Greetings fellow Virginia OT Practitioners!! As I write this letter, it is officially the first day of summer and while I would very much enjoy being a slacker, sitting by the pool working on my tan and reading a good book, I find myself embroiled in the journey of OT.

My travel began with my opportunity to represent Virginia at AOTA conference in San Diego, CA which became the second largest attended conference with over 7000 attendees. From the opening ceremony, exhibit hall, great networking opportunities, meeting new and old friends and of course some great education sessions, San Diego was a fabulous experience - AND I made it to the Pacific Ocean!! Next year’s conference will be closer to home for many of us as AOTA travels to Baltimore, MD. I hope to see many of you there so, save the date, April 3-6, 2014.

As I return to Virginia from the west coast and adjust back to the time zone, I am excited, inspired and eager to get back to work in my job and also for our association. VOTA elections are upon us and we are seeking people with new ideas, fresh perspectives and emerging leaders to serve on the board in several available positions. I invite you to explore a role on the board serving the profession in a different manner.

July 1 begins our new fiscal year and membership renewal as well. Approximately 15% of the total available OT practitioners in our state are members of VOTA. As an organization we would like to increase that total to 20-25% and that takes YOU talking about and recruiting your co-workers, partners and future practitioners. VOTA is strong because of membership support and we continue to need your support, for it is your leadership, participation, and contributions that provide the real value and benefit of association membership.

And while summer has just begun, VOTA is busy reviewing submissions for our annual Fall Conference which will take place October 25-28, 2013 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside. Save the date and plan to join us for 2 days of fun and education. Our theme this year is “Passport to Excellence (Where will the journey take you?)”

So, take some time to relax and enjoy all that summer offers and plan your own journey through the world of occupational therapy which we enjoy and embrace every day. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Michele Stoll, BS, OTA, President, VOTA
Over the last few months I have reached out to the colleges of every accredited OTA and OTR program in Virginia to introduce myself as the OTA Liaison for VOTA. My role is to field any question regarding the OTA role.

This summer I will have the pleasure of traveling with a fellow VOTA board member, Dr. Cynthia Normandia MS, OTR/L, OTD, International Liaison, to Ukraine. During this 2 week trip, I will be speaking at the 3rd International Conference on Children with Disabilities as well as a smaller conference, Mission to Ukraine. I will be speaking about Occupational Therapy, specifically on fine motor skills, mobility as well as living with and being married to someone with a disability. I will be traveling to two orphanages and helping to educate families and caregivers of disabled children. I'm also really looking forward to assisting in providing occupational therapy treatment as well as instruction.

My goal is to help open the eyes of the people of the Ukraine to the idea that the lives of people with disabilities are worth living. They can also function in society and have fulfilling lives including marriage and having families. I hope to return with a fresh perspective on my role as a COTA as well as an appreciation for abundance of resources I have available to me here as an OT practitioner in the United States.

**Alesha N. Kelley COTA/L**

aleshakelley@gmail.com
Tidewater Community College Update

It Was the Best of Times; It Was the Worst of Times.....

The Tidewater Community College OTA Program has had quite an eventful academic year. We are happy to share that we have recently graduated 24 passionate students and released them out into the open world. There are currently 29 students eagerly soaking up the sun between lectures and labs throughout the summer semester and we are preparing to welcome 30 new students to campus in August.

We have successfully completed our program reaccreditation process. Much time, love and many a long Saturday were dedicated to assembling the self-study report for submission back in March. Since we practically lived on campus assembling binders and learning the new electronic submission program, we made ourselves feel at home on many a Saturday! We completed the on site evaluation visit this June and are anxiously awaiting the final report to be made by ACOTE in August 2013. We would like to thank our adjunct faculty, all of our students (present and past), advisory board members, fieldwork educators, graduate employers, colleagues, friends, and significant others for their overwhelming support throughout the entire process. It is safe to say that all of the hard work, collaboration and dedication have paid off. We are now disconnecting our cell phones, unplugging our computers and deleting the ACOTE standards running through our heads.

Until next time… you’ll find us with our toes in the water and our chairs in the sand.

William Marcil, Ph.D, OTR/L, FAOTA
VOTA 2013 Fall Conference—Call For Papers

Save the Date and Consider What You Might Contribute to Make This Year’s Annual Conference a Success!

It is never too early to start thinking about VOTA’s annual fall conference. Do you have ideas, discoveries, research, a new twist on a traditional OT skill or experiences to share with your colleagues? Of course you do! VOTA invites you to submit a proposal to present your work. VOTA encourages practitioners and students to “show what you know”. Traditional presentation formats not your style? That’s O.K. Think about a panel presentation, a poster, a round table discussion, or facilitating a “show and tell”. This year, we will be at the newly remodeled Sheraton Norfolk Waterside October 25, 26, & 27, 2013. The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel is Norfolk’s only waterfront hotel and provides stunning views of the Elizabeth River. From the hotel, stroll down the waterfront esplanade to Town Point Park, a main hub for festivals, concerts and special events in downtown Norfolk. When you are not attending sessions, enjoy great shopping at MacArthur Center, the largest mall in the Norfolk – Virginia Beach area. The profession of occupational therapy continues on its journey towards our centennial in 2017, committed to meeting the occupational needs of society. Join us for:

VOTA 2013: Passport to Excellence (Where will the Journey Take You?)

Several opportunities to contribute to making the conference a success include our Call for Papers, the Annual Fall Logo Contest, contacting potential exhibitors, and seeking donations for the raffle and silent auction. Deadlines for the Call for Papers and the logo contest is July 1. Contact the VOTA office at office@vaota.org for more information.
VOTA Scholarships, Awards, and Nominations News

Summer is a very exciting albeit busy time for scholarships, awards, and nominations. VOTA is currently soliciting student scholarship applications and has extended the deadline to July 15th! This is a fun way to get to know some of our student members and to have the opportunity to touch base with faculty members across the commonwealth.

An extensive amount of preparation and planning go into the student scholarship application and selection process. Following the official call for scholarships, applications are assembled and 'packaged' by the chairperson and sent to OTs across the state for review. We typically assemble a panel of 5-8 reviewers. Each student application is reviewed by 3 OTs who follow a strict rating form based on the student’s academic achievements, faculty ratings and letter of support as well as student essays that highlight the applicant’s volunteerism, leadership, future goals and personal qualities. Each reviewer assigns a score to each application. Scores are then averaged and rank ordered to determine the winner for the various scholarship categories.

I am especially thankful for our scholarship reviewers! Each year OT members of VOTA volunteer their time to meticulously review essays and applications. Recent reviewers include the following members: Sara Fleming, Ashley Amey, Sharon Hooks, Jennifer DeSanto, Amy Gray, Tiffany Kuyper, Paula Naudzunas, Amanda Leo, David Haynes, and Allison Krumpe, among others. Thank you for your dedication to our students! If you are interested in joining our roster of reviewers, please contact Anita Wyrick amwyrick@cox.net. We would welcome your participation!

Faculty members are also important contributors to the student scholarship process. Faculty tirelessly submit endorsements as well as provide exceptional letters of support for their outstanding students. These requests typically come at a busy time for them as they are trying to wrap up the spring semester. We are especially grateful for their contributions and commitment to their students.

VOTA awards are also solicited in late summer. VOTA solicits award nominations from the membership and presents awards at our annual conference in October of each year. The VOTA Award of Merit is the highest honor given by VOTA, aimed at recognizing OTs and OTAs who have made outstanding contributions to occupational therapy scholarship and practice. The 2012 VOTA Award of Merit recognized Dr. Dianne Simons for her leadership and commitment to our profession.

The VOTA OT/OTA Partnership Award is designed to recognize an outstanding OTA and OT team who have worked closely together to make a significant contribution to the profession of occupational therapy in areas such as research, education, and/or professional practice. Lastly, VOTA awards Certificates of Appreciation to individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the profession of occupational therapy. Membership to VOTA is not a requirement for this award, so this is the opportunity for members to recognize others outside of our profession. Be on the lookout for the call for award nominations in the coming weeks. We welcome your nominations!

Lastly, the summer also brings board nominations and the annual election. Typically, President-Elect, Vice
President, and Treasurer are nominated and included on the ballot in every odd year. Each even year, VOTA membership has the opportunity to select a new Secretary. For the last few elections, VOTA has moved to using an electronic survey-based ballot. This has served our mission well and has provided an opportunity to make casting your ballot as easy as a mouse click! This time of year is a great opportunity for you to consider taking a more active role in VOTA by nominating yourself for an open position on the board or serving on a committee. There are many benefits of serving on the VOTA board including leadership, networking, and the opportunity to shape the direction of VOTA. Be on the lookout for our 2013 ballot in the coming weeks!

**Anita M. Wyrick, OTD, OTR/L**
VOTA Nominations, Awards & Scholarships Chairperson

---

We are seeking entries for the **Annual Fall Conference Logo Contest!**
Members are asked to make submissions based upon this year’s theme:

**VOTA 2013: Passport to Excellence (Where will the Journey Take You?)**
The winning entry will be recognized and become the official logo of the

**2013 VOTA Fall Conference**
October 25-27, 2013
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside
777 Waterside Dr.
Norfolk, VA 23510

The Official Logo will be printed on all conference tote bags & our Conference T-shirts!

Submit your entries electronically to office@vaota.org by July 1, 2013

*There is no limit on the number of submissions per member so long as entries are received by the deadline.

**Submitter agrees that VOTA shall own all rights in and to submitter’s proposed logo, including all related intellectual property rights and copyrights.*
News from Virginia College

The inaugural class at Virginia College has just completed their first term of classes and we all heard the sigh of relief. Over the summer term they will begin to explore Anatomy and Physiology and take on the new skills in the lab with goniometry, manual muscle testing and ROM – needless to say they are excited and scared all at the same time.

Our lab is coming together as new equipment is arriving and we are settling into our new space. Meanwhile, Patricia and Michele continue work on the self-study as we prepare for our ACOTE visit in 2014. Fieldwork sites are increasing in number as the community embraces our program and is excited for our future practitioners.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer!

Michele Stoll, BS, OTA
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

Join the conversation!
The VOTA Pediatric Special Interest Group on Facebook!

The VOTA Pediatric Special Interest Facebook Group is a place to share practice ideas and insights regarding pediatric occupational therapy practice. Join your peers from across the Commonwealth of Virginia in discussion about practice, trends and resources and stay abreast of VOTA happenings!
Northern Virginia Community College
Update

Taking Strides Forward: Northern Virginia Community College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Northern Virginia Community College’s new occupational therapy assistant program continues to take exciting strides forward. The program started its first class of 15 students this past spring semester. The students were busy getting to know one another, juggling their full-time course loads, and starting a very active Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) interest group on campus. The SOTA group, as a whole, was recognized at the Medical Education Campus’s Leadership Awards Banquet for its active participation in both the college and the community. One of SOTA’s main events was participating in the Walk for Life in late April. This was a huge success for students and participants of the event.

In the upcoming fall semester, the first cohort of students will begin their intervention series in pediatrics. They will be participating in their first Level I fieldwork experiences. Students will be individually assigned to a pediatrics setting while also taking a pediatric intervention course. In addition, they will take courses focusing on human development and therapeutic skills.

NOVA’s OTA program is continuing to pursue accreditation. Much energy and dedication has been targeted towards completing the Initial Report of Self-Study due by the end of the 2013 year. The faculty, staff, and administration have all been excellent contributors and collaborators in pursuing this goal together.

NOVA’s second cohort is slated to begin in the Fall of 2014. Continued marketing efforts have proven to be successful. There is great community interest in the program both on an employer-level and on a student-level, re-emphasizing the need for such a program in the Northern Virginia region. The NOVA OTA Program is also very fortunate to have an active, well-informed Advisory Committee, which consists of OTs and OTAs in the Northern Virginia region. This group of practitioners and educators has been influential in the development and growth of the Northern Virginia Community College OTA Program.

For those interested in learning more about the program, please feel free to contact the Assistant Dean of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, Dr. Meg Cook via email at megancook@nvcc.edu or at 703-822-2007.

Meg Cook, OTD, OTR/L
Assistant Dean of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
In October of 2011, Mary Baldwin College announced the creation of the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences and in doing so launched three new health related programs, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies.

This past February, Dr. Nathan “Ben” Herz was named Founding Director of the entry level, Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program. He comes to MDCHS with experiences as a clinician, researcher, corporate executive, private practice owner, and former chair and program director of two Master’s level programs. Under his leadership MDCHS is working to achieve, in December 2013, “Developing Program Status” from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Subsequent to this accreditation action the charter class of students will be accepted. The Admissions process will begin July, 2013 via OTCAS. The charter class is expected to have 30 students in the cohort.

The program is the first post-baccalaureate, three year, entry-level professional doctoral degree in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is based on the reality that quality health care practice relies on bright, flexible practitioners that are accustomed to working collaboratively across disciplines in the delivery of client/patient care. Our goal is to identify students who will be practitioners and leaders for the future of the OT profession. The curriculum integrates the occupational therapy profession’s foundational knowledge requirements, its basic theoretical tenets and perspectives, as well as the ability to screen, evaluate, fabricate and deliver an evidence-based plan of care. The coursework is deliberately intended to incorporate the contexts associated with occupational therapy service delivery. The design of the curriculum offers a number of unique characteristics among them being:

- **A truly inter-professional education experience.** Students from various health programs will work collaboratively in both classroom and lab settings. Inter-professional activities will extend to research, clinical problem solving, joint practicum opportunities and service to local and regional communities.

- **A focus on teaching and learning.** Students will gain an understanding of teaching and learning theories with application to clinical practice and classroom teaching. They will formulate appropriate learning goals, plan learning activities and develop evaluation methods.

- **A customized final doctoral rotation.** This 16 week specialized experience will allow a student to connect theory to practice through a culminating project. This crucial component of professional preparation allows them to focus and achieve advanced competencies and skills.

A new state of the art health sciences building will be completed in May of 2014. Advanced instructional technology (lecture capture, teleconferencing, and simulation lab) has been built into both classrooms and labs. We are also in the process of hiring faculty — we expect a team of more than 30 professionals supporting our three programs. Potential faculty members are encouraged to reference our website for current employment search: [http://www.mbc.edu/business_and_finance/employment/](http://www.mbc.edu/business_and_finance/employment/) For more information about the Occupational Therapy program please feel free to contact the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences, Occupational Therapy Director, Dr. Nathan “Ben” Herz at nherz@mbc.edu or 540-887-4322 or visit our website at [http://www.mbc.edu/health_sciences/otd/](http://www.mbc.edu/health_sciences/otd/).
Hello Everyone. I hope you have been enjoying the coming of summer. It is always nice to see the days stay longer, the trees become greener, and to enjoy the smell of the summer air!

We have had an eventful year at VOTA. You may be wondering what your dues go toward and how VOTA sustains itself financially. Well, let me give you some highlights as to what your contributions are used for. Approximately 30% of the budget expenses are allocated for Legislative Services. VOTA has been represented by Macaulay & Burtch, PC. for over 10 years. Their legal expertise has been invaluable in obtaining COTA licensure, defending continued need for OT reimbursement in Medicaid and Medicare and most recently, redefining the OT Scope of Practice definition in the state of Virginia. It may also interest you to know that as a VOTA member you are entitled to one free legal consultation with Macaulay & Burtch, PC.

Member dues have also supported the ongoing services provided by our management company, ACS, Inc. ACS, Inc. has been VOTA’s management company for fifteen years. Management company fees account for 20% of our budget. ACS, Inc. is instrumental in running the day to day operations of VOTA. This includes member support through answering phone calls, email communications, mailings, financial transactions and electronic booking keeping, member applications/ tracking and assisting in Annual Conference planning.

The remaining 50% of the budget is designated to day to day operating expenses, website and scholarships. VOTA is a nonprofit organization. This means that we are responsible for bringing in funds that support our expenses. We rely heavily on dues revenue, Annual Conference revenue and revenue from educational events, such as the School System Symposium. I would like to personally thank Patti Laverdure for an outstanding job in planning and organizing a very successful School System Symposium in March. Not only did this event provide a wonderful educational opportunity, it also brought in 11,000 dollars to support VOTA. WAY TO GO, PATTI!!!

The Southeastern District was very creative in putting on the first VOTA Tappas fundraising event to support the endowment effort of the Barbara Howard Scholarship. There were seventy people in attendance. The event featured five or six different wines with a tappas dish to compliment each. A big “thank you” to Mary Ellen Chesney and Sharon Hooks who organized this wonderful event, which raised 2,100 dollars to support the scholarship.

As you can see, we have had some amazing efforts to support this organization and I look forward to what is yet to come. See you at the Annual Conference around the Raffle and Silent Auction tables! :).

Paula V. Naudziunas, VOTA Treasurer
Blue Ridge District Update

Blue Ridge has continued to hold quarterly meetings across the district. We seem to have had an animal-theme recently as our last two meetings have been on animal-assisted therapy and hippotherapy!

In June, Kyla Saby (JMU student rep) and Pam Stephenson (District chair) presented information on VOTA to the new intake of OT students at JMU. The cohort of 25 students were enthusiastic and many of them are becoming VOTA members. Thanks to Dr. Jeff Loveland for facilitating this opportunity!

We will be holding a scholarship fundraising yard sale on June 13th in Woodstock.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Stephenson, Blue Ridge District Chair
Virginia Asset Management was founded in 1986 with a single thought in mind: What people really need is objective financial advice, from independent financial experts who are free to choose the best financial strategies for their clients.

Virginia Asset Management offers a full range of financial services for both individuals and businesses. Since we are independently operated, we can choose from an array of financial products and services to customize a solution for your situation. That’s the power of independence.

We can help you plan for all the important things. From buying your dream house, to paying for college, to retiring comfortably, to building and leaving an estate.

If you own a business, we can help you find attractive yet affordable employee benefit plans, help you minimize your tax burden, and help you leave your company in good hands when you retire.

Financial independence affords security, flexibility, and opportunity. The security that comes with taking care of your family financially, the flexibility to choose the work and service for which you are passionate and the opportunity to reach back and help others.

Our mission is to help those people with whom we have a working relationship to define, plan for, and achieve their financial independence.

**Solutions for Individuals:**

- **Investments**
  - College Funding
  - Estate Planning
- **Investment Advice**
  - Asset Allocation Strategies
  - Cash Flow Analysis
- **Mutual Funds**
  - Annuities
- **Stocks and Bonds**
  - Long-Term Care Insurance
- **Retirement Plans**
  - Life and Disability Insurance
- **Estate Tax Minimization**
  - Health Insurance
- **Pension Maximization Planning**
- **Retirement Distribution Planning**
- **Life and Disability Insurance**
- **Health Insurance**
- **Cash Flow Analysis**

Please feel free to contact Tyler Sorensen or Dwain Blake if you would like to further discuss your individual situation as it pertains to you.

Dwain Blake
Field Director
(804) 327-0411
Dwain.blake@vamllc.com

Tyler Sorensen
Financial Advisor
(804) 327-0463
Tyler.Sorensen@vamllc.com

As part of our ongoing commitment to the VOTA, we have agreed to offer initial consultations at no cost. In addition we have agreed to provide a reduced fee schedule for fee based plans and have coordinated with certain vendors for discounts on insurance products.

Financial advisors do not provide tax/legal advice. This information should not be considered specific tax or legal advice. You should consult your own tax/legal advisor about your own situation.