



Spring semester in the OT department means the clinic is open! OT students work under the supervision of practicing occupational therapists who guide them in performing every part of the occupational therapy process with participants from the local community.

Out of the textbooks and into the lab



OT 647/747 OT Process with Adults II

Second year OT students had the opportunity to hear from Amanda Parezo, occupational therapist, educator, and spinal cord injury survivor, during *OT Process with Adults II* this spring. For the past four years, Amanda has been a regular guest speaker in the course, candidly sharing both the challenges and triumphs of her recovery following an accidental gunshot injury in May 2021 that resulted in an ASIA A T10 spinal cord injury.

Her inspiring journey and openness provides students with meaningful insight into the lived experience of spinal cord injury, enriching their personal understanding of the rehabilitation process from ICU to outpatient care. Amanda demonstrates

resilience in the face of tragedy and illustrates how her injury has created opportunities to advocate for improved community mobility, leading to new roles and meaningful occupations.

Following her presentation and discussion, students gathered for both a serious and a not-so-serious photo with this remarkable individual. Thank you, Amanda!



OT 648/748 Process in Pediatrics II

The second-year cohort stepped into an afternoon of intrigue and elegance, reminiscent of the Great Gatsby. During a Murder Mystery Escape Room, students put their executive functioning skills - planning, problems-solving, collaboration - to the ultimate test. Dressed in dazzling Gatsby-inspired attire, they unraveled clues with style and flair. In the end, the mystery was solved in grand fashion, making for a memorable and spirited Peds II Lab.

Dr. George Tomlin Evidence Symposium

Please join us on Thursday, May 7th for the annual Dr. George Tomlin Evidence Symposium from 6-8pm in Harned Hall. This year's symposium will include topics such as best practices for addressing sensory loss post stroke, neurodivergent affirming feeding strategies, OT collaboration with dental health industry, occupational engagement in widowhood, and OT's role in therapeutic gardening to support veterans with PTSD, in addition to much more.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP by clicking the link below.

Symposium RSVP



UPS OT Faculty and Alumni presentations include:

Sensory Based Interventions for Emotional Regulation in Mental Health / **Chantelle Jordinelli, Stefanie Bartlett, Becca Griffin & Faith Vogel**

Role of OT in Supporting Executive Function in Middle School Students / **Lily Beebe, Anna Oldenkamp, Samantha Moeller-Collado & Lauren Perkinson**

Executive Function in Foster Children and Adolescents: OT Lens / **Dr. Molly Minaberry**

Skill Expectations for Occupational Therapy Students: Exploring Perspectives on Readiness for Level II Fieldwork / **Dr. Andee Spehar**

Short Course 225: Embracing a Culture of Belonging for Neurodivergent OT Practitioners, Students, & Educators / **Drs. Elizabeth Sherman-Thomas** and Jessica Rismiller

Using the Occupation-Centered Intervention Assessment to Enhance Learning in University-Based Pediatric OT Student Clinic / **Drs. Sheryl Zylstra and Maggie Hayes**

AOTF Virginia Scardina Award of Research Excellence Recipient – **Dr. Renee Watling**

Institute for Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy Recipient – **Kelsey Hinton**

Join us for the Alumni Reception!

The **UPS School of OT** will be hosting a faculty, student, alumni event:

Friday 4/24 at **Rise Rooftop Lounge** beginning at 6pm.

Small plates and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Please join us to spend time connecting with current students, faculty, and Puget Sound OT grads - as well as enjoying the sights and sounds of an Anaheim evening!



Reception RSVP

Faculty Scholarship



World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress

In February 2026, three faculty members from the School of Occupational Therapy traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to present their scholarly work at the 19th World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress.

Cecille Corsilles-Sy, PhD, OTR/L, presented a poster titled *Building Capacity Among Migrant Workers in Hong Kong: An International Collaboration Using the Community Resiliency Model*.

Shelly Norvell, OTD, OTR/L, DipACLM, presented two posters: *AMPDECIDE: Point-of-Care Decision Support Tools to Facilitate Amputation Level Decision Making and Rehabilitation Planning for Occupational Therapists* and *Examining the Relationship Between Universal Design for Learning Principles and Varied Student Learning Principles*.

Renee Watling, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, was invited to deliver a platform presentation titled *Using Caregiver Perspectives of Receiving OT to Improve Evidence-Based Practice and Client-Centeredness*.

Together, these presentations showcased our program's commitment to advancing occupational therapy research, education, and evidence-based practice while contributing to global conversations on international collaborations, inclusive education, and client- and caregiver-centered care. While there, Cecille, Shelly, and Renee were able to spend some time exploring Thai culture, sampling the delicious foods, and networking with other OTPs from around the world.

Lilly Conference for Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning

In January 2026, three faculty members from the School of Occupational Therapy traveled to San Diego, CA to present their scholarly work at the Lilly Conference for Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning.

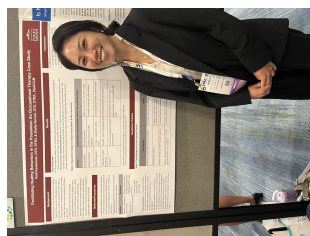
Aimee Sidhu, OTD, MA, OTR/L & Amy Kashiwa, OTD, OTR/L presented a round table discussion on the utilization of interactive digital scavenger hunts as an instructional strategy for student and faculty engagement across the curriculum.

Elizabeth Sherman-Thomas, PhD, OTR/L, presented a round table discussion analyzing the feasibility of implementing suggested deadlines for assignments in higher education.

One conference theme centered around the impacts of artificial intelligence on learning communities, including approaches to both embrace and resist within higher education.



Alumni Scholarship



Kelli Kawamoto (OTD '24) presented her capstone research at the annual conference of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, held in Dallas, Texas, November 16–19, 2025. She and Clinical Associate Professor Shelly Norvell, OTD, OTR/L, DipACLM, co-authored a poster titled, *Facilitating Healthy Behaviors in the Houseless: An Occupational Therapy Case Study*.

They were proud to represent the University of Puget Sound’s School of Occupational Therapy at this conference, which brings together health care providers from around the world dedicated to health promotion and disease prevention.

Student Corner

Institute for Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy

Kelsey Hinton has been selected to participate in the in-person institute at the INSPIRE Annual Conference & Expo in 2026.

The purpose of the Institute is: (1) to identify potential scientists in entry-level education programs; (2) to connect potential entry-level scientists with mentors in the occupational therapy scientific community; and (3) to develop a peer network.

Congratulations Kelsey!



Curious about the pins? We will be sharing some of the logbook entries in the next few newsletters so keep watching this section to read about where OT has taken Puget Sound alumni!

I have been serving several years with Passion Center for Children in Malawi Africa. I have been named their International Director of the Champions Club which serves special needs children in the Mulunguzi and Jali communities and surrounding villages. Twice each year, I spend 2-3 weeks working with the children and their guardians in Malawi. WhatsApp and ZOOM keep me in touch with Passion Center's in-country staff when I'm home in Washington.

It's such a joy to provide love and encouragement as well as practical support and resources to Passion Center's staff, these children, and their families in one of the world's poorest countries.

Cheryl (Laufer) Coddington

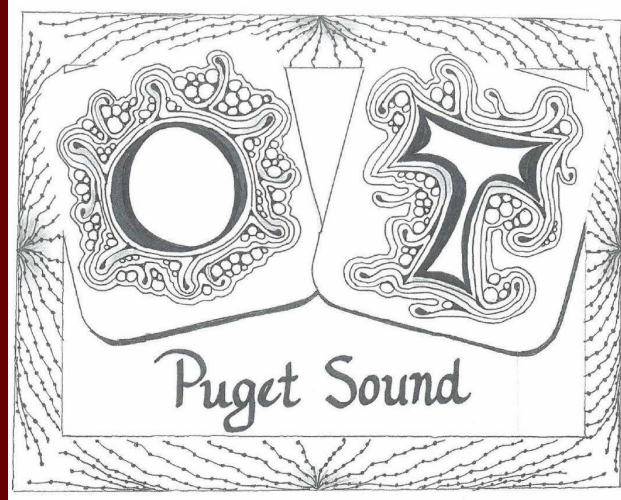
Class of 2000

Our legacy map is designed to show where our alumni have taken their Puget Sound OT degrees around the world with practice, teaching, and service. Want to place a pin on the map? There are a couple of ways you can add your mark:

- In-person: Visit us on the 2nd floor of Weyerhaeuser Hall and pin the map where you have practiced OT, taught OT, or volunteered using your OT skills.
- Send us details about where you have taken your OT degree: Email us about your OT journey and we will add your pin(s) to the map: ot@pugetsound.edu.

CELEBRATE!

After more than 40 years in OT practice filled with dedication, hard work, and countless contributions, Professor Yvonne Swinth is beginning a new adventure in retirement. Please watch your email for upcoming celebration details to honor our fabulous colleague, mentor, and friend.



If you haven't provided feedback already, please take our survey...

The School of Occupational Therapy is gathering information about the Puget Sound OT Program for future opportunities and current data reporting. The target audience is both OT graduates and friends of the program.

Please help us out by completing this short, 5-minute survey. We appreciate you!

[OT Survey](#)



Follow us [School of Occupational Therapy Facebook page](#) and [Instagram](#)



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

University of Puget Sound 1500 N. Warner St. #1070 | Tacoma, WA 98416-1070 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.