of practice. Interestingly, her daughter is an OT. It was a pleasure to host Dr. Kerkering as a presenter!

The Western District held another successful meeting in April. Guest speaker, Dr. Gary H. Oberlender, MD, FACP, delivered a fantastic presentation on 'The Medical Evaluation of Dementia'. In 2006, Dr. Oberlender retired from the Veteran's Administration where he held various positions such as Chief of

**Amanda Baker & Tiffany Kuyper**  
**Western District Chair**  
**[western@vaota.org](mailto:western@vaota.org)**

Geriatric Medicine and Medical Director of the Extended Care Rehabilitation Center. He established a private consultative based practice of in-home comprehensive geriatric evaluations and he is the only physician in the country that provides this type of service. His presentation was engaging! OT practitioners left with renewed skills to assess and evaluate Cognitive Dysfunction as well as understanding the potential causes of Cognitive Dysfunction. In the end, Dr. Oberlender provided us with new knowledge and two pearls of wisdom: Cognitive dysfunction does not always mean Alzheimer's and, Alzheimer's is continuously progressive and worsens over time. Dr. Oberlender was delightful and we hope that he will return at least a few more times.



Above: Snapshot from Dr. Kerkering's lecture



## 15th Annual Multi-Disciplinary School System Symposium May 3rd, 2008

*"Changing the Lives of Children through Occupational Therapy"*



**Virginia Occupational  
Therapy Association**  
2231 Oak Bay Lane  
Richmond, Virginia 23233  
Phone 804-754-4120  
Fax 804-754-0801  
Email: [VOTA@comcast.net](mailto:VOTA@comcast.net)

The Virginia Occupational Therapy Association is committed to advocate and further the development of Occupational Therapy in a changing world by:

- Serving and supporting the interests of its members
- Maintaining the integrity of the profession
- Becoming involved in proactive legislation related to occupational therapy
- Ensuring association financial stability
- Serving and educating the community regarding health and occupational therapy



## From your Editor

Hello fellow VOTA Members!

Happy Summer! This year our beloved state has been granted the opportunity to co-host one of the nation's foremost rehabilitation conferences. RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America) will host their 2008 Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia (Washington, DC). This conference boasts its amazing offerings with the theme of *An International Multidisciplinary Conference on Technology*

*and Disability.*

Therapists, manufacturers, vendors, clients, and the like will meet to showcase, trial, and learn about the latest and greatest in the world of rehabilitation and assistive technology. This five day conference, held from June 26– June 30 brings the vast abyss of rehabilitation equipment to the fingertips of Virginia Occupational Therapy Practitioners. Be you a student, registered therapist, or certified therapy assistant, this has the potential to be the turning point in your quest for intel on the new trends

in assistive technology.

This is a very exciting time for Occupational Therapy with opportunities for job placement nationwide, volunteer opportunities internationally, and many local events to become involved in. This is the time for OTs to band together and use our knowledge as power to make our voices heard and our worth known. Don't be afraid to get involved, and as always, I look forward to hearing from you!

!! GO OT !!

*Deanna Baldassari,*  
VOTA VOICE Editor