



NSU
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY
Tampa

OTDNews

Volume 4, Issue 2

Faculty Present at International Congress



Dr. Reinoso getting ready to present at WFOT

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Faculty from Nova Southeastern University, Tampa shared their research findings during the 16th international congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) in Yokohama, Japan. WFOT congresses convene every 4 years, hosted by member country occupational therapy associations. The Japan congress coincided with the Japan Association of Occupational Therapy's 48th annual conference. The 2018 congress will occur in South Africa.

Dr. Ricardo C. Carrasco presented two papers: an oral paper entitled, *Linking Pedagogy with Teaching Exemplar for Blended Learning in Occupational Therapy Education* described how the NSU OTD program applies its teaching exemplar guided by Doll's perspective on postmodern education, referred to as the 3 Rs in delivering a blend of distance (or virtual) and face-to-face program. Dr. Carrasco also presented a poster entitled: *Flowers as Occupation: Narrative Inquiry into Shared Experiences by Ikebana Sensei*, which featured a thematic analysis of information shared by established teachers of the Japanese flower arrangement tradition called *ikebana*.

Dr. Rick D. Davenport presented his paper entitled: *Exercise Adherence and Virtual Reality Gaming for Older Adults at Risk for Falls*, which described the capstone research study he is conducting with OTD students from the Class of 2015

Dr. Gustavo Reinoso presented a paper entitled: *Computer Based Sensory Motor Testing Tool*, which emphasized the development of a computer based motor coordination assessment and pilot data on children with and without disabilities. He also co-authored a presentation called, *Electronic Record Keeping System for Reflective Practice*, which discussed the creation of an electronic health record keeping system for clinical practice.

SOTA Updates, Community Engagements

The NSU OTD Student Occupational Therapy Association conducted several community engagement projects from Fall of 2013 to Winter 2014.

Fall 2013

- ◇ SOTA members donated school supplies for Walsingham Elementary School. These supply donations will help children from low income families. Collected supplies included pencils, erasers, markers, notebooks, crayons, and pens.
- ◇ Members donated money for Nav Jeevan Sanstha (NJS) School in India, totaling \$100 (5,000 rupees) worth of donation. NJS supports children who belong to poor families or live on the street to get basic education. It also provides them with accommodations to live, food, health insurance, and school uniforms. Through the support, it empowers children to engage in their occupations such as going to school and playing.
- ◇ The SOTA Board organized a volunteer day for SOTA members to help out vendors during the YES! Disability Family Abilities Information Rallies (F.A.I.R.). YES! Of America United Inc.'s goal is to help people living with disabilities by encouraging them to come out in the community. They provide various activities such as seminars and excursions. The members set up tables and educated customers about the vendor-provided promotional items. They also helped with checking in guests and distributing t-shirts.

Winter 2014

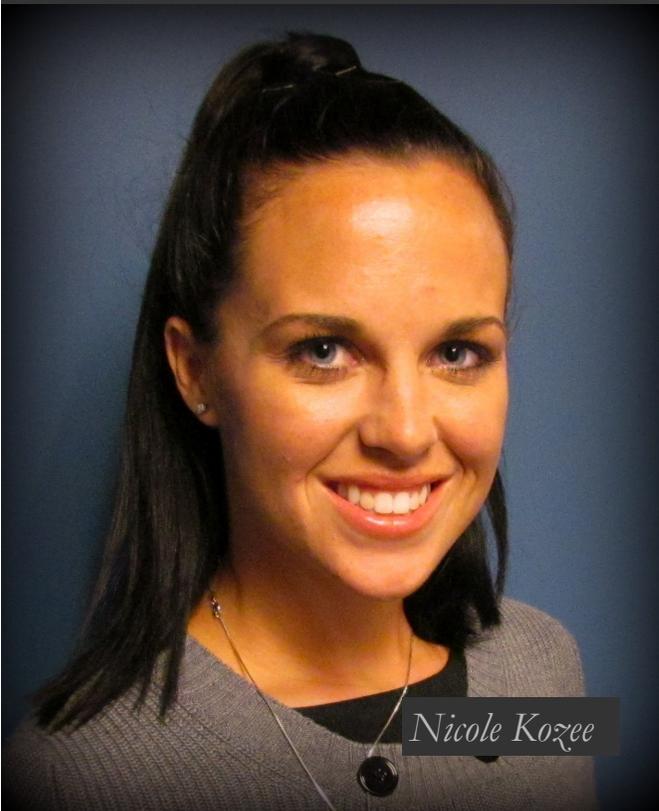
- ◇ Spring Fling was an event that the SOTA Board members organized at Saint Leo University in Dade City. The Board members set up the NSU OTD table and spread awareness on occupational therapy (OT) to the student population of the university.
- ◇ Fight for Air Climb was an event hosted by the American Lung Association (ALA) to fundraise for lung disease and its research. To volunteer, SOTA members assisted the ALA staff in planning the event, putting up poster boards, setting up tables and water booth, and directing people to the correct parking structure.

Summer 2014

- ◇ Hillsborough Education Foundation's Teaching Tools Supply Store offers free school supplies to teachers working in low-income, Title I schools in the Tampa area. SOTA members helped teachers collect the supplies for the start of the upcoming school year. SOTA volunteers assisted teachers check out supplies and load them into their cars.
- ◇ SOTA members collected donations for the Brandon Senior Center to help show support for the older community who are part of the organization. Materials included items like coffee, sugar, creamer, chips, tea, and cookies.



Class of 2017 Beta Fish Gets His Name



Nicole Kozee



loo, Class of 2017's Beta Fish

Congratulations to Nicole Kozee for coming up with the name loo for the Class of 2017 Beta fish. The name is meant to look like 100 since the Class of 2017 graduates during the centennial celebration year of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Nicole won a complimentary year of membership to FOTA for coming up with the clever name. Congratulations Nicole!

Clinical & Community Relations

The Class of 2015 completed their first Level II Experience. They were at sites that varied geographically, ranging from Atlanta, Georgia to Encino, California. The following sites deserve thanks for hosting NSU OTD students: Joyful Motion in Palm Harbor, McRory Pediatrics in Encino, CA, Interplay Pediatric Occupational Therapy in Greenacres, FL, ITT's for Children in Atlanta, GA, Tampa General Hospital, Therakids Plus in Lutz, FL, Children's Special Services in Lutz, FL, Orlando Regional Medical Center, Broward Health North in Deerfield Beach, FL, Bi-County Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy in Pembroke Pines, FL, Sovereign Rehab in Conyers, GA, Ascentia Health and Rehab Center of Tampa, Consulate Health Care at Safety Harbor, and GIGERMD Movement Therapy Center in Boca Raton, FL. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2015 for passing your Level II Fieldwork.

The Class of 2016 completed their first Level I Psychosocial and Community Fieldwork over the dates of July 21-August 5, 2014. They were at sites that varied geographically from Denver, Colorado to Montgomery, Alabama. Thank you to the following sites that hosted our students: Project Return in Tampa, FL, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Keystone Behavioral Pediatrics in Jacksonville, FL, Easter Seals in Montgomery, AL, Easter Seals in Winter Park, FL, Easter Seals in Lakewood, CO, Easter Seals in Miami, FL, and Rocky Mountain Human Services in Denver, CO. As always, we hope that both classes continue to make NSU proud.





Class of 2016 Reflects on First Level I Fieldwork



The Class of 2016 marked yet another significant milestone in the curriculum. Each student completed their first Level I Fieldwork rotation in the areas of psychosocial and community practice. Students went to several assigned locations throughout the state of Florida, Colorado and Alabama.

Following each fieldwork rotation, students have the opportunity to reflect upon their experience and share it with fellow classmates, professors, and additional NSU OTD cohorts. Providing students with the opportunity to reflect upon their experience through guided questions allowed the students to more clearly link what they learned in the classroom to practice.

The feedback from each site that students shared were extremely favorable. For the students who completed their rotation at Project Return, they were honored with a thoughtful gesture of appreciation from clients and staff. The clients presented the NSU OTD students with an enormous thank you card upon their departure. *(See picture at left with Olumaseyi Akapo)*

Program Establishes Pi Theta Epsilon Chapter



Pi Theta Epsilon approved the establishment of its newest chapter at NSU's OTD program. Pi Theta Epsilon is the honor society for occupational therapy students and alumni. Only the top 35% of each class receive an invitation to join. Pi Theta Epsilon's mission is to encourage research and scholarship with occupational therapy students. The first induction ceremony will occur in November 2014.

The three Greek letters of the society's name stand for the first letters of the words Advancement, Therapeutic and Occupation.

Pi Theta Epsilon Beta Delta Tampa

Established 2014



From left to right, Dr. Mirtha Montejo Whaley, Dr. Rick D. Davenport, & Dr. Ricardo C. Carrasco

Faculty Inducted to Alpha Eta Society

Alpha Eta Society is the national scholastic honor society of the allied health profession, and has a chapter at Nova Southeastern University named Nu Sigma Upsilon. Drs. Mirtha M. Whaley and Rick D. Davenport participated in the formal induction ceremony at the Signature Grand prior to the honor awards dinner and the commencement ceremony. Dr. Ricardo C. Carrasco transferred his membership from the Georgia Regents University Alpha Omega Alpha chapter where he had been a member since the late '80s.

The Alpha Eta Society inaugurated its first charter in Florida in 1975, and re-chartered in Georgia in 1998. It currently has 80 chapters and over 25,000 initiated members. The Nu Sigma Upsilon chapter of Alpha Eta Honor Society creation date is December 2008.



OTDNews informs supporters and students of the Department of Occupational Therapy of Nova Southeastern University in Tampa about events related to its entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program.

Our mission and vision are consistent with Nova Southeastern University, and through innovative curricular design and delivery model, the OTD program prepares qualified students to become successful occupational therapy practitioners, managers, and leaders as generalists with beginning specialization in a selected practice area.

Dr. Dennis McCarthy Engaged in SM4L Community

As part of his community engagement activities, Dr. D. McCarthy attends quarterly meetings for the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition (SM4L) in Tallahassee. The latest occurred on July 16-17, 2014. In 2009, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) through their SM4L program in the State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office, reached out to the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy at FSU to establish a statewide coalition to address the specific needs of Florida's aging road users.

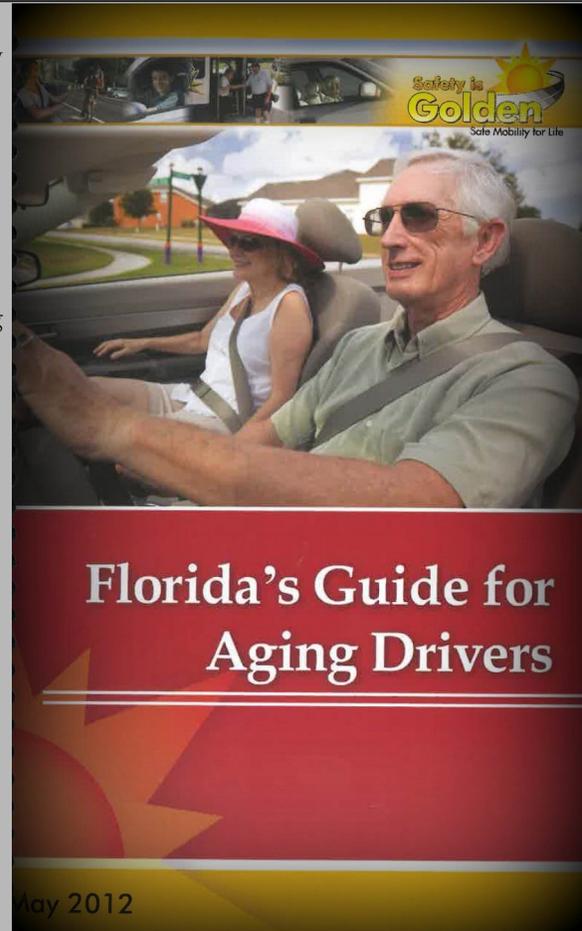
The SM4L's mission is to improve the safety, access and mobility of Florida's aging road users by developing a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce injuries and crashes among this vulnerable population. With a safety grant from the FDOT State Safety Office, the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy assists the SM4L reach their overall goal to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities among Florida's aging road users through the implementation of our Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan.

The SM4L has developed a very comprehensive Aging Road User Strategic Safety plan to reduce injuries and fatalities for Florida's aging population. We have established baseline data on population, drivers, and crashes by age and are currently developing, implementing, and evaluating resources and programs to help each of our ten emphasis areas reach their goals and objectives.

Dr. McCarthy is the team leader for the following objective: **Assessment, Remediation and Rehabilitation Emphasis Area** with a goal to enhance aging road user safety and mobility through assessment, remediation, and rehabilitation. One of the first resources the team has developed is the Guide for Aging Drivers to help older adults continue to drive as long as safely possible while sharing information to help prepare for the day when they retire from driving. The guide is a printed version of the transportation safety and mobility information contained on this website in consumer-friendly language.

To access the guide, please visit the following website:

http://www.safeandmobileseniors.org/FloridaCoalition.htm#Safe_Mobility_for_Life_Electronic_Mailing_List



Dr. Mirtha Whaley Appointed to State Association



Dr. Mirtha Whaley recently accepted the appointment as Chair of the Mental Health Special Interest Section (MHSIS) of the Florida Occupational Therapy Association. (FOTA) In assuming the role, she will be one of 17 dedicated volunteers serving FOTA's constituency across the state of Florida. As Chair, she hosts a roundtable discussion during the association's annual conference, contributes an article or two for publication in the Association's quarterly newsletter called FOCUS, reviews conference proposals, answers member and public questions related to mental health, and attends board meetings as desired.

Her appointment could not be more timely with all legislative and business discussions about mental health service provision. With FOTA's keynote address on mental health advocacy, Dr. Whaley responded with submitting a proposal for a preconference institute on the therapeutic use of self and the intentional relationship.

Congratulations to the newly elected SOTA & SGA Officers!



SOTA Board members 2014-2015

Congratulations to the newly elected SOTA Officers! The election took place during the first institute of the new semester under the supervision of SOTA Advisor Dr. McCarthy, Administrative Assistant Mirelys Munoz, and past SOTA Board Member, Amanda Skillen. The SOTA Board consists of members from the Classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017. See the newly elected board members' names on the list to the right.

Pictured above: 1st row: Tyler Lacertosa, Lydia Fritzche, Kristin McMillen, Nicole Bellare, Kim Yetman.

2nd row: Hillary Whitacre, Kerri Easterling, Jaslin Parhar, Jordan Powers, Jonathan Pitts, Kelsea Grampp.

Executive Board

- President – Jordan Powers
- Vice President – Kerri Easterling
- Treasurer – Tyler Lacertosa
- Secretary – Kelsea Grampp

Non-Executive Board

- Public Relations – Nicole Bellare
- Senator to SGA – Jaslin Parhar
- AOTA Delegate – Kristin McMillen
- AOTA Delegate (Alternate) – Jonathan Pitts

Class Representatives

- Class Representative 2015 – Hillary Whitacre
- Class Representative 2016 – Kim Yetman
- Class Representative 2017 – Lydia Fritzche

SGA Officers Elected



The newly elected SGA Officers consist of students from the Department of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy Department, as well as the Business Administration and the Anesthesiology Assistant Programs.

Special congratulations go to our Doctor of Occupational Therapy students: Jordan Powers (*on left*) and Nicole Bellare (*on right*) in their new roles as SGA President and Vice President, respectively.



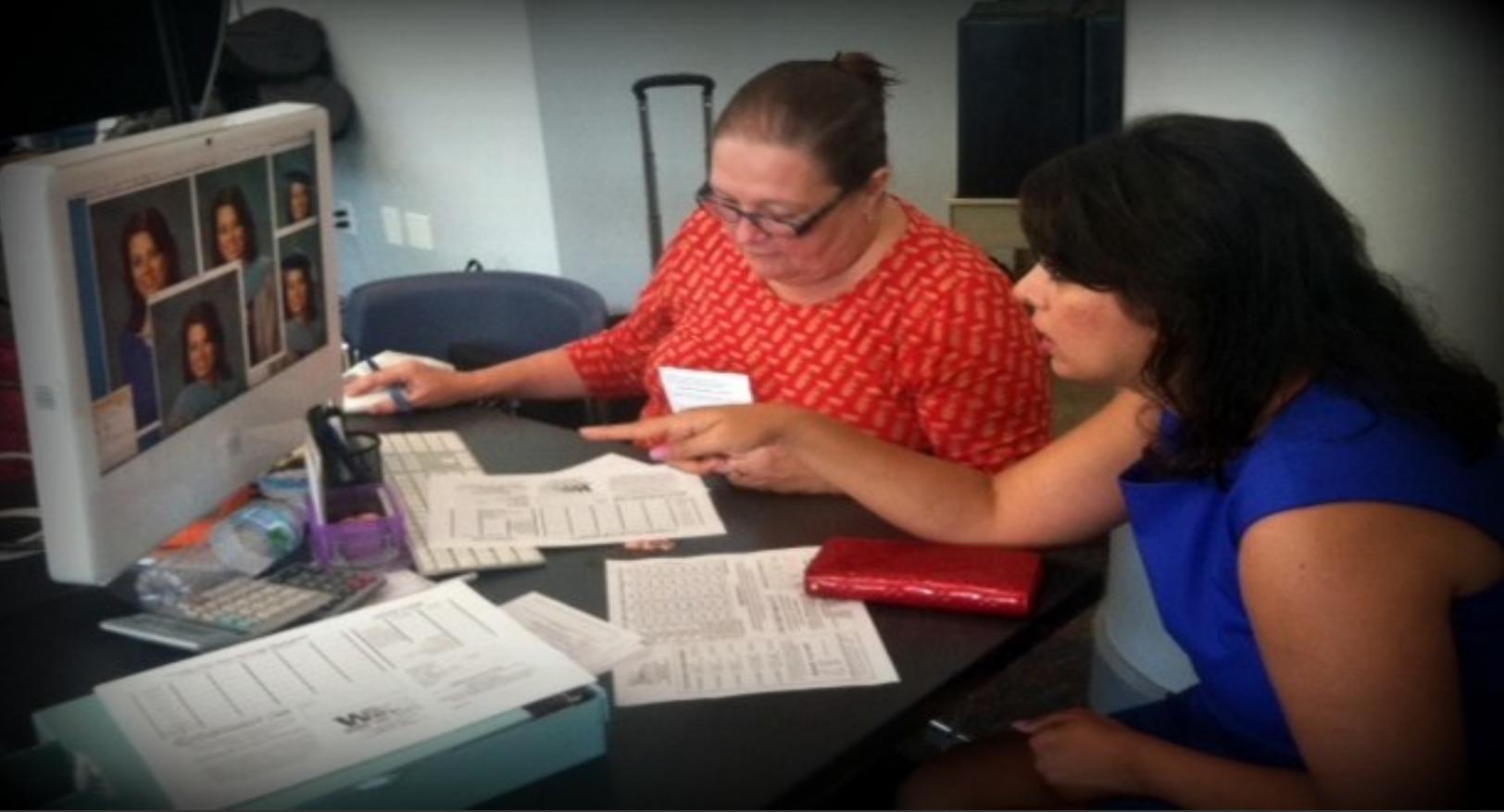
OTD Program takes the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

The Nova Southeastern University Tampa Campus Entry Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program accepted the challenge from the Nova Southeastern University Tampa Campus Entry Level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which is also commonly known as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease” is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. The ALS Association has funded over \$99 million in research and clinical management projects. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has currently raised 113.6 million.

Thank you to the following faculty and students that participated: Dr. Ricardo Carrasco, Dr. Rick Davenport, Dr. Gustavo Reinoso, Sarah Weldon, Mara Rosen, Korie Jackson, Kelly Walsh, Amanda Skillen, Kimberly Bartels, Meghan Granata, Kristine Cinco, Jordan Powers, Lillian Freeman, Lee Meach, Megan Dadez, Jaslin Parhar, Nicole Bellare, Kristin McMillen, Shannon Taylor, Molly Christian, Jonathan Pitts, Tara Johnson, Brittany Kinder, Kim Yetman, & Hillary Whitacre.





Inaugural Class of 2015 takes Graduation Pictures



September 13, 2014 was an exciting Saturday for the Inaugural Class of 2015. It was the day when they took their graduation pictures. For most, it was the first time seeing themselves in full graduation regalia.

Once the official NSU photographer took the pictures, the students viewed all of their pictures on the computer to choose which photo they liked best to be in the very first department graduation composite picture. It definitely appears that graduation is not too far away for the Inaugural Class of 2015!



Pictured Above: Ellie Edrissi is carefully choosing which picture she likes best

Pictured Top Left: Ricardo Demetrius is having his graduation robe adjusted by the photographer

Pictured Bottom Left: Kristin McMillen has her graduation cap carefully placed by the photographer

Pictured Top Right: Jamie Williams has three great pictures to choose from

Pictured Bottom Left: Kristin McMillen also has three great pictures to choose from.



Student Accomplishments

End of Summer Semester 2014

The Nova Southeastern University Tampa Regional Campus Entry Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program congratulates the OTD students for a job well done during the Summer semester.

The entire class of 2015 successfully passed their Level II Fieldwork. Everyone in the Class of 2016 made the Chancellor's List with the exception of two students who made the Dean's List. The Class of 2017, in their first semester of the program had eight students on the Chancellor's List and eight students on the Dean's List, which amounts to over half of the class. Please continue the great work everyone!



Chancellor's List

3.8 G.P.A. or higher

- Akapo, Oluwaseyi
- Bartels, Kimberly
- Christian, Molly
- Cinco, Kristine
- Dadez, Megan
- Jackson, Korie
- Johnson, Tara
- Kinder, Brittaney
- Mathew, Nikita
- Parhar, Jaslin
- Rosen, Mara
- Skillen, Amanda
- Taylor, Shannon
- Walker, Yazmin
- Walsh, Kelly
- Whitworth, Brittany
- Yetman, Kim
- Carsone, Bryce
- Chernekoff, Rachel
- Easterling, Kerri
- Fritzsche, Lydia
- Imwalle, Rachel
- Malavalli, Sunayana
- McCastle, Anna
- Methipara, Emil

Dean's List

3.6 G.P.A. or higher

- Hodge, Monica
- Key, Crystal
- Grampp, Kelsea Rose
- Granada, Cheryl Mae
- Kozee, Nicole
- Lacertosa, Tyler
- Meach, Lee
- Pitts, Jonathan
- Powers, Jordan
- Rositano, Erica
- Weldon, Sarah