



FALL SPRING 2018-2019

NEWSLETTER

CSUDH

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS

SOTA

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER:

SOTA hosted a Chipotle Fundraiser on October 11, 2018, and we were able to raise \$143.96! A huge thanks to all of our peers, faculty, and fellow community members as we had a great time bonding over burritos and guacamole.

BY: TERESA CAO



CSUDH'S HALLOWEEN HAUNT

CSUDH's Halloween Haunt Fest was on October 30, 2018 and SOTA hosted SOTA-land! We all dressed up for fun and games, and our booth featured Mr. Mint's adaptive bowling through the Candycane Forest, sugar plum therapy balls with Queen Frostine and Miss Candy, and Princess Lolly's Wheel of Fun. We also had a Donut Toss for a photo-op with Lord Licorice. We won second place for our booth - \$100!

2018 OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

STUDENT - ALUMNI EVENT

MSOT students were funded by the Department of Occupational Therapy to attend the 2018 OTAC Conference and Expo in Pasadena, CA.

Here 2 students from cohort 14 share their experience:

By: Christopher Chuateco

Attending the 2018 OTAC Conference in Pasadena was an incredible experience that reinforced my sense of pride in being part of the growing profession of OT and opened my eyes to all the amazing opportunities that becoming an OT has to offer. In addition to meeting and building meaningful connections with other OT students from programs across all of California, I gained an abundance of rich knowledge listening in on lectures presented by OT practitioners with decades of experience. Moreover, having the opportunity to bond with several of my colleagues by assisting CSUDH's very own, Dr. Paul Penoliar, in presenting an informational workshop on the application of kinesiology tape was a truly memorable experience and one of the major highlights of the entire weekend. Thanks to CSUDH's OT Department, I had the chance to cap off this unforgettable weekend with my colleagues, professors, and faculty members at CSUDH's student/alumni banquet complete with games, karaoke, and live performances.



By: Alexandra McNay

Attending OTAC Conference this fall was an invaluable experience as a first-year Occupational Therapy student! As someone who has attended and enjoyed many professional conferences in my previous career, I was worried about making connections with colleagues in a new (to me) community. I discovered extremely exciting research presentations, panel presentations on important current topics, and ample networking opportunities. The highlight of my experience was participating in the CSUDH - Alumni-Student Reception. I had the privilege to be involved in performing and organizing musical entertainment for this special event. Along with Aaron Halva (C14) and Robin Nguyen (C14), we put together a trio and performed a number of jazz standards as well as original songs. It was a special treat to make music together for our CSUDH community. The night also featured encouraging words from our Program Director, Dr. Terry Peralta-Catipon, as well as group karaoke performances as facilitated by Dr. Paul Penoliar (who may or may not have performed the most incredible rendition of a Justin Bieber song). As a new student and new member of the CSUDH OT community, this reception provided me with deeper connection and pride in my community, as I interacted and socialized with alumni, faculty, and even current members of my cohort.



October 25-28, 2018



Twenty-nine students and two instructors from Kyoto I-Ken College, Fukuoka I-Ken College and Nagoya I-Ken College in Japan visited our department October 13 - 14, 2018. The event launched with Dr. Hwang's stimulating lectures about OT current practice, employment outlook and education in the United States. Ten CUSDH OT students mingled with the guest students during lunch time and later led group-dynamic activities such as drum circle and parachute activities. The second day of the event featured Dr. Faith Moy's lecture on Sensory Integration Intervention in Pediatric OT, followed by Dr. Hwang's administration of Sensory Profile (Adult/Adolescent Version) with the guest students. The CSUDH OT students continued to lead the sensory activities such as mindfulness and stressballs making groups. The whole event was concluded in the late afternoon with a certificate award ceremony where Dr. Hwang handed a certificate of attendance to each guest student. This was truly a wonderful cultural-exchange and friendship-building event for Japanese and American OT students; many ended up wishing to continue their friendships by connecting through social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram etc.).

JAPANESE OT STUDENTS CAMPUS VISIT 1

BY: DR. ERIC HWANG

October 13-14, 2018



"My day with the Japanese OT students was amazing. I was a little nervous about if I would be able to communicate with them, but right away we sat down to have lunch together and were able to communicate through Google Translate what we couldn't do on our own. I enjoyed sharing my knowledge of OT with them and I feel like in return I learned more than I expected from them!" -Emily Shleppey

NBCOT NATIONAL STUDENT CONCLAVE

BY: ROBIN NGUYEN

This fall semester, the three of us were honored to represent Cal State Dominguez Hills in Atlantic City, New Jersey for the AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave. After two full days of informative sessions, we emerged from the conference feeling energized and excited about our future as occupational therapists. The conference touched upon topics ranging from self-care to advocacy. Preparing us for fieldwork and building entrepreneurial skills. Perhaps the most impactful session, "Know Your Value," featured Amy J. Lamb, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, current AOTA President, as the speaker. The session focused on reducing the gender gap, the negotiation process, and valuing ourselves fairly. We realized that there is so much more to be learned about taking our strengths and applying them to the professional world. We walked away enlightened and empowered, ready to take on the challenges ahead.



“Success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be.”

- George Sheehan

HTLA SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Josephine Mickelsen from Cohort 14 for receiving the 2018-2019 Hand Therapy of Greater LA Scholarship.

November 9-10, 2018

PTN VISIT



November 30, 2018



BY: FAITH MOY

C14 visited Pediatric Therapy Network (PTN) to expand their understanding of Ayres Sensory Integration (ASI) as an evidence-based intervention. They were hosted by four master clinicians who lectured on the history of ASI, use of equipment, relating theory to treatment, and treatment planning with ASI. This was a great experience for all!



CSUDH-CGU (Chang Gung University) Student Exchange Program

December 26, 2018 - January 4, 2019

By: Dr. Yan-hua Huang & Dr. Heather Kitching

The CSUDH-CGU Student Exchange Program was designed by Dr. Yan-hua Huang who holds an occupational therapy license and has clinical, teaching and research experience in both Taiwan and the U.S. This program aims to invite students from the two universities to explore cutting-edge clinical sites, gain hands-on experiences, engage in cultural activities and share best OT practices between the two countries. This student exchange program launched in 2017 when CSUDH OT Department first hosted Taiwanese OT undergraduate students in summer. December 2018 was the first time CSUDH OT Department sent its students to CGU in Taiwan.

In this second full year of the exchange program with CGU, four OT students from CSUDH traveled to Taiwan from December 26, 2018 through January 4, 2019. Experiences included visits to several mental health facilities in the surrounding area of Taoyuan City as well as cultural site visits and other experiences over the New Year's holiday. Vivian Huynh, Alexandra McNay, Robin Nguyen and Allison Oseas were in attendance with faculty members, Dr. Yan-hua Huang, Dr. Heather Kitching and Dr. Lora Woo. OT mental health practice is vibrant in Taiwan - our visits included a community-based wellness center, inpatient programs, outpatient/day treatment programs, residential programs for individuals with psychiatric diagnoses and a community rehabilitation center inclusive of vocational skills workshops and a client-run thrift store. The exchange program has been a successful and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



December 26, 2018 - January 4, 2019

"Visiting Taiwan was such a valuable experience to my growth as an OT student. We were graciously welcomed by professionals, students, and even their clients! I had the privilege to learn from our Taiwanese colleagues about true interdisciplinary teamwork and innovative community programming, and will take this experience with me as I enter the field as a new professional." -Allie McNay



"I am incredibly grateful to the CSUDH and Chang Gung OT departments as well as to Dr. Huang, Dr. Kitching, and Dr. Woo for granting me the opportunity to develop my clinical reasoning and cultural competency skills in an immersive setting. This trip opened my eyes to the ways that the same clinical frameworks and models of practice as are used in the U.S. take shape differently within Taiwan's unique political, sociocultural, and economic landscape. Seeing the differences in service delivery has inspired me to always maintain an open mind, engage in reflective practice, and be a positive agent of change to the profession of occupational therapy." -Robin Nguyen



"This trip has been an amazing journey that was more than I could ever ask for. It was an experience of reciprocity about the knowledge and culture of OT and Taiwan itself. It was an eyeopening insight to the amount of cohesiveness and altruism in Taiwan's unique service delivery which are the attributes that I aspire to carry back to the United States. It was a great privilege to be immersed in this amazing experience." -Vivian Huynh



"This trip provided a truly unique experience to learn more about my chosen career in a broader realm, as well as to expand my horizons and see a culture drastically different from the one I see every day."

-Ally Oseas



JANUARY 11, 2019

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Cohort 15



By: Dr. Gina Phelps

On Friday, January 11th, we welcomed the newest cohort—C15—to the Dominguez Hills Occupational Therapy family. Sixty-nine students were admitted to our program and participated in the new student orientation. Dr. Peralta and Dr. Kitching reviewed the student handbook. Faculty members and students from C14 were on hand to answer any questions and provide information regarding the first semester. C14 students also organized a scavenger hunt around the campus to help students become familiar with such locations as the library, food court, student union, OT classrooms, university police, and financial aid. A delicious lunch was provided by the department, and, of course, photos and selfies were in abundance.



Tamliza

January 26, 2019



"The Tamliza was an enriching experience for multiple reasons. I had heard tamale making was an all-day endeavor, but actually participating in its preparation gave the activity much more depth. From getting the hang of the right amount of filling to add, to mastering the firm yet gentle fold required to contain it, we all got to learn each of the surprisingly intricate steps required to produce the ultimate tamale. It was also a treat to be together with all three sections, some professors, and even other OT colleagues. Heather and Lora's apron gifts took the already amazing event to the next level, and I am reminded when I wear it at home of the great time I had at the Tamliza." -Amy Lee

"Tamliza was such a wholesome and enriching experience and I'm truly grateful I got to take part in the gathering with my classmates, professors, and family alike. What made Tamliza so memorable was the fact that in addition to all of us working together as a team, we were also learning how to make a popular Latin American dish together in tamales. Doing so donning custom CSUDH Occupational Therapy aprons made the experience all the more special."

-Christopher Chauteco

"The Tamliza was a fun event where myself, fellow students and faculty could relax and bond over food. Due to our busy schedule it was nice to enjoy each others company in a relaxed environment. I really enjoyed learning how to make tamales as well as hearing about the rituals behind the making of tamales within certain cultures. The Tamliza will be a memory I will fondly look back on while at CSUDH; we laughed, enjoyed the day and left happy and full."

-Sydney MacWilliams



Front row (Left to right): Christina Villasenor, Sydney MacWilliams, Sylvia Duarte. Middle row: Kendira Villalobos, Loree Pham, Jenny Trinh (and daughter), Isabelle Guevara, Emma Nishimura, Allison Litzinger (behind Emma), Heather Kitching, Lora Woo. Back row: Bryan Dericco, Christopher Chauteco, Regina Sarnicola, Amy Lee and Gina Phelps.

"More than 15 Toros were hosted by Sylvia Duarte at her home on January 26, 2019 for the inaugural Toro OT Tamliza! Sylvia is a long-time colleague of Dr. Lora Woo at Los Angeles County California Children's Services and an affable hostess of tamale-making parties! Returning from the long, holiday break and kicking off the new spring semester with skill-building and good fun, we gathered to learn the process of making tamales. Our fillings included: green chile chicken, red chile chicken, red chile pork and vegetarian (roasted Pasilla chiles with Monterey Jack and corn). Preparing the masa, finishing the sauces, spreading, filling, wrapping...we stayed busy and finished with a few hundred tamales to take home and enjoy! Most significantly, we spent time together getting to know each other outside of the classroom and connecting through occupation!" -Dr. Heather Kitching

LICENSURE AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

February 7, 2019

Twenty students, faculty and community clinicians were in attendance for Chuck Willmarth's, CAE (AOTA Associate Chief Officer, Health Policy and State Affairs) presentation. Shaun Conway of the NBCOT was in attendance as well as CBOT President, Richard Bookwalter, and Vice President, Sharon Pavlovich.



CBOT Meeting on Campus

CBOT Executive Officer, Heather Martin, provided an impromptu review of professional licensure for contemporary OT practice.



Students from Dr. Mayfield's class were able to attend the meeting of our state licensing board and participated in the discussion with encouragement from board President, Richard Bookwalter.

February 7, 2019

AOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

New Orleans, Louisiana



Back row (left to right): Beverly Dovan, Theodora Chan, Heather Kitching, Briana Davidson, Teresa Cao, Lora Woo;
Front row (left to right): Elysia Aguerro, Vivian Huynh, Danielle Ballard

By: Dr. Heather Kitching

More than 25 Toro OT alumni, faculty and students were in attendance for the CSUDH alumni dinner at the AOTA Annual Conference & Exposition in New Orleans, LA April 4-7, 2019. There was more to do at our national conference than any one person could possibly fit into their schedule. The sites, sounds and flavors of New Orleans were intoxicating! Conference events included the outgoing address from President Amy Lamb and the incoming address from President-Elect Wendy Hildenbrand among many other exciting offerings. Dr. Yan-hua Huang and her student research teams alone presented four posters from her quantitative research methods course! Additional presenters from CSUDH included: Dr. Eric Hwang and Dr. Lauren Newhouse. Dr. Terry Peralta-Catipon attended the Academic Leadership Council Meetings for Program Directors, Dr. Gina Phelps attended the Academic Leadership Council Meetings for Academic Fieldwork Coordinators and Dr. Heather Kitching attended the Affiliated State Association Presidents Meetings.



Left to right: Cammie Mayfield, Halle Lorkis, Wendy Hildenbrand (AOTA President-Elect),
Morgan Kollenda, Heather Kitching (OTAC President), Deb Young (AOTA VP)

APRIL 4-7, 2019

APRIL 10-12, 2019

Osaka Japanese Student Visit

OSAKA MEDICAL WELFARE COLLEGE

BY: DR. HEATHER KITCHING

Thirty-eight occupational therapy students from Osaka Medical Welfare College in Osaka, Japan visited our department and our community partners at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center April 10-12, 2019. The students participated in learning activities organized by all three student clubs as well as multiple faculty. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the following faculty who provided stimulating lectures and hands-on activities for the visitors: Yan-Hua Huang, Faith Moy, Diane Mayfield, Mary Medina, and Shawna Townsend. Club officer Alex Villaneuva (SOTA), Jina Song (ICOT) and Vanessa Montes (PTE) planned interactive, cultural exchange activities that were well-received.



BY: Vanessa Montes



BY: Jina Song

I found the students to be extremely kind and generous. I had such a great time getting to know the students through different activities. The most enjoyable moment for me was painting a mural with the students and learning about what they like to do. I thought it was neat how although we spoke different languages we were still able to connect through meaningful occupations.

It was a memorable and educational experience hosting a group of occupational therapy students from Osaka, Japan as we got to share a part of our culture with them and learn about Japanese culture from them as well. I was happy to see them enjoying the OT intervention demonstration—Aggression cookies—we prepared for them, and I was also very humbled by how much time and energy they put into their cultural exchange portion for us.

CAREER FAIR

April 22, 2019

BY: Dr. Heather Kitching

The Department of Occupational Therapy held its 13th Annual Career Fair on Monday, April 22, 2019. We welcomed the California Board of Occupational Therapy, the CSUDH Infant Toddler Development Center and the CSUDH Career Center in addition to several employers and other community partners. The Career Fair has expanded over the years now welcoming a host of campus-based partners and other professional collaborators who contribute in different ways to the current stability and future visioning for occupational therapy. 27 exhibitors in total were present this year to meet and greet students from cohorts 13, 14 and 15. Over 210 students were in attendance to discuss potential fieldwork placements and eventual employment and license acquisition. It was exciting to welcome back home CSUDH OT graduates Jennifer Abdine (Cohort 3) of the Los Angeles Unified School District and Todd McDonald (OT BS 2000) of Vibra Rehabilitation Hospital of Rancho Mirage. Ms. Abdine is a staff therapist and the fieldwork coordinator at LAUSD, and Mr. McDonald is Director of Rehab Therapy at Vibra. How inspiring to see our graduates develop in their practice careers and become representative leaders in our profession!



*"It was a
complete
eye-opener"*

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY



BY: LOREE PHAM

From our initial Eleanor Clarke Slagle lecture presentations and literature review first semester to participating in Student Research Day, being able to compete at the CSU Research Day in Fullerton was really an amazing culmination of all the work and growth we've had over the past year. The actual day itself was a complete whirlwind and it's been astounding to see how far we've come since we first started the process of research. I'm so proud of my team and my classmates.

BY: SARAH MERCADO

It had been a long journey to get to that point, but it was a truly meaningful experience to get to share the photos and perspectives of our courageous participants amongst students of different disciplines throughout the CSU community.



BY: HEATHER KITCHING

Two cohort 14 research teams from the CSUDH OT program advanced to the state-level research completion held this year at Cal State Fullerton on April 26-27, 2019. Shawn Kim, Allison Litzinger & Sarah Mercado presented their Photovoice study, *The Lived Experience of Women Coping with Breast Cancer*. Loree Pham, Regina Sarnicola, Christina Villasenor and Tiffany Vu presented on *Spirituality in Occupational Therapy Practice*. OT Faculty in attendance included project advisor, Dr. Heather Kitching, as well as Professor Faith Moy and Dr. Lora Woo. Dr. Claudia Peyton, Acting Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Terry McGlynn, Professor of Biology and CSUDH Student Research Day 2019 Conference Chair, were also present to support and applaud our CSUDH student researchers.



BY: TIFFANIE VU

Having the opportunity to attend CSU Research Day really opened my eyes to how much students have contributed in their topics of interest through their hard work throughout the year. It was amazing to collectively come together statewide and share our findings as a whole, and I hope that future students will be able to find this experience as enriching as I did.



BY: SHAWN KIM

Profound and meaningful research allows us to make well-informed decisions to influence our practice and advance our profession. Being surrounded by likeminded and passionate individuals on research day has engendered an enthusiasm and appreciation for lifelong learning.



RED SHIRT CEREMONY



The Red Shirt Ceremony is a time which allows Cohort 15 to move from their first semester to the clinical training portion of the curriculum where they will enter their first Level I fieldwork. During the ceremony, the cohort chooses a song that represents their cohort and their journey through the program. They are given advice from fellow students in the cohort before them who have had 3 semesters of fieldwork experience. The students also get to sit down with students from the previous cohort to ask any questions they may have regarding fieldwork.

BY: RAZIA ARELLANO

Congrats to C15 for completing the first big milestone on your journey to becoming full-fledged OTs! The Red Shirt ceremony is an important tradition that grants a higher level of responsibility for us, students. I'm excited for the new experiences you will have during fieldwork exploring client-centered care up close and personal! My advice is to not be afraid of letting your personality show to your clients and to understand that we are all learning through this process together. Mistakes will happen, but it is how we learn from them that sets us on course to become better therapists. Trust in yourself, you made it here for a reason. Best of luck C15, you are all doing CSUDH proud!

BY: ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA

MAY 1, 2019

The Doing Project



Cohort 15



BY: DR. GINA PHELPS

The Doing Project is a creative project that identifies the student's meaningful activities across the lifespan—child (1–12 years old), adolescent/emerging adult (13–25 years old), adult (26–55 years old), and older adult (55+ years old). Often students will find that as they proceed through the life stages, their activities remain the same but mature as they do.

The purpose of The Doing Project is to encourage students to push themselves outside of their comfort zones and to think more creatively in order to design interventions for clients that are meaningful, occupation-based and client-centered. Students are provided with four chipboards that must be incorporated into the project in some form. The medium that students use is open: dance, skateboarding, singing, videography, storytelling, photography, music, sculpture, writing, painting, drawing, sewing,

The culmination of the Doing Projects was a showcase of all the work outside of Loker Student Union on May 1, 2019. We also had interactive activities including adult coloring, adaptive bowling and sensory tools and activities. Students engaged other students and faculty in the activities, discussed their Doing Projects and promoted occupational therapy and our program.



BULGARIA 2019

May 4-14, 2019

By: Dr. Paul Penoliar

This year's Bulgaria Service Learning Course was the best attended thus far bringing 18 total students from Cohort 14 to the Balkan nation. The added objective this year was to perform a portion of the Needs Assessment examining the potential physical environment sites for the projected OT clinic in the town of Stolat (stay tuned). During our work in the Rehabilitation Center, we formed 5 separate teams of students and assigned them a client to evaluate, treatment plan and deliver care. The range of issues addressed were deficits in cognition, perception, motor control, and social engagement. Based on clients and students' responses, we completed another successful course culminating in integration of adult physical disability theory/approaches, utilization of concepts for therapeutic use of self, and an understanding of work/life balance techniques. We want to congratulate this year's attendees for their consummate professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile for their client's needs in Bulgaria: Teresa Cao, Christopher Chuateco, Lindsey Coberly, Beverly Dovan, Isabelle Guevarra, Aaron Halva, Cherline Hung, Sydney MacWilliams, Emma Nishimura, Robin Nguyen, Chloe Poon, Marie Reyes, Regina Sarnicola, Emily Shleppey, Jennifer Siu, Jina Song, Tiffanie Vu and Sylvia Wong.



Graduation Banquet



The Graduation Banquet in honor of Cohort 13 took place on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 with over 200 students, and their family and friends in attendance. The department also had the pleasure of having the presence of Dean Gary Sayed, Interim Associate Dean Margaret Dee Parker, the Occupational Therapy faculty (Terry Peralta-Catipon, Diane Mayfield, Shawna Townsend, Gina Phelps, Heather Kitching, and Faith Moy) and staff (Samuel Castruita, Chandia Ojeda, and Edith Garcia).

Dr. Peralta-Catipon invited all attendees to participate in her “branding ritual”, which consisted of tattooing themselves with the department’s logo (I ♥ OT) – an activity that was enjoyed by guests.

The banquet also included a moment to recognize students in several categories.

Academic Excellence: Justine Budke

Fieldwork Recognition: Jennifer McCann (Los Angeles Unified School District)

Marisa Cowan (LAC+USC Medical Center)

Kathrin Klenshtyen (Olive View UCLA Medical Center)

Adee Rozov (Centinela Hospital Medical Center)

Leadership & Professionalism: Josie Mickelsen, Monique Le, Melissa Lowndes

Creativity and Community Service: Kristen Lee

Most Inspirational: Moms of C13, Parker Zak, Yuna Kim, Nicole Mosser, Sheri Lam,

Aimee McAndrews

Thanks to the students of C13 and C14 who volunteered to help make this event possible.

A special thanks to Monique Le who headed this group of students.

“The biggest attendance in terms of graduation banquets participation so far, and this was due to the focus on minimalism. It was in our interests to make sure that families could come celebrate with little to no financial barrier. It seemed like a risky move, however, the numbers balanced themselves out. It was a success! Special thanks to the team of students who helped make it possible: Halle Lorkis, Kristen Lee, and Josie Mickelsen.” -Monique Le

Congratulations!

May 15, 2019

Commencement Cohort 13

May 18, 2019



"Our CSUDH Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program graduation was one flooded with every type of emotion. It was surreal to have reached a day that seemed so far off in the future, and yet here we were, donning our OT sashes with honor. It was a momentous day, feeling like we were in a state of liminality; we were reflecting back upon on all of our accomplishments and countless hours of hard work in school, and at the same time, looking forward towards our bright futures and careers, where even more growth and learning await us. I am beyond grateful to have been surrounded and encouraged by incredible professors and passionate classmates to achieve our goals, and to have been provided with opportunities to flourish as individuals. I feel tremendous pride in my classmates and myself for the determination, time, and effort put forth to reach this point in our lives, and for the people we have grown to be, personally and professionally. I feel proud to be colleagues and friends with each of my Cohort 13 classmates and excited to start a new chapter as occupational therapists, working together to bring positivity to our communities. Go Toros!" -Adee Rozov



"The OT program at CSUDH has given me much more than a Master of Science degree. I have gained clinical experience, personal growth, and lifelong friends. I am proud to join a profession and community of caring, understanding, and passionate health care providers as I embark on this next chapter in my life as an occupational therapist. Thank you to all of the staff at CSUDH in the MSOT program who have shared their time, expertise, and personal experience to ensure that our cohort will be prepared for our future endeavors as OTs. Congratulations Cohort 13, we did it!"

-Rebecca Moss



Faculty Highlights 1

In Fall 2018, Dr. Eric Hwang and colleagues published a research article in American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT), titled “Employment outcomes after vocational training for individuals with chronic psychiatric disorders: A multicenter study”. This was an internationally collaborative research project across the U.S., Taiwan and Australia. The study presents an innovative vocational rehabilitation model for people with chronic psychiatric disorders. The positive employment outcomes of such vocational training model were fully validated and presented in the article.

Lee, H-L., Hwang, E. J., Wu, S-L., Tu, W-M., Wang, M. H., & Chan, F. (2018). Employment outcomes after vocational training for individuals with chronic psychiatric disorders: A multicenter study. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72(5).

Abstract:

People with a chronic psychiatric disorder (CPD) have low employment rates worldwide. This multicenter retrospective cohort study examined the employment outcomes of an innovative in-house vocational training program for people with CPD in Taiwan and explored which program parameters significantly predicted outcomes. Data were retrieved from the records of 323 participants who completed the training program. Satisfactory employment rates were found at 1 (52.9%), 3 (60.4%), and 6 (65.6%) mo posttraining, and 38.7% of participants demonstrated high employment sustainability (employed throughout the first 6 mo posttraining). Three program parameters significantly predicted employment outcomes: (1) occupational therapists’ pursuit of additional training or short-term apprenticeship pertinent to clients’ job interests, (2) posttraining vocational counseling provided by community-based occupational therapists, and (3) the duration of 6 mo posttraining to allow clients to prepare for competitive employment. Occupational therapist–led in-house vocational training is a promising alternative to traditional vocational training for people with CPD.

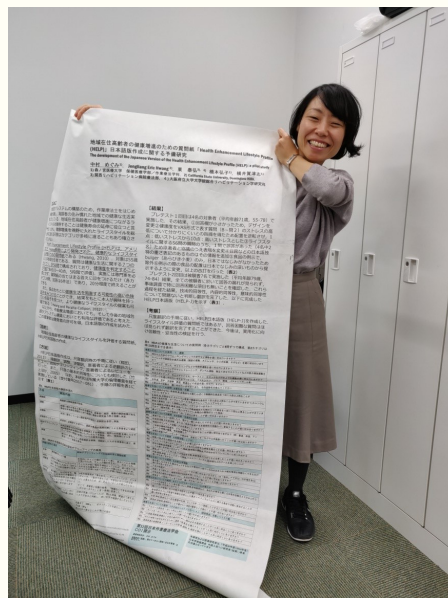
On April 4th, 2019, this study was also presented proudly by Dr. Hwang in a research panel at **2019 AOTA Annual Conference & Expo, New Orleans, Louisiana.**



Faculty Highlights 2

Dr. Eric Hwang received a research fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). JSPS was founded in 1932 as a non-profit foundation through an endowment granted by Emperor Showa. Some main functions of JSPS are to promote international scientific cooperation and support scientific innovations between the academic community and industry. Over this 70-year period, JSPS has worked continuously to develop and implement a far-reaching array of domestic and international scientific programs by inviting highly established scholars all around the world to launch and/or advance their innovative projects.

As a JSPS Fellow for Research, Dr. Hwang traveled to Morinomiya University of Medical Sciences in Osaka, Japan in December, 2018. During his three-week fellowship, he guided the OT fellows at the University to develop and validate a Japanese version of the Health Enhancement Lifestyle Profile (HELP), held consultations to practitioners who were interested in developing HELP lifestyle programs for community-dwelling older adults, and gave lectures and speeches to the faculty and students at Morinomiya University.



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**SPECIAL THANKS
TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS**

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Adee Rozov	Ally Oseas
	Amy Lee

The logo for California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). The letters 'CSUDH' are displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. 'CS' is in maroon, 'U' is in yellow, and 'DH' is in maroon. A thin horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS

CSUDH

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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Note: Submissions are subject to editorial discretion.
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