NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2024

# NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Occupational Therapy

Anniversary Celebration

SAVE THE DATE

2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR







# **CHAIR'S CORNER**

Tamara Pinchevsky-Font, DrOT, OTR/L Department of Occupational Therapy



I am thrilled to share some incredible successes our program has achieved this past year. As an NSU shark, I am proud to witness the dedication and hard work of our students, faculty, and staff that have led to these achievements. Our department has made significant strides in developing cutting-edge educational opportunities in post-professional occupational therapy education. The new Dual DrOT/Ph.D. program will prepare our graduates to enhance their practice scholarship and research skills in our field. Our commitment to staying at the forefront of the OT profession is unwavering, and we continue to explore new ways to enhance our educational offerings and be pioneers in the advancement of our profession. Our faculty and students are deeply engaged in research addressing challenges individuals and communities face to enhance occupational therapy evidence-based practice. From advancing our understanding of occupational therapy in diverse settings to developing interventions that improve quality of life, our research efforts are making a tangible impact. Service is a core value of our program and profession. This past year, we've seen remarkable examples of how our students and faculty have given back to the community through

volunteer work, service-learning projects, and professional service. Our efforts have not only provided invaluable support to those in need but have also enriched our own learning and professional growth.

At the heart of our program is a community of learners, educators, and practitioners dedicated to excellence. Our collaborative environment fosters mutual respect, innovation, and a shared commitment to advancing the occupational therapy profession. Together, we are not just preparing for the future; we are shaping it.

As we look to the future, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our department. We are in a unique position to lead in occupational therapy education, research, and practice. We will continue to embrace innovation, pursue excellence in research, serve our communities with dedication, and support one another in our learning and professional growth.

Here's to another year of innovation, scholarship, service, and learning! Most importantly, here's to 30 years of NSU's Department of Occupational Therapy.

Warmest regards, Dr. Pinchevsky-Font

# DUAL DEGREE DR.OT/PH.D. PROGRAM

Many of you know that NSU's mascot is the shark, and we love to do our shark fin salutes! But did you know which shark? (It's the Mako!) Innovation in education is akin to the evolutionary progress of the Mako shark, fascinating and agile predator of the ocean. Just as the Mako shark has adapted over millions of years to become one of the fastest and most efficient hunters in the sea, education is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of students. For NSU OT, our evolution started in the 90s, under Dr. Reba Anderson, bridging doctoral education with distance learning BEFORE learning platforms, Zoom and Microsoft Teams video chats, and hybrid learning approaches. But, just like the Mako shark keeps swimming, we keep moving forward. This innovation in education reflects the Mako's ability to adapt to its environment, ensuring it remains not only successful, but

### NSU OT: PIONEER IN INNOVATING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAMS



formidable as a species. NSU OT seeks innovation not only to support our individual students, but to the occupational therapy profession as a whole. Thus, we are excited to share that we are again announcing a **FIRST**, our **Dual Degree Dr.OT/PhD Program** that will provide our students with an edge (like the Mako shark) as well as meeting the needs of the occupational therapy profession.

#### Why the Dual Degree Dr.OT/PhD?

- Graduates will be equipped as experts in practice scholarship
- Graduates will be prepared in traditional research methods and execution

The profession continues to move toward the entry-level OTD, which includes research and capstone (aligns with practice scholarship) projects, and academicians, pracademics, and advanced clinicians need to be proficient in practice scholarship to effectively create occupational therapy programs, create clinical tools to enhance practice, advocate for the profession in professional endeavors as well as legislatively, and innovate practice. Likewise, we need to increase the evidence base to continue to move the profession toward Vision 2025 and beyond. We proudly take the spirit of Dr. Anderson's pioneering vision and keep moving forward!

Contact<u>Nicole Quint</u> quint@nova.edu or <u>Rick Davenport</u> rd418@nova.edu



# **DR.OT PD CORNER**

Hello Fellow and Future Sharks! The Dr.OT program has been busy with practice scholarship, as students are focusing on solving practice related challenaes to enhance occupational therapy services. Dr.OT students are tacklina clinical quidelines for working with pediatric clients with heart-related diagnoses, creating assessment methods for written expression in the public school system, developing innovative programming for occupational therapy practice within the ICU, and promoting health literacy for parents within pediatric practice. It is such a privilege working with these amazing agents of change within the profession. Fins up! 



Nicole Quint, Ph.D., Dr.OT, OTR/L, Professor and Program Director, Dr.OT , (NSU Ph.D. 2022, Dr.OT 2011, MOT 2003)



Welcome to our NEWEST Dr.OT Student, Katelyn "Kayte" Gullatt! She joins us from Ojai, CA where she owns **Optimal Homelife**, a home health company. She is interested in resilience in occupational therapy practice and education. Welcome to the Dr.OT family, Kayte!



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Congratulations to second year Dr.OT student, Diandra Hamilton (NSU MOT alumnus 20) for receiving the 2023 Florida OT Educational Consortium (FLOTEC) Award of Excellence in Fieldwork Education!! Diandra currently practices in pediatrics and consistently takes level II fieldwork students. She's a great example of exemplar practice and giving back to the community. We are so PROUD of you, Diandra! CONGRATS!





https://healthsciences.nova.edu/ot/doctoroccupational-therapy/drot/index.html

### **10TH ANNUAL REBA ANDERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE**

### **DR. PENELOPE MOYERS**



Celebrating the legacy of Dr. Reba Anderson's innovation and leadership, Dr. Penelope Moyers presented **"When AI is My Copilot: Change in the meaning, Form, & Function of Occupation**", which created a robust scholarly discussion for the blended crowd of NSU OTD, Dr.OT, and Ph.D. students, NSU OT faculty and alumni, and our community of occupational therapy providers at the NSU campus in Fort Lauderdale and on Zoom from all areas of the country.

Penelope Moyers, EdD, OTR, FAOTA delivers her presentation for the 10th Annual Reba Anderson Memorial Lecture on March 7, 2024.





Dr.OT students Diandra Hamilton (L) and Jennifer Radzik (R) presented their capstone projects at the 2nd Annual Capstone Consortium.

### **2ND ANNUAL DR.OT CAPSTONE CONSORTIUM**

The 2nd Annual Dr. OT Capstone Consortium took place March 8, 2024, providing a forum for the Dr.OT students to share their capstone projects at various phases, working with faculty, fellow students, alumni, and community occupational therapists to brainstorm ideas for the practice scholarship-focused projects. Brainstorming together to enhance occupational therapy!!

The OTD program at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus held its annual retreat on February 14, 2024 to discuss operational and educational topics for the future. All faculty, professional administrative staff, the department chair and program director attended the full day retreat, held at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus. As an icebreaker, we randomly divided into three groups to assemble our assigned puzzles. This activity required the group members to work together, and later with the other two groups when we figured out that some puzzle pieces were missing, and that they were mixed with the pieces of the other two groups. We all had fun, while working together as a group.

The retreat covered both administrative and teaching topics which we prioritized before the session. We revisited the course sequences, especially the research courses to clarify expectations from each of the seven sequences. We also discussed maintaining rigor without overloading the students, the need for communication between and among instructors.

### TEAM ASSEMBLES OPERATIONS & DIDACTIC PUZZLES TOGETHER



We also discussed the final fall term of graduating students, which include the three doctoral transformation courses, the doctoral certification and capstone and research dissemination courses. We also discussed outcomes documentation for accreditation and institutional purposes like annual and interim reports, reaccreditation in ten years, ASLO, etc. We clarified some policies including attendance and professional behaviors, community service partnerships, and finalized the program's blended presence policy. Quite a list we had, but we knew that we would have to continue discussing items covered, including updating the program's strategic plan. The topics are now scheduled during our Tuesday afternoon face-to-face working meetings *-Dr. Ricardo Carrasco, Program Director of the Entry-Level OTD program in Tampa Bay Regional campus.* 





### TAMPA BAY REGIONAL CAMPUS COTAD NOMINATED STUEYS STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR.

The Tampa Bay Regional Campus is standing proud of its COTAD chapter. COTAD stands for The Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity. The flyer featured below shows one of the organization's events with the OTD program's Student Occupational Therapy Association. See the Photo List of the 2022-2023 COTAD officers, and faculty advisor, Dr. Mariana D'Amico.



Nova Southeastern University Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program



Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD)





Tiara Ortiz, OTD '24



Katsia Renaud OTD '25 Treasurer



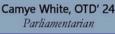
Hana Listes OTD '24 Vice President/ Chapter Co-Chair



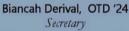
Jaline Gonzales OTD '25 Public Relations













Jamie Spangler, OTD '25 SOTA Liaison



Dr. Mariana D'Amico COTAD Faculty Advisor





Faculty at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus OTD program had been engaged in various scholarship activities: research poster and presentations in national, state and research conferences, as well as book chapters and refereed journal publications. See list below in alpha order.

#### **BOOK CHAPTER**

**Carrasco, R. C**., Sy, M., Peralta Catipon, T., Fischl, C. (in press). Occupational science: understanding Filipino occupations. In Sy, M., Pineda, R. C., & Fischl, C., (in press). Occupational Therapy in the Philippines: Theory, practice and stories. Routledge.

**D'Amico, M. (**In press) Lighten up your classroom. In B. Hultquist, M. Bradshaw & A. Lowenstein (Eds.) Innovative teaching strategies in nursing and related health professions (9th ed.) Jones & Bartlett.

#### **RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Carrasco, R. C**. (submitted, 2019, October 17–19, 2024). Demystifying decades of occupational passion for ikebana. [Research paper presentation]. Society for the Study of Occupations USA Research Conference, Durham, NC, USA

**Carrasco, R. C**. (submitted, 2019, October 17-19, 2024). The art of occupation: Creativity, Critical theory & social transformation. [Artful experience presentation]. Society for the Study of Occupations USA Research Conference, Durham, NC, USA

Nakos, J., **D'Amico, M**., Bloch, E., & Wells, S. (under review, October 17-19, 2024). Occupational therapy students' experiences of graduate program culture: A phenomenological exploration. [Research paper presentation]. Society for the Study of Occupation: USA, Durham, NC USA.

#### **INSTITUTES**

Hermes, S., Balog, E., DaLomba, J., Schmitz, M., Nordhold, T., Gardner, C., Asher, A., Long, T., Ramsden, M., & **D'Amico, M.** (2024). Be Prepared OTs: Emergency and Disaster Management Across Contexts. American Occupational Therapy Association National Conference AOTA Annual Conference March 20, 2024, Orlando, FL USA.

#### **International Presentations:**

**Flanagan, J.,** (2024, March 9) II International Multidisciplinary Rehabilitation Symposium - Autism: Pathways from early intervention to adulthood, "Early Play Behaviors and Movement in infants Later Diagnosed with ASD," Oral Presentation, São Paulo, Brazil.

**Flanagan, J.,** (2024, March 10) II International Multidisciplinary Rehabilitation Symposium - Autism: Pathways from early intervention to adulthood, "Early Indicators of Autism: The Infant Motor and Engagement Scale (IMES)," Oral Presentation, São Paulo, Brazil.

#### **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

**Carrasco Ricardo C**., Skees Hermes, S., Hermes, E. (March 19, 2024). Reflections: Intersections of life journeys via sensory processing & occupations through the years. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association. Orlando, FL, USA. https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/

Swoyer, C. A. & **D'Amico, M**. (March 21,2024). The Effectiveness of OT Interventions in Veteran Suicide Prevention: A Systematic Review. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Orlando, FL USA.

Belperio-Coutinho, L., Folsom, L., LaFreniere, L., Maurer, J., Wagner, M., & **D'Amico, M. (**April 2023). The effectives of occupational therapy interventions to improve sleep of adults who have experienced trauma: A systematic review. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference. Kansas City, MO USA.

Quint, N, & **Kane, C., &** Braunius, C. (March 23,2024). Differentiating capstone in Collaborating with community-based organizations in fall risk reduction. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Orlando, FL USA.

#### **PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS**

Swoyer, C. A. & **D'Amico, M**. (under review). The Effectiveness of OT Interventions in Veteran Suicide Prevention: A Systematic Review. *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health.* 

**Flanagan, J.**, Demchick, B., Landa, R. Delany, J. & Reinoso, G. (in press) Early play behaviors in infants at elevated likelihood for Autism Spectrum Disorder. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Demchick, B. B., **Flanagan, J**., Li, C. Y., Cassidy, R., & Golding, J. (2023). Early Indicators of Autism in Infants: Development of the IMES Screening Tool. *OTJR*: *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 15394492221134910.

#### **PAPER PRESENTATIONS:**

**Kane, C.** (March 21,2024). Effects of a bundled payment model on the utilization of occupational therapy in Florida skilled nursing facilities. [Paper presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Orlando, FL USA.

**Kane, C.** (March 23,2024). Collaborating with community-based organizations in fall risk reduction. [Paper presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Orlando, FL USA.

Demchick, B., **Flanagan, J.**, & Li, Cynthia. (2024, March). The development of the Infant and Motor Engagement Scale (IMES). Scientific Research Panel presented at the 2024 AOTA Annual Conference 7 Expo, Orlando, Florida.

# PhD PD CORNER



Rick Davenport, Ph.D., OTR/L Associate Professor and Director, Ph.D. Program in Occupational Therapy

Currently, as of this Summer 2024 semester, we will have 42 Ph.D. occupational therapy students in our program. Over 20 of these Ph.D. students are in their dissertation process and are at various stages of completing their dissertation projects. We are looking forward to these 20 Ph.D. students disseminating their dissertation projects and adding to the OT profession's knowledge base. Along these lines, I am delighted to announce that, while in the preliminary discussion stages, we are in the process of developing an Entry-Level OTD to Ph.D. Transition Pathway here at NSU. One of the goals of the Entry-Level OTD to Ph.D. transition pathway will be to train new therapists earlier in their career to conduct research, thus having the skill set to add to the OT profession's knowledge base.

Of note, recently, during our Winter semester (Jan. – Apr. 2024), we concurrently held both our 2-day Ph.D. Winter Midsession and 4-day Ph.D. Winter Research Institute. We welcomed six Ph.D. students to our Fort Lauderdale, Florida campus on March 7-10, 2024, for the Midsession and Research Institute. The Ph.D. students traveled from across the U.S., including Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, and Texas. During the 2-day Ph.D. Midsession students participated in lectures on the IRB process & procedures, dissertation writing, library database searches, etc. Ph.D. students were able to meet and have discussions with both our College Dean, Dr. Wilson, and our Occupational Therapy Department Chair – Dr. Pinchevsky-Font. Additionally, Ph.D. students had multiple scheduled sessions over the 2-days to interact with faculty to discuss their dissertation ideas as well as hear from potential dissertation chairs regarding tips for being successful in completing their dissertation project. The students enjoyed getting to know the NSU Fort Lauderdale campus as they had a walking tour, some of the places they toured included the Don Taft University Center, Alvin Sherman Library, NSU Bookstore, and HPD Library. The Ph.D. students also enjoyed attending the multiple Zoom sessions where Ph.D. OT alumni & current Ph.D. students had a dialogue regarding their OT Ph.D. alumni/current experiences in the program. During the 4-day Ph.D. Winter Research Institute students were on campus March 7-10, 2024, as part of the PCHCS collegewide shared research courses. Our OT students joined Speech-Language Pathology students. The students had intensive four full days of Quantitative & Qualitative Research Design content. During these courses, the students were able to perform mock interviews with 3 undergraduate NSU students, transcribe the individual interviews, code, and present their data analysis. Finally, our 6 Ph.D. students from both the Midsession and Research Institute were able to attend our 10th Annual Reba L. Anderson Memorial Lecture, where Dr. Penny Moyers-Cleveland gave a wonderful presentation titled "When AI is My Copilot: Change in The Meaning, Form, & Function of Occupation".



Ph.D. Students who traveled to our Fort Lauderdale Campus for their 2-day Winter Midsession & 4day Winter Research Institute (2024). From L: Heather Locasha, Alyssa Clark, Rollin Fowlkes, Kristy Breitbach, Liz Arlia, Lourdes Frost-Garrote, Christie Joy.



Ph.D. Students who traveled to our Fort Lauderdale Campus for their 2-day Winter Midsession (2024). From L: Christie Joy, Lourdes Frost-Garrote, Kristy Breitbach, Heather Locasha, Rollin Fowlkes.





# **OTD FORT LAUDERDALE**

- The last MOT cohort has completed their last fieldwork and are preparing for the NBCOT exam.
- MOT graduate, Caroline Campione was a finalist for Student of the Year category at NSU's STUEY Awards.
- FuelOT/CommunOT event, sponsored by SOTA and COTAD, organized a Zoom panel discussion for Black History Month where panelists shared their "Lived Experiences of Being a Black OT" as well as insights into what medical professionals should consider when interacting with patients and families who identify as African American or Black.
- SOTA and COTAD again combined resources to host Fueling CommunOT! The event took place at NSU's Clock Tower and was followed by an educational event including a workout to raise awareness about America's obesity epidemic.
- This past year, OTD students participated in medical outreach trips to Puerto Rico and Jamaica.

### QUICK BITES FROM OTD FT. LAUDERDALE















### **OTD FT. LAUDERDALE**

# Faculty at the Fort Lauderdale Campus entry-level OTD program has been engaged in various scholarship activities: research poster and presentations, workshops, and short courses at the state and national conferences.

#### **Poster Presentations**

**Quint, N.** and Moyers, P. (March 23, 2024) Developing Practice Scholars in Occupational Therapy to Advance Practice: You Can Do It! [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

**Quint, N., Braunius, C.**, and Kane, C. (March 23, 2024) Differentiating Capstones in Entry-and Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Education. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

**Braunius, C. and Quint, N.** (March 23, 2024) Community-based Capstone in Occupational Therapy Education (C-BCOTE) A Doctoral Capstone Experience Framework. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <a href="https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/">https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</a>

**Aldridge, N.,** Hill, C, Green, S., and Maglaris-Gabaldon, L. (March 21, 2024) Belonging: A Phenomenological Study Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black Occupational Therapy Students and Practitioners. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

**Aldridge, N.** (March 23, 2024) Rekindling the Fire: Securing the Future of the National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus: A Capstone Project. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

**Bloch, E**. and Nicholson, N. (March 23, 2024) Partnering with patient and family faculty to share. Lived Experiences in Academia: A Call to Action. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

**Bloch, E.** and Le, N. Hanson, J., Gruender, M., Martin, T., Zinkil, M., Denslow, A. and Patel, P. (March 21, 2024) What are the experiences of patient and family faculty participating in a Patient and Family engaged care interprofessional education experience? [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

**Bloch, E.** and Le, N. Hanson, J., Gruender, M., Martin, T., Zinkil, M., Denslow, A. and Patel, P. (November 2023) What are the experiences of patient and family faculty participating in a Patient and Family engaged care interprofessional education experience? [Poster presentation]. Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Clearwater, FL, USA.

#### Workshops

**Schaeffer, M. and Quint, N.** (March 23, 2024) Occupational Therapy in School Based Practice: A Framework for Occupational Therapy's Role in Transitions. [Poster presentation]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <a href="https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/">https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</a>

Aldridge, N. (March 22, 2024) Building Bridges: Black Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Academia and Throughout the Talent Marketplace. [Workshop]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

Aldridge, N., Hill, C, Green, S., and Maglaris-Gabaldon, L. (November 2023). Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Cultivating Belonging for Black Students and Practitioners. [Workshop]. Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Clearwater, FL, USA.

#### **Short Courses**

Aldridge, N. (March 21, 2024) From Recruitment and Retention of the Nontraditional Student to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. [Short Course]. American Occupational Therapy Association, Orlando, FL, USA. <u>https://inspire.aota.org/schedule/</u>

Aldridge, N., Hill, C, Green, S., and Maglaris-Gabaldon, L. (November 2023). Belonging: A Phenomenological Study Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black Occupational Therapy Students and Practitioners. [Short Course]. Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Clearwater, FL, USA.

Aldridge, N. (November 2023). Supporting Student Success in Fieldwork: Considerations for Diverse Students. [Short Course]. Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Clearwater, FL, USA.

**Bloch, E.** (November 2023). Patient and Family Engaged Care and OT- a Changing Landscape. [Short Course]. Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Clearwater, FL, USA.

### **OTD FORT LAUDERDALE**



### **FIELDWORK INNOVATION**

Our Level I FW model uses preeminent evidence that student learning best occurs in a collaborative model (students working in groups). The faculty-led fieldwork model allows students to engage with the community to promote professionalism, health and wellness, and engagement.









## **OTD FORT LAUDERDALE**

### **AOTA Roster of Fellows Recipient**

We are thrilled to announce Dr. Elise Bloch has been honored with the prestigious Roster of Fellows Award by the American Occupational Therapy Association. This esteemed recognition is a testament to her outstanding contributions and dedication to the field of occupational therapy. Dr. Bloch's commitment to excellence, innovation, and advocacy has significantly enriched the lives of countless individuals and advanced the profession. This accolade not only celebrates her past achievements but also inspires us all to continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible in occupational therapy. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Bloch on this well-deserved honor!





### **Practitioner Award of Excellence**

Congratulations to Dr. Nardia Aldridge on receiving the inaugural Jerry Bentley Occupational Therapy Practitioner Award of Excellence. The award was established in 2024 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus (NBOTC). It recognizes an OT practitioner that embodies the vision of the founders and demonstrates a long-standing commitment to the mission of NBOTC, service, and leadership to the profession through state, national level, or international level. The award acknowledges a commitment to social and occupational justice, advocacy in the profession, and professional excellence.





### Kyrah Maduro was awarded the Dr. Sandra Barker Dunbar-Smalley Leadership scholarship

The South Florida Black Occupational Therapy Caucus hosted Black History Month event where they presented OTD student, Kyrah with the scholarship. Congratulations Kyrah!







## **NSU ALUMNI PARTY**





### **AOTA EXPERIENCE**



### **AOTA EXPERIENCE**

