

GOLDEN BEAR NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR WNE OTD ALUMNI STUDENTS

By Kimberley-Aaliyah Lahens OT/s & Vini Thomas OT/s



WELCOME WNE OTD ALUMNI

MEET SOME OF THE COHORTS

We would like to connect and update you all on the current club organizations associated with our WNE OTD Program.

Below lists all the WNE OTD club organizations:

- **Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)**
- **Pre-OT Committee**
- **WNE Interprofessional Student Alliance (ISA)**
- **Inspired Minds**
- **The Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD)**
- **Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE)**

CLASS OF 2022



CLASS OF 2023



CLASS OF 2024 PICTURE COMING SOON...

MEET THE CURRENT SOTA OFFICERS



President
Armani Guillama



Vice-President
Clara Davenport



Secretary
Vini Thomas



Treasurer
Caila Nguyen



**Social Media
Chair**
Alyssa Daniels



Volunteer Chair
Amelia Lee



**Volunteer
Committee**
Rianna Lafleche



**Assembly of Student
Delegates (ASD) Rep.**
**Kimberley-Aaliyah
Lahens**



ASD Alternate
Michelle Kennedy



MAOT Rep.
Michaela Gallagher



MAOT Liaison
Molly Manning



SOTA Advisor
**Dr. Amy Burton,
OTD, OTR/L**

SOTA EVENTS

PAST EVENTS:

September:

- Monthly meeting

October:

- Monthly meeting
- Fundraisers
 - Potluck
 - Embroidery
 - Sticker sale
 - Fill the Card
- Guest Speaker: OT mentor Taylor (@becomingOT)

November:

- Monthly meeting
- Guest Speaker: Mr. Bravement, AOTPAC board member

December:

- Fundraiser:
- Candy Gram sale

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Intramural Sports
- OT Field Day & Banquet
- Fundraisers



@WNESOTA

MEET THE PRE-OT COMMITTEE



Co-Chairs: Amanda Hill (Left) & Avery Fornaciari (Right)

PRE-OT COMMITTEE EVENTS

PAST EVENTS:

September:

- About OT & Finding Your School
- Basics for Applying to School

October:

- OTCAS
- Writing Workshops

November:

- Faculty Panel
- Meeting & discussing with OTD department faculty

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- We would love to hear what events you want more of! Please reach out to us with any questions or suggestions for future events!

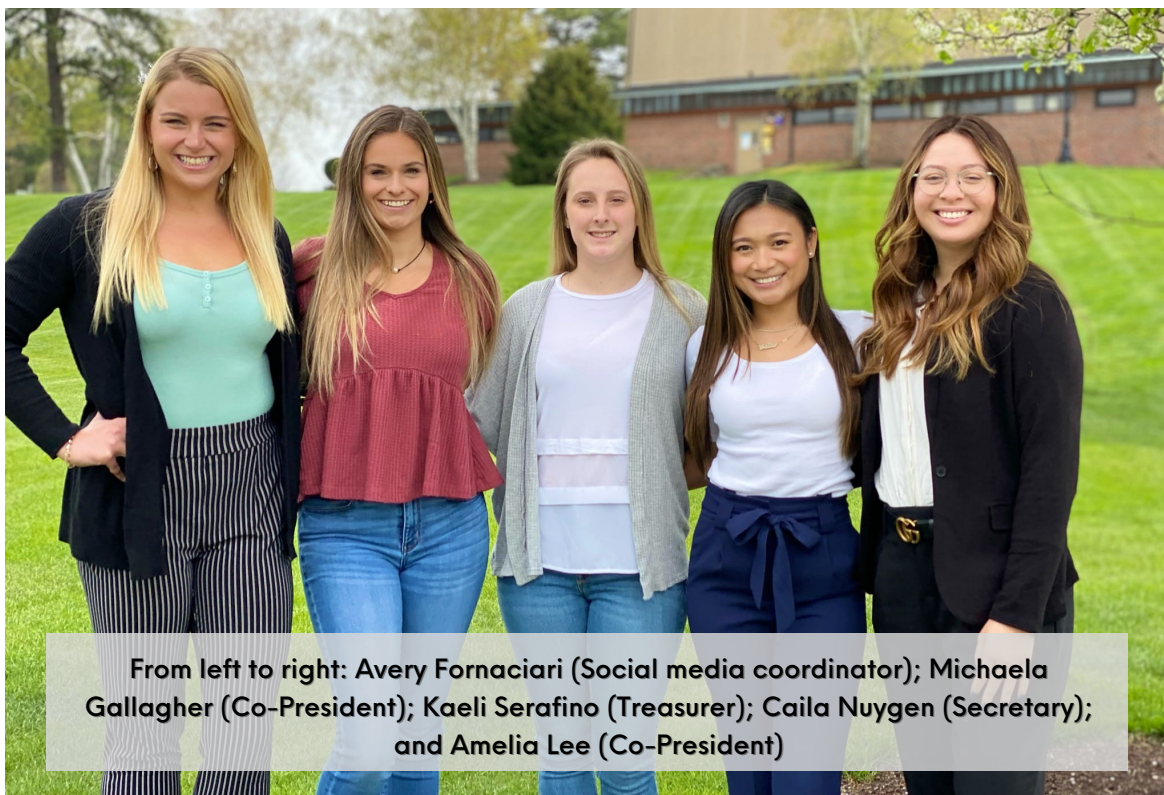


@WNE_OTD

CONTACTS US @

- Avery.fornaciari@wne.edu
- Amanda.hill@wne.edu

MEET THE INSPIRED MINDS OFFICERS



From left to right: Avery Fornaciari (Social media coordinator); Michaela Gallagher (Co-President); Kaeli Serafino (Treasurer); Caila Nuygen (Secretary); and Amelia Lee (Co-President)

INSPIRED MINDS EVENTS

PAST EVENTS:

September:

- Fall Coasters

October:

- Butterflies & Bats

November:

- Mini Thanksgiving Turkeys

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Intramural Sports
- OT Field Day & Banquet
- Fundraisers



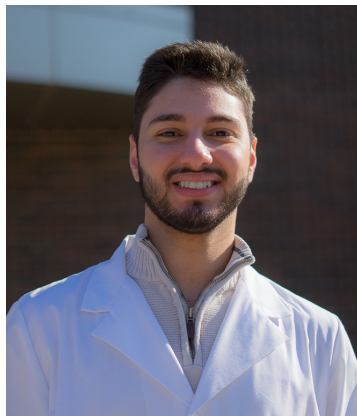
@INSPIREDMINDS
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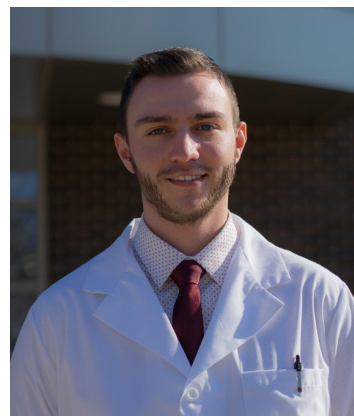
MEET THE ISA OFFICERS



OT Co-Chair
Illeana Alfonso



Pharmacy Co-Chair
Ali Al Juboori



Secretary
Tomasz Niewinski



Social Media Coordinator
Avery Fornaciari

ISA EVENTS



@WNEU_ISA

PAST EVENTS:

September:

- Monthly meeting

October:

- Monthly meeting
- Redbubble Fundraiser

November:

- Monthly meeting

December:

- Monthly meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Pizza social
- Trivia night



MEET THE COTAD OFFICERS



From left to right: Amelia Lee (Co-Chair); Kimberley-Aaliyah Lahens (Treasurer); Vini Thomas (SOTA-COTAD Liasion); and Avery Fornaciari (Co-Chair)

COTAD EVENTS



@COTAD.CH
_WNEU

PAST EVENTS:

September:

- The Role of OT in Judaism & its experiences
 - Presented by: Ileana Alfonso, OT/s & Danielle Goldberg, OT/s

October:

- Working Across Cultures in Mental Health
 - Presented by: Dr. Gopalkrishnan

November:

- Circle of Friends
- Sharing Experiences for Positive Change: A panel on healthcare discrimination

December

- Guest Speaker: Nancy (@lovely_ot)
- Wingsgiving Social with WNE Law Students

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Guest Speakers:
 - Manika Bhatti, OTR/L (@thebrownot)
 - Patricia (@transitionsot)
- COTAD Week: collaborating with other WNE student organizations



"I am...
But..."

I am...
White
& extremely
privileged
But...

"I am
NOT..."

I am NOT...
close
minded
...

I am...
white
But...

I am...
a lesbian
But...

I am...
filipino
But...

I am NOT...
a Republican
...

I am NOT...
attracted to
every woman
I see

I am NOT...
exotic
...

I am...
Black
But...

I am...
Black
But...

I am...
Keruan
But...

I am NOT...
...

I am NOT...
an OREO
...

I am NOT...
I can't run
...

Activity from "Circle of Friends" event

MEET THE 2021-2022 PTE INDUCTEES



Avery Fornaciari



Michaela Gallagher



Amanda Hill



**Kimberley-Aaliyah
Lahens**



Isabella Lagos



Amelia Lee



Olivia Nappi



Caila Nguyen



Vini Thomas

Faculty News

JOTE

Journal of Occupational
Therapy Education

Volume 5, Issue 4

The Impact of Trauma on Graduate Occupational Therapy Students: Trauma-Informed Implications for Educators

Erin Wells, OTD, OTR/L¹; Brittany Adams, OTD, MS, OTR/L¹;

Laura G. Wheeler, OTD, OTR/L²

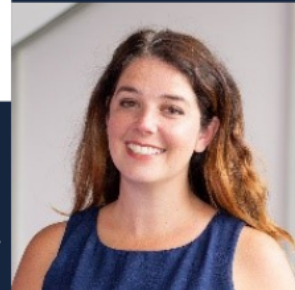
Western New England University¹

University of Hartford²

United States

Congratulations to Dr. Brittany Adams, Dr. Erin Wells, and Dr. Laura G. Wheeler, on their recent publication in the Journal of Occupational Therapy Education! Their study explored the impact of trauma on graduate occupational therapy students (OTS) from entry-level programs and how educators can support students through trauma-informed strategies. To view this publication, please visit:

https://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1379&context=jote&fbclid=IwAR1rD_9-UWdgC12AdrHT5a0-20nnw7Ho7n0VwmlVVkdIlgS88IwXY2DzOI5c



To view this publication, please visit:

<https://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1379&context=jote&fbclid=IwAR1pfNdnYZwtGayvOmTW9D1ODhqAitSS8nDGo6DTPOXMYIfbg4lcHe0TSZg>

Faculty News

DOCTORAL CAPSTONE COORDINATOR



Congratulations to Dr. Latour on her appointment to the position of Doctoral Capstone Coordinator in the Division of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Latour has been an instrumental part of growing and developing the OTD program since it has been founded. We look forward to seeing all the great things the OTD students will accomplish in their Doctoral Experiential Capstone projects with the guidance of Dr. Latour.

Faculty News

Please join WNE, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in wishing Dr. Cathy Dow-Royer a happy retirement! In 2015, Cathy was appointed as the Founding Chair/Program Director and Professor of the entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at Western New England University. Cathy's vision for WNE to be the first entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program implemented in Western Massachusetts came to fruition and has since grown into a fully accredited OTD program that transforms students into professional leaders, impacting populations and advancing community health outcomes.

Cathy's extensive professional career as an occupational therapist includes professional practice in the areas of early intervention, children and school systems, adult developmental disabilities, and hand therapy. Prior to coming to WNE, she served as Program Director and Associate Professor in the American International College, Occupational Therapy program.

Her immense contribution to the occupational therapy profession and WNE is greatly appreciated, and we wish her all the very best in her well-deserved retirement. Thanks Cathy and we hope to see you on the golf course!

