



NSU
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY
Tampa

OTDNews

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Welcome Class of 2018!



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On May 11, 2015, the OTD program held its fourth annual new student orientation for its Class of 2018. The 3-day event included ceremonies and informational sessions to familiarize the new students to processes, faculty and staff, and most importantly the courses for the next 3.66 years. While all sessions occur at the NSU Tampa Regional Campus, the formal welcome reception and ceremony took place at the Sheraton Tampa East Hotel, attended by all faculty, guests and the event dignitaries, Dr. Stanley Wilson, CHCS Dean, and Dr. Terry Morrow-Nelson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Introduction to the occupational therapy community included speeches from Sarah Jane Crowley, Florida's AOTA Representative and Elena Vizvary, President of the Florida Occupational Therapy Association. The evening was capped with reading the CHCS Creed and a keynote address by Dr. Sandra Barker Dunbar, Assistant Dean for Professional Development.

The Class of 2018 also completed their Entrance Colloquium. The Entrance Colloquium gives new students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with university policies, curriculum layout and design as well as interact and establish fellowship with one another. It also builds teamwork through activities facilitated by the faculty.

About the cover: Students create newspaper tower as part of their group process exercise during Entrance Colloquium.

95th Annual AOTA Conference



As part of their socialization in the profession, NSU OTD Tampa students attended their 95th annual AOTA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The theme for this year's conference is "Giving Voice to the Distinct Value of Occupational Therapy". The primary goal of the AOTA Conference is to provide personal and professional networking for Occupational Therapists and OT students as well as continuing education and promoting the profession. During this year's AOTA Conference, Dr. Mariana D'Amico received the distinguished award to be on the Roster of Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association. She received this award to recognize her significant contributions for her excellence in education, scholarship and practice. Dr. D'Amico is dedicated to paving the way for future occupational therapists.



AOTA Student Delegate 2015

By: Kristin S. McMillen, OTD-S (Class of 2015)

Last month, I represented NSU OTD-Tampa's program as the student delegate at the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA's) Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. As delegate, I joined students from occupational therapy programs around the country for a full day's worth of meetings with leaders from AOTA and within the profession of occupational therapy. Upon coming back to campus, I had the opportunity to share what I learned at the conference with students and faculty during my student delegate address. Topics included:

- Student opportunities and resources on the AOTA website
- Preparing for the national board exam
- The importance of advocacy and political action
- Highlights of the debate regarding a profession-wide transition to the entry-level OTD degree
- The importance of monitoring your social media accounts and projecting a professional image
- Defining the distinct value of occupational therapy



Dr. Carrasco Delivers Honored Lecturer Keynote Address

To celebrate Occupational Therapy (OT) Month, the Student OT educational program of the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, TX continued their annual tradition of inviting distinguished keynote speakers. As part of his community service to Ikebana International, Dr. Carrasco presented his studies on the power of doing and becoming. He also presented a progress report on his narrative inquiry on the lived experience of evolving into the role of ikebana sensei. To cap the presentation, he shifted his roles as sensei by presenting a brief demonstration of the ancient ikebana flower art. SOTA officers who collected floral and other plant materials for the ikebana designs assisted Dr. Carrasco during the demonstration.

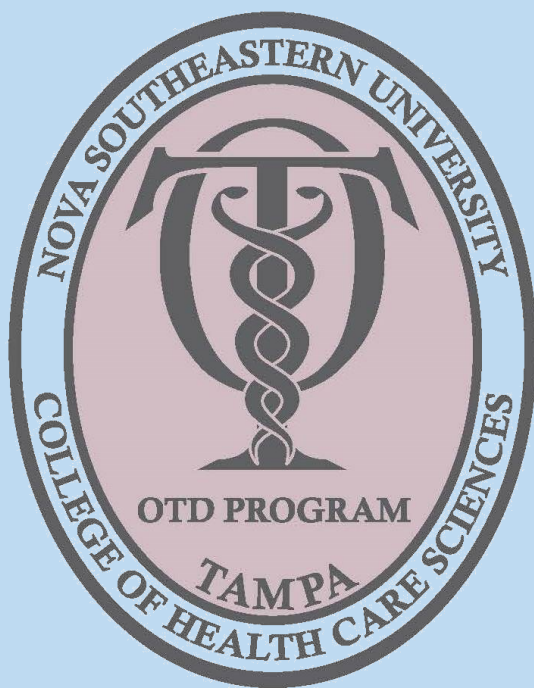


Above, Dr. Carrasco adds finishing touch to his Japanese flower arrangement.

Below, UTPA students and faculty pose for group picture.



Student Conference Stipend



Drs. Dennis McCarthy, Gustavo Reinoso, and Mirtha Whaley met to identify criteria disbursing funding stipends to promote student attendance to state association meetings, AOTA's Student Conclave, and AOTA conference. . Ten students received funds to attend this year's AOTA conference. to attend.

Those students who applied for this stipend were required to submit an essay to justify their attendance at the conference.. Upon return from the conference, the students presented a power point presentation to their classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students Celebrate OT Month



Students display their poster presentation to satisfy their course requirement but also to celebrate OT month in public.

On April 30 from 12:00 to 1:00pm, the students of OTD 8370, taught by Dr. Reinoso, and OTD 8152, taught by Dr. Decker, presented poster presentations for OT month in the atrium, Tampa campus. There was a nice turn out of people who commented on the eagerness and passion of the presenting students related to the vital role of Occupational Therapy in health and well-being. It was a very professional way to celebrate OT month. The students delineated the role of OT in the management and treatment of various human conditions related to OTD 8152, (2017) and elaborated on different aspects of sensory processing related to OTD 8370, (2015). There were 9 groups presenting information related to their respective courses and group projects. Photographs from the event demonstrate the professionalism and engagement of our Tampa OTD students.

Pi Theta Epsilon Beta Delta Tampa

By: Kim Bartels, OTD-S, Megan Dadez, OTD-S, Shannon Taylor, OTD-S, & Kim Yetman, OTD-S

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), Tampa's Beta Delta Chapter, recently held their inaugural election of officers. The 2015 executive board are all from the class of 2016: Kim Bartels (President), Megan Dadez (Vice President), Kim Yetman (Treasurer), and Shannon Taylor (Secretary) will all serve a one year term which will conclude in April 2016.



Although PTE is a new occupational therapy honor society to the NSU Tampa campus, involvement amongst the members is strong. Members, Kristin McMillen (Class of 2015) and Kim Yetman (Class of 2016), attended the 2015 annual American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Conference in Nashville, TN in April. While at the conference, they participated in the annual Pi Theta Epsilon meeting where they learned about the continued events of the national chapter, met students from other chapters, networked with alumni, and heard updates from the national board members. It was a great experience for these two members to be able to connect with other PTE chapters and hear what they do.

In addition to attending the AOTA conference, PTE members have dedicated time toward sporting the OTD students during finals for the 2015 winter term. Finals week is often associated with stress and can be a difficult time for students to balance their personal needs with the need to study. Since PTE is distinguished as an honor society that encourages scholastic excellence amongst occupational therapy students, PTE members offered outreach activities during the 2015 winter finals to promote success among the OTD student body. "Swag bags" were provided to the class of 2017 and a session for guided imagery with progressive muscle relaxation was offered to the entire OTD student body.

Swag bags were created and distributed to the class of 2017. The bags included school supplies and snacks to nourish the brain and encourage optimal performance on final exams. The members of PTE believe it is important to support academic performance so that students can achieve the grades required for an invitation to join PTE. Eligible students from the class of 2017 will receive their invitation in the fall of 2015. Thus, this was a great opportunity to promote

interest and provide information on PTE to prospective students. The class of 2017 was appreciative, and PTE members were enthusiastic about promoting the organization.

The guided imagery with progressive muscle relaxation session was offered to assist students in maintaining a healthy mind and body. PTE member Mara Rosen (Class of 2016) conducted the session, which was attended by students from all three cohorts in the OTD program. Mara has prior experience as a recreational therapist and has implemented her skills in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) to help rehabilitate clients with traumatic brain injuries. Offering her talents in CAM techniques to fellow classmates was an excellent way for Mara to help students relax and care for themselves during the busy week of finals.

Thus far PTE has fulfilled its purpose to support the advancement of occupational therapy. Each member is dedicated to building a strong foundation to ensure the society's growth and development. This is an exciting time for members, as PTE begins to establish their lasting presence within the OTD program at NSU Tampa Campus.



Student Occupational Therapy Association

Throughout the winter semester of 2015 the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) at the Tampa campus of Nova Southeastern University focused on representing the association to the regional campus, the university and the community at large. Demonstrating pride in the school, and continuing to serve the public through donations of time and resources, that represented the association well.. SOTA members demonstrate their pride by wearing apparel to represent the organization and the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program.



In February SOTA members assisted at St. Jude's Heroes for Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend. Later, in March, the association was chosen as finalists for the 16th annual NSU Student Life Achievement Award (STUEY) for Graduate Student Organization of the Year. The current members appreciate the recognition of their hard work during this year and look forward to another outstanding semester. April was occupational therapy month and SOTA financially supported members attending the American Occupational Therapy Association's annual conference in Nashville. SOTA also contributed to the community by spreading the word of occupational therapy and our OTD program at St. Leo University. Members gave back to the OTD program by assisting faculty and staff with the 2015 OTD Orientation in May, which welcomes the incoming class. Through orientation, current members were able to provide mentorship and provide welcome gifts to the incoming members.

Lastly, SOTA is currently revising the constitution to delineate the expectations of members and board officers and increase transparency about the interworking of the organization. This semester has been brief and fast-paced, but SOTA has continued to represent our members, faculty and staff by demonstrating the core values of the university.

By: Jordan Powers, OTD-S

Class of 2015 Set to Go on their Final Clinical Rotation and Doctoral Residency



The Class of 2015 completed their last course-related on-campus institute. The department is extremely proud to have been a part of their professional transformation to this point. Most of them have completed their data analysis for their capstone research project, and will prepare their poster presentations for their Exit Colloquium upon completion of their doctoral residency. The faculty and staff look forward to their return in December 2015 when they present the results of their capstone research projects to faculty, students, and the community in an event that is aimed at involving the local community within the NSU spirit of sharing and cooperation.. It has been wonderful to watch these students grow in knowledge and skills on their journey to becoming occupational therapists. We are confident that they will continue to excel and contribute to the world of occupational therapy.



Welcome Dr. Rzepkowski!



Terry Rzepkowski, DPT, joins the NSU Tampa Department of Occupational Therapy as an Assistant Professor. He has practiced orthopedics for 33 years as a physical therapist and is currently working on the orthopedic specialty care team for Achieve Home Care. From 1983-1985, he was the Director of Physical Therapy at two acute care hospitals in the Orlando area. From 1986-2000, he was also an independent clinic owner in Orlando. He enjoys classic cars, shotgun shooting, bow hunting, and playing the guitar. Welcome Dr. Z!

Larry Holmes, OTD-S has completed his time as a Federal Work Student and is now completing his 2nd Level II Fieldwork rotation. Larry did an outstanding job in assisting the faculty and staff of the OTD program. Larry took initiative and completed all tasks given to him in a timely manner. We wish him the very best as he moves toward his doctoral residency and capstone research project. Thank you for everything Larry.



Student Highlights

Congratulations to Nikita Mathews, OTD-S, of Nova Southeastern University– Tampa. Nikita was the winner of the FOTA15 Student Design Contest. Nikita designed the artwork that will be used at the 2015 FOTA annual conference.



Congratulations to Kimberly Yetman, OTD-S, on being selected to intern for the Special Interest Section Student Internship Program AOTA (SIS). As an SIS intern, Kimberly will assist with developing fact sheets, organizing data, and working with other SIS interns on common tasks and future projects.

Chancellor's Scholarship Awardees 2015



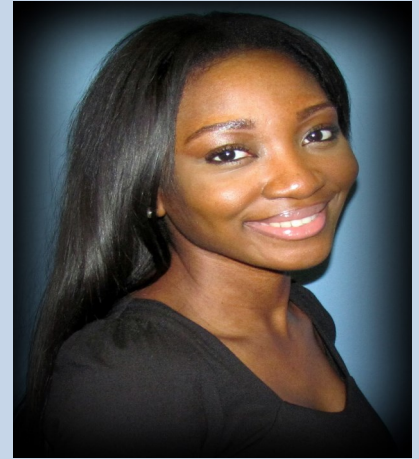
Hillarie Hough



Kristin McMillen



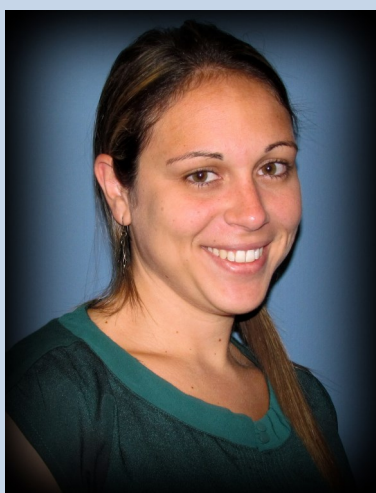
Stephanie Sylvia



Oluwaseyi Akapo



Megan Dadez



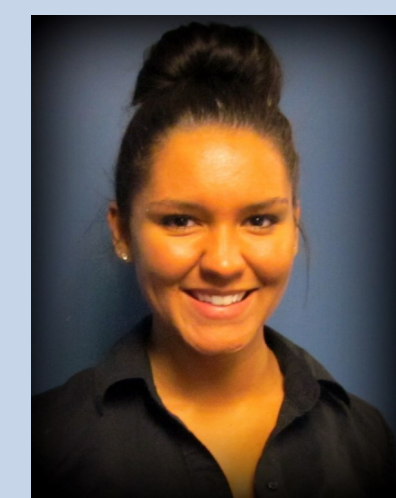
Amanda Skillen Pignon



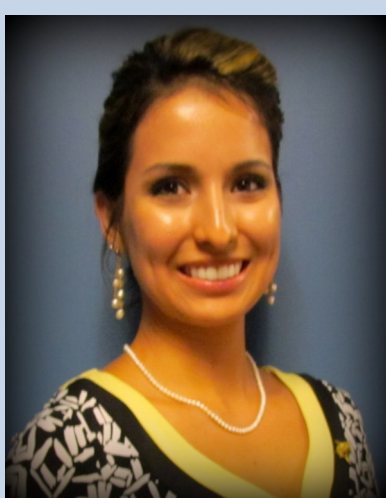
Yazmin Walker



Kerri Easterling



Ashley Edberg



Anna McCastle

Student Accomplishments

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



Chancellor's List

3.8 G.P.A. or higher

- Bartels, Kimberly
- Bryant, Chelsea
- Carsone, Bryce
- Chernekoff, Rachel
- Christian, Molly
- Cinco, Kristine
- Dadez, Megan
- Demetrius, Ricardo
- Easterling, Kerri
- Edberg, Ashley
- Edrissi, Elham
- Freeman, Lillian
- Fritzsche, Lydia
- Grampp, Kelsea Rose
- Granada, Cheryl Mae
- Granata, Meghan
- He-Strocchio, Ni
- Henry, Tasha
- Holmes, Larry
- Hough, Hillarie
- Imwalle, Rachel
- Jamison, Justin
- Johnson, Tara
- Lacertosa, Tyler
- Lopez, Jessica
- Malavalli, Sunayana
- McCastle, Anna
- McMillen, Kristin
- Meach, Lee
- Parhar, Jaslin
- Patel, Shree
- Pitts, Jonathan
- Powers, Jordan
- Rosen, Mara
- Sargent, Brittaney
- Stedman, Ashley
- Sylvia, Stephanie
- Taylor, Shannon
- Tran, My-Lynn
- Unruh, Amanda
- Walker, Yazmin
- Walsh, Kelly
- Weldon, Sarah
- Whitacre, Hillary

Student Accomplishments *cont...*

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



Dean's List

3.6 to 3.79 G.P.A

- Bellare, Nicole
- Hayes, Michelle
- Jackson, Korie
- Key, Crystal
- Kozee, Nicole
- Malikayil, Rajesh
- Mathew, Nikita
- Methipara, Emil
- Pandya, Aesha
- Pignon, Amanda
- Rodriguez, Erica
- Wray, Chane

