



CSUDH

MSOT

Fall 2021



C16 & C17 Summer Social

On August 30th, PTE started off the new semester with a C16 and C17 summer social! Attendees had the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts activities, yoga, and cooking. We also played Family Feud (OT style)! Lastly, this event provided an opportunity for C17 students to thank C16 students for all their help and guidance throughout this program. We appreciate all their endless support! -Jasmine Hannani



C16 x C17 Summer Social



SOTA FALL GENERAL MEETING



SOTA celebrated the start of the new semester with our Fall General Meeting! We welcomed 6 new chair members, as well as 2 new OTAC representatives, Mohammad Maabreh and Jenn Robbins, and ASD representative, Chris Simmons. Additionally, attendees had a blast playing ice breakers and Kahoot questions about each others' hometowns and SOTA trivia. SOTA merchandise was awarded to the first place Kahoot winner, John Stokes! We are so excited to have more fun bonding activities and make lasting memories with our fellow classmates in the near future! - Terese Rios

August 31, 2021

C16 PINNING CEREMONY

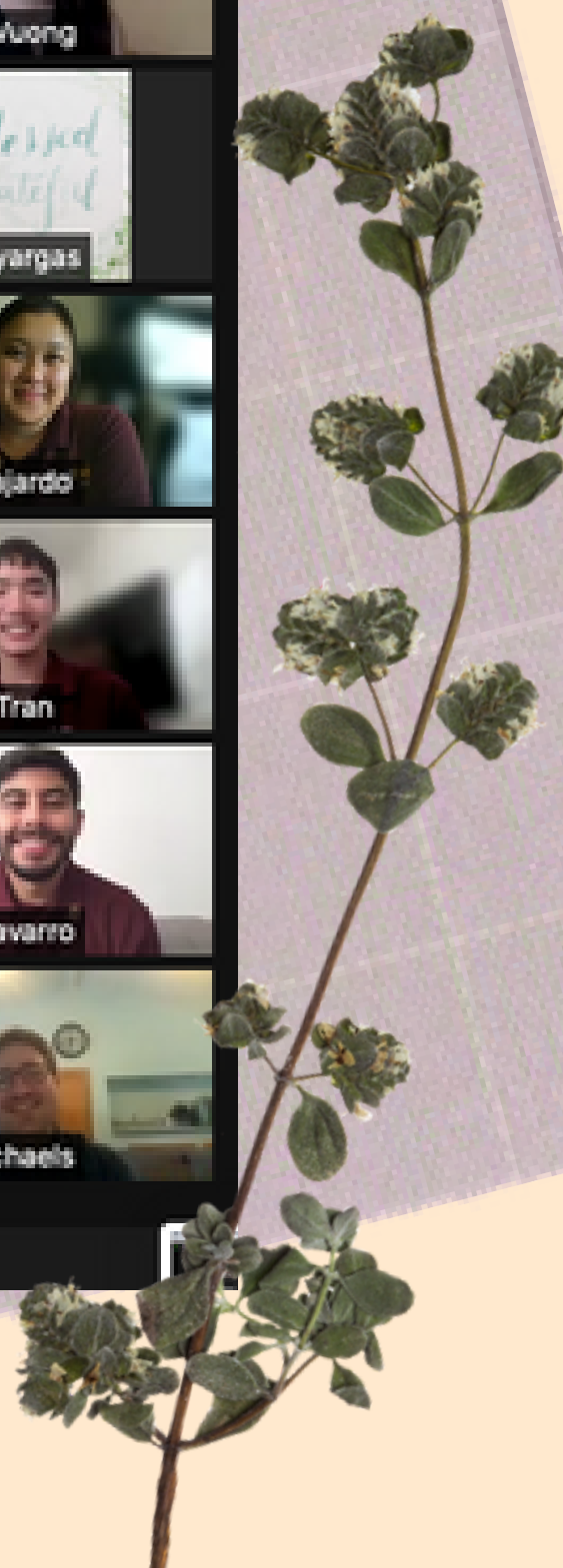
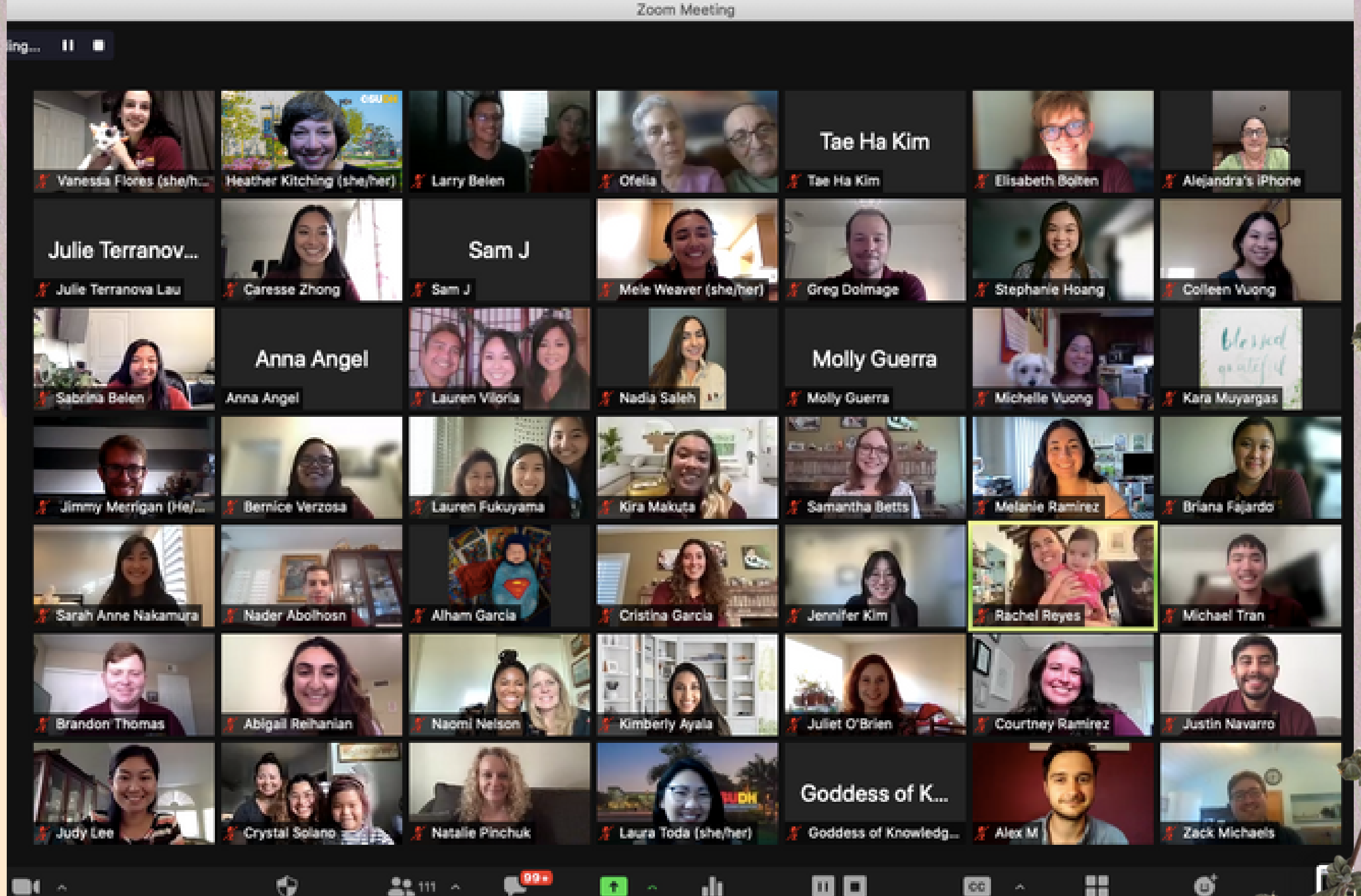
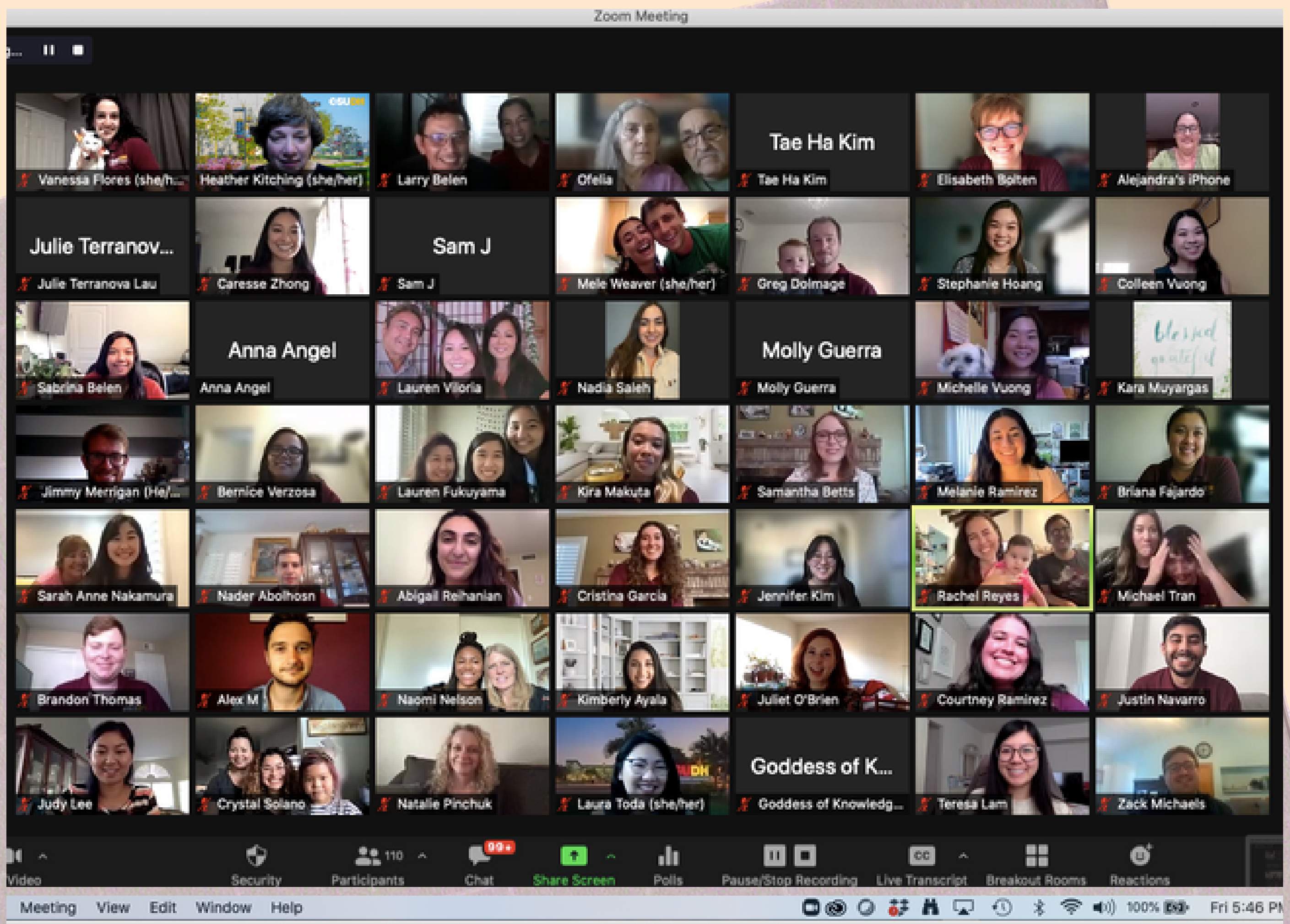
PINNING CEREMONY 2021: OT DEPARTMENT SENDS C16 OFF TO LEVEL II FIELDWORK

The MSOT program's annual milestone event signifying the transition from didactic curriculum to level II fieldwork was held on Sept. 10, 2021, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 2021's Pinning Ceremony for Cohort 16 was held virtually via Zoom.

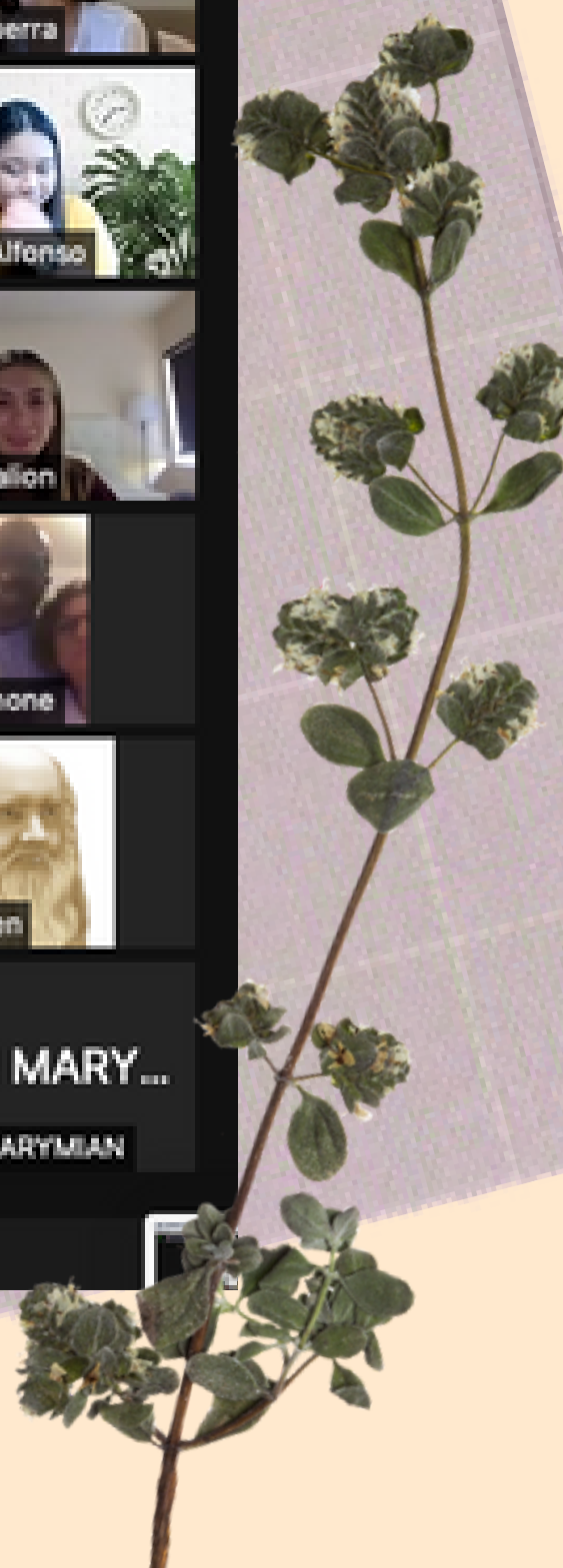
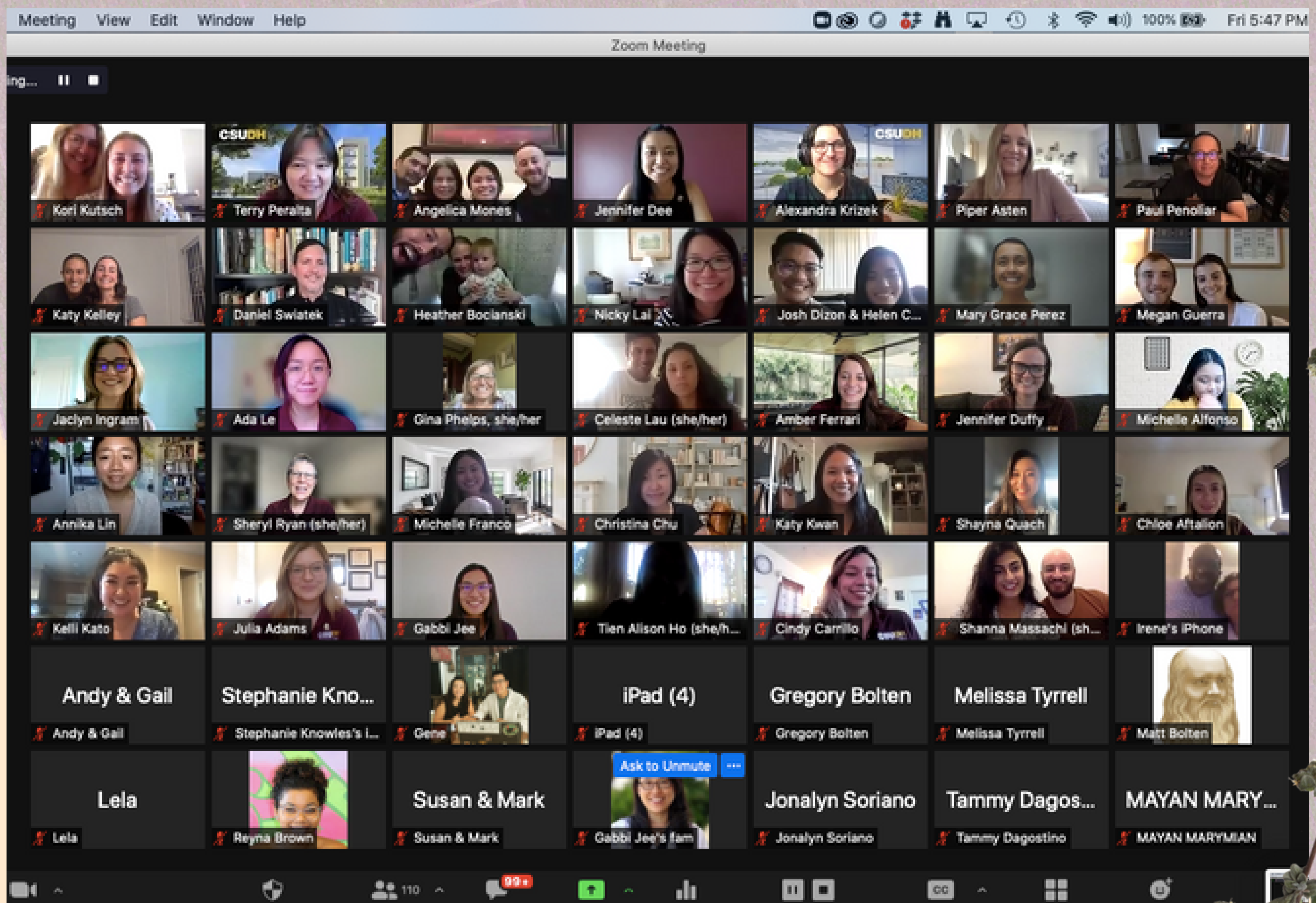
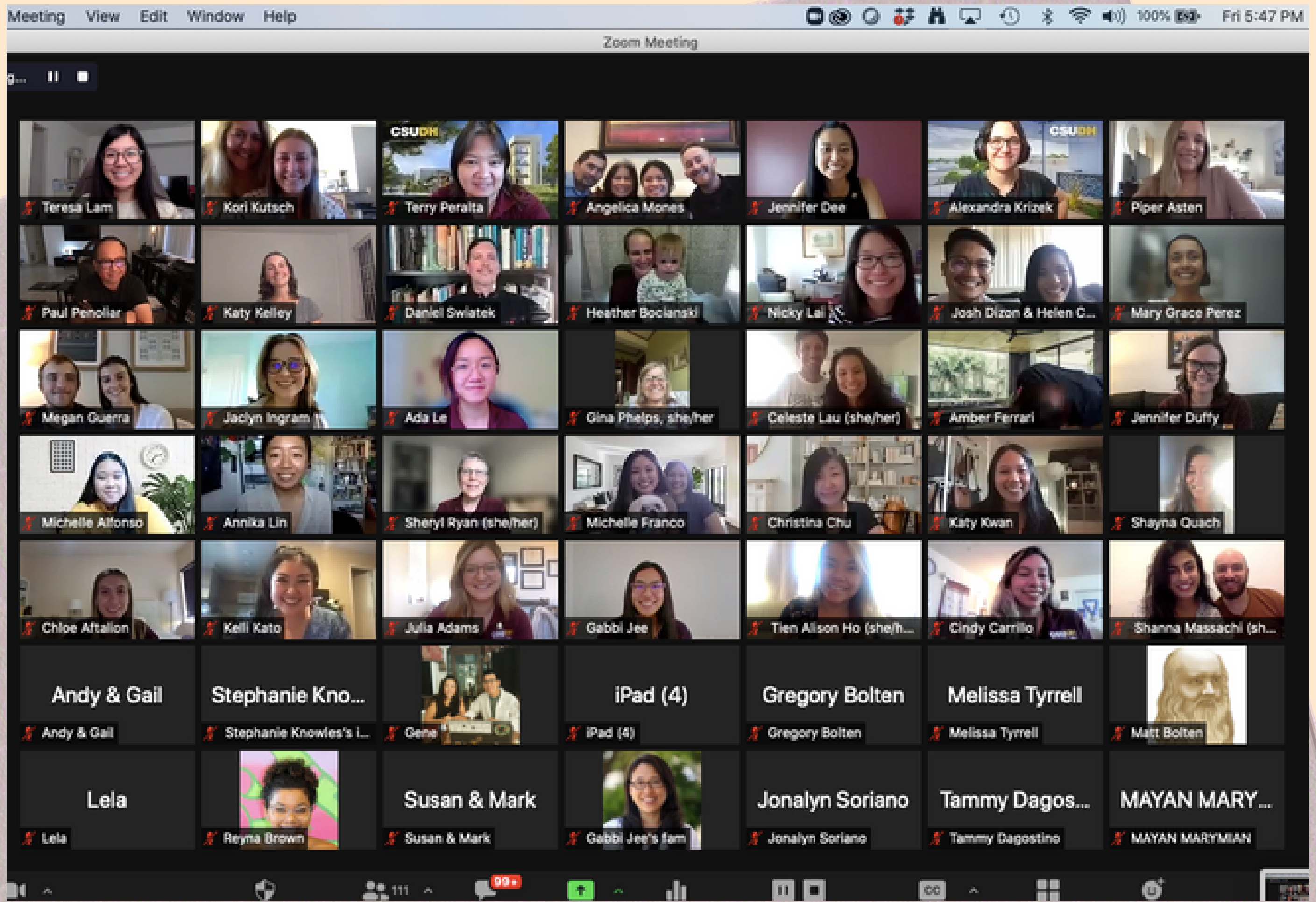
Comments by Dr. Terry Peralta (department chairperson), Dr. Heather Kitching (MSOT program coordinator), and Dr. Daniel Swiatek (academic fieldwork coordinator) opened the event. C16 student, Naomi Nelson, delivered the student representative address. Recorded greetings from MSOT faculty also saluted the students and their success. The actual "pinning" took on a new and touching twist at the event. Students are normally pinned by the department chairperson. For this Zoom event in COVID-19 times, students selected a loved one to affix their CSUDH Department of Occupational Therapy pin. Best of luck to C16 at level II fieldwork. We will see you at graduation in May 2023!



C16 PINNING CEREMONY



C16 PINNING CEREMONY





SOTA Speaker Series

Brandy Saccacio

For our latest Beyond the Textbook talk, SOTA had the privilege of hearing from Brandy Saccacio about her work at UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital in adolescent mental health. She explained the symptoms and effects that various mental health disorders have on functioning, walked us through her process, gave us examples of groups and activities she uses, and clarified occupational therapy's role in the setting. She addressed the importance of interdisciplinary treatment but highlighted OT's unique role in mental healthcare by emphasizing that a major difference between talk therapy and occupational therapy is that occupational therapy directly works on improving aspects of functioning rather than just talking about it. In addition to sharing about her current work, Brandy encouraged us to prioritize our own health and to practice occupational balance. As a CSUDH alumni, she understands what we're going through and encouraged us by sharing some of her own experiences with the program. A big thanks to Brandy for taking the time to speak to us, answer all our questions, and provide a clear picture of what we have to look forward to in the future when we become licensed OTs! -Jenna Leland



THANK YOU!



SOTA Speaker Series

Devon Breithart OTR/L

SOTA PRESENTS:
Speaker Series



Devon Breithart, OTR/L
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
7:30pm



Biography

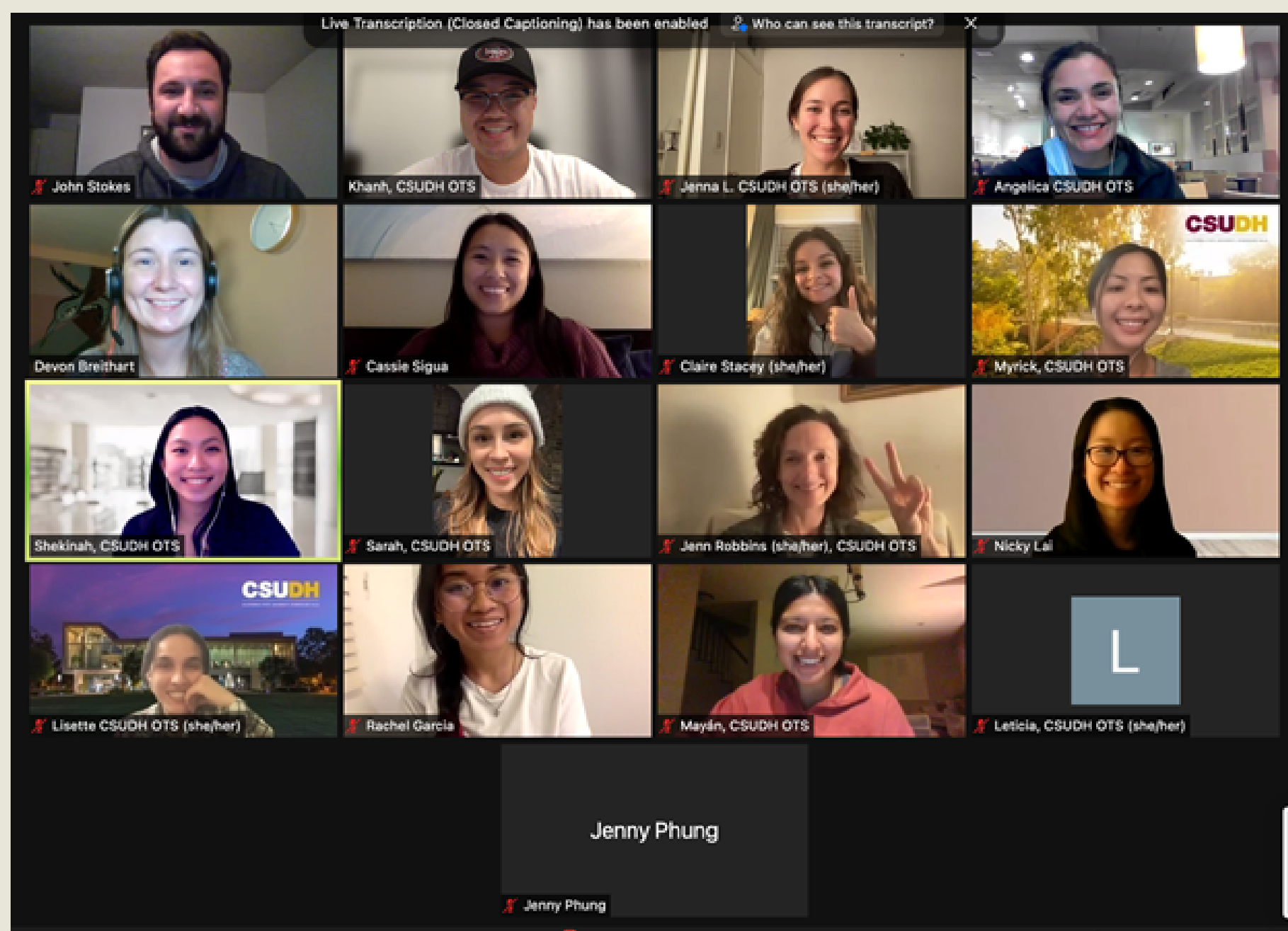
When I was 16 years old, like many people, I had never heard of occupational therapy. But I knew I wanted to do something that helped people, and I had always valued independence. So when OT was described to me on a college visit, I knew I was hearing about my future career.

I received my M.S. in Occupational Therapy from Spalding University in 2015. Since then, I have worked in a variety of settings, including outpatient pediatrics, early intervention, adult day programs, skilled nursing, & home health.

In 2018, I began the exciting journey of travel therapy and discovered my passion for working in the public school system, which eventually led to creating The Dynamic School OT – an online course and mentorship program for school-based therapists who want to become more effective, confident, and happy in their practice.

Beyond my school-based work, I have been a freelance writer since 2017 and have devoted these skills to supporting other OTs through writing test prep questions, blog posts, and website copy. Eventually, this business grew and my scope shifted to social media, marketing, & business development support for other therapy entrepreneurs, especially those working in the online space.

In my free time, I like to hang out with my partner Spencer and our cat Lunchbox, explore cities on foot, hunt down great restaurants, and play board games.



This week SOTA got to learn about travel and school-based occupational therapy from Devon Breithart. Since graduating in 2015, Devon has worked in a variety of settings, including outpatient pediatrics, early intervention, adult day programs, skilled nursing, and home health. She has also created an online course and mentorship program for school-based therapists, works as a freelance writer, and supports other therapy entrepreneurs in social media, marketing, and business. Devon shared about her experiences in each of these areas, focusing mainly on travel therapy and school-based OT. She gave us a much clearer picture of what it looks like practically to work in each of these settings and shared how school-based OT differs by state. We walked away from the meeting feeling much more knowledgeable about these practice areas and inspired to explore all the different avenues that are open to OTs. Thanks to Devon for coming to speak with us! –Jenna Leland

SOTA Fall Events

SOTA PRESENTS:

Speaker Series

COMMUNITY-BASED THERAPY



Faith Moy, BTR/L



Amy Jesse


JULY 13, 2021 | 6:30 PM



SOTA PRESENTS:

Amy Jesse

Amy earned her AA degree in Ethnic Studies in 1993 and a BA in Social and Behavioral Science in 2007. She became a member of Integrity House that same year and has been a member and leader for 14 years. One year after she became an Integrity House member she started teaching the Respect class which members and OT/OTA interns find inspiring and meaningful. She has also mentored five other club members who are now teaching or helping to teach classes. Amy is beginning her second term as a Regional Center of Orange County board member. She volunteers at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center as a docent and has done this for a little over three years. Some of her favorite hobbies are painting, creating computer generated birthday cards, and gardening. Amy has a green thumb and has a monster lettuce plant and also grows mint, cucumber, and green beans.






SOTA Fall Events



9/14: SOTA Snack Shop Opens

SOTA reopened the snack shop in EAC 400 this fall! It is stocked with both sweet and savory snacks, drinks, and desserts. It's run using Venmo and an honors system with the purpose of keeping our students and staff fueled and happy while on campus.



SOTA Fall Events



Come join us for our fundraiser at

Lemonade

Del Amo Fashion Center #5243 Torrance, CA 90503

Friday, September 24th
11 AM to 9 PM

30% of your meal purchase will go to SOTA!



AND THE WINNER IS



Available for purchase this winter!

Lisette Martinez Torres

CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE SOTA MERCH DESIGN COMPETITION!



SOTA Fall Events



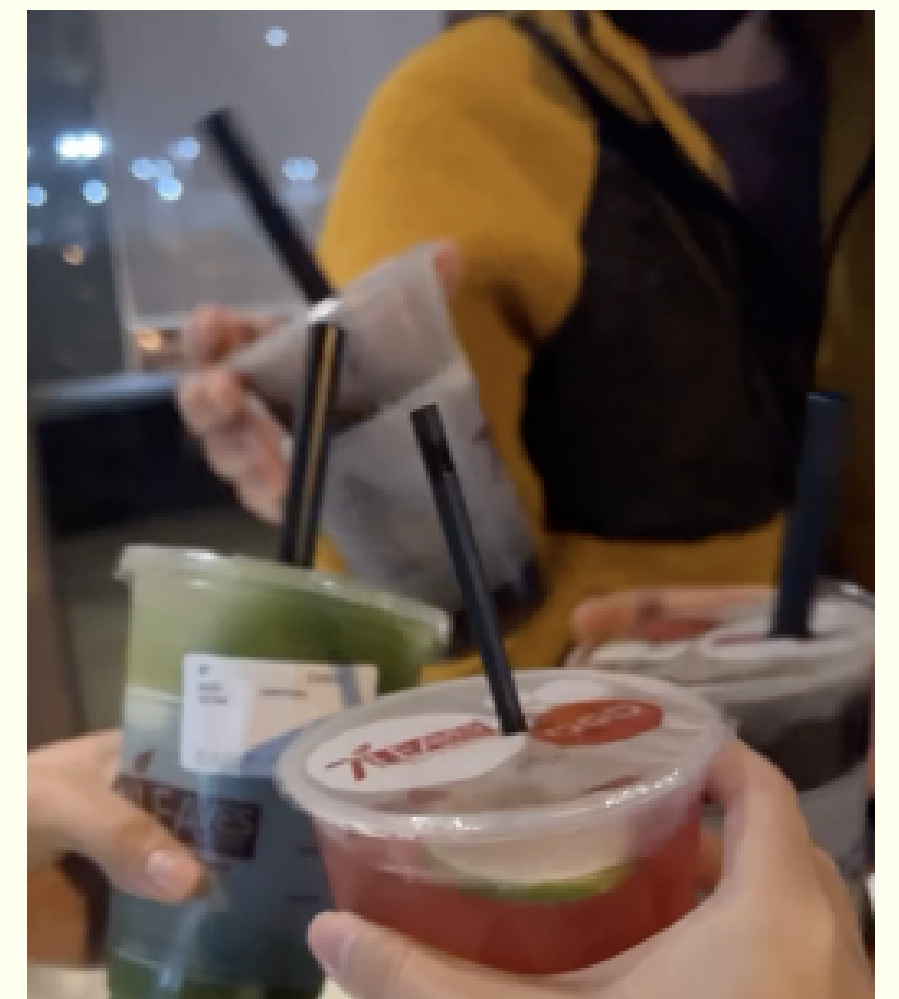
SOTA x ASI Presents
**HALLOWEEN
SPIRIT WEEK**

10/25 - Crazy Sock Day
10/26 - CSUDH Gear Day
10/27 - Twin Day
10/28 - Halloween Costume Day
10/29 - Pajama Day

The section with the highest participation will win a prize!
Tag us in your post and use #SOTASpiritWeek to enter!



SOTA Fall Events



Acute Care Workshop

Jennifer's class on acute care was such a confidence boost as I navigated my first few weeks of fieldwork! We would practice in class on Saturday and I'd be blown away on Sunday morning when I'd need to use the very skills I practiced in lab on a patient. I am really grateful this class was offered. --Crystal Solano

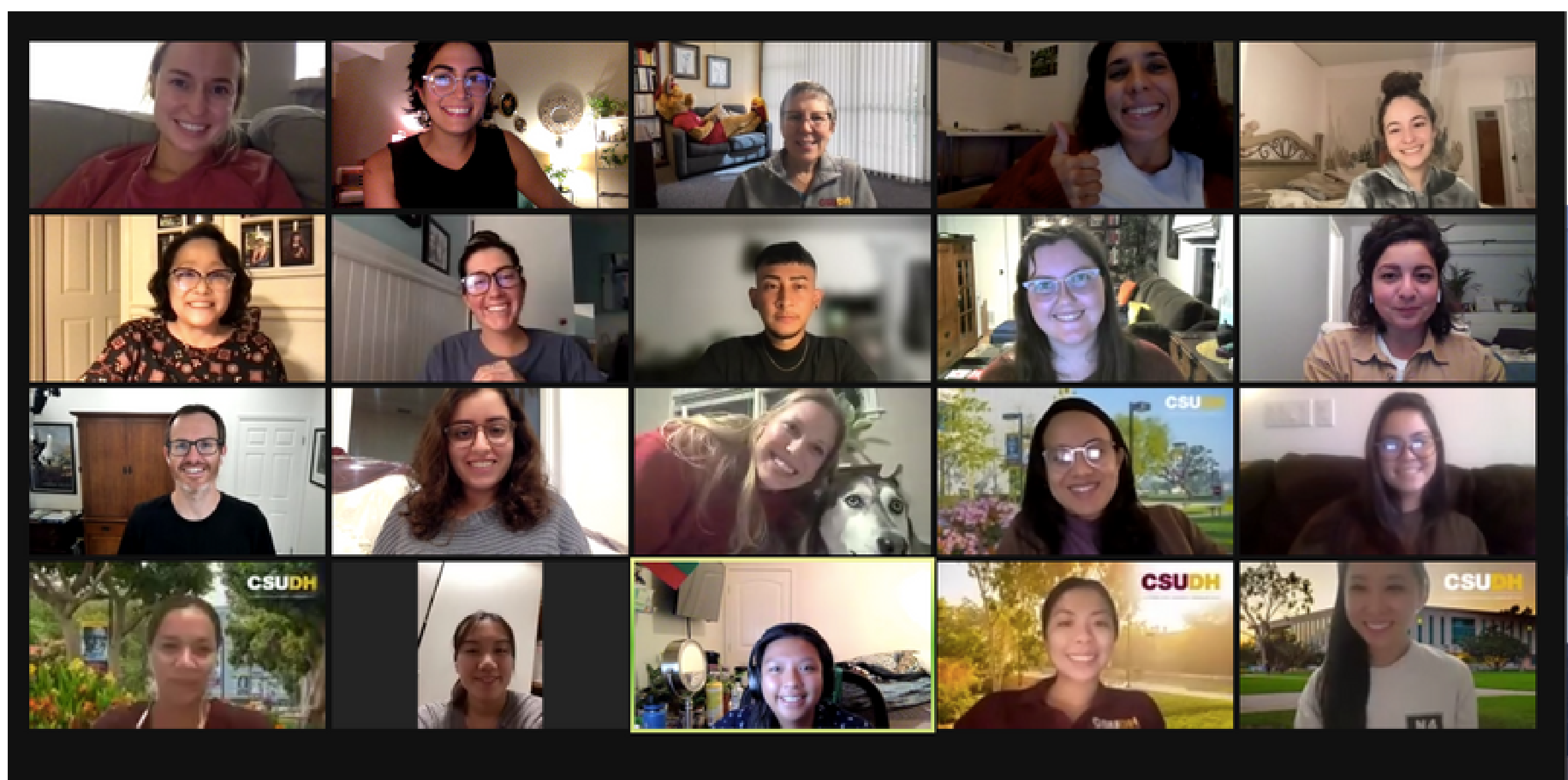




COTAD Food for Thought Speaker Series Workshop #1 with: Dr. Sheryl Ryan

Finding your voice and navigating tricky
interaction in the workplace and beyond

At COTAD Chapter CSUDH's first official meeting, Dr. Sheryl Ryan shared some key insights to help us navigate difficult conversations with coworkers and community members. She shared some information on the topic of threat perception, which can trigger fight or flight responses, and charitable assumptions, which allow us to view others as capable of changing and learning. She also demonstrated the "B.E.A.R." method, which is a communication tool that breaks feedback into four parts: behavior, effect, ask, and request. She closed the meeting with a discussion of creating a long-term culture of peace and accountability within the department and field of OT. -Celine Rezvani



September 28, 2021



OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 21-24, 2021

Fieldwork Team Vision Award

OTAC honored our collaborative fieldwork team with the Vision Award. This team is made up of Level II Fieldwork OT students from CSUDH and OTA students from Santa Ana College. During the pandemic, Alliance of Abilities (a clubhouse international site) was struggling to meet the needs of their club members who are diagnosed with mental health and physical conditions. The students helped the clubhouses (Integrity House and Harbor House) develop a virtual clubhouse while also training staff and club members to use a virtual platform to run meetings and meet in groups to continue the work-ordered day that is a key standard of clubhouses. By October 2020, there were about 50 club members attending sessions at both virtual clubhouses and re-engaging in their clubhouse jobs. The students were able to video interview a few of the club members for a 2021 WROTSS presentation and some of the key points from the club members were that they felt connected to others again rather than feeling isolated which was causing them to struggle with mental health conditions. Others commented on how grateful they were to have an opportunity to build leadership skills and did not imagine they could lead a group before. The most touching messages were that club members experienced a renewed sense of trust in their abilities. This fieldwork experience was challenging for the students who were involved, but the impact they made on the lives of the club members reflects the authenticity of OT. Jessica Padilla (AFWC at SAC) and I are grateful for the dedication of these students and that they would go the extra mile to work on a presentation for WROTSS during their FWII-B. Congratulations on receiving the OTAC Vision Award for your collaboration with each other and the club members! --Faith Moy



OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 21-24, 2021

I had the opportunity to participate in OTAC's "Knowledge Bowl" alongside Megan Guerra, Katy Kwan, Jaclyn Ingram, and Kori Kutsch this past weekend. The knowledge bowl includes schools all over California who create teams to participate in this trivia style game. The questions are created to mimic the questions we might see on the NBCOT exam. Overall, it was a great experience! It was really fun collaborating and discussing amongst our team on what the right answer would be. Even though we didn't win the event, we won a study book and had a great time representing CSUDH. --Katy Kelley

Leading up to the annual OTAC conference from October 21-24, PTE posted flyers on social media to support CSUDH students and faculty presenters. We are so proud of our students and faculty for all their accomplishments! --Jasmine Hannani

COLLEGE STUDENTS' DEPRESSION EXACERBATED BY COVID-19 ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Presenters: Ada Le, OTS; Stephanie Hoang, OTS; Jennifer Kim, OTS & Zachary Michaels, OTS

Group 3
Date: Sunday October 24
Time: 12:25-1:25 PM

OTAC
CONFERENCE 2021

ADOPTIVE FAMILY HEALTH, STRESS, SUPPORT: A NEEDS ASSESSMENT

OTAC
CONFERENCE 2021

"My study was inspired by the need for health professionals to better provide adoption-informed care. Ultimately the finding from this needs assessment can point occupational therapists toward practices geared toward the specific needs of adoptive families."

Presenter: Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L

Group 2
Date: Sunday October 24
Time: 12:25-1:25 PM

GRIEF, NEW PET OWNERSHIP & OCCUPATIONAL PARTICIPATION

"Grief is a common and expected experience following a major life loss or change (American Counseling Association, n.d.). According to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey, in the United States alone, 67% of households or 85 million households own a pet (Insurance Information Institute, n.d.). With such a high prevalence of pets and the universality of grief among the general population, our research study examined the possible benefits of pet companionship in bettering occupational participation while experiencing grief."

Presenters: Nicole Lai, OTS & Shanna Massachi, OTS
Researchers: Nicole Lai, OTS; Shanna Massachi, OTS; Alex Mastrovito, OTS & Jimmy Merrigan, OTS

Group 3
Date: Friday October 22
Time: 12:25-1:25 PM

OTAC
CONFERENCE 2021

THE OCCUPATIONAL AFTERMATH OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

OTAC
CONFERENCE 2021

"We are honored and excited to present at OTAC! As a group, we share a collective interest in mental health and appreciate its complex, multi-faceted nature. Our research of the "occupational aftermath" for survivors of sexual assault unmasks the cyclic nature of how trauma informs and influences occupations and how occupations can inform and influence life post trauma. We hope by sharing our research, it will deepen current and future OTS' own unique therapeutic use of self when working with clients across all settings."

Presenters: Juliet O'Brien, OTS; Rachel Reyes, OTS & Mele Weaver, OTS

Group 6
Date: Friday October 22
Time: 12:25-1:25 PM

STROKE & TRANSPORTATION USE IN LOS ANGELES AREA

Presenters: Bernice Verzosa, OTS; Justin Navarro, OTS; Melanie Ramirez, OTS & Mary Grace Perez, OTS


Group 6
Date: Sunday October 24
Time: 12:25-1:25 PM

OTAC
CONFERENCE 2021



OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 21-24, 2021

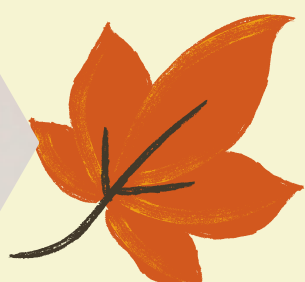
Through the Fall, OTAC student representatives, Mohammad Maabreh and Jennifer Robbins attended monthly meetings with a focus on preparing for the OTAC Fall conference. One of the conference events was an OT trivia fishbowl event with teams from university OT programs around the state. We are proud to say that this year, students from C16 won second place! Both student representatives attended sessions of the online conference. Jennifer Robbins was able to volunteer as a room monitor for a few sessions and really enjoyed the opportunity to support the conference. At the conference, our own beloved Professor Moy was recognized with a Visionary Award, for her contributions to the field, continuing to inspire her students and fellow faculty members. Jennifer and Mohammad have met also with our region OTAC representative Stephanie Kokesh and are working on plans for an OTAC event in the Spring. -Jennifer Robbins





FIELDWORK FACULTY AND PTE HOST 3RD ANNUAL FIELDWORK EDUCATORS PANEL

The CSUDH MSOT academic fieldwork faculty and Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Gamma Gamma Chapter were pleased to once again present the annual Fieldwork Educators Panel, now in its third year. The discussions took place over two sessions, June 9 and July 14, 2021. Each session consisted of its own fieldwork educator panelists. As Cohort 16 students prepare to transition to their level II fieldwork placement, the sessions allowed them the opportunity to hear from speakers from a wide array of practice settings and who work with various populations. Cohort 17 students were also invited to join. Session one's speakers included Alexandra Arguelles MOT, OTR/L; Courtney Tippery MOT, OTR/L; Dorene Doi, OTR/L; Hee Do Jang, MSOT, OTR/L; and Purnima Karia, OTR/L, CDRS. Session two's speakers included Baily Zubel, OTD, OTR/L; Vanessa Monique Yanez, MS, OTR/L; Danielle Gille, OTR/L, CSRS; Nicole Daeley, OTR/L; Robin Johnson, OTR/L; and Susan Arakaki, OTR/L. Fieldwork educators were asked several questions pertaining to the overall culture of their practice site, the primary responsibilities expected of fieldwork students, COVID protocols, ways in which students may prepare for level II fieldwork, and characteristics of successful fieldwork students. Students also had the opportunity to ask their own questions at the end of the sessions. --Dr. Daniel Swiatek





CSUDH HOSTS AOTA FIELDWORK EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The CSUDH Department of Occupational Therapy was pleased to host the AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certificate Workshop for 24 community fieldwork educators and CSUDH faculty on Nov. 12 and 13, 2021. The complimentary event was an opportunity to thank the department's valuable fieldwork educators and provide them with education and resources to expand their tool bag as fieldwork educators. Dr. Bonnie Nakasuji and Dr. Jaynee Taguchi Meyer served as the workshop instructors for the interactive event that covered six modules: Introduction, administration, education, supervision, evaluation, and a course summary.

Highlights of the two days were sessions on the transformative learning process, graded learning experiences and optimal supervision approaches, incorporating evidence-based practice into fieldwork, and the new 2020 electronic AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation (FWPE). The workshop was attended by a number of Dominguez MSOT alumni: Jennifer Abdine (C3), Elysia Aguero (C14), Olivia Kardos (C13), Justin Stehr (C13), Rianna Wong Machida (C15).

Rianna Machida, MS, OTR/L
Pediatric Occupational Therapist, Therapy West, Inc.

Cohort 15

"My biggest takeaway from the FWE course is that as we are always learning more! As a 2021 graduate with 4 months of work experience, I entered the course feeling a bit wary of my lack of experience. The content of the course provided an excellent framework for being a fieldwork educator, and the wisdom shared by the instructors and fellow clinicians was so valuable. Getting to meet so many awesome clinicians more experienced than myself gave me a vision of the fieldwork educator I hope to one day be, and also helped to provide the perspective that we're all always learning!"

Jennifer Abdine, MS, OTR/L
LAUSD Occupational Therapist, LAUSD Fieldwork Coordinator

CSUDH Cohort 3

"I highly recommend the AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certificate Workshop to anyone considering taking a student. It is a comprehensive course, covering everything from important procedural information to exploring different types of supervision and learning styles. Many resources and learning tools were provided, including a tool to explore one's own level of competence. The course was interactive, with opportunities to discuss challenging situations one might encounter while supervising a fieldwork student. Rewarding moments were also discussed. Thank you to the presenters Dr. Jaynee Taguchi-Meyer and Dr. Bonnie Nakasuji. Thank you CSUDH for hosting this course!"

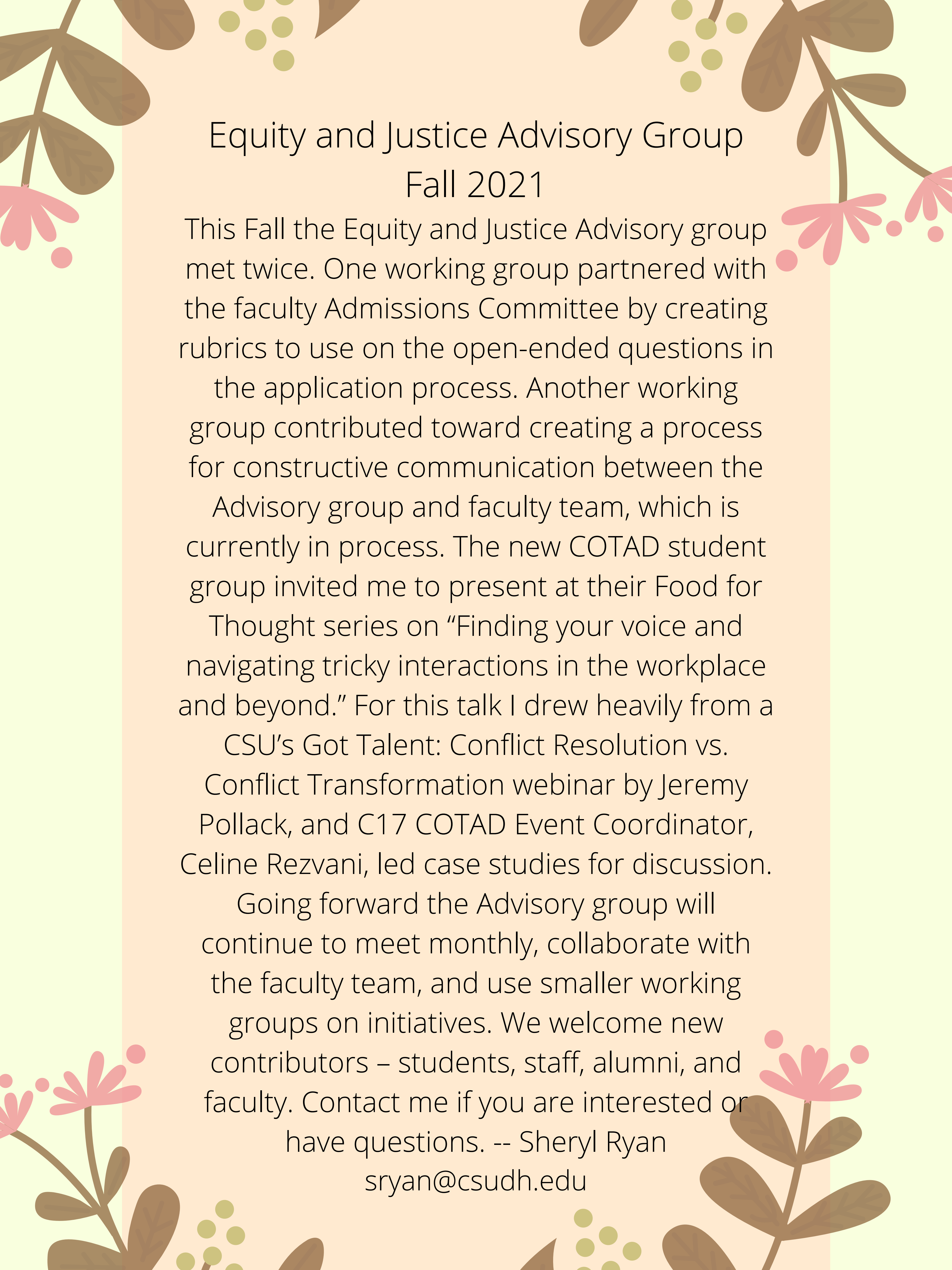




CSUDH HOSTS AOTA FIELDWORK EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WORKSHOP

I took this course to better my understanding of being a fieldwork educator to help future occupational therapists. While I feel empowered with great resources and practical examples of how to help others in their journey, I ended up learning a lot about myself. I found myself relating to many of the case examples and reflecting on my own experiences and now try to incorporate those lessons into both personal and professional life. I suppose I'm attempting to be the change I hope to see in others and am more excited than ever to be a fieldwork partner ---Justin Stehr OTR/L, HTC, WCC, CEAS Hand therapist – Providence Little Company of Mary San Pedro - Cohort 13





Equity and Justice Advisory Group Fall 2021

This Fall the Equity and Justice Advisory group met twice. One working group partnered with the faculty Admissions Committee by creating rubrics to use on the open-ended questions in

the application process. Another working group contributed toward creating a process for constructive communication between the Advisory group and faculty team, which is currently in process. The new COTAD student group invited me to present at their Food for

Thought series on “Finding your voice and navigating tricky interactions in the workplace and beyond.” For this talk I drew heavily from a

CSU’s Got Talent: Conflict Resolution vs. Conflict Transformation webinar by Jeremy Pollack, and C17 COTAD Event Coordinator, Celine Rezvani, led case studies for discussion.

Going forward the Advisory group will continue to meet monthly, collaborate with the faculty team, and use smaller working groups on initiatives. We welcome new contributors – students, staff, alumni, and faculty. Contact me if you are interested or

have questions. -- Sheryl Ryan
sryan@csudh.edu



CSUDH MSOT ALUMNI

Vanessa Yanez

Reflecting on my past experiences has allowed me to achieve a profound understanding of my identity and how this has been continually shaped and molded by the intersection of my upbringing, the pursuit of higher education, and the drive to help others overcome obstacles in the face of adversity. Life hasn't always been easy, and it has certainly challenged me in ways that, at times, seemed too much for one to handle. However, I never lost faith in the promise of an education and the opportunities that would lie ahead.

The first time I learned about college was during a sixth-grade field trip to a local university. College seemed so foreign because, aside from my elementary teachers, no one in my circle of family and friends had even graduated from high school, let alone college. As I entered my teens, the pursuit of a college education became even more distant after being diagnosed with an incurable medical condition in the midst of enduring homelessness for a number of years. Despite having to learn about health management at a young age and navigating the difficulties of housing insecurity, I found refuge in going to school during the day and reading at the library in the afternoons. My single mother, who emigrated from Honduras, made extraordinary sacrifices so I could consistently attend school, which led me to graduate High School at the top of my class.

Soon after graduation, I was eager to enter adulthood and finally pursue a college education when my life was suddenly turned upside down; I was diagnosed with Myelodysplasia, a blood cancer rare in young adults. This was followed by an ICU hospitalization and multiple rounds of inpatient chemotherapies at City of Hope National Medical Center. Running against time to find a bone marrow donor and encountering obstacles for a collection, City of Hope miraculously made it possible for me to receive a bone marrow transplant. The harrowing recovery period during and after my transplant was also the fortuitous time that a special connection to occupational therapy was sparked. After my treatment, I was renewed with a profound sense of purpose and appreciation for City of Hope, a place that indeed gave me hope, a home, and a new life.

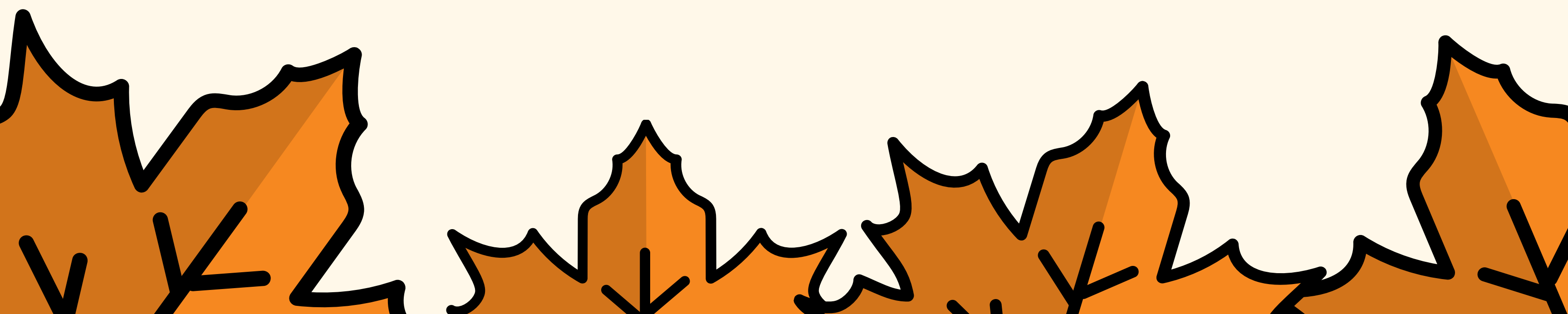
After completing community college, I transferred to the University of California, Irvine (UCI), where I obtained my Bachelors in Cognitive Sciences. It was during my time at UCI where my curiosity for research and occupational therapy intersected after working in a research laboratory. I found myself frequently pondering how theoretical concepts studied in labs and classrooms could be translated into the real world. In 2012, I was accepted into the occupational therapy program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. I immediately felt a sense of community with other students and faculty members, as if I finally found where I belonged. My interest in research was reignited under the mentorship of Dr. Claudia Peyton and Dr. Yan-hua Huang, as my research team conducted two studies on sexuality, which would lay the foundation for a future sexuality program in oncology years later.

Another intersection occurred between my prior experiences at City of Hope and my schooling at CSUDH during an evening class in which two occupational therapists from City of Hope, Wasana Fernando and Sherry Hite, presented on the role of OT in cancer care. After minutes of debating whether or not I should approach them, I mustered up the courage to chase them down in the parking lot with flailing arms. Out of breath from the run, I somehow managed to share my story, thank them for their incredible service, and of course, politely ask if they accepted fieldwork students. Little did I know that both of these individuals would later become my fieldwork II instructor and mentor, thanks to the connection by our program's fieldwork coordinator, Diane Mayfield.

A year after completing my fieldwork IIB at City of Hope, I received a call from their department manager offering a full-time position. Without any hesitation, I accepted the opportunity to work my "dream job" at the very place where my life had been saved. I was soon inducted into a team of incredible occupational therapists, who shared a mutual passion for achieving excellence in oncology care. During my time at City of Hope, I embraced any opportunity to learn and grow as an occupational therapist, not only as a skilled clinician, but also as a researcher involved in program development, research collaborations, and presentations at national conferences.

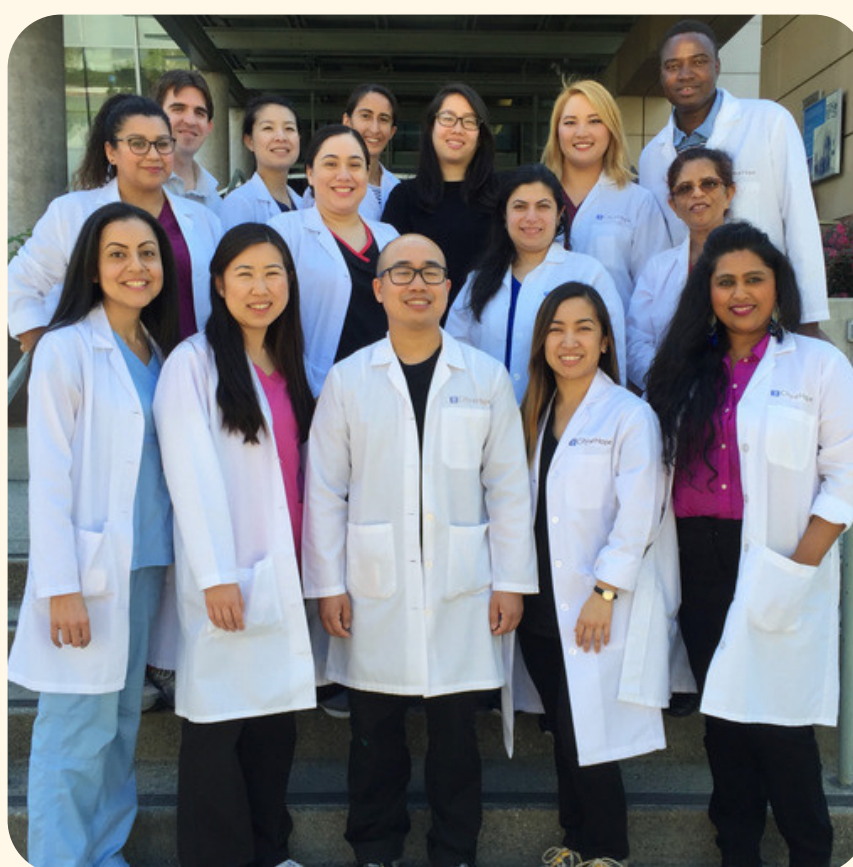
The seminal education I received at CSUDH shaped my identity as an occupational therapist and instilled in me a passion to continually meld together my identities as a clinician and researcher. It paved the way to an exciting and fulfilling career that my sixth-grade self could only dream of. My personal and clinical experiences have now led me to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Texas, where my current research is focused on theory-driven practice in cancer care. I continue to collaborate in research projects to improve health services in oncology, and I recently transitioned into academia by teaching at the University of St. Augustine. My mission to strengthen OT practice and bolster our profession with solid, evidence-based research currently drives my work in this emerging area.

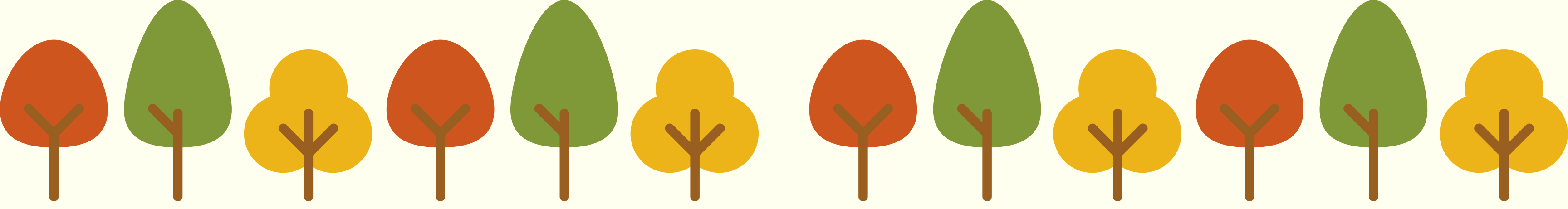
I spent a great deal of time thinking of my message. I wanted to stay true to who I am and share my story so that it can serve others who may also be experiencing adversities or challenges. I hope my personal and professional story provides hope and comfort to students and newer clinicians, as well as seasoned veterans. My message to you is to persevere, welcome the inevitable challenges that life throws your way, and to never lose faith in your inherent wisdom. We are each a piece of the unique OT tapestry and have so much to contribute as our field continues to evolve and grow. I am excited to be alongside all of you and look forward to forging ahead toward brighter horizons with you as my fellow colleagues. --Vanessa Monique Yanez, MSOT '14



CSUDH MSOT ALUMNI

Vanessa Yanez





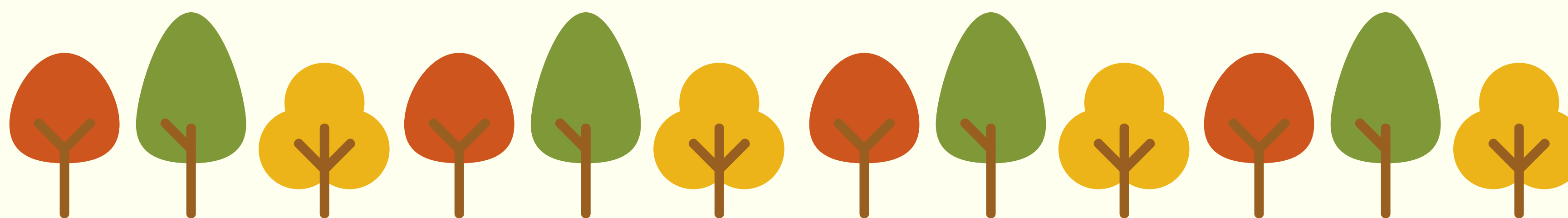
Monik C. Dionisio



I am a cohort 8 alumni who works in pediatric practice at California Children's Services (CCS) in Orange County (OC). In 2020, I received the OC CCS Occupational Therapist of the Year. Past CSUDH MSOT alumni who have received the honor include Dennis Chen in 2018.

I serve families in OC as a treating clinician and I've also become passionate about clinical education and staff development. Recently, I presented my experience using the Wilmington Robotic Exoskeleton (WREX) mobile arm support with a 2-year-old client with myotubular myopathy. The WREX enhances upper extremity movements of clients with neuromuscular and musculoskeletal conditions such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and arthrogyrosis. It uses rubber bands to unweigh the upper extremity, allowing clients to more easily move their upper extremity for participation in meaningful occupations. In my efforts to promote quality care I am also involved with various CCS state and county workgroups. I'm a member of the Resource Development Workgroup whose mission is to provide CCS clinicians with up-to-date resources to promote evidence-based practice. In OC, I am a member of the CIMT/(HA)BIT Workgroup whose goal is to support clinician's ability to provide these intensive therapy services to their clients and families. I'm passionate about early intervention and have focused my attention on infant CIMT and BIT programs. In the fall of 2021, I will present my staff training program "An Evidenced-Based Approach to Infant CIMT" as part of my post-professional occupational therapy capstone project. I expect to graduate in the Spring of 2022. Additionally, my scoping review entitled "Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy for Infants with or At Risk of Cerebral Palsy: A Scoping Review" is expected to be published in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy in 2022.

**CIMT: constraint-induced movement therapy
HABIT: hand-arm bimanual therapy
BIT: bimanual intensive therapy**



The page is framed by a decorative border of stylized acorns and leaves. The acorns are depicted with a brown, cross-hatched cap and a smooth, light brown nut. The leaves are a vibrant orange color with black outlines and simple vein patterns. They are scattered around the central text, creating a seasonal, autumnal theme.

Jennifer Taosvanna

I am a CSUDH MSOT alumni from 2012, Cohort 6. As a level two fieldwork student I had the opportunity to have affiliations in both Acute Care and Outpatient Hand Therapy. During the Fall Semester, I was a level two fieldwork student at Adventist Health Glendale, a 500 bed hospital north of Los Angeles. At the time, I had no interest in acute care, I was hoping to begin my career as a Certified Hand Therapist. However, while at AHGL I essentially fell in love with the acute setting because of the variety of patients I was able to work with. I had the privilege of treating stroke patients and cardiac patients. The ability to assess patients and begin the therapeutic process early allowed me to feel the impact I had on individual patients. When I completed my first affiliation at AHGL I went on to my second affiliation at an outpatient hand clinic in Pasadena. Halfway through my second affiliation, AHGL contacted me about an open position for an Occupational Therapist in acute care and asked if I would interview. Therefore, after completing all my fieldwork I applied for a temporary OT license which only gave me the ability to practice for 3 months and take the NBCOT exam within that time frame. I worked full time for three months and studied for the exam after a full day of work (which I do not recommend). After completing my NBCOT exam and passing, my department decided to assign me to a new floor. I became the lead Occupational Therapist for the Cardiac floors at AHGL. It was a new position that was created, previously there had only been Physical Therapy on the cardiac floor. Having an Occupational Therapist present was a new endeavor for the department. It took a few years to navigate the role, create protocols, and establish rapport with physicians and nurses. Currently, I am still the Occupational Therapist on the cardiac floor. During my time here at AHGL I have had the ability to grow professionally. In 2015, I obtained my NEURO-IFRAH certification to further improve my handling techniques with stroke patients. In 2016, I obtained my Kinesio-Taping Certification in hopes of applying techniques to post-Cardiac surgery patients to reduce incisional edema. Throughout the past ten years, Dr Medina has become my professional mentor. In 2017, Dr. Medina asked me to assist with anatomy palpitation during spring semester. I instantly found a new passion for teaching and guiding students who would be entering the profession. It was a great feeling to bring acute care knowledge into the classroom because I felt like our profession was growing in the acute care setting. Recently, I have had the privilege of creating an Acute Care workshop for current MSOT students and I continue to assist Dr. Medina with Anatomy during the spring semester. I have found so much joy in being both a clinician in the acute care setting and also being an educator for future Occupational Therapists entering the field.

Jennifer Taosvanna





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