



NEWSLETTER



www.ttota.com



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome to the 2023 edition of our newsletter! This year, TTOTA embarked on an incredible journey of advocacy, where we became an integral part of multiple events dedicated to promoting health and well-being across diverse settings and populations. In this issue:

TTOTA Family Day	pg. 1
Unity Through Community	pg. 2
Evolve to Solve	pg. 2
Paving the Way: OT Students' Successes	pg. 2
Therapists on Top: Celebrating Successes	pg. 4
Empower Through Education	pg. 3
Executive Spotlight	pg. 4



FAMILY DAY

August 2023

Our Family Day was a celebration of the bonds that make our association a true family. Members and their loved ones came together in a spirit of unity, turning an ordinary day into an extraordinary one filled with laughter, camaraderie, and shared experiences. It was a day filled with fun, relaxation and a bit of rivalry. Team One for the win! Family Day allowed us to reflect on the importance of connection, understanding, and community. **Looking forward to Family Day 2024!**

UNITY THROUGH COMMUNITY

October 2023



World Occupational
Therapy Day
27th October 2023

On October 19th, Rhand Credit Union helped to shine a light on the vital role of occupational therapy at its annual Credit

Union Day Health Fair. Aligned with the global celebration of World Occupational Therapy Day on October 27th, this year's theme, 'Unity Through Community,' was embraced with enthusiasm.



Advocates and professionals joined forces to raise awareness about the impact of occupational therapy on health and well-being with an emphasis on fall prevention to the public.

EVOLVE TO SOLVE

October 2023



On October 28th, the ACOT Research and Country Reflection Day unfolded with the compelling theme, 'Occupational Therapy: Evolve to Solve.'

The virtual conference delved into diverse topics, including the pivotal role of occupational therapy in oncology, the integration of assistive technology, sensory considerations, parental perspectives, and the impact of digital platforms on daily life. Representing the seven Caribbean member countries, this event served as a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering discussions on the evolving landscape of occupational therapy. Professionals explored how the field has adapted to meet the demands of the current global climate, reflecting on the transformative journey of occupational therapy in addressing contemporary challenges."

PAVING THE WAY: OT STUDENTS' SUCCESSES

Welcome to "Paving the Way: OT Students' Successes," a dedicated space in our newsletter where we celebrate the achievements, growth, and innovation of our future occupational therapy leaders. This section is all about spotlighting the incredible journeys of occupational therapy students as they navigate their academic pursuits, clinical experiences, and contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of our profession.



In a notable event on March 11th 2023 the association witnessed the commendable feat of third-year student Kristen Mollineau who boldly hoisted both the USC and

Caribbean OT flags at the Probono Network Conference. Accompanied by Dr. Patty Coker-Bolt and in seamless collaboration with faculty and students from the Medical University of South Carolina, Kristen delivered a research presentation delving into the clinical findings surrounding the establishment of a student-run pro bono clinic at the University of the Southern Caribbean.

Kristen's pioneering efforts not only showcased her adept representation of the university but also laid a significant foundation for future students. Her impactful strides have illuminated a path for others to follow in her footsteps, emphasizing the noteworthy role of representing Trinidad and Tobago and Caribbean OT on a global stage, even in the capacity of a student.



On October 27th, USC Masters of Occupational Therapy students exemplified the 2023 World Occupational Therapy Day theme, 'Unity Through Community.' Beginning with students volunteering at an elderly care facility, they not only educated the staff on occupational therapy's role but also engaged in meaningful activities with the residents.

Later, the second and third-year students collaborated with the North West Regional Health Authority's Occupational Therapy Department. Together, they hosted and volunteered at an entertaining afternoon for St. Ann's Psychiatric Hospital patients, complete with musical performances, games and prizes. In a succinct yet impactful manner, our occupational therapy students demonstrated unity through community, leaving an indelible mark on the lives they touched throughout this inspiring day."

THERAPISTS ON TOP: CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

Welcome to "Therapists on Top: Celebrating Successes," your go-to destination for uplifting stories and remarkable achievements within our occupational therapy community. In this dedicated space, we shine a spotlight on the incredible accomplishments of our therapists who exemplify dedication, innovation, and compassion in their practice.

PRESIDENTIAL IMPACT



Our incumbent chairwoman, Khamara-Lani Tarradath, rose to the OT spotlight contributing to Sheela Roy Ivlev's upcoming book 'Occupational Therapy Disruptors: What Global OT Practice Can Teach Us About Innovation, Culture, and Community'. This book gives voice to 16 distinct voices of occupational therapists from across the world. They share their unique perspectives, showcasing the profound impact of their cultural backgrounds on their practice and caregiving.

P.R.O. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our previous Public Relations Officer, Gabinia Rayside was recognised by the Ministry of Youth Development & National Service as a Youth Development Influence under the 'Forty under Forty Programme'.



The Forty under Forty programme allows Secondary School students to engage with young entrepreneurs and professionals in T&T who are excelling in their field. The programme hopes to influence the upcoming generation and help improve their life perspectives and create opportunities for success.

EMPOWER THROUGH EDUCATION

Welcome to "Empower through Education," a dynamic segment where we celebrate the proactive engagement of occupational therapists in seizing opportunities to expand their expertise and share knowledge within our community. We will shine a light on the ways occupational therapists are actively participating in learning initiatives, professional development, and knowledge dissemination



On June 28, 2023, thirty-two members, including students, participated in a workshop led by Loh Medical Educational Manager, Ms Maria Ines Seyler, and hosted by AA Laquis. Biomedical technicians also attended. Focused on "Assessment & Patient Measurement Training for Adaptive and Motorized Equipment," the workshop showcased the collaboration between allied health professionals and equipment providers. This joint effort emphasizes a commitment to holistic healthcare in Trinidad and Tobago.



On the 19th of May, 2023 Samantha Roberts and Jenia Cunningham, embodying a spirit of fervent advocacy, took centre stage as ambassadors for the association at Bishops Anstey High School. Their mission: to illuminate the student body about their profession, casting a spotlight on occupational therapy and its pervasive applicability across all facets of life. In a dynamic display, they deftly brought awareness to the transformative potential of our field, leaving an indelible impression on the school population.



In November 2022, members of our association conducted a disability desensitization training seminar for 75 midlevel traffic police officers from the Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. This endeavor underscores the significance of equipping service men and women with a nuanced understanding of various disabilities and neurodiversity prevalent with in Trinidad and Tobago. Being proactive and fostering mindfulness in this regard is imperative for fostering an inclusive and empathetic environment, ensuring that those in uniform are well-prepared to navigate the diverse needs of the community they serve.

"EXECUTIVE SPOTLIGHT: UNVEILING THE MINDS BEHIND THE MISSION"

Passing the Torch: Celebrating Achievements, Welcoming New Horizons! As we bid farewell to our outgoing executive team, get ready to meet the trailblazers stepping into the limelight, ready to steer the ship for the next exciting two-year journey." In this section we formally introduce our new executive.

2022 - 2024



KHAMARA-LANI TARRADATH
CHAIRMAN



SHAUNA TAYLOR
VICE-CHAIRMAN



GABINIA RAYSIDE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



CHANTAUL BURGESS
HONORARY SECRETARY



KIMARAH REEFE
HONORARY TREASURER



ENIOLA FELIX
ACOT REPRESENTATIVE



RAQUEL MARTINEZ
WFOT REPRESENTATIVE

2024 - 2026



KHAMARA-LANI TARRADATH
CHAIRMAN



SHAUNA TAYLOR
VICE-CHAIR



SHAIANNE PEMBERTON
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



SIGRID MINGUELL
HONORARY SECRETARY



KIMARAH REEFE
HHONORARY TREASURER



SHANICE CLARKE
HHONORARY TREASURER



GABINIA RAYSIDE
ACOT REPRESENTATIVE



SAMANTHA ROBERTS
WFOT REPRESENTATIVE



JENIA CUNNINGHAM
WFOT ALTERNATE