



Doctoral Capstone Symposium

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

1 Kendall Ackerman

Supporting Wellness in Doctoral Occupational Therapy Students: The Effects of a Complementary Health Program on Students' Perceived Anxiety and Stress

This project explores the experiences of students in graduate school who use complementary health approaches and integrative health (CHAIH). The primary question explored in this scholarship is the following: What is the experience of perceived stress and anxiety for first year occupational therapy doctoral students who use complementary health approaches?

Mentor: Dr. Gabrielle Hackenberg

2 Morgan Axmann

Parent/Provider Communication Dyad at Ivy Rehab for Kids

This Doctoral Capstone Project aims to explore the parent-provider communication dyad at Ivy Rehab for Kids. Through interviews, experiences with provider communication will be illuminated, aiming to enhance family-centered approaches and improve outcomes of pediatric rehabilitation services by strengthening communication methods and understanding between families and providers.

Mentor: Dr. Nicole Halliwell

3 Charles Bustamante

Occupational Therapy Students' Perceived Preparedness and Confidence to Utilize Virtual Reality Technology into Their Future Practice

The purpose of the project is to provide experiential education and interactive learning to educate occupational therapy students on their future clinical practice through developing evidence-based educational E-learning modules and hands-on lab activities about virtual reality technology as it relates to healthcare and rehabilitation.

Mentor: Dr. Denise Crowley

4 Monica Cassella

Narrative Experience by the Director - Enhancing Social Participation Through Collaboration with a Doctoral Occupational Therapy Student

The project focuses on the Director of Business Developments experiences with collaborating with a Doctoral Occupational Therapy student. The research focuses on enhancing Town Square's program development while expanding my education / clinical practice skills. Interviews were conducted with the participant expressing the value of Occupational Therapy for dementia day care programming.

Mentor: Dr. Denise Crowley

5 Kayla Coleman

The Impact of the Intrinsic Hand Treatment Protocol on Patients with Weakened Grip: A Case Study

The goal of this Doctoral Capstone Project is to describe the impact of the use of an intrinsic hand protocol on patients and how evidence-based research guided decision-making from a therapist's perspective. Occupational therapists have impactful stories to share and years of experience, and I want to shed light on the importance of this information.

Mentor: Dr. John R. Patro

6 Jacqueline Daniel

Healthcare Professionals' Knowledge of Occupational Therapy in Vietnam: A Pilot and Exploratory Study

This project examines the knowledge and awareness of occupational therapy (OT) among health care professionals (HCP's) in Vietnam and highlights the importance of OT advocacy across borders. As OT gains momentum across Southeast Asia, educational intervention becomes increasingly imperative for the sustainability, viability, and conceptualization of the profession among HCP's.

Mentor: Dr. John R. Patro



Doctoral Capstone Symposium

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

7 Aiden Elizabeth Darcy

Healthcare Professionals Understanding and Attitudes Toward Occupational Therapy Practice Following an Interprofessional Program in Vietnam: A Case and Cross-Analysis

The capstone project investigates how exposure to occupational therapy affects Vietnamese psychiatric staff's understanding and attitudes towards client-centered care in Da Nang Psychiatric Hospital. It aims to assess interprofessional education's impact on staff and patient outcomes, addressing cultural and institutional nuances in mental healthcare.

Mentor: Dr. John R. Patro

9 Nicolette DeSalvatore

Effect of Students' Perceived Stress and Anxiety

This project aims to explore the perception of stress and anxiety among first-year occupational therapy doctoral graduate students, as well as their experiences with perceived stress and anxiety when utilizing complementary health approaches.

Mentor: Dr. Andrea L. Garcia

11 Taylor Droppa

Advocating for Occupational Therapy in the Mental Health Clubhouse Model

The Mental Health Clubhouse Model provides vital support for psychosocial rehabilitation. Occupational therapy significantly aids in mental health recovery, as evidenced in the literature. This study explores participant experiences, aiming to understand advocacy for occupational therapy integration within the Clubhouse Model.

Mentor: Dr. Andrea L. Garcia

8 Alexandria DeSalvatore

Examining the Needs of Children with Regulatory Disorders to Enhance Self-Esteem Through Program Evaluation in the Context of Nature-Based Therapy: A Phenomenological Exploration

The purpose of this project is to understand the needs related to self-esteem in children with regulatory disorders within the context of a nature-based therapy program through parental and provider experiences to develop a nature-based therapy program that incorporates self-esteem-related interventions.

Mentor: Dr. Nicole Halliwell

10 Mikaela DeSantis

Co-constructing a Social Support Group: A Narrative Approach

The purpose of this project is to add a new level of education and advocacy through program development that Adult Day Enrichment Center, Town Square, can integrate into their plethora of offered services. Social support groups can create greater sense of belonging and offer emotional support for individuals with dementia.

Mentor: Dr. Denise Crowley

12 Amanda Fontana

The Lived Experience of Clients Using Mindfulness Interventions for Symptomology of Upper Extremity Orthopedic Impairments

The purpose of this project is to explore opportunities for occupational therapists to use mindfulness-based exercises to treat psychosocial aspects of symptom management in orthopedic conditions. The research question is, what is the lived experience of upper extremity orthopedic patients using mindfulness interventions on symptomology in an outpatient orthopedic setting?

Mentor: Dr. Alysson Goodwin



Doctoral Capstone Symposium

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

13 Haley D. Fralick

Determining the Importance of Vocational Programs for the TBI Population: An Occupational Therapist's Perspective

This project aims to determine the importance of vocational programs for the traumatic brain injury (TBI) population related to returning to work following a TBI, through an occupational therapist's perspective. This project aims to advocate and serve as a justification for increased vocational programs for the TBI population through determining the importance.

Mentor: Dr. Andrea L. Garcia

15 Elizabeth Hsu

Effects of the Multisensory Environment on Stress in College and Graduate Students

College and graduate students face high levels of stress stemming from many factors. The capstone project serves to examine whether using a multisensory environment (MSE) can decrease self-perceived levels of stress among college and graduate students, as well as to glean students' experiences after spending time in the MSE.

Mentor: Dr. Nicole Halliwell

17 Joseph M. Motto

Using Golf as a Meaningful Occupation to Improve Older Adult Participation: Occupational and Physical Therapy Practitioner Experiences

The purpose of this project is to begin establishing a connection between golf, meaningful occupation, and occupational therapy. This project utilizes the lived experiences of occupational and physical therapy practitioners to explore if the participation of older adults in treatment sessions is improved through using golf as a meaningful occupation.

Mentor: Dr. Andrea L. Garcia

14 Jessica Gershenow

The Role of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education Counseling Services: Staff Perceptions

The purpose of this DCP is to explore by interviewing the counseling and preventative services (CPS), if OT fits into higher education setting departments such as CPS. The research questions that will be explored are 1. What are the staff perceptions of the role of an OT working in CPS at a private not for profit college? 2. What are the advocacy and education techniques that affect staff perceptions of OT working in CPS?

Mentor: Dr. Andrea L. Garcia

16 Griffin Leslie

The Impact of the ExerShine Kids High Intensity Exercise Program on Self-Regulation Strategies Used in the Home Environment as Perceived by Caregivers

The purpose of this DCP is to evaluate the ExerShine Kids program's ability to teach self-regulation strategies, for use in the home environment, to its participants through caregiver interviews. The goal is to collect detailed qualitative information and conduct a thematic analysis to identify common themes among the caregivers' perceptions.

Mentor: Dr. Denise Crowley

18 Joseph Napolitano

Phenomenological Approach to Exploring the Role of Facilitators in Developing Adolescents' Skills for Identifying Resources for Occupational Success

The purpose of this research project is to use qualitative inquiry to outline the role of facilitators in developing adolescents' awareness of resources for occupational success. The central research question is as follows: "How do facilitators describe their role in developing adolescents' awareness of resources for occupational success?"

Mentor: Dr. Alysson Goodwin



Doctoral Capstone Symposium

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

19 Christopher Oliveri

From Service to Scholar: A Holistic Examination of Student Veterans' Transition and Integration into Academic and Civilian Roles

This project aims to identify the lived experiences of student veterans from Monmouth University in their transition to the role of student and civilian following deployment. The findings from this research will be used to guide future programming to promote success for this specific population within the Monmouth University community.

Mentor: Dr. Gabrielle Hackenberg

20 Daniel Yu

Exploring Alternative Pathways: A Case Study of a Retired Occupational Therapist's Transition and Contributions Beyond Clinical Practice

This study addresses the lack of research on retired occupational therapists' engagement in non-clinical roles. It explores motivations, challenges, and strategies of a retired OT contributing to the profession post-retirement. Understanding their impact and barriers can guide future involvement and bridge the gap between retirement and professional contribution.

Mentor: Dr. Andrea L. Garcia

21 Sarah Zeto

Lived Experience of Program Development: Love Serving Autism at Field of Dreams

This scholarship explored the lived experience of successful program founders and utilized their expertise to implement a new pickleball program at RWJBH Toms River Field of Dreams. Interviews were conducted to gain valuable insights on the challenges and opportunities related to program development.

Mentor: Dr. Gabrielle Hackenberg

Student E-Portfolios

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW

Kendall Ackerman



Charles Bustamante



Kayla Coleman



Aiden Elizabeth Darcy



Nicolette DeSalvatore



Taylor Droppa



Haley D. Fralick



Elizabeth Hsu



Joseph M. Motto



Christopher Oliveri



Morgan Axmann



Monica Cassella



Jacqueline Daniel



Alexandria DeSalvatore



Mikaela Desantis



Amanda Fontana



Jessica Gershenow



Griffin J. Leslie



Joseph A. Napolitano



Daniel Yu



Sarah Zeto

