

AOTA Hill
Day

25th
Anniversary

Occupational
Therapy

It's All
About Me

And More ...

Fall 2023 Newsletter



We emphasize educating ourselves in advocacy, collaboration, ethics, and leadership, as well as, embodying altruism, compassion, confidence, courage, inclusion, justice and mutual respect, to ensure the well-being and equitable opportunities for all individuals and populations we serve.

AOTA HILL DAY

2023



AOTA Hill Day 2023 was a wonderful reminder that client-centered care extends beyond client-clinician interactions. One thing I appreciate about the MSOT program at CSUDH is that we are taught about the systems we operate in as professionals (home, schools, healthcare, etc.). In Washington, D.C., I saw how what we do on an individual basis connects to policies that support OT via funding and/or by legally affirming the necessity of our services. For example, one of the bills I advocated for was H.R. 3875/S.B. 2880, the Expanded Telehealth Access Act, which would instate telehealth as a permanent service delivery mode for Medicare beneficiaries across the country.

I appreciated the opportunity to educate my representatives' staff about OT and enjoyed clarifying how their constituents may or already benefit from OT services.

I found it particularly refreshing to be able to identify one good thing to come out of the public health emergency: the mandate to social distance pushed many OTs to implement telehealth services for the first time. Three years later, telehealth has proven to be an effective method of service delivery, allowing us to see clients' natural environments and better serve those without access to transportation or those with compromised immune systems.

Overall, I relished the opportunity to combine my affinity for public affairs with my budding education and experience in occupational therapy, and I am thankful to the department for the opportunity to learn how to advocate for my future profession and clients.

— Alyssa Suzuki, C19

MORE AOTA HILL DAY

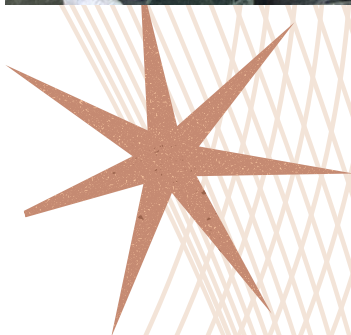
AOTA Hill Day was such an inspiring and meaningful event, providing me with purpose for my future OT career. It was such an honor to be actively advocating for OT and OTA rights, along with rights for patients receiving occupational therapy, and doing so as only a first-year student!

I have always felt that providing therapy for patients was never enough for me as a future OT, but I never knew what direction I should head in. After attending Hill Day, I have a strong understanding that my purpose as a future OT is to provide therapy for patients and also support the larger population through advocacy and research. It was a pleasure meeting and connecting with so many influential people who are paving the way for OTs, and I am beyond honored to have received direct advice and encouragement from them.

So much thanks to Dr. Kitching for introducing us to every connection she knew and guiding us to success throughout the entire event. It was so much fun having Elisa Wright, Guari Deshpande, and Alyssa Suzuki by my side as we created 5-minute arguments in support of the Telehealth Act and the EMPOWER Act. It was through this experience of having students as a group meeting with staff representatives, and the success of advocating, that has enlightened me.

I believe that if I am able to do this as a first-year OT student that when I graduate, I will be able to accomplish so much more. If I had the opportunity to attend Hill Day again, I would without a doubt bunker down to fight and advocate for OTs again!

— TRACY NGUYEN



... AND MORE HILL DAY



AOTA Hill Day was a truly remarkable and eye-opening opportunity for me. I was able to travel with one of my classmates, Tracy Nguyen, and bond with her in a way that I would never otherwise be able to. We were selected at random by our cohort and had to prepare beforehand to lobby with congressmen and senators for upcoming bills that concern occupational therapy.

Once we had arrived at the Rayburn House Office Building, in Washington D.C., to gather the materials we would relay on to the office staff we were scheduled to meet with, we heard the sad news of California Senator Dianne Feinstein's passing. It was a stressful weekend for the locals in Washington, D.C., due to her passing and the financial concerns of the government. We approached each meeting with caution and were pleasantly surprised with how they turned out.

In both of the meetings that Tracy and I attended, the office staff not only knew what occupational therapy is but were already planning to support the bills that we had brought to their attention. We felt seen, heard, and empowered to continue advocating for the profession, getting to the root of change to make a more lasting impact.

After the event, Tracy and I were able to meet with the AOTA Political Action Committee (PAC) and several occupational therapists who are going above and beyond expectations. I headed back to California with a stack of business cards and overflowing inspiration to return to school with a drive to surpass expectations, just like the activists I had met.

ELISA WRIGHT, C1



Tracy Nguyen and Dr. Kitching in front of the Rayburn House Office Building



Tracy Nguyen and Elisa Wright with Washington Memorial in the background



Elisa Wright, Tracy Nguyen, and Dispatch in the Smithsonian National History Museum



Love ♡♡

Michelle Urquidi (USC OTD student), Gauri Deshpande, Tracy Nguyen, and Elisa Wright outside Ken Calvert's office - Riverside Representative

COHORT 18 RECEIVES ROUSING SEND-OFF AT PINNING CEREMONY

by: Daniel Swiatek

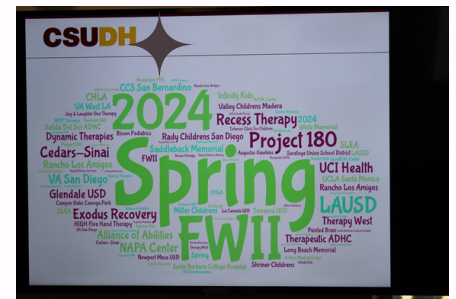
The Department of Occupational Therapy celebrated Cohort 18's completion of the didactic portion of the MSOT program at the C18 Pinning Ceremony on September 8, 2023. The Pinning Ceremony is an annual send-off event held immediately prior to a cohort's entry into two consecutive semesters of level II fieldwork.

This year's celebration was held on campus in the new Innovation & Instruction (I & I) Building and included a catered dinner and the "pinning," a distribution of OT Department pins by Dr. Terry Peralta, department chair. The ceremony also included special remarks by C18 students. Each cohort section was asked to nominate a representative to speak: Section 1 chose Kyle Gusto. Matthew Hoshiko represented Section 2, and Keegan Shepherd spoke on behalf of Section 3.

The department welcomes C18 back to campus in 2024 for the Career Fair in April and graduation events in May.



Few Pictures of the Pinning



OTAC STUDENT PANEL

“We lead because it feeds us.”

- Anonymous

On October 26th, the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) hosted a virtual Student Leadership Panel with student leaders from the University of Southern California (USC), the San Jose State University (SJSU), and the California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH).

The student leaders, Sondra Stilwell and Sammy Kretschmer (SJSU), Emily Matsui (USC), and Celine Ly (CSUDH), all shared their unique experience, passions, insights, and contributions to the field of occupational therapy through their roles in student organizations. It was truly inspiring to hear about each individual’s goals for their organization and the various ways they positively impact their communities.

— **CELINE LY, C19**

SOTA President

OTAC CONFERENCE 2023

By: Erica Ni, Alice Sinclair, Daphne Wang, and Carly Wong



Our research group had the opportunity to present our qualitative research poster, “The Long Haul: Stories of Persons with Long COVID and Their Loved Ones”, at OTAC’s annual conference held in Pasadena, CA. Our research highlighted the physical, emotional, and social experiences of individuals with long COVID (LC) and their support people, as well as the relevance and implications of research themes and findings for OT practice, in order to promote and justify OT as an essential service in treating the COVID population.

Practitioners from various areas of practice inquired about key findings from our research and shared their personal and professional experiences working with individuals with COVID. Conference attendees were struck by photos, quotes, and anecdotes from our research participants illustrating the numerous ways in which people have been impacted by LC, experienced challenges and support, and felt misunderstood and under-supported by healthcare providers.

Conversations with OT practitioners further emphasized the relevance of this research to their everyday practice and their desire to receive additional education and training to support individuals with LC. This positive reception from conference attendees felt extremely validating of our investment in this research project over the past two years and our efforts to fulfill our commitment to our research participants to have their stories shared with the medical community and beyond.



OTAC Conference, Pasadena November 9-12, 2023

By: Samantha Leggis, CI

Attending the 2023 OTAC Annual Conference was an incredibly memorable experience! As a first-year OT student, I felt inspired by this year's conference theme, "Celebrating the Roots of our Practice." It served as a powerful reminder of the uniqueness of our scope of practice and the importance of embracing our roots to promote the value of our work.

Each day at the conference left me feeling so proud to be part of this field and even more connected to the OT community. When they say that the OT world is small, they're not lying! It was so nice to see friends from other OT programs, connect with students from different schools, and even meet some of the prominent leaders in our profession that we have learned about in our classes.

I'd also like to give a special shout-out to my fellow OTAC Student Delegates! Josephine Stutzke, Sam Nugroho, and I had the incredible opportunity to each facilitate a student session. This gave us the chance to contribute to some of the behind-the-scenes preparations for the conference and collaborate closely with the wonderful OTs who served as panelists for our sessions.

I highly recommend attending the next OTAC Annual Conference, November 7-10, 2024, back in Pasadena, and actively participating in this inspiring community. The experience is immensely enjoyable and fulfilling, and I look forward to reconnecting with everyone at the next conference!



2023 OTAC CONFERENCE



Hanging out with conference keynote speaker, Wendy Stav

OTAC AWARDS



OTAC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Recognize OTAC member who has made significant contributions to the advancement of occupational therapy in the areas of therapeutic practice, research, education, administration, or organization or community service

Dr. Claudia Peyton



OTAC JANICE MATSUTSUYU OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Recognize OTAC member who has made significant contributions which impact the Association and its objectives

Dr. Heather Kitching

25th Anniversary Alumni Party



Dr. Kitching introducing John Watson, long-time OTAC volunteer, and being honored as a veteran on Veteran's Day



25th Anniversary Alumni Party



(left) Marilyn Noriega,
inaugural Program
Director of CSUDH OT



(right) Bonnie Nakasuji
and Pat Nagaishi,
inaugural faculty



Diane Mayfield, retired
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

25th Anniversary Alumni Party



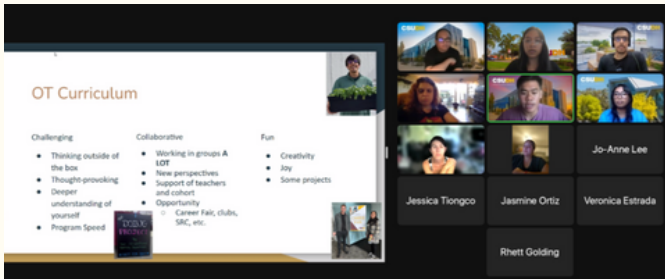
Fun and games with hosts:
Sam Leggis, Sam Nugroho,
& Josephine Stutske,
C1 OTD students



COTAD FALL 2023 EVENTS

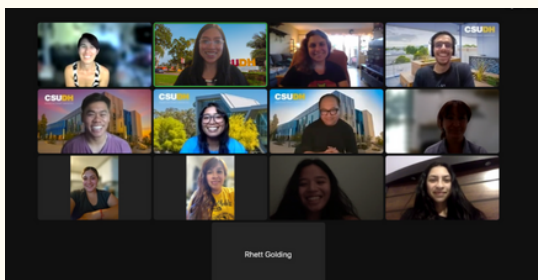
COALITION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVOCATES FOR DIVERSITY

FOUNDATIONS OF OT PRESENTATION WITH DR. PENOLIAR'S CLASS

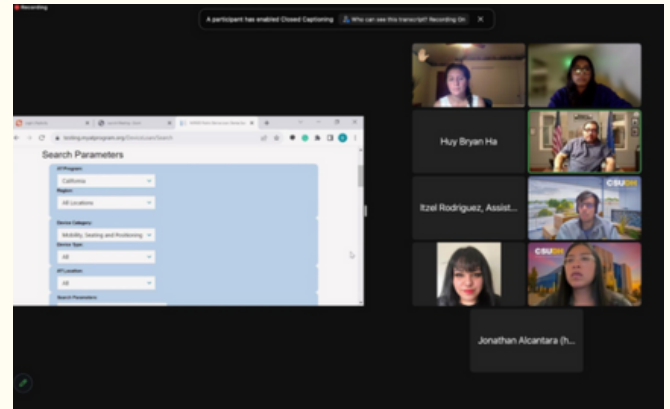


On August 14th, the CSUDH COTAD Chapter led a presentation for undergraduate students in Dr. Paul Penoliar's *Foundations of OT Practice* class. The E-Board members put together slides to talk about the goal of the CSUDH COTAD chapter and their experiences as first-year OT/OTD students.

The application process for the MSOT and OTD programs was discussed, as well as, why diversity is important in the OT profession. E-Board members also gave tips on how to complete volunteer hours, study for the GRE exam, and complete the application/FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions during the Q&A after the presentation. This was the first time this event was organized and presented. The CSUDH COTAD Chapter looks forward to providing this presentation in the future.

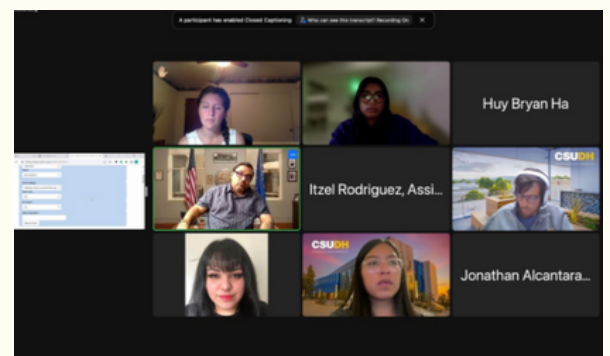


DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY: A CONVERSATION WITH BHUMIT SHAH



On September 14th, COTAD hosted long-time disability rights advocate, Bhumit Shah. Bhumit shared his knowledge about the support and resources occupational therapists can provide for disabled clients and how we can best advocate for their needs.

This event provided valuable insight into the lived experience of a disabled individual. It highlighted policies and resources that we, as future clinicians, can use to advocate for clients. We look forward to bringing more guest speakers to speak and give valuable insight regarding their experiences.



MORE COTAD FALL 2023 EVENTS

ICOT X COTAD WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY EVENT

On September 7th, ICOT (Integrating Cultures through Occupational Therapy) and COTAD collaborated to raise awareness and promote equality for women in honor of Women's Equality Day. Our club members got together to make stickers of honorary women in OT, namely Eleanor Clarke Slagle and Mary Reilly.

We prompted students to honor an important woman in their lives and write it on a post-it note. A few prompts were provided, such as *what equality means to them*, *an important woman in their life*, or *how they were impacted by an important woman in their life*. We asked them to share it on our poster board. We gave all participants a flower and stickers, and we thanked them for sharing and participating.



FRIENDSGIVING COTAD X SOTA

On November 27th, COTAD and SOTA (Student Occupational Therapy Association) collaborated to host a Friendsgiving potluck at Carson Park. This event provided an opportunity for MSOT and OTD students to mingle and de-stress before the end of the semester.

A number of delicious desserts and sides were brought by everyone and fun games were played. We look forward to hosting this event again next year



COTAD FALL 2023 EVENTS

CARSON HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ARTS

On December 4th, COTAD E-Board members, along with 10 MSOT & OTD volunteers, presented at Carson High School Academy of Medical Arts. The high school outreach team's goal is to speak at local high schools about occupational therapy and diversity in the profession.

Activities such as slime and a balloon activity were utilized to demonstrate how occupational therapy practitioners can work with clients. A big thank you to all who took time from their busy schedules to present and help make buttons to give to the high school students.



FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE
Drop Off Location:
WH D 445
FROM 10 AM - 3 PM
Dates:
11/15, 11/22, 11/29 AND 12/6
Donations will benefit Century Villages at Cabrillo



FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE

From November to December, COTAD hosted a canned food and clothing drive to support Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC). CVC provides permanent housing to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

COTAD dropped off items in time for CVC's Winterfest, making the items available to residents in time for the holidays. A big thank you to everyone who donated. Happy holidays!

Featured Alumni

Dr. Hanalynn Hunt



Dr. Hanalynn Hunt was born and raised in Orange County, CA. She attended Occidental College for undergrad, where she majored in Urban and Environmental Policy with a minor in Kinesiology. It was at Occidental College where she learned about occupational therapy and chose it as a career path.

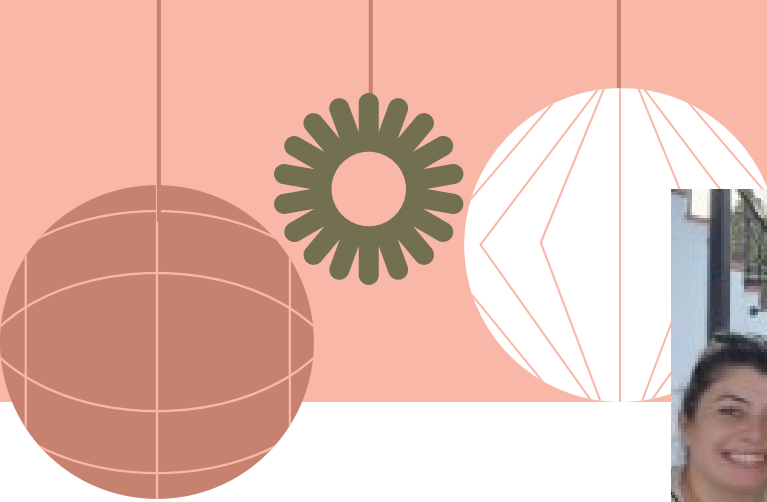
Dr. Hunt received her Masters in Occupational Therapy from California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) in 2017 and then went on to the University of Southern California to receive her doctorate in Occupational Therapy in 2018.

During her doctoral studies, she participated in a 1-year residency at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANRC) with the outpatient brain injury

program. During her residency year and post-graduation, she worked per diem in three different acute rehab units while hoping to be hired full-time at RLANRC.

In 2019, Dr. Hunt was hired at RLANRC. She spent the first few years in the outpatient general program. She now works with the outpatient acquired brain injury program, co-coordinates the neuro-optometry clinic, the occupational therapist for the Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology, and the clinic lead for the Emerging Technology Lab.

In the summer of 2023, Dr. Hunt had the opportunity to assist with teaching the Assistive Technology course at CSUDH. She is currently on maternity leave and expects her first child any day!



REFLECTIONS

by Dr. Hannalynn Hunt

It is hard for me to believe it has been six years since graduating from CSUDH. Standing at the Toro graduation in May 2017, I would not have believed my OT journey would lead me to Rancho Los Amigos, where I discovered I love working with brain injury patients, as well as, at the Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology and Emerging Technology Lab.

I thoroughly enjoy my day-to-day responsibilities as an occupational therapist at Rancho Los Amigos, where I have the privilege of working with multidisciplinary teams to provide occupational therapy services as well as technological solutions to our Rancho patients. I am constantly learning to identify solutions for our patients that meet their needs physically, cognitively, and economically. When I run into a challenging case, it is great to have a group of occupational therapists and other health care providers to turn to for discussion and brainstorming creative solutions.

One highlight is having the opportunity to work closely with Rehab Engineer, Andy Lin, in the Emerging Technology Lab. We create custom 3D-printed assistive devices to help our patients return to meaningful occupations such as brushing their teeth, self-feeding, playing video games, and fishing.

One thing I have lived by and learned through my occupational therapy journey is to take as many opportunities as one can, even if they seem out of one's comfort zone. For example, assisting with teaching the Assistive Tech Course at CSUDH was out of my comfort zone, but something that challenged me and I have thoroughly enjoyed. Continuing to learn and grow has been a pillar I have lived by for the past six years and is something I will strive for throughout my entire occupational therapy career.



SOTA Visionary and Hand Therapy Scholarships

By: Daniel Swiatek

This fall, the Department of Occupational Therapy proudly announced new recipients of the annual SOTA Visionary Scholarship and a scholarship given by the Hand Therapy Society of Greater Los Angeles.

Barbara Lopez, C18, was selected as this year's recipient of the Hand Therapy Society of Greater Los Angeles (HTSGLA) Scholarship. The annual HTSGLA scholarship is awarded to a CSUDH MSOT student who demonstrates a compelling interest in hand therapy.

This year's HTSGLA Scholarship Committee was impressed not only by Barbara's clear interest in hand therapy but by her goal to become a bilingual certified hand therapist with the intention to work with Spanish-speaking individuals.

Cohort 18 MSOT students, **Jizelle Vilela** and **Jonathan Alcantara**, were awarded the SOTA Visionary Scholarship. The scholarship committee commended Jizelle for her productive role as SOTA president. During her tenure, Jizelle oversaw the creation of new SOTA events that included Backpack Awareness Day, Welcome Event, Spirit Week, OT Spirit Month, Sip and Paint, Summer Bonfire, and Summer Send-Off.

Jonathan served as SOTA Treasurer and was commended by the search committee for his active role in many SOTA events. Jonathan assisted in the organization of the multicultural potluck, Friendsgiving.

SOTA Visionary Scholarship Award

Jizelle Vilela, C18

SOTA Former President



In Jizelle's role as SOTA President, she fostered connection and community as her top priorities. She organized the SOTA Board and together they created regular opportunities including the Welcome event, Spirit Week, OT Spirit Month, Sip and Paint, Backpack Awareness Day, Friendsgiving, the summer bonfire, and the Summer Send-Off. In addition, Jizelle served as co-chair of the C19 Orientation Committee and co-chair of the C18 Graduation Banquet. Jizelle shared her enthusiasm for making connections and for community service and plans to continue to create these positive experiences with her clients and colleagues moving forward.

Jonathan Alcantara, C18

SOTA Former Treasurer



Jonathan served as SOTA Treasurer and COTAD Outreach Coordinator and Faculty Liaison. He participated in Backpack Awareness Day, the Summer Send-Off, and organized the Friendsgiving cultural potluck. In COTAD, he organized the King Drew High School outreach program, participated in the department's JEDI advisory group, and helped put on the Inclusive Language presentation at the Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival. Jonathan plans to continue with COTAD nationally and incorporate inclusiveness and diversity into practice and the profession.

Fall 2023 Events for PTE

by: Sophia Davis, C19

2024 AOTF St. Catherine Challenge Fundraiser

This is an annual student-led fundraising competition among OT programs to "highlight the need for more OT evidence and promote support of new OT research". We hosted a Halloween fundraiser where a select number of professors came to school in a costume and this effort raised \$113.

The fundraiser's "soft" deadline is December 31st. We have a JustGiving fundraising page where you can submit an online payment directly.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration in donating!

PTE General Member Meeting

We held a meeting for all Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) members on November 30th. During this meeting, we discussed ideas for future events, including potlucks, karaoke nights, and study sessions.

We also brainstormed ideas for a panel, "Unique Specialties in Occupational Therapy", that we plan to host in early spring 2024. A panel of speakers will share their practice and specialization in non-traditional therapeutic settings, such as nature-based OT, ergonomics, environmental modifications, surf therapy, and more! More information will be forthcoming.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/csudhpte-stcatherineschallenge2024?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fcsudhpte-stcatherineschallenge2024&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

PTE Induction Ceremony

BY: SOPHIA DAVIS, C19

CSUDH's Gamma Gamma chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTR) welcomed two new occupational therapy doctoral students on October 17th. It was an honor to recognize outstanding scholars who have excelled academically thus far in the doctoral program and have exhibited their commitment to the growth of the profession through research and scholarly efforts.

It was a wonderful evening of faculty and student-led speeches. The students wrote time capsule letters to their future selves to commemorate their momentous efforts and hard work. Welcome to the PTE family, Alyanna Paulino and Giselle Santos!



ICOT UPDATES

by: Gauri Deshpande, C19

This semester, ICOT (Integrating Cultures through Occupational Therapy) had some very exciting and successful events and fundraisers! Our new E-Board kicked off the fall term with a bang by beginning with our Women's Equality Day event in collaboration with COTAD in September!

We hosted a tabling event in front of Loker Student Union where CSUDH students could participate by answering fun, thoughtful questions on women's equality and adding them to our display board. In exchange, all participants received flowers and stickers as a thank-you!

We also had a few fundraisers, including our well-received Thanksgiving Grams! Our lovely head of Public Relations, Jennifer Nguyen, designed adorable and witty OT pun stickers that students could put into an envelope of their choosing to gift to a friend, loved one, or themselves.

We had such a great semester with our cohorts and we look forward to what the spring term has in store for us. We have already begun planning some exciting activities, so stay tuned and happy holidays!!

California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT)

The inaugural cohort of OTD students enroll in OTD 780 OTR Professional Development Seminar-OT Code of Ethics for the Fall semester. Studying about the AOTA code of ethics and learning how to solve ethical issues in practice is the focus of the class.

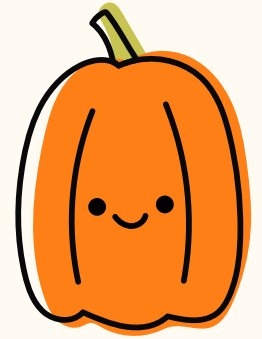
On November 1st, Heather Martin, CBOT Executive Director, provided a presentation on CBOT as a regulatory board, its purpose, and some of its major functions. Also discussed was the complaint and disciplinary process and the application process from the perspective of new graduates. It was an informative evening and much thanks to Heather.



Impressive ...
C-B-O-T!



PUMPKIN PARTY



The SOTA pumpkin painting event was really great ... 25 students came and it was a wonderful opportunity to relax and destress from the craziness of this semester. There were fall snacks and everything needed to decorate pumpkins. One of the major reasons we host events like these is to create spaces for students to get a break from their work and connect with their peers. So much fun was had by all!

Gallagher Pediatric Therapy

BY: RACHEL KRAUS-LEE, C19

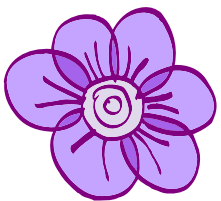
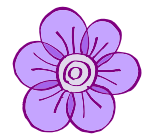


I had a blast visiting Gallagher Pediatric Therapy (GPT) in Fullerton, CA! It was such a fun and informative experience learning how GPT came to be and how it has grown over the past 30+ years. I loved listening to owner Mary Kay Gallagher's story as an occupational therapist and her journey starting a practice to serve kids within the Orange County area. I was surprised to learn that GPT is school-based, with about 90% of their business coming from Southern California school districts. It was exciting to see all the equipment and to think about all the activities and interventions that take place there.

As a student, it is easy to get lost in the day-to-day projects, presentations, and tests and forget about the big picture of what we are working so hard for—to one day have the opportunity to work as licensed occupational therapists. I am so appreciative of our department and Mary Kay for providing this opportunity.



Pictures with Max



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

OT STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Marcie Navarro is a third-year undergrad majoring in advertising and public relations with a minor in marketing. Marcie currently entertains various possibilities for her post-graduation path within her chosen fields. She is also an active member of Kappa Delta Chi, a Latinx-based sorority at CSUDH.

Marcie joined the OT Department as a Student Assistant. This past semester, she worked with Dr. Moy, which was an amazing experience. She gained valuable insights about OT and enjoyed assisting in the classes. Initially worried about her first job in the OT department, Marcie now embraces it wholeheartedly. Working alongside amazing staff and faculty, she continues to learn more about the field of OT.

"I can't wait to learn more about OT and continue learning practical skills for my future career. Maybe I'll go into OT!"



Introducing **Ratnesh Pawar**, a trailblazing international student from India who embarked on an academic odyssey that began with a Masters in Computer Applications in his home country. Seeking fresh challenges and growth, Ratnesh set his sights on the US, where he now immerses himself in a second Masters Degree in Computer Science, specializing in Software Engineering at CSUDH.

Within our department, Ratnesh shines as a versatile support pillar, seamlessly, navigating tasks such as refining our website, managing logistics for information sessions, and streamlining essential projects with his adept spreadsheet skills.

We eagerly anticipate Ratnesh's ongoing contributions, valuing his expertise until his expected graduation in May 2024. When not immersed in studies or departmental endeavors, Ratnesh unwinds through the lenses of travel cinematography and photography, capturing moments that inspire and resonate deeply.

Ratnesh's bold pursuit of a new academic frontier symbolizes his resilience and hunger for personal and professional growth, serving as a beacon of inspiration to all.



IT'S ALL ABOUT ME

BY: LAURA DEARY

On October 20th, the City of Carson, in collaboration with The Carson Citizens Cultural Arts Foundation, CSUDH, and The Dymally Institute, held the 9th Annual "It's All About Me" Women's Health Conference and Business Expo at the Carson Event Center. This Expo has become a flagship event in the City of Carson, promoting women's health with guest speakers, workshops, a panel discussion, and "vendor village." The Department of Occupational Therapy was invited to represent CSUDH giving Professor Jackie Devries and me the opportunity to engage with more than 720 attendees alongside 45 other vendors.

Our role at the event was to educate attendees regarding occupational therapy and OT's role in breast cancer recovery. We also had attendees make their own buttons highlighting the event logo, "It's All About Me," to encourage self-care and work-life balance. The line at our table wrapped down and around the aisle by 7:15 a.m. with enthusiastic attendees!

The event finale was very touching when a large group of breast cancer survivors marched throughout the venue, adding to an already emotional expo. It was an honor to work on this event alongside Professor Devries and Dr. Phelps; I look forward to the Department of Occupational Therapy's involvement next year!





CSUDH GRADS AT RANCHO

It was nice to reconnect with Toro faculty and hear from Wendy Stav about being occupation-focused and redirecting conversations with our clients to help ensure that takes place.

Charlie Yu, C7

Wendy's presentation was a great way to start off my time here at Rancho. I'm very glad where I went to school and where I work now both value the importance of occupation and believe we should always show our patients the therapeutic benefits of occupational participation! 😊

Lauren Sabihon, C17

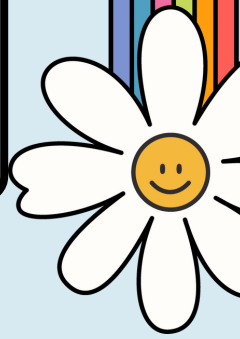
A visit to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center post-OTAC Conference with conference keynote speaker, Dr. Wendy Stav; and meeting up with CSUDH grads on staff.

What a perfect reason for CSUDH Alumni and faculty to come together with Rancho Los Amigos. I am grateful to be associated with two organizations that are committed to occupation-focused and client-centered care.

Amanda Martelli, C18

TOUR OF RANCHO

THANK YOU TO MICHELE BERRO, OT CLINICAL MANAGER



CSUDH faculty: Gina Phelps, Sheryl Ryan, Laura Deary and Lora Woo with California Children's Services (Los Angeles County) OT Instructors: Christine Filart and Lisa Dittbenner along with Wendy Stav and Michele Berro



WELCOME AIDEN GREGORY BRYANT



CONGRATULATIONS

Abbie and Chris Bryant,
and big sister, Sadie,
welcomed Aiden
Gregory to the family
on October 24th



Mark Your Calendars

Spring 2024

● JANUARY

- January 23-25: Dr. Frank Nyaniso Kronenberg visits CSUDH (keynote is 1/24)
- January 29: MSOT C20 New Student Orientation - Welcome!

● FEBRUARY

- February 1-28: OTD Applications for C2
- February 12: Fieldwork Educator Workshop and Wendy Stav Keynote
- February 19: President's Day (no classes, campus open)

● MARCH

- March 21-23: AOTA Inspire Conference, Orlando, FL

● APRIL

- April 1: Cesar Chavez Day, Observed (no classes, campus closed)
- April 22: Career Fair and C18 Focus Groups
- April 29: MSOT C20 Red Shirt Ceremony

● MAY

- May 3 & 4: AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certificate Workshop
- May 15: C18 Graduation Banquet
- May 17-18: Commencement
- May 24: OTD C2 New Student Orientation