

FALL 2022 EDITION

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NEWSLETTER

Faculty Spotlight

Jeanne Zobel-Lachiusa



Thank you for inviting me to introduce myself. I have been teaching in BPU's occupational therapy program for over 8 years and have been an OT for 25+ years. I currently teach the pediatric series of courses. I am the advisor of the BPU OT club (SOTA). The club does fun things such as volunteering for community events and fundraisers. SOTA is currently working with P.A. on a holiday food drive for a local homeless shelter. I love being an OT and teaching others about our amazing and interesting field. As OTs we may work in schools, hospitals, clinics and community settings with clients of various ages and disabilities. We use meaningful, purposeful activities, what we call "occupations", to help our clients improve their health, function and independence. Some of my favorite occupations are: bike riding, camping/ hiking, bee keeping, yoga and gatherings with our large family. I live in Longmeadow with my husband and four children. I look forward to meeting you in person sometime!

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Playground Model Showcase



Winner Kiara Rodriguez

Remember going to the playground when you were young? Did you like the monkey bars, slides, or playing hopscotch? Dr. Kayla Berthiaume's HHS 401 Play & Leisure class had a terrific project exploring this important area of children's development. Students created models of playgrounds to integrate the latest and greatest features, address safety and accessibility, and demonstrate their creativity. Special thanks goes to Hatch Library for hosting the showcase with campus voting for the best one!

Community-based project for HHS 304



Students in the Communicating in the Helping Professions class this fall are out in the community practicing their skills!

At the Longmeadow Adult Center, a newly remodeled state-of-the-art facility, students are meeting with area residents for lunchtime and activities.

And at the Early Learning Center at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, time is being spent with kiddos in the classrooms, aged 2-5.

Two different age groups and different communication skills needed - but both sites are providing a good challenge and a lot of fun!

Meet and Greet Event



At the beginning of the semester, students were invited to our "Meet & Greet" event to learn more about the Psychology, Pre-OT and Health & Human Services programs. Information about special events, field trips and conferences was shared, and students got to connect with faculty as well as other students in the programs. We had a tremendous turnout and plan to repeat this event in the spring semester!

"Context Project" display at the Ryan Center



Second year students in the Master's of Occupational Therapy Program displayed their creative models of OT places and spaces along with occupation toolboxes for a variety of community-based and medically-based health care programs benefiting today's populations. PreOT students were invited to the Ryan Center to see the models and connect with the grad students. This event was overseen by Prof Kim Henrichon, BSOT, MEd, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy.



Hygge-Ganza event

Hygge-Ganza!

What? Yes, hygge ("hoo-gah") was the focus of a special event hosted by students in the PSY 346 Health Psychology course. They have been learning about a variety of cultural practices for health and well being, and hygge was one that stood out! It is the Danish practice of getting cozy for relaxation. On a dark November afternoon, students gathered by the Fireplace Lounge in Blake Commons for hot tea and cocoa, healthy snacks, painting, calm music, raffles, and goodie bags! Lots of smiles were evident as students took time to socialize, relax, and hygge it up!

"Conversations with an OT" Monthly Speaker Series

Have you ever wondered what an Occupational Therapist does? Or what kinds of settings, populations, and needs they serve? The Master's Program in Occupational Therapy at Bay Path offers a virtual event each month by inviting an OT to share their work with our students! Some of our past speakers addressed pediatrics and nature-based programs, driving rehabilitation, mental health, addiction, and international work. Registration is required. For more information, please contact MOT faculty members Andrea Cordis and Tiffany Foster (acordis@baypath.edu; tfoster@baypath.edu)



Dia's Corner!

Hi, my name is Dia Almonte Arias and I am the Student Assistant in the Psychology Department. I am currently a Senior majoring in Communications and minoring in Sociology. I hold various leadership roles on campus, I am the President of A.L.A.N.A. (African American, Latin American, Asian American, Native American, Allies), Multicultural Advocate, a member of the DEI Student Subcommittee and Associate Editor for the Network News. I enjoy traveling and being active outside whenever I have the opportunity. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions at preot@baypath.edu.

Guest speaker for HHS 304

On a sunny day in September, students in the HHS 304 Communicating in the Helping Professions class met with a guest speaker.

Dr. Cheryl Boukakis, OTD OTR/L, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, presented on "Effective communication strategies for working with people with Alzheimer's Disease." World Alzheimer's Month is the international campaign by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) held every September to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia. Did you know more than 5 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's? Eighty percent are 75 yrs or older. We are very fortunate to have our very own Bay Path University professor, Dr. Boukakis, as an expert in aged care and as a trainer for the Alzheimer's Association.

