

# SPOTon

Speech Physical Occupational Therapy newsletter | November 2013



## WE'RE **NATIONALLY KNOWN**, BUT **LOCALLY FOCUSED**

RehabCare is the leading provider of rehabilitation services, including physical, occupational and speech-language therapies, to over 2,000 hospitals and long-term care facilities in 46 states. The SPOTon newsletter is our way of informing, recognizing and celebrating the students who form the future Rehab Therapist community.



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## KENTUCKY'S PHYSICAL THERAPY Association Awards

The 2013 All-Academic Team at the Annual KPTA Fall Conference



The 2013 KPTA All-Academic Team

The KPTA All-Academic Team recognizes outstanding physical therapy students that are members of the APTA/KPTA associations. These students will make a significant impact upon our profession, whether on a community, regional, state, or national level. Established in 2010, the academic team has since seen 38 members of the team receive a monetary scholarship provided by RehabCare.

### Congratulations to the 2013 recipients:

Amanda Boyd, PTA – West Kentucky Community & Technical College  
Kaela Burge-Beckley, PTA – West Kentucky Community & Technical College  
Jimmy Crick, PT – Bellarmine University  
Shawn Frazee, PTA – Somerset Community College  
Samantha Grubb, PTA – Somerset Community College  
Sarah Beth Martin, PT – University of Kentucky  
Kirby Mayer, PT – University of Kentucky  
Megan Oleksa, PTA – Jefferson Community & Technical College  
Avery Schroyer, PT – University of Kentucky

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## MISSION POSSIBLE – BRINGING THE CLASSROOM to the REHAB GYM at Mission Regional Hospital!



### What if first-year OT students could really be immersed in a “real world” lab experience?

That's what RehabCare's own OTR, Dickson Rodriguez, set out to create with Mission POSSIBLE. Dickson, also adjunct faculty at University of Texas-Pan American, started putting the idea together and developing the program with the support of Program Director Lori Kennedy, Clinical Coordinator Cheryl Lopez and the rehab team at Mission. The idea finally became reality, and the first class kicked off on August 26th with the first session, "Introduction to Inpatient Rehab."

Over the course of the semester (August-December), the students will come twice a week to Mission Regional Hospital for their Inpatient Rehab Lab. Alongside the rehab team at Mission, our staff therapists volunteered their time to the labs to help with interdisciplinary patient shadowing and role-playing opportunities for the students. The students will be observing patient demonstrations to learn muscle structure and ID body parts, landmarks, origins and insertions. They will also be learning to ID function and review functional activities such as

ADLs and IADLs performed by muscle groups and how to know when a muscle group is affected.

Only a couple of weeks into the semester, the students are already raving about the opportunity and the experience they've had. "My experience today at Mission Regional Hospital was amazing! The Class of 2015 at UT-Pan Am is privileged to be able to observe a professional setting this early into the program. It was definitely beneficial to observe occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, as well as physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. We examined the differences in how they provide therapy and what each therapist focuses on, based on their role in the healthcare team. My interest in future lab sessions will be the therapists themselves. They were so welcoming and willing to share their experiences with us. I hope to gain depth of knowledge over the semester and believe it will be beneficial when I enter fieldwork," said Jasmin Varughese, a UT-Pan Am OT Student.

The Future Looks Bright at UT-Pan Am! Check us out on [facebook.com/RehabCareCR](https://facebook.com/RehabCareCR) to follow the semester's progress and learn more about the students' lab experiences!

#missionpossible





## RehabCare – PROUD SPONSOR OF THE **brOT** MOVEMENT



*"We saw an opportunity to use the brOT name as a way to fulfill aspects of the AOTA centennial vision."*

Inspired by the AOTA/NBCOT Annual Student Conclave, the brOT Movement Inc. was created by occupational therapy students Brendan Kieman, Josh Springer and Houman Ziai in July 2012. The name brOT ("Bro-T") was a reference to being males in the field of occupational therapy. "We saw an opportunity to use the brOT name as a way to fulfill aspects of the AOTA centennial vision, which states: '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.'"

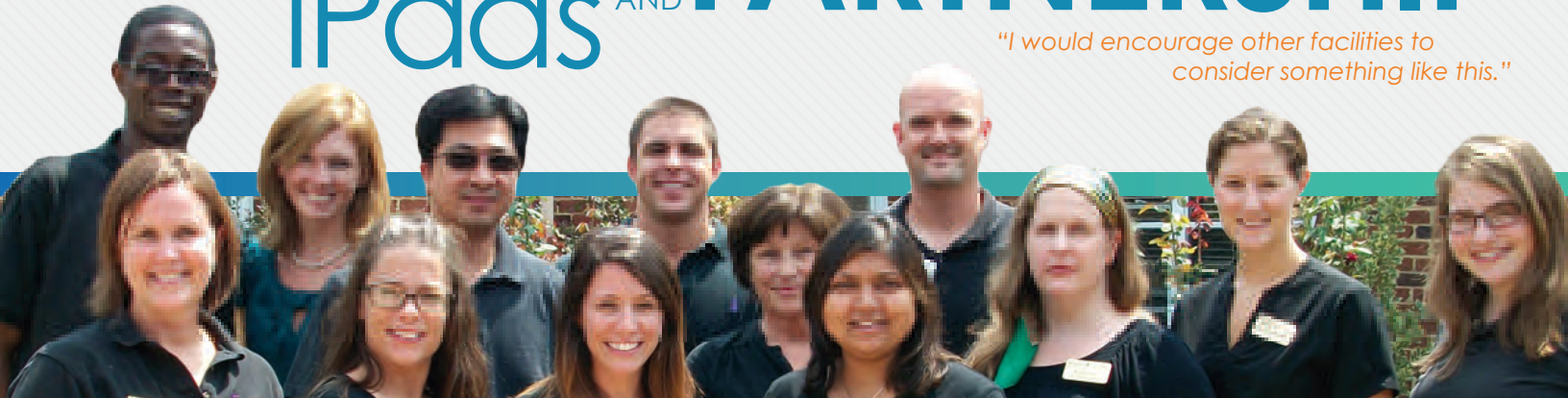
The national occupational therapy community has made tremendous strides toward making the above vision a reality, but without action, the establishment of a widely recognized, diverse and powerful profession will go unrealized! We were inspired to take action in part due to AOTA President Dr. Florence Clark and encouragement from OT professors at our university. Dr. Clark stated that, "Without power, we will be limited in our ability to meet society's needs, and that would be a calamity, not only for our profession but for people everywhere." In addition, Dr. Clark has challenged the OT community to create and support new initiatives that will diversify the profession as a whole.

[www.brotmovement.com/#!\\_\\_mission-new](http://www.brotmovement.com/#!__mission-new)



## PINEAPPLES, iPads AND PARTNERSHIP

*"I would encourage other facilities to consider something like this."*



Amid pineapples, inflatable pink flamingos, boogie boards, and painted palm trees, the residents of Rose Manor, a long-term care and rehabilitation center in Durham, played aloha bingo, bowled with coconuts and enjoyed island treats at a summer's-end luau. The party was hosted by students in Durham Technical Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program. The party celebrated the partnership between the facility and the students who carried out their Geriatric Level I fieldwork over the summer, providing one-on-one therapy to the Rose Manor residents twice a week.

The relationship between Rose Manor and Durham Tech began three years ago at the suggestion of Carol Marcus, instructor and clinical coordinator in the OTA program. "We wanted our students to have hands-on experience, and Rose Manor seemed like a perfect match because of its strong occupation-based OT program," said Marcus.

"I love working with the Durham Tech students! They bring such enthusiasm and a great energy!" said Emily Stallings, OTA/L and graduate of the first class of OTAs from Durham Tech. "The students get to spend time getting to know individual patients, improving the quality of life and participating in social and leisure activities, in addition to the usual rehab." She added, "The students get a chance to learn the reality of working in a fast-paced environment, and to be flexible as things change with little notice."

Story by Amy Madison and Carol Marcus

Amy Madison is the Communications Specialist/Editor in the Marketing and Communications Department at Durham Technical Community College  
Carol Marcus, MS, is the OTR/L Instructor/Clinical Coordinator in the OTA Program at Durham Technical Community College

Durham Tech students receive invaluable training and experience and in return offer a parting gift that they donate each year. In 2012, the OTA students donated a garden shed to house the tools and equipment of the residents. This year, students donated an iPad that the residents will use in therapy.

Terri Smoot, a student in her last year of the OTA program, is training them on how to use the iPad. Smoot explained, "For therapy, the iPad has so many benefits. There are applications for rehabilitation, medication monitoring, social engagement and health monitoring." She added, "We use apps that help with fine-motor skills, visual motor integration, problem-solving, and sequencing – all skills that may need rehabilitation after a person suffers a stroke."

Both Durham Tech and Rose Manor look forward to continuing to change the lives of the residents and the training of the future OTAs. "I don't know if similar partnerships exist, but I would encourage other facilities to consider something like this," added Stallings.

"The Aloha Luau exemplifies the passion and creativity of our therapists and highlights a partnership that truly reinforces RehabCare's commitment to superior clinical care."

– Kim More *Regional Vice President of Operations, RehabCare*

"Having the Durham Tech students during the summer provided an opportunity for therapists to interact with and teach future therapists – there was a lot of collaboration with each other."

– Tracey Roberson *RehabCare Program Director, Rose Manor*





## SPOTon: KENT HOSPITAL – Warwick, RHODE ISLAND

*"We feel that educating our future clinicians is critical to the success of being a therapist."*



A graduate of Boston University, David Kobasa, PT, has been an employee of RehabCare for over nine years. During his tenure with this company, he has performed as a Rehab Program Director under the Skilled Rehab Services division, an Area Director of Operations under the Hospital Rehab Services division, and now serves as a Rehab Program Director at Kent Hospital in Warwick, RI. No matter what position David has held, he has always been an advocate in taking students within his facilities.

"My staff at Kent Hospital takes students because they feel that they owe it not only to the students, but to the profession," he explains, adding, "They feel an obligation to help educate our future clinicians, and they feel that it's critical to the success of being a therapist."

Kent Hospital is one of RehabCare's top facilities for student internship placements. The variety of settings that this one facility offers – Inpatient, Outpatient and ARU – allows the students to be exposed to the wide array of diagnoses under one building. The student feedback is always exceptional, and they are continually saying that the clinical internships at Kent Hospital exceeded their expectations:

"It was my most challenging clinical education experience, and it was my BEST ONE!"

– Susan Murphy *PTA student*

"This clinical exceeded my expectations. My CI was terrific, and all of the staff were helpful/friendly and made this a wonderful learning experience."

– April Pontz *PT student*

The additional work and challenge of being a clinical instructor is a challenge that David's team welcomes. Each wants to see every student succeed and ensure that they feel a part of their team by including them in team meetings, conference calls, news briefs, and of course any departmental celebrations. The team's favorite time is during the students' final presentation. They bring in delicious treats to celebrate the students' time with them.

David said that he can't take any credit for the student success at his facility. It all goes to his team and the resources that RehabCare makes available to them to ensure that they are providing the best clinical experience for our future clinicians.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2013?

### UPCOMING EVENTS

RehabCare is excited to announce a slate of events at these schools and institutions.

### EVENT LISTINGS

11/12	Bradley University	Peoria, IL	Career Fair
11/13	University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT	Career Fair
11/14-16	AOTA Student Conclave	Jacksonville, FL	Career Fair
11/14-16	ASHA Annual Conference	Chicago, IL	Career Fair
11/21	Florida Gulf Coast University	Fort Myers, FL	Career Fair
12/4	Marquette University	Milwaukee, WI	Career Fair
12/12	University of the Sciences	Philadelphia, PA	Career Fair

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