



Presenter Biographical Sketches

Rachel Ashcraft

Rachel Ashcraft, MS, OTR/L is an occupational therapist at Child'sPlay Therapy Center in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition, she founded and directs a local non-profit, Foster the Future Alabama, which works to bridge the inequality gap in therapy and wellness services by providing free OT screenings to children in foster care, scholarship money to allow children to participate in various community programs specific to that child's individual needs, and trauma informed continued education which is provided to foster parents, social workers, and the community.

Mrs. Ashcraft is a graduate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is a licensed provider for ILS, IM, and CBIT. Her clinical expertise is primarily with children who have experienced neglect and abuse, children in the foster system, children with autism spectrum disorder, children with sensory processing needs, children with visual perception delays, children with Tourette's syndrome or tic disorder, and children with ADD/ADHD. Mrs. Ashcraft serves as the government affairs chair for the Alabama State Occupational Therapy Association.

Keinee Austin

Dr. Keinee G. Austin, OTD, MPA, OTR/L is the Occupational Therapy manager at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Montgomery. She has served in this leadership position since May of 2007. Dr. Austin is a first generation college student, graduating from Tuskegee University with her B.S. Occupational Therapy degree in 2001 and Auburn University of Montgomery where she earned her Master of Public Administration degree in Healthcare Administration in 2005.

Dr. Austin has served as adjunct faculty at Tuskegee University since 2005. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA), the National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus, and the Junior League of Montgomery. Dr. Austin is also a member of the Zumba Instructor Network and the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America. Her motto is "empower and inspire to lead successfully."

Deek Cunningham (Elsie McKibben Lecturer)

Deek Cunningham, MS, OTR/L is an Assistant Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where his primary responsibilities include teaching classes associated with fieldwork and placing students on Level I and Level II fieldwork rotations. Mr. Cunningham has worked in various settings, including geriatrics (nursing homes), pediatrics (inpatient psychiatric units and various inpatient and outpatient settings and clinics), and adults (trauma, burns and home health).

Mr. Cunningham is Sensory Integration (SIPT Certified) and is an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP). He is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA), and the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). He is faculty advisor for Equal Access Birmingham, a student-run free clinic, allowing occupational therapy students to provide services to underinsured individuals in the greater Birmingham area. Mr. Cunningham was recently elected to serve Alabama on the Representative Assembly for AOTA, where he will serve a three-year term.

Catie Etko

Catie Etko, OTS is a second year occupational therapy student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She earned her B.A. in English literature at Birmingham-Southern College in 2012 and worked in marketing for several years prior to pursuing her master's degree in occupational therapy. Catie continues to work part-time at the UAB School of Nursing, is a member of the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) and serves on the junior board for Better Basics, a non-profit that promotes literacy in the greater Birmingham area.

Sherry Kolodziejczak

Sherry Kolodziejczak, MS, OTR/L is Director of Therapy Services and Cardiac Rehab/ALS Care Clinic at Crestwood Medical Center in Huntsville, Alabama. She is a 1983 graduate of Eastern Michigan University and received her M.S. in occupational therapy from Boston University in 2006, where she focused on the effectiveness of constrain induced therapy (CIT). Ms. Kolodziejczak's interests include neuro-rehabilitation, where she offers expertise in services such as Saebo Arm Training, Interactive Metronome, low vision, and seating and mobility evaluations.

Ms. Kolodziejczak serves as Vice-President for the ALSA Board of Directors and serves as the AARP Driver Safety National Coordinator, AARP Driver Safety Deputy State Coordinator for Alabama, and is a member of the AARP Alabama Executive Council. In addition, Ms. Kolodziejczak serves on the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy (ACOTE) and served as Chair of the Ad Hoc committee exploring the role of occupational therapy as case managers. Sherry presents as a lay certified leader for self-management of chronic conditions.

Brandon Seigel

Brandon Seigel brings over 15 years of experience in executive management and helping support strategic growth to private practices while empowering a workforce to achieve optimum clinical outcomes. For the past eight years, Brandon has been empowering an interdisciplinary team of over 100 clinicians inclusive of Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists and home care specialists in Southern California. In addition, Brandon is a frequent guest lecturer and keynote speaker for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology programs and Conferences throughout the Country. Brandon is passionate about empowering the next generation of healthcare professions to overcome the obstacles that are impacting our current healthcare environment.

Jason Vice

Jason Vice, MS, OTR/L is an Instructor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he teaches foundational courses in human anatomy and neuroscience. In addition, Mr. Vice provides therapy services at the UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation, a multi-disciplinary clinic that addresses the functional needs of children and adults with vision impairment from eye pathology and/or brain injury.

Mr. Vice is faculty advisor for the Pre-Occupational Therapy Society at UAB. He is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and currently serves as Vice-President of the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA).

Chuck Willmarth

Chuck Willmarth, CAE is Associate Chief Officer for Health Policy and State Affairs at the American Occupational Therapy Association. He has over 20 years of experience managing state legislative and regulatory issues including more than 15 years with AOTA.

AOTA's State Affairs Group advances the Association's public policy goals and objectives at the state level. He works closely with state occupational therapy associations on a variety of state issues including state regulation of occupational therapy, scope of practice and payment policy issues such as workers' compensation and Medicaid.

Chuck is leading AOTA's advocacy work on the implementation of health care reform at the state and federal levels with a focus on coverage for OT services by insurance plans on the small group and individual markets. Prior to health care reform, Chuck led AOTA's advocacy efforts with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid as AOTA's Director of Reimbursement and Regulatory Policy for 5 years.

Donna Wooster

Dr. Donna Wooster, PhD, OTR/L is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Alabama. She is a 1989 graduate of Worcester State College, where she received her B.S. in occupational therapy, and the University of Connecticut where she received a M.S. in Allied Health. Dr. Wooster has over thirty years of pediatric occupational therapy practice and has worked for many years with children with autism.

Dr. Wooster is Board Certified in Pediatric Occupational Therapy through the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and provides occupational therapy evaluations for the USA Department of Development and Behavioral Pediatrics. In addition, she also provides consultation to area schools and hospitals regarding occupational therapy interventions.