



Welcome Class of 2015

May 18, 2012, marked the opening ceremonies for the Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program for Nova Southeastern University at the Tampa campus. Twenty students were inducted into the inaugural class of 2015.

Family and friends were invited to share this momentous occasion with each student.

Dr. Sandra Dunbar, Director of the Occupational Therapy program for the Ft. Lauderdale campus served as keynote speaker for the evening. Dr. Dunbar charged the class of 2015 to be “creative, caring, innovative, client-centered, occupation-centered and self directed “ in their pursuit of practicing authentic occupational therapy.



Honored guests in attendance included: Dr. Max Ito, Dr. Sandra Dunbar, both of the Ft. Lauderdale campus; Amy and Kurt both of the PAC;

The faculty and staff look forward to working with each and every one of you over the next three and one half years as you complete the cycle from occupational therapy students to occupational therapy practitioners.

White Coat Ceremony

Thursday, September 6, marks the inaugural White Coat Ceremony for the Entry-Level OTD program at Tampa.

The White Coat Ceremony (WCC) of the entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program at Nova Southeastern University is a ceremonial rite of passage leading to the students’ professional preparation and future clinical practice. Evolving from medical traditions, the NSU OTD WCC provides a public venue for the students to affirm their professional commitment to the study of the art, science and discipline of occupation and occupational therapy. The white coats proudly display their name and the official OTD program patch with the caduceus wrapped around the letter “t” of OT, as well as the university and college names.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 for successful completion of your first semester.

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Special points of interest:

- Orientation
- White Coat Ceremony
- Service Learning
- Student Occupational Therapy Association
- New Faculty

Tampa Opening Keynote Address

Tampa Opening – May 18, 2012

Legacy Transmission: A Time for Reflection and Visioning

If you start thinking about your legacy now, you will greatly increase the odds of leaving a legacy that reflects your best qualities, as well as the elements that you would like to see embedded into the fabric of any of the organizations you will work for or with (Gilford and Maruca, 2006, p. 4).

Legacy is a powerful word that fittingly describes the process of passing on an important foundation from one Nova Southeastern University Occupational Therapy program to another.

Webster defines legacy as “something transmitted by or received from a predecessor or from the past” (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). This leads one to wonder what “transmit” really means in this context. Transmit is defined in many ways, including to send something from one place to another, to pass on or spread, to hand something down or to pass along news (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). At this important time of program evolution, the Davie OT program is transmitting something very important to the Tampa OT program. I refer to this process of furthering the traditions of innovation and excellence in occupational therapy education as “Legacy Transmission”.

Who started this legacy transmission? No one exemplified this more than one of the main founders of the program, Dr. Reba Anderson. I first saw Reba at a national OT conference. Although the audience included thousands of occupational therapy practitioners, Reba held command with her visionary and humorous comments. I remember thinking how great it would be to work for an OT like herself one day. Little did I know that years later, she would be my supervisor in an academic program. I saw her name in an ad for an OT professor and I quickly applied to Nova Southeastern University. I joined a faculty of seasoned academicians who knew each other from various universities. As the junior member, they embraced me and taught me excellence in teaching. Reba, along with Suze Dudley, Ferol Ludwig, Nancy Nashiro, Carol Reed, Barbara Kornblau and Lori Andersen, created an innovative occupational therapy program that paved an avenue for legacy transmission.

My charge to the inaugural class of the Tampa Occupational Therapy Program is to always be creative, caring, innovative, client-centered, occupation-centered and self-directed in your learning. Authentic occupational therapy will always consider the client or family first, their goals and values, as well as the cultural context. The focus will be on “occupation”, which includes the meaningful activities that individuals engage in, as the treatment method AND the treatment outcome.

My charge to the faculty is best stated by Harold Shapiro in his book “A Larger Sense of Purpose: Higher Education and Society” -

The most valuable part of education for any learned profession is that aspect that teaches future professionals to think, read, compare, discriminate, analyze, form judgments, and generally enhance mental capacity to confront the ambiguities and enigmas of the human condition (Shapiro, 2005, p 113).

Meeting the demands of the teaching and learning needs in today’s educational environments requires far-reaching agendas. Legacy transmission transcends the Davie and Tampa programs and incorporates a large occupational therapy family that began in 1917. In commemoration of the founding OT fathers and mothers, as well as in an effort to further unify the profession with common goals, the American Occupational Therapy Association created the Centennial Vision. This vision supports legacy transmission on a broad scale.

We envision that occupational therapy is a powerful, widely recognized, science-driven, and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce, meeting society’s occupational needs (AOTA, n.d.).

Inaugural class, faculty and staff of Nova Southeastern University OT Tampa program – By embracing these principles and values in the American Occupational Therapy Association Centennial Vision, you are now a part of this legacy transmission. Congratulations to you all!

Keynote Continued

References:

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President's Faculty Research and Development Grant

Congratulations to Dr. Rick Davenport on receiving the President's Faculty Research and Development Grant.

Dr. Davenport was the first faculty member of a newly developed program to receive an award of this significance.

The emphasis of his research is on exercise adherence and virtual reality gaming for older adults at risk for falls.

Dr. Davenport was honored at a luncheon on the Davie campus of Nova Southeastern University for his accomplishments.



American Public Health Association and the Alzheimer's Institute's Summer Conference

Congratulations to Dr. Whaley for having her abstract entitled "Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance: Promoting Engagement, Preventing Excess Disability and Enhancing Quality of Life in Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias: accepted for presentation. She will presenting at the American Public Health Association Conference in San Francisco, California in October 2012. Her presentation will address the theme of Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan by focusing on the occupational needs of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.

In addition, Dr. Whaley was invited to present at the Alzheimer's Institute's Summer Conference in Tampa for the second consecutive year. The conference is entitled Geriatrics: Critical Knowledge for Quality Care and is sponsored by USF Health Byrd's Alzheimer's Institute . Her presentation is Living Life to the Fullest: Beyond ADLs and Rehabilitation. The presentation focuses on the role of occupational therapy with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.





Service Learning Projects

The semester is off to a booming start. Take advantage of this time to meet with your advisor soon regarding your service learning projects choices that you would like to participate in for this semester, or be extremely ambitious and develop your next three years. Sixteen service learning hours are required per year in order to meet graduation requirements for Nova Southeastern University. All necessary forms are currently available at the OTD Student Center via Blackboard and all service learning opportunities must first be approved through your advisor. What an exciting way to give back to the community and represent Nova Southeastern University.

Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

The Student Occupational Therapy Association for the Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program in Tampa Florida has been busy. Students held their inaugural meeting in July 2012 and elections followed in September. Congratulations to the following elected officers: Ricardo Demetrius, President, Larry Holmes, Vice President, Chelsea Bryant, Secretary, and Shree Patel, Treasurer.



Welcome New Staff



Sheila M. Longpré, MOT, OTR/L, Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical & Community Relations

Her expertise are in the areas of oncology, rehabilitation and pediatrics. In addition to teaching OTD8101 and OTD8142, she is also the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.



Rania Shamekh, MD, MS, Assistant Professor

Her expertise are in the areas of anatomy, neuroanatomy, physiology, histology, pathology and pathophysiology. As the newest member of the Nova Southeastern University team, she will be teaching ANA5423 to the OTD students this Winter Semester.



Karla Quinones, Program Support Coordinator

Due to the interactive and organizational demands of the position, she anticipates needs that are related to program inquiries, software applications, training, scheduling, documentation, publication and printing, new hire paperwork and other related duties.



Charlotte M. Burden, MA, Fieldwork Support Coordinator

Her job responsibility spans a wide range of activities involving the organization of the clinical curriculum including fieldwork and residency placement of the department's Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) students.



Natalia A. Ospina, Administrative Assistant

Given the diverse nature of her position, she is responsible for performing office and clerical functions, maintains inventory of all routine office supplies and prepares orders with appropriate vendors as needed, answers incoming calls, fields routine questions and provides support to the faculty and staff as needed.