June - August 2017

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Jamaica Medical Outreach: Students’ Perspective

By: Saige C. Abrams, OTD-S, Gracie Devore, OTD-S, and Ayesha Ali, OTD-S

This past June, six occupational therapy entry-level doctoral (OTD) students had the opportunity of partaking on a medical outreach to Kingston and St. Mary, Jamaica for ten days. The medical outreach through Nova Southeastern University (NSU) has been ongoing for the past seventeen years, welcoming students and professionals from various disciplines across the country including medicine, dentistry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, and more. Each OTD student in attendance received hands on experience with at least fifty clients throughout the trip.

During the trip, the OTD students gained valuable clinical experience with various populations while working closely with physical therapy students and practitioners. Under the supervision of Susan Stallings-Sahler, Ph.D., OTR/L, Keiba Shaw, PT, DPT, Ed.D., Lance Cherry, PT, Ed.D., OCS, and Katherine Chavez, PT, DPT, students participated in multiple clinics throughout the extended week where they were able to evaluate and treat members of the rural communities. The locations selected to hold the clinics included churches, a developmental school, two maximum security prisons, and an all-age school. The clinics allowed students to learn and expand their knowledge of occupational therapy while also utilizing creativity and limited resources. Students treated an array of diagnoses and conditions such as frozen shoulder, gunshot/stab wounds to the upper extremities, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, autism, upper motor neuron disorders, stroke, carpal tunnel, and many more.

Thanks to generous donations, the students were able to distribute and/or create assistive technology individualized to each client in need to enhance their daily functioning long after their visit to the medical clinic. “The trip was extremely rewarding. I got to be innovative and create my own splints, interventions, and even assistive devices,” says Ayesha Ali, a second year NSU OTD participant. For some clients, their visit to the medical mission clinic may be their only contact with a medical professional until the mission team returns the following year.
OTD Students Attend the 2017 AOTA Annual Conference

By: Kristina Kangas, OTD-S

The 2017 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference was held in home of the Philly cheesesteak: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In honor of it being the 100th year of profession, AOTA hosted a Centennial Celebration. The kick-off ceremony was a grand celebration, as a band was playing classic hits from throughout the years, everyone was dancing, and beach balls were flying everywhere. Once it calmed down, a video was displayed about the history of occupational therapy, the significant individuals that brought the profession to life, and where AOTA sees OT headed for the next 100 years.

As for the educational workshops and sessions, there were a large variety of topics this year, including emerging practice areas, occupational therapy and how it can benefit clients who are in the foster system, prison, or even pregnant, and sex and intimacy. Many NSU professors were presenting on prevalent topics at the conference. For instance, a group saw Mariana D’Amico, Ed.D., OTR/L and Mirtha M. Whaley, Ph.D., MPH, OTR/L present on the topic of mental health, while others saw Sheila M. Longpré, Ph.D., OTR/L present on oncology and children.

However, going to conference wasn’t the only thing accomplished while in Philly! As part of the celebration, a large group of students, educators, and practitioners went to the Centennial Bash dressed up in 90’s apparel since the theme was “decades.” Many attendees also took this this time in Philadelphia as a chance to explore the city together by getting to see many attractions the city possesses, such as the Reading Terminal Market and Chinatown. Both places had some of the best food you could imagine! Some attendees even went to the Rocky Steps and Statue, the Liberty Bell, and Independence Hall. All in all, it was great experience filled with many opportunities that will not be forgotten.

Summer Educator’s Series

By: Jason Barshay

During the months of June and July, the Tampa Campus hosted a series of free seminars geared toward educators in the area. The seminars included:

- **Critical Thinking and Questioning Stages** - A presentation on practical activities that promote student voice and empowerment, critical thinking, and deeper comprehension of content presented on June 12 by Liza Ferreira, assistant director at the NSU Orlando Campus.
- **Building a Foundation for Culturally Relevant Educators** - An overview of what a culturally relevant school looks, sounds, and feels like presented on June 13 by Liza Ferreira, assistant director at the NSU Orlando Campus.
- **Basic Introduction to Brain-Compatible Teaching and Learning** - A workshop on brain-compatible teaching and learning presented on July 24 by Lou Whitaker, Ed.D., educational consultant at Open Minds Enterprises.
- **What are the Effects of the Media and Technology on the Brain?** - A workshop on the how media and technology can affect the brain presented on July 25 by Lou Whitaker, Ed.D., educational consultant at Open Minds Enterprises.

Each seminar granted continuing education units (CEUs) that teachers must complete on an annual basis to renew their teacher certification. The Tampa Campus hopes to host a recurring series of seminars throughout the year as a service to the community and to attract individuals to the campus to learn more about the educational opportunities available at NSU.
Tampa Campus Hosts Fall Open House
By: Jason Barshay
On Thursday, August 31, over 65 attendees and their guests were able to visit the campus, learn about the university, and hear from faculty, staff, and students about the campus's anesthesiologist assistant, business, cardiovascular sonography, clinical mental health counseling, education, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, public administration, school counseling, school psychology, and speech-language pathology programs at the fall open house. The highlight of the event was at the end of the opening presentation when the faculty and staff members representing the various programs introduced themselves to the audience. Each presenter spoke passionately about their program, confidently asserting that their program was the best and that attendees should come to their breakout session. The resulting excitement and anticipation among attendees was palpable and could be seen as they hurried to their rooms to learn more.

National Safety Month Safety Challenge
By: Stacy-Ann Payne
During the month of June, NSU hosts its first Safety Fair to celebrate National Safety Month on main campus. NSU's safety team sent weekly flyers with various safety topics such as "stand up to falls" "recharge to be in charge", "prepare for active shooters", and "work ergonomically" and shared them with faculty and staff at the regional campuses. Since regional campus employees did not have the opportunity to participate in the safety fair on main campus, the Tampa Campus hosted a safety photo challenge, which gave faculty and staff the opportunity to learn more about safety and win prizes. Emails were sent out to faculty and staff with pictures of various scenarios that had a variety of safety violations and risk factors and encouraged employees to guess all the violations and risk factors to win prizes. Congratulations to Laurene Bowe, Fritzy Gaspard, Alissa Pullom, Sheena Zimmermann, and Marianna D'Amico, Ed.D. for winning, and a special thanks to Carol Fasick, Rashida Quetel, Ricardo Garcia, Raquel Khuri, and Tony Thompson who all volunteered to be a part of the pictures for the challenge.

College of Business and College of Nursing Join Forces
By: Michael Abraham
Michael Abraham, assistant director and Sally Spooner, assistant professor at the College of Nursing joined forces to promote the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business undergraduate and graduate business programs as well as the full-suite of College of Nursing programs at a nursing professional development fair. Abraham and Spooner were also able to speak with active and retired military as well as medical staff in St. Petersburg at Bay Pines VA Healthcare System on June 29.

Pinellas County Superintendent’s Roundtable
By: Jason Barshay
On Thursday, August 24, Jason Barshay and Tony Thompson, assistant directors attended the Pinellas County Superintendent’s Roundtable. Superintendent Michael Grego spoke at the event and provided attendees with an update on the state of public education in the county. One of the specific areas the district plans to continue to focus on is improving the career and college readiness of its students, and NSU continues to do all it can to support the district in its efforts. This past April, NSU’s Abraham S. Fischler College of Education signed an MOU with Pinellas County that provides new students who are teachers in the district and are pursuing a degree within the college of education with a reduction on the tuition rate. Additionally, the Tampa campus and main campus staff continue to visit the high schools throughout Pinellas County and participate in county college fairs in order to speak to interested students regarding undergraduate educational opportunities at NSU.
NSU Tampa Welcomes New Teachers

Polk County Welcome Reception
By: Jason Barshay

On the evening of Wednesday, August 23, Jason Barshay and Tony Thompson, assistant directors attended Polk County’s New Teacher Welcome Reception. This event served to welcome new teachers to the county, introduce them to the staff and resources within the school district, and allow them to get to know one another. A highlight of the evening was a presentation by Jessica Solano, Florida Teacher of the Year for 2017 and teacher from Polk County. Barshay and Thompson hosted an information table at the event and had the opportunity to talk to many of the attendees about graduate education opportunities with Nova Southeastern University’s Abraham S. Fischler College of Education.

South Tampa Welcome Breakfast
By: Michael Abraham

Tony Thompson and Michael Abraham, assistant directors attended the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual South Tampa New Teacher Welcome Breakfast, which honored teachers for their commitment to educating children in South Tampa, on August 4. Invited guests included principals and teachers newly hired to the South Tampa schools in District One, the superintendent of Hillsborough County Schools and administrative staff, the School Board of Hillsborough County, city council, county commissioners, and the Board of Directors of the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Since the NSU Tampa Campus was a community sponsor, they were able to provide information on NSU’s College of Education and the upcoming fall open house and goodies to every teacher and principal in attendance.

New Teacher Orientation in Hillsborough County
By: Jason Barshay

On July 17 and 18, Jason Barshay and Tony Thompson, assistant directors participated in Hillsborough County’s New Teacher Orientation, which is an event that is part of a series of mandated training that all new teachers in the county must complete. Barshay and Thompson staffed an information table where they were able to speak to teachers about continued education opportunities with the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education.

Teacher Pre-Planning Breakfast
By: Jason Barshay

On Tuesday, August 8, Jason Barshay and Tony Thompson, assistant directors hosted a breakfast for the teachers at Van Buren Middle School during their pre-planning week. In addition to providing the teachers with breakfast, Barshay and Thompson had the opportunity to present to the group about NSU and the graduate education programs available through NSU’s Abraham S. Fischler College of Education. We would like to thank Lipi Reid, assistant principal of curriculum at Van Buren Middle School and an alumnus of NSU’s College of Education for inviting us to visit and for her personal testimony regarding the experience she had during her education at NSU.
Computers for Jamaica
By: Dominique King

A special thank you to the NSU Tampa Campus Office of Innovation and Information Technology for donating computers to an underserved school in Jamaica. These donations will help provide advanced technology to help enhance the learning experience at Barbary Hall Primary School.

Best Wishes Orson
By: Stacy-Ann Payne

After 20 years of service in NSU’s OIIT department, Tampa employees celebrated Orson Prentice’s, senior technology support engineer retirement. Prentice was a very important member of the OIIT, but most of all, he was a great NSU employee. Prentice was dependable, ethical, and always helpful. On August 16, many employees gathered to wish him luck and shower him with gifts and well wishes. Those who were unable to attend sent their well wishes via email and phone calls. Prentice was an integral member of the NSU Tampa family and will be greatly missed.

Eclipse Viewing Party
By: Jason Barshay

On Monday, August 21, members of the NSU Tampa Campus gathered on the back patio for an eclipse viewing party. Faculty and staff members took turns sharing pairs of eclipse glasses in order to observe the rare event. Tabitha (Tabi) Raj, assistant director described the eclipse as “out of this world” experience, while Tony Thompson, assistant director thought it was a great bonding experience for the staff on campus.

ECs Make a Splash at Main Campus
By: Dominique King

After months of tireless planning, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Office of Regional Campuses made history by hosting its first Enrollment Coordinator (EC) Retreat. ECs from all of the regional campuses traveled near and far to the main campus to participate in the retreat, which had a theme “ECs Making Waves,” and were thrilled to meet their counterparts in person after months of exchanging ideas via telephone and email. During the three day retreat, they participated in various team-building activities, breakout sessions, and workshops, as well as listen to guest speakers from NSU’s Office of Human Resources and regional campus operations as they shared the best practices for workplace success.

After attending workshops, the ECs had a chance to unwind and bond over a family style dinner, touring the main campus, and tapping into their inner Picasso as they put their paint brushes to the test at Painting with a Twist. This year’s retreat served as an enriching experience, and the ECs look forward to planning more retreats in the future. Special thanks to Ricardo Belmar, Stacy-Ann Payne, Kathyleen Wyatt Ed.D, Ana Ramirez, Aldett Francis, Gladys Rios, Adriana Bates, Tom Schweagerle, Jonathan Harrison, Ronenia Jenkins, Renee LaForte, and everyone who had a hand in the retreat. We appreciate your hard work and dedication!
Meet the Team: New Sharks On Campus

Mark Augustini serves as the senior technology engineer of the NSU Tampa Campus. He calls Austin, Texas his hometown and loves to play chess, surf, and read all things pertaining to artificial intelligence. Augustini also loves his 120 lb. Dogo Argentino named Temuco. He has traveled extensively, sometimes working in remote and dangerous locations, and his work with the Department of Defense included senior enterprise systems administration, satellite communications, and biometrics. Augustini is currently pursuing a Master of Science in the Management of Information Technology degree and looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship with NSU.

Diego Llenza Aponte is a native of Puerto Rico but currently lives in Tampa. He works alongside the video conferencing team at the NSU Tampa Campus. Aponte recently graduated from Florida International University and is very excited to get his start at NSU.

Inneka Murphy is originally from North Carolina and has been living in Florida for the past 4 years. She is excited to have joined the anesthesiologist department as an administrative assistant at the NSU Tampa Campus. During her spare time Murphy enjoys spending time with family and friends, arts and crafts, and going to church.

Tabitha Raj is originally from India and moved to Clearwater, FL when she was five years old. She currently lives in Tampa but calls Clearwater her hometown, and she is very excited about the NSU Tampa Campus moving to her hometown.

Raj enjoys traveling, spending time with friends and family, running, cooking and the beach. She is also a proud graduate of the University of South Florida (Go Bulls) and is now a very proud NSU Shark!

She currently serves as an assistant director of marketing and enrollment with nearly 10 years of higher education experience. “Higher Education is my passion, so if you have any questions or need anything, don’t hesitate to stop by! I always have chocolate!”
Upcoming Events

- **Shark Zumba - Wednesday, October 11 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
  Dance your way to wellness at this “Wellness Wednesday” Zumba class!

- **Salsa Recipe Contest - Thursday, October 12 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
  Taste and vote for the top three salsas at our salsa recipe contest and find out which staff member will win the ultimate salsa making title!

- **Hurricane Relief Event: Spaghetti Model Spaghetti Luncheon - Thursday, October 19 from noon - 2:00 p.m.**
  For those of us who hate spaghetti models but love spaghetti lunches, join us to help support recent hurricane relief efforts. To RSVP, click here.

- **Get Tanked! Body Fat Percentage Testing - Friday, October 20 from 8:00 a.m. - noon**
  You’ve always wanted to know your body fat percentage, so come get tanked by The Mobile Hydrostatic Body Fat Testing Clinic. Getting dunked cost just $25.00, takes just 10 minutes, and comes with a detailed report unique to you. This event is open to all students, faculty, and staff and is brought to you by the Department of Physical Therapy.

- **Feeding Tampa Bay - Saturday, October 21 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
  Volunteers needed! Join your fellow Sharks and help sort food at the Feeding Tampa Bay food bank. To sign up, email SaTampa@nova.edu.

- **College of Nursing Night of Networking and Recognition - Tuesday, October 24 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**
  This event is hosted by the College of Nursing and the Office of the Regional Campuses to thank and recognize existing preceptors and partnered students, as well as establish relationships with new partners.

- **NSU Night Out: Busch Gardens Howl O Scream - Friday, October 27 from 7:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.**
  Join the NSU Tampa SGA and Student Affairs and prepare to be scared at the annual NSU Night Out: Busch Gardens Howl-O-Scream event. Tickets are $15 for students and $20 for a guest (limit 2 total tickets per student). To reserve your ticket, click here.

- **Conflict Resolution Workshop - Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
  Join us for the Conflict Resolution Workshop, where we will analyze the foundations of disagreement and conflict in our society, identify the sources of the problem, and find lasting solutions for change and growth opportunities. To RSVP, click here.

- **NSU Day Out: Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Carolina Panthers - Sunday, October 29 - Game starts at 1:00 p.m.**
  LET’S GO BUCS! Come enjoy the NSU Shark Tailgate with free snacks and cheer the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on to victory as they take on the Carolina Panthers. Tickets are $15 for students and $35 for a guest (limit 2 total tickets per student). For more information, email SaTampa@nova.edu.