

# OTDNews

Newsletter of the Entry Level Program  
Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)

Volume 1, #2, January 2012



## ACOTE Awards Developing Status to Hybrid Entry Level OTD Program



University signage on the corner of Falkenberg Road & Queen Palm Drive

During their Fall 2011 meeting, ACOTE, or the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education granted Developing Program Status to the hybrid entry level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program at Nova Southeastern University Tampa. This is Step 2 of a 3-Step sequence of the accreditation process, and means that the Department can now start admitting students from the applications received through AOTA's Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System

(OTCAS). The Department is currently creating a document called a Self Study which ACOTE will review prior to their onsite visit Spring 2014. The Self Study provides developing and established programs with a mechanism to ensure compliance with ACOTE standards. Faculty members are busy creating syllabi and getting them ready for electronic teaching and face to face laboratories.

## PAC Approves Guidelines

The OTD Professional Advisory Council (PAC) for the NSU Tampa Department of Occupational Therapy met for their second meeting on Friday, January 6, 2012. The Council enjoyed a light lunch before formally adopting their PAC Guiding Document with a unanimous vote. They were delighted to hear from Department Chair and Professor, Ricardo C. Carrasco, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, regarding the school's recent accreditation promotion to Developing Program Status as the Council understands the amount of hard work and effort put forth by the faculty to secure this position. Assistant Professor, Rick D. Davenport, Ph.D., OTR/L, then shared the current student application statistics with the group and discussion focused on how technology has changed the application process over the years. And finally, the group prioritized the Council's intended functions in order to best complement the current needs of NSU's newest OTD program by developing standing committees in the following two areas: Curriculum/Facilities and Promotion/Diversity/Recruitment. Other committees will be formed as the need arises. The next meeting of the NSU OTD Advisory Council will be held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, directly prior to the OTD orientation reception for the very first occupational therapy students accepted to the program. *Reported by Deanna Finney, MHS, OTR/L, Vice Chair of the OTD-Professional Advisory Council*



NSU Professional Advisory Council discusses the accreditation process.

## Department Adopts Official Patch



After much contemplation, the entry-level hybrid Doctor of Occupational Therapy program adopted its official professional patch. It identifies Nova Southeastern University Department of Occupational Therapy students and faculty when worn on white coats and

other official wear. The patches, in taupe and mauve taupe colors feature the new college name, College of Health Care Sciences, and a caduceus adapted from a vintage occupational therapy patch from the '70s.

## Seasoned Clinicians, Educators & Researchers Join NSU Tampa Faculty



**Ricardo C. Carrasco, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA** received his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and Master of Education degrees from the University of the Philippines. His other degrees are in marketing and in education, with a Doctor of Philosophy in Neuropsychology and Occupational

Dysfunction from the Union Institute and University. He completed his dissertation on sensory processing and its impact on play and occupation by gifted and talented children under the direction of Joseph DeLoach and A. Jean Ayres, Ph.D., OTR/L. His clinical experience goes across the lifespan serving people with sensory processing disorders in its effect on occupational performance. He has worked in various settings, including overseas for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, designing and implementing Very Special Arts Festivals, and has consulted, presented papers and lectured internationally. His scholarly interests include wellness and sensory processing, the "Power of Doing," and other topics in

developmental disabilities. He is active in international occupational therapy and other organizations, including Ikebana International, and is the Headmaster of *Banmi Shofu Ryu*, an *ikebana* school. He is the Chair of the Department and oversees all operations. He is available at 813-574-5429, and [rc1265@nova.edu](mailto:rc1265@nova.edu).

**Rick D. Davenport, Ph.D., OTR/L** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science from the University of



Florida. His dissertation focused on perceived smart technology needs among elders with mobility impairment under the advice of William C. Mann, Ph.D., OTR. He has held postdoctoral fellowships with concurrent grant funding experiences at the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Davenport has worked in the areas of acute and sub-acute care, orthopedics, and occupational therapy education. Dr. Davenport also worked as a Registered Nurse and Phlebotomist/Electrocardiogram Technician. His scholarly activities include chapters and articles in refereed publications and presentations on gerontology, smart home and technology applications, and instrumentation. Dr. Davenport spearheads departmental research, technology and occupation content and activities. He can be reached at 813-574-5345, and [rd418@nova.edu](mailto:rd418@nova.edu).



**David Pallister, JD, OTR/L** has a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Rutgers University School of Law, a Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy from New York University, and a Bachelor of

Science in Economics, minor in Sociology. He has served



in various capacities from teaching to academic and fieldwork administration of entry level occupational therapy assistant and professional programs as well as for postprofessional clinical and research doctorate programs in occupational therapy for New York University, Kean University, Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Keiser University, and before coming back to NSU, Western New Mexico University. Dr. Pallister's clinical and research interests and publication history revolve around services across the lifespan in various contexts from schools to nursing home facilities, home and community settings, ergonomics injury prevention, as well as the administrative and business side of occupational therapy. In addition to teaching foundational science related and physical disabilities intervention and neurorehabilitation courses, Dr. Pallister directs all student- related and marketing operations of the Department. His contact information is 813-574-4534, and [pallister@nova.edu](mailto:pallister@nova.edu).

**Mirtha Whaley, Ph.D., OTR/L**

received her Doctor of Philosophy and Masters in Public Health both from the University of South Florida, and Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Florida. Her clinical experiences in mental health, psychiatric, and nursing home and aging facilities, coupled with her interest in advocacy and social justice feed the fire in her professional practice with university opportunities in teaching, conducting research and providing community service. Combined with her academic and research appointments at the University of South Florida and Florida International University, and her commitment to occupation-based practice, Dr. Whaley is a natural to teach community based and psychosocial aspects in adult and aging populations, therapeutic use of self and other occupation portions of the curriculum. She is charged with oversight for all curriculum-related operations of the Department. Dr. Whaley is available at 813-574-5348, and [mwhaley@nova.edu](mailto:mwhaley@nova.edu).



**Maria Velasco –Fontaine Embarks on Clinical Internship**

Academic Support Coordinator Maria Fontaine-Velasco has qualified to enter her clinical internship as Mental Health Counselor at the Winter Haven Hospital. This is part of her professional development plan to eventually complete her graduate level degrees in the health care profession. She worked as a work study student at the Tampa Campus and then joined the Department upon its inception in June 2011. She has been instrumental in creating the administrative infrastructure for the Department and support for faculty and staff. Maria's contact information is 813-574-5315 and [mf957@nova.edu](mailto:mf957@nova.edu).



**NSU Faculty Scholarly Activities & Community Participation**

- Carrasco, R. C., Skees-Hermes, S., & Burgos, B. Supported employment and other work programs in developmental disabilities. (2012). In Braveman, B, & Page, J. (Eds.) *Work: occupational therapy intervention to promote participation and productivity*. Philadelphia. F. A. Davis.
- Carrasco, R. C. (2012). *EDSIS Panel: Responding to Changes in Education*. 92<sup>nd</sup> AOTA Annual Conference & Expo: Indianapolis, IN.
- Carrasco, R. C. (2011). *Sensory Processing of Gifted and Talented Children: Implications for Occupation*. International SPD Symposium: Fort Lauderdale: FL.
- Carrasco, R. C. & Tanguay, H. (2011). *Mentorship and Hands-on Learning in Sensory Integration*. FOTA Conference: St. Augustine, FL.
- Davenport, R. D. (2012). *How older adults make decisions regarding smart technology: An ethnographic approach*. 92<sup>nd</sup> AOTA Annual Conference & Expo: Indianapolis, IN.
- Davenport, R. (2011). *Novel Virtual Reality-based Technology as Component of Rehabilitation*, FOTA Conference: St. Augustine, FL.
- Davenport, R. & Carrasco, R. C. (2011). *Stretching and Enhancing Your Continuing Education Budget*. FOTA Conference: St. Augustine, FL.

**Save the Date!**  
**Grand Opening & Welcome Reception**  
**OTD Class of 2015**  
**May 18, 2012 \* 6:00 PM \* NSU Atrium**  
**For details, call 813-574-5315**

- Davenport, R. D. & Lauer, A., (2011). *Harnessing Current Technologies to Engage Clients in Occupation*. Nova Southeastern University: Tampa, FL.
- Davenport, R. D. Mann, W., & Lutz, B. (in press). How older adults make decisions regarding smart technology: An ethnographic approach. *Assistive Technology*
- Dorne, R. & Ito, M. (2011). *Exploring Hoarders and the Dysfunctional Occupation of Hoarding*. FOTA Conference: St. Augustine, FL.
- Ito, M. & Peirce, C. (2011). *Why Pursue Postprofessional Doctoral Education*. FOTA Conference: St. Augustine, FL.
- Lauer, A. (2011). *iPad Applications in Occupational Therapy*. Nova Southeastern University: Davie, FL.
- Newman, A., (2011). *Cross-Cultural Adaptation of the Sensory Profile: Process and Outcomes*. International SPD Symposium: Fort Lauderdale, FL.

participation. He has appointed 10 of the 13 Special Interest Section (SIS), namely (in alpha order): Developmental Disabilities, Education, Fieldwork Education, Mental Health, Physical Dysfunction, School Systems, Technology, Administration and Management, and Work Programs. He is currently looking for volunteers to serve as Chair for Gerontology, Health Promotion and Wellness, and Sensory Integration.

## Gear up to 2017: NSU Tampa Hosts State Conference 2012

With a theme of gearing up for the centennial celebration of the occupational therapy profession, and consistent with AOTA's Centennial Vision, NSU Tampa has accepted to host the 2012 Fall Conference of the Florida Occupational Therapy Association. The conference is slated November 2 – 3, 2012.

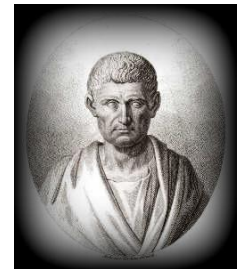


The Florida Occupational Therapy Educational Consortium (FLOTEC), an organization of occupational therapy educators develops, implements, and supports the quality of fieldwork education for occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students. The Department of Occupational Therapy at Nova Southeastern University, Tampa Campus is honored to host its Spring meeting on March 24 – 25. FLOTEC members will come from various parts of the state to discuss its activities and programs for 2012 and the future.

## Carrasco Appointed State Association Practice Standing Committee Chair

As part of the university commitment to engagement in the community, Dr. Carrasco accepted to serve as the Florida Occupational Therapy Association's (FOTA) Practice Standing Committee Chairperson. (Practice Chair) As Practice Chair, he will coordinate the communication and act as liaison between the Board, the SIS sections, and other committees as assigned. He accepted the challenge, knowing that he can rely on membership to step up and create a dynamic and productive group of Special Interest (SIS) Section Chairs who in turn can mobilize member

*"Anything that we have to learn to do we learn by the actual doing of it... We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate ones, brave by doing brave ones."*



Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics, Book II, p. 9



*OTDNews is the newsletter of Nova Southeastern University Tampa's Department of Occupational Therapy meant to inform and promote support for its Hybrid Entry Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program. It is published during the Summer, Fall and Winter-Spring trimesters.*