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The Summer was a busy trimester full of course work, celebrations, clinical rotations, welcoming a new cohort, saying goodbye (or see you later!) to the graduating cohort, and so much more. We are excited to share the ongoings of our program in this newsletter.



OTD News informs supporters and students of the Department of Occupational Therapy of

Nova Southeastern University at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus of the events and ongoings of our program.

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences



Key Upcoming Dates

<u>FOTA Conference 11/5-11/6</u>	Class of 2024 Level 1B Fieldwork 11/14-12/02	Annual Research Colloquium 12/11
Fall Ceremonies 12/11	Class of 2023 Level 2B 1/03-3/24	Class of 2024 Level 1C Fieldwork 3/20-4/07

Scan to learn more about our program



Director Updates

On behalf of the NSU OTD program faculty, students, and administration, it is my pleasure to launch the 2022 version of OTDNews. Yes, we remained silent for a while, but not anymore.

We have way too many things to share and celebrate. As the Class of 2025 started their OTD journey, Class of 2022 marched during their commencement ceremonies at the Don Taft

Arena. We celebrate everyone and our reaccreditation for the next 10 years to continue providing an exemplar of OTD education. We are proud to have a full complement of faculty, and a re-invigorated professional advisory council. Scholarly work by our faculty and students are AOTA, WFOT and FOTA conferences as presentations or publications. We are very proud. Come see our campus and experience our learning labs and classrooms.



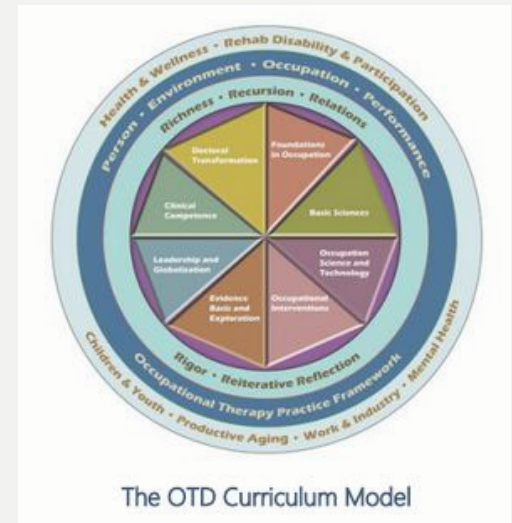
Dr. Ricardo C. Carrasco
Ricardo C. Carrasco, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Editor in Chief
Founding Director & Professor

Editorial Board

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Curriculum Highlights

The OTD curriculum model illustrates didactic-to-clinical experiences designed for the Nova Southeastern University Tampa doctoral student. The inner circle features the eight course sequences within the blended entry-level professional program. The concentric rings, shown starting from the inner layer comprise: 1) teaching exemplar; 2) learning threads; and 3) practice areas consistent with the profession's Centennial Vision.



The eight curriculum sequences provide opportunities for student experiences for lifelong learning applying the PEOP model and the OTPF.

The sequences provide activities to learn the structure and function of the human body as it relates to occupations; theoretical and philosophical foundations of occupational therapy practice; expressions and use of occupations and technology for teaching and learning across the lifespan; identification and treatment of developmental and acquired occupational dysfunctions using occupation based interventions; evidence basis and scholarly explorations for accountable practice; leadership and advocacy for responsible collaborative, global practice; clinical competence in all areas of practice, and beginning specialization as a reflective doctorally prepared professional.

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

Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics, Book II, p.9



Student Spotlight



Paula Rodriguez

Class of 2024

Orlando, Florida

Undergraduate School/Major:

University of Central

Florida/Clinical Psychology

- **What five words best describe you?** Determined, Ambitious, Happy, Compassionate, Adventurous
- **What do you like to do in your free time?** I enjoy spending time outside, swimming at the beach, and visiting local coffee shops.
- **Why did you choose occupational therapy?** I fell in love with occupational therapy when I shadowed a pediatric therapist who worked in my high school within a program called Best Buddies. I saw the impact that she made in children and adolescents' lives and I wanted to make an impact as well. I have always been creative, and I knew that I could showcase my creativity through occupational therapy.
- **Why did you choose NSU?** I grew up across the street from NSU's Ft. Lauderdale campus. When it came time to decide which occupational therapy program I wanted to attend, I felt at home at NSU. The faculty, staff, and students were always so helpful. Attending NSU felt like a full-circle moment for me and I know I have made the younger version of myself very proud.
- **What advice do you have for students who are just starting the OTD program?** Give yourself grace! It is easy to feel stressed or overwhelmed, but surround yourself with positivity and uplifting friends/family. It is okay to step away from your laptop to take a second to collect yourself. Always remember the reason why you wanted to go into this field, and know that you are on the right path.
- **Share a recent accomplishment that made you proud of yourself.** I delivered my son in May and received all A's during my summer semester!
- **What are your career aspirations?** I am hopeful that I will become a Certified Neuro Specialist and Neonatal therapist. I hope I can positively impact as many individuals and family members/caregivers as possible and continue to advocate for our profession.

Faculty & Staff Spotlight

- **What did you do prior to joining the NSU OTD department?** Ten years of human services experience beginning as a direct support professional. Most recently Assistant Director of Residential Services for a non-profit (The Arc Chemung-Schuyler) that provided residential services to over 200 people with developmental disabilities.
- **What five words best describe you?** Friendly, Kind, Generous, Considerate, Patient
- **What do you like to do in your free time?** Swim, Stay active outside in the sun, Travel, Play games on my Switch
- **What is your favorite part about working at NSU?** I work in such a great department! My colleagues have been extremely welcoming since day one! It doesn't hurt to work on such a beautiful campus as well.
- **What is something on your bucket list?** Travel to Australia
- **Share a recent accomplishment that made you proud of yourself.** I moved across the country after living my entire life throughout parts of New York State.
- **What is the best piece of advice that you've ever been given?** Everything works out how it's meant to.



William Ormsby

Program Support Coordinator
Corning, New York

Commencement 2022

Congratulations



The Class of 2022 attended their Commencement ceremony in August 2022 after the completion of their didactic coursework and clinical education. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students and look forward to continuing to watch them grow as our new colleagues.





Nova Southeastern University
HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION
DR. PALLAVI PATEL COLLEGE OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES

Class of 2022
DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM
TAMPA BAY CAMPUS

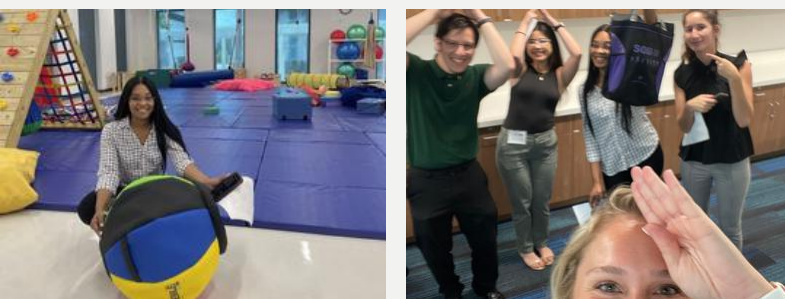
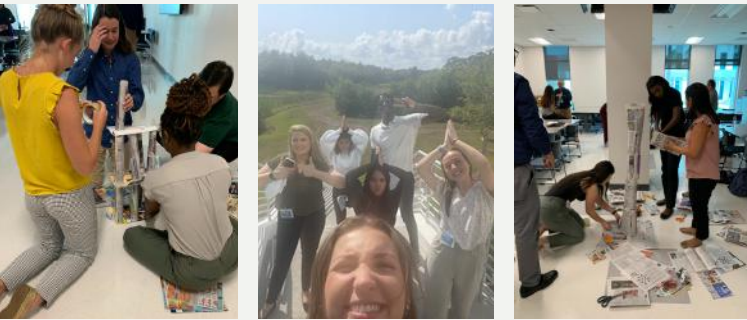
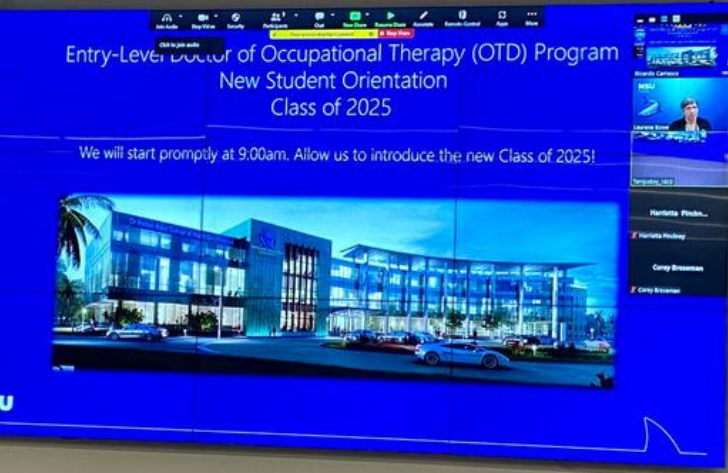


 Frederick K. Johnson, EdD, ELLS Director			 Raj M. Sharma, D.Ed., Ed.D., EdS, EdL, EdPK, EdPK12, EdPK120						
									
									
									
									
									



Welcome Class of 2025!

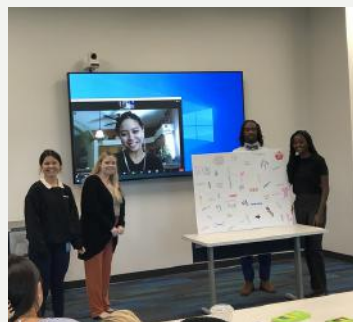
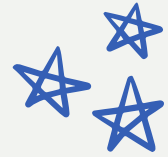
We welcomed our newest class of entry level OTD students in May. They participated in the first in person Orientation and Entrance Colloquium on the Clearwater campus due to the previous 2 years taking place virtually due to COVID-19. It was wonderful to have all the students and faculty together! The Class of 2025 completed many activities during orientation and entrance colloquium. Many of the activities helped them work on group dynamics and team building as well as just getting to know one another, the faculty/staff, current students and NSU! Pictured here are just some examples of the students working together through some of the events.



Course Activities



OTD 8102



The Class of 2025 participated in a project as part of the Foundations of Occupational Therapy course. This activity was designed by Conner Hansen, a doctoral capstone student from the Class of 2022 supervised by faculty member and OTD 8102 course instructor, Dr. Beverly Murphy.

The focus of this activity was on developing a community by understanding the unique characteristics and similarities that individuals bring to a group. Great job!



OTD 8271



The Class of 2024 participated in many different activities over the course of the semester during the Psychosocial and Community Interventions course.

These students had the opportunity to work throughout the semester with one of our community partners, [A Kid's Place of Tampa Bay](#), to plan and implement some projects with foster care youth. The students learned how to implement a variety of groups for self-care and use with AKP. The children participate in 3 sessions every time they visit campus: a cooking activity, craft, and sensorimotor activity.

These activities assisted in students understanding of individuals struggling with mental health or psychosocial conditions and the occupational therapy assessments and interventions to best support this population. The class was then able to apply what they learned during their Psychosocial Level 1 Fieldwork at the end of the semester!



Course Activities

OTD 8244



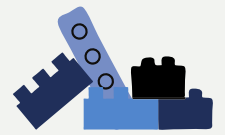
As a part of the Innovations & Technology course, the Class of 2024 went on a field trip to one of our community partners, Custom Mobility Inc. in Largo, FL. It is one of the few facilities in Florida that creates very specialized custom modifications for manual/power mobility for clients to enhance their independence with mobility and/or the ability of their caregivers to transport/assist the clients.

The company also specializes in custom vehicle/van modifications for clients/caregivers to transport their manual/power mobility.

Students were privileged to attend a lecture, tour, and luncheon generously provided by Scott McGowan, ATP, CRTS, CAPS, and his associates at Custom Mobility, Inc. Students were also given the opportunity to trial various types of manual & power mobility devices, as seen in the photos, to better understand the needs of their future clients to manipulate such devices.



OTD 8141



In Development of Occupations across the Lifespan, Class of 2025 students observed parents with their infants and children interacting in their natural contexts via ZOOM; this way, OTD students were able to synthesize the course content on typical development and then apply this to real life developmental observations of children.

They also observed Dr. Rose's son, Grayson, as he charmed them with his impressive developmental skills in the new pediatric lab. Thank you to all families who participated who helped to make this a valuable learning experience for our students!



Clinical Education

This semester the Class of 2024 completed their first 3 week Level 1 rotation in various psychosocial and community settings. Students worked with professionals such as occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, social workers, nurses, sports psychologists, and behavioral health therapists. They worked with clients ranging from young children to older adults with a wide range of diagnoses.

They were able to put into practice their clinical observation skills as well as try out some of the things they had learned in OTD 8271 (Psychosocial and Community Interventions). Some of the things that students took from the experience are the importance of client centered care, active listening, and going outside of your comfort zone is one of the most beneficial ways to learn and how to build rapport with clients.

Fieldwork

TALLAHASSEE SENIOR CENTER

created.

Boley CENTERS Bay Pointe Nursing Pavilion
A NOT FOR PROFIT FACILITY
4201 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Phone: 727.687.1104 • Fax: 727.687.9637

BYC | BECAUSE YOU CAN

Sheppard Pratt

Morton Plant Hospital
BayCare Health System

A Safe Haven For Abused and Neglected Children
A kid's Place
Celebrating 10 years of Keeping siblings together!



Capstone Experience

NSU Florida Annual OTD Doctoral Capstone Roundtable Discussions



Nova Southeastern University
Tampa Bay Regional Campus
Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Sciences
Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program
Class of 2022

The Class of 2022 completed their capstone experiences during the Summer 2022 semester. All NSU OTD students complete a 16-week doctoral capstone experience as part of over 2,000 clinical and doctoral transformation hours as part of the curriculum. Before and during the 16 weeks, the students identify a focus area, review the literature, conduct a needs assessment, and implement a capstone project.

Students spent 16 weeks of clinical education and doctoral transformation with a chosen qualified mentor to provide advanced training in one of eight focus areas: clinical practice skills, advocacy, program/policy development, administration, research, leadership, education, and theory development.

At the conclusion of their experiences, they presented their projects to students, faculty, staff and mentors during the capstone roundtable discussions. They are delivered in an informal venue to benefit students who are in the process of developing ideas or who are currently planning their capstone project and experience from the sharing of those who have completed the experience. Some examples of facilities the students worked with mentors from included: NSU, The National Institutes of Health, Marywood University, Tampa General Hospital, New York Institute of Technology, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, University of Tennessee Athletics and a variety of clinics and hospitals across the country. Congratulations to the Class of 2022 and we look forward to seeing the great things you contribute to the world of occupational therapy in the future.

Student Organizations

COTAD



Our COTAD Chapter at NSU Tampa Bay supported our members as they embarked on new adventures in their respective curriculums.

Our founding members of the COTAD Chapter, Class of 2022, received their COTAD Chapter graduation cords.

As featured, the COTAD Chapter cords worn by those photographed [Kolbi Holmes, Conner Applewhite Hansen, & Sophia Cadet] are representative of those who have served on our executive board since our founding in 2020, the colors resemble our organization's colors: black, white and blue.

Our Chapter Chair, Jalissa Black, can be seen photographed with one of her colleagues at James A. Haley Veterans Administration. Another student highlight was our Chapter Secretary, Nia Bolen Daniels, who was recognized by the Director of the Orlando Veterans Administration Hospital for the quality of care provided to a veteran in which they reported that "due to their treatment, they were finally able to have a good night's rest".

Our role as an organization during the Summer Semester was to create a safe space for members of the COTAD Chapter to engage in discussion regarding experiences throughout this pivotal time in their educational journey. In addition, the COTAD Chapter elections took place. We have transitioned all members and wish them the best of luck in their new posts as the Executive Board for the 2022-2023 school year. Please congratulate Tiara Ortiz (Chapter Chair), Hana Listes (Chapter Co-Chair), Bianch Derival (Chapter Secretary), Katsia Renaud (Chapter Treasurer), Jailine Gonzalez (Chapter Public Relations/Social Media Liaison), and Jamie Spangler (SOTA Liaison).

SOTA

The 2021-2022 SOTA team has been working hard all year to give the NSU OTD students a positive experience and the 2022 summer semester was no exception. SOTA started the semester off strong by welcoming the class of 2025 with open arms. Thanks to a wonderful lunch provided by the OTD faculty and staff, most students were eating together. This provided a wonderful opportunity for Rachael Rice (President) to introduce SOTA and its purpose to the new and returning OTD students. This also made it possible to take time for a big/little meet and greet.

During Institute 2, Zoe Cook (Vice President), Taylor Buono (Treasurer), Alyssa Moore (FOTA delegate), and the rest of the SOTA team hosted a meeting to sell the new SWAG. The new SWAG includes T-shirts, sweatshirts, and dri-fit long sleeve shirts designed by our public relations chairperson, Taylor Muzik-Eversdijk.

During Institute 3, Hana Listes (AOTA delegate), and Taylor Muzik-Eversdijk (public relations chairperson) presented an informational PowerPoint on traveling abroad and what to expect for those who plan on attending the World Federation of Occupational Therapy Congress (WFOT) in Paris, France. The presentation was well received by all who attended the meeting, and many found the information helpful even if they were not attending the WFOT congress.

Prior to Institute 4, Rachael Rice (President) and Samantha Edwards (Secretary) were working hard to put the election process in motion! Election results were announced on July 25, 2022 via the SOTA canvas page. If you have not already, please favorite the SOTA module on canvas for the latest announcements and updates.

During institute 4, the 2021-2022 SOTA board members worked with the newly elected board to prepare them for conducting their first meeting. Carlyne Teixeira ran her first meeting as president and the newly elected SOTA team passed out tumblers to all in attendance at the meeting. The tumblers were generously gifted to the OTD students by the PCHCS SGA. The 2021-2022 SOTA team would like to congratulate the new SOTA elected officials for the upcoming year and wish them the best of luck with their new leadership positions.

Please congratulate the new SOTA team and when you see them at institute: Carlyne Teixeira- President/ Jenna Breseman- Vice President/ Julia Otoski- Secretary/ Ashley Fowler- Treasurer/ Anne Lyles- Public Relations chairperson/ Julianne Sta.Ana- AOTA Delegate/ Sophie DeAnnuntis- FOTA Delegate/ Class representatives: Riley Sawyer, Clarissa Benzarti, Nia Bolen-Daniels.

Occupational Balance

Angel is a 3rd-year student in the class of 2023. She lives in the Tampa Bay area with her fiancé, Hunter, and her 2 cats Riley and Stormy. Angel is a dedicated cat owner who loves caring for and spending time with her cats when she is not stressing over her coursework. Being a caregiver to her cats gives Angel purpose in her life. Being a caregiver to Riley and Stormy is also a co-occupation with her fiancé Hunter. This helps build their relationship and strengthen their connection with one another. Angel would do anything for her two cats. In the most recent natural disaster to hit Florida, Hurricane Ian, Angel felt that it was not only necessary but required to bring her and her cats to safety and out of the way of the coming storm. Angel packed her two cats up and left for Jacksonville to make sure her family was out of harm's way. If that does not show that she would do anything for Riley and Stormy, then I do not know what does.



In her day-to-day life, Angel is responsible for feeding, cleaning and loving her two cats. Although Angel cares deeply for her cats, it can sometimes feel like a 2nd job outside of school because of the dedication but she wouldn't change that at all.

Angel says her favorite part about caring for her two cats is "Being able to love them with all my heart and make sure they know they are loved!" Next time you see Angel, do not hesitate to ask how Riley and Stormy are doing or for some photos! Being a caregiver is an important occupation to Angel just as it is to many others whether that be to animal or another human. Always remember, with the right catitude, anything is pawsible just like being a fulltime OTD student and a fulltime cat caregiver.

Aaron is a 2nd year student in the class of 2024 in his fall semester. He currently lives 4 stop lights away from school but was born and raised in Orlando, Florida (Go knights!). When Aaron was 13, he experienced a left sided AVM CVA which left his right side affected with low vision and decreased sensory and motor abilities. Part of Aaron's therapies growing up, his therapists always emphasized the importance of performing his therapeutic exercises. Not knowing that there was a difference between therapeutic exercises and exercise performed for strength training and cardio, Aaron began to research working out at the gym and set his goal to make himself stronger, faster and overall better. Aaron has dedicated himself to going to the gym almost every day for about 2 hours where he performs a multitude of strength training exercises. Aaron admits that his weakness is in the cardio department and is rarely seen doing cardio at the gym. To make up for this, you can sometimes find Aaron going for a run around his complex or on the bridge by school.



Aaron utilizes the facilities at the Crunch gym in Clearwater where he is also sometimes accompanied by his fellow classmates including Clarissa Benzarti, Alexis McQueeny and Tyler Russo.

Aaron has set a personal goal to deadlift 500 pounds by his birthday in February of 2023. This goal is more than just a number. This goal is his mindset, way of life and his best way to reduce stress. Going to the gym gives Aaron a sense of belonging. He is a part of community when he goes to the gym and that is more than he can ask for. When he is at the gym, he is focused, dedicated and really just happy. Aaron says, "people around him inspire him to be better and it puts me in the zone." He also says that this helps him focus more on his studies and gives him something to look forward too when he needs to take a break from studying. And just like a ghost, Aaron goes to the gym to get his spirits lifted.

Student Contributor:
Tyler Russo Class of 2024

Scholarships & Honors

Graduates with Highest Honors (3.8+ GPA)

Daisy Alvarado
Conner Applewhite Hansen
Heather Berto
Kayla Cobos
Gabrielle D'Annunzio
Lacie Ellithorpe
Oliver Fay
Leah Horst
Makenzie King
Jasmine Lake
Courtney Leiter
Annie Mehl
Hannah Townsend
Valerie Trinidad

NSU
Florida

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

Dean's Award

Conner Applewhite Hansen

Academic excellence, graduating with the highest scholastic achievement

Chancellor's Award

Daisy C. Alvarado

Exemplifies characteristics of an occupational therapist – Combination of scholarship, leadership, humanity & loyalty to the profession

Graduates with High Honors (3.6—3.79 GPA)

Trevor Blose
Hope Brew
Taylor Brownlie
Alexander Burgdorf
Gabriela Collins
Meghan Cote
Miranda Gutierrez
Kolbi Holmes
Janelle Kangaloo
Corinne Marshall
Erline Massillon
Kayla McCarty
Jencey McLain
Irving Noche
Eloise Palm
Cierra Robinson



Alpha Eta Society

Daisy Alvarado
Conner Applewhite Hansen
Heather Berto
Kayla Cobos
Gabrielle D'Annunzio
Jasmine Lake

Dr. Kim Rose OTD, OTR/L

Scholarships & Honors



Winter 2022 Chancellor's List

Class of 2022

Alvarado, Daisy
Berto, Heather
Blose, Trevor
Brew, Hope
Brownlie, Taylor
Burgdorf, Alexander
Cadet, Sophia
Cobos, Kayla
Collins, Gabriela
Cote, Meghan
Dannunzio, Gabrielle
Derequito, Toni Rose
Ellithorpe, Lacie
Fay, Oliver
Gutierrez, Miranda
Hansen, Connor
Holmes, Kolbi
Horst, Leah

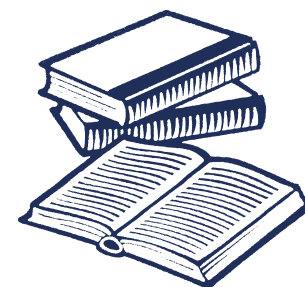
Kangaloo, Janelle
King, Makenzie
Lake, Jasmine
Leiter, Courtney
Marshall, Corinne
Massillon, Erline
Mccarty, Kayla
Mclain, Jencey
Mehl, Annie
Namyak, Alexis
Noche, Irving
Palm, Eloise
Robinson, Cierra
Rosario, Wendy
Townsend, Hannah
Trinidad, Valerie
Valentin Crespo, Agnes
Vish, Natalie

Class of 2023

Belperio Coutinho, Lauren
Callahan, Ashtin
Dell'Arciprete, Mary Lauren
Emanuel, Carleigh
Folsom, Lindsay
Gratama Jackson, Brianna
Hawks, Alexis
Henlon, Maricela
Holmes, Amy
Kofsky, Deborah
Lafreniere, Lauren
Montalto, Dominic
Rodriguez, Annalisa
Zirkle, Danielle

Class of 2024

Behel, Shireena
Buono, Taylor
Cassidy, Hailey
Chappel, Alyssa
Hamilton, Lisa
Heiss, Hannah
Lonczak, Morgann
McQueeny, Alexis
Rodriguez, Paula
Sliger, Melissa



Dean's List

Class of 2023

Clarke, Brianie
Francois, Alexis
Mahoney, Olivia
Maurer, Jenna
Nguyen, Tam Dan
Ryan, James
Royer, Samantha
Wagner, Megan



Class of 2024

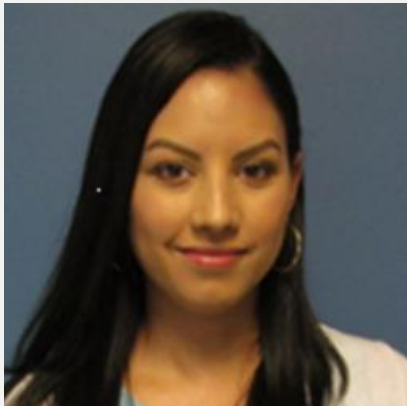
Bhamani, Kaynath
Cook, Arianna
Garrett, Amanda
Listes, Hana
Moore, Alyssa
Muzik-Eversdijk, Taylor
Ortiz, Tiara
Russo, Tyler
Swain, Erin
Taft, Cesley

Scholarships & Honors

Chancellor's Scholarship

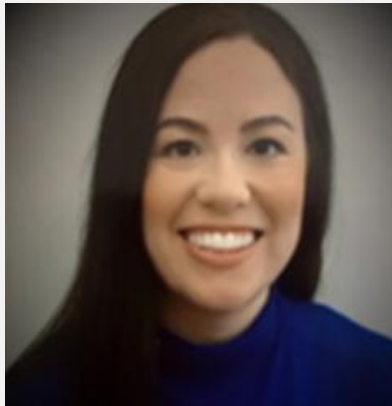
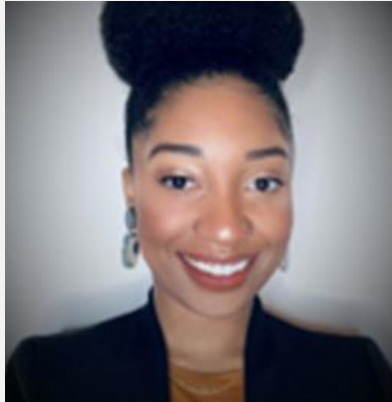
Class of 2022

Eloise Palm
Valerie Trinidad



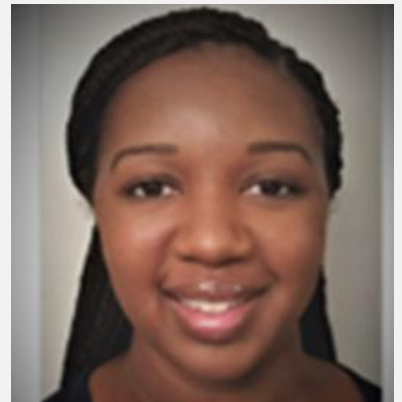
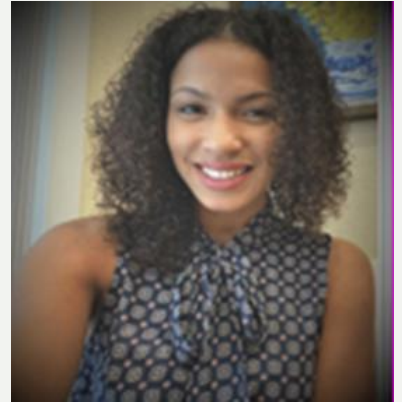
Class of 2023

Jalissa Black
Lindsay Folsom
Deborah Kofsky



Class of 2024

Tiara Ortiz
Paula Rodriguez
Camye White



Kudos & Celebrations

Welcome to the Class of 2025!

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Class of 2023 completed their Level 2A Fieldwork!

Taylor (2024) got an internship with AOTA

Makenzie & Ellie (2022) completed a fall prevention presentation

Paula (2024) had a baby boy

Nia (2023) received a commendation from her Level 2 FW site

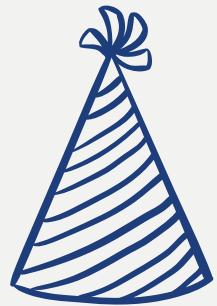
Zoe (2024) got married & honeymooned

Hailey (2024) rescued a kitten

Students (2023, 2024 & 2025) attended the WFOT Congress in Paris

Tyler (2024) lost 35 pounds

Happy Birthday!



8/17 - Shania Mathew
8/21 - Maricela Henlon
8/21 - Sophie DeAnnuntis
8/22 - Mike Palou-Morales
8/27 - Alyssa Chappel
8/27 - Shireena Behel
9/10 - Dr. Kane
9/24 - Dr. D'Amico
10/1 - Jalissa Black
10/3 - Kaynath Bhamani
10/6 - Samantha Edwards
10/6 - Jailine Gonzalez
10/7 - Lisa Hamilton
10/8 - Erin Swain
10/13 - Laurene Bowe
10/14 - Paula Rodriguez
10/20 - Jamie Spangler
10/22 - Danielle Zirkle
10/25 - Lauren Coutinho

10/26 - Angel Weldy
10/27 - Savannah Shontere
10/28 - Tiara Ortiz
10/29 - Brianna Jackson
10/29 - Dr. Reinoso
10/30 - Samantha Royer
11/2 - Morgan Breen
11/9 - Steven Dinnen
11/16 - Anne Lyles
11/16 - Deborah Kofsky
11/19 - Matthew Pinckney
11/25 - Dr. Flanagan
11/29 - Dr. Decker
12/9 - Shanon Ninan
12/10 - Caelan Samson
12/11 - Biancah Derival
12/14 - Jenna Breseman
12/17 - Bianca Haddock

