

University of Central Arkansas
Department of Occupational Therapy
Capstone Project Titles & Abstracts
2022 Cohort

Katelyn Bates



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Advanced Clinical Practice in Brain Injury
Rehabilitation: Educational Application

Committee Members:

Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, PhD, OTR/L, ATP
Amy Goddard, OTR/L, CBIS, ATP
Dr. Karen James, PhD, OTR/L
Todd Sander, OTR/L
Wendi Pool, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This Doctoral Capstone project focused on advanced clinical skills, leadership, and education within the realm of

OTD/OTA collaboration in brain injury rehabilitation. Advanced clinical skills were obtained throughout various clinical experiences, and obtaining the Certified Brain Injury Specialist Certification. Knowledge gained throughout the certification process was then utilized to create and implement student teaching modules focusing on brain injury rehabilitation education and best practice interventions. The modules were tailored to Occupational Therapy Assistants' scope of practice and presented to students in three OTA programs in Arkansas. The educational module discussed the brain injury population, best practice interventions, occupations affected, occupational therapist's roles in rehabilitation, and practical implications. Additional learning opportunities were obtained through collaboration with the Arkansas Brain Injury Support Program.

Matt Bemis



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Application of Additive Manufacturing in Occupational Therapy

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Jason Huselton

Alyssa Welch

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The goal of this Capstone project was to create a resource for occupational therapy practitioners, students, and educators who are interested in learning about applications of 3D printing in relation to Occupational

Therapy practice. Over the course of this capstone project, I developed a series of instructional videos and visual guides to display this information in a way that is readily accessible to students, faculty, and practitioners. In addition, the website houses useful resources and links to free designs. In addition to the resources that were developed to meet the goals set forth by the project, I was able to learn more about the process myself in the hopes of being a resource moving forward.

Blake Bennett



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

High Hoops Academy: A Summer Basketball Program for “At-Risk” Youth

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Dr. Josh Landers, DPT, CSCS

Miya Blackmon

Cara Schaefer

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience centered around program development, program implementation, and advocacy of occupational therapy amongst “at-risk” youth and within the

sporting realm. “At-risk” is defined as “any child who is unlikely to graduate, on schedule, with both the skills and self-esteem necessary to exercise meaningful options in the areas of work, leisure, culture, civic affairs, and inter/intra personal relationships.” Through this project, the student had the opportunity to work alongside eight young men (ages 12-18) when implementing High Hoops Academy. The two-day basketball program focused on the core values of communication, leadership, respect, responsibility, and teamwork. The young men were exposed each day to guest speakers who spoke on the core values of the program, as well as how to dream big and pursue their goals and passions. Resource binders were created for the camp participants, parents/guardians, and coaches of “at-risk” youth. These binders included a plethora of information, including but not limited to agility ladder drills, common injuries, gym etiquette, hydration/nutrition, training/gyms, and goal setting handouts. A business plan was also created to advocate for occupational therapy within a sports rehabilitation facility.

Kali Bolter



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Rediscovering OT in the Military

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

LCDR Tappitake, OTR/L, CHT, CBIS

CPT Prokopiak, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

"Rediscovering Occupational Therapy in the Military" was completed at a military treatment facility, Evans Army Community Hospital (EACH), in Fort Carson, CO. I worked with Army occupational therapists to better understand the roles and responsibilities of a military occupational therapist, specifically in the area of orthopedics and hand therapy. I developed a manual on the common

upper extremity (UE) diagnoses seen at EACH for the incoming occupational therapy (OT) officers and students to reference for stability and continuity of care. I organized and further developed the adaptive equipment (AE) and occupation-based toolkit to better serve the clientele at EACH. I also created AE handouts to provide patients with the resources they need to perform their occupations independently. Furthermore, I provided patient education handouts on UE diagnoses from the American Society of Hand Therapists to empower the clientele at EACH. I developed a splint education resource for the physician assistants at EACH to provide better holistic care for the clientele. I interviewed a military occupational therapist from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. I used the information gleaned to create an educational resource for the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) that explains OT in each branch. Lastly, I co-hosted an Army OT presentation for the UCA OT department to advocate for military OT.

Sara Bunner



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Fostering a Culture of Inclusion in a
Community Leisure Setting

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA
Roger Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA
Winnie Dunn, OTR, FAOTA
Brittney Kugler

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone project focused on
advocacy for increased accessibility and
inclusion efforts in community leisure
settings. I worked with the Museum of

Discovery in Little Rock, AR to evaluate and improve their sensory processing and neurodiversity inclusion initiatives. Our goal was to make the Museum of Discovery a welcoming and inclusive leisure space for all members of the central Arkansas community to participate in. This was accomplished through pre visit material and resource creation, environmental assessment and adaptation, staff education, fostering community partnerships, and the creation of a “sensory-friendly” event and an Accessibility and Inclusion committee at the Museum of Discovery. Organizational change was measured to determine the growth of the employees and the organization in regards to knowledge about inclusion for individuals with sensory processing differences.

Elizabeth Burgess



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Ready, Set, Kindergarten: A Kindergarten Readiness and Transition Program

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Heather Litchford, OTR/L

Marla Matthews

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience centered around program development and implementation as well as education. Transitioning into kindergarten is a critical period in a child's life. Their transition experience, whether positive or negative,

shapes their outlook on their remaining future school experiences. Unfortunately, children with developmental delays face more barriers than neurotypical children as they transition into kindergarten. Therefore, the goal of this project was to give the kids, who attend Kids Unlimited Learning Academy in Farmington, AR, more exposure to and practice with skills that are expected of them in kindergarten including: fine motor, letter recognition, emotion regulation, and routines. The children participated in 12 "kindergarten bootcamp" sessions throughout a period of 4 weeks. In addition, a portion of this project was dedicated to caregiver and preschool teacher education to enhance their confidence and skills in aiding the children with their transition to kindergarten. Caregivers and preschool teachers were provided information pamphlets regarding each of the 4 skills addressed during the program.

Natalie Carden



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Hands Helping Hands: A Study Group and Professional Society for Arkansas Students and Practitioners

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Mark Ellis, OTR/L, CHT

Nikki Sims, M.S., OTR/L, CKTP, CHT

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience centered around education and advanced practice, forming both the Arkansas Hand Therapy Society and

Helping Hands Student Study Group to promote community, advocacy, and evidence-based practice for hand therapists and students across the state of Arkansas. Throughout the capstone experience, the Arkansas Hand Therapy Society and Helping Hands Student Study Group was formed accepting membership from therapists and students from across the state of Arkansas, as well as, members from across the United States. This capstone experience sought to make hand therapy education more accessible and fieldwork opportunities less daunting for students and practitioners. Throughout the capstone experience, social media was utilized to create a community of 500+ practitioners, students, and outpatient clinics who continue to participate in daily trivia and weekly orthoses/condition matching with daily video explanations.

Samantha Cole



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

A Program Evaluation of a Nature-Based
Preschool: Implementation of Nature-Based
Occupational Therapy Intervention

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Laura Farnell, OTR/L
Rachel Parker

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The purpose of this doctoral capstone
experience was to explore nature-based therapy
by conducting a program evaluation of a nature-
based preschool program to determine the

effectiveness of nature-based schooling on kindergarten readiness and early development. This project addressed key areas of research, program development, advocacy, and education. In addition to conducting research, other resources such as floor books, sensory backpacks, educational resource notebooks for teachers, and an activity analysis notebook were created to address the needs of the nature-based preschool and incorporate occupational therapy intervention strategies. Through comprehensive activity analysis, intervention strategies were explored and activities were implemented with the children at the nature-based preschool. Occupational therapists both in the local community and in England, UK were interviewed and shadowed which provided more knowledge on the use of nature in occupational therapy practice through various settings with different populations and ages. Continued education on the topic of nature-based therapy was explored through research articles, podcasts, books, and a continuing education course related to the topic. This project developed a better understanding of nature-based occupational therapy intervention to increase knowledge in this emerging area of practice.

Paige Cromwell

**Title of Doctoral Capstone:**

Occupational Therapy Support for
Breastfeeding Mothers

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Barbara Burgner, RN, IBCLC

Mrs. Jordan Bittle

Mrs. Merri Dill

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience consisted of advanced clinical practice and education focused on providing occupational therapy support for

mothers and infants who are breastfeeding. The clinical practice involved completing lactation education and supervised clinical hours at Conway Regional Hospital that contribute to certification as an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant. Education centered around occupational therapy support for breastfeeding mothers was provided to the participants of the Great Start Lactation Club at Conway Regional and the La Leche League breastfeeding support group. The topics included babywearing, developmental milestones, infant massage, tummy time, and adapting as a new mother. The materials and resources created for the presentations were compiled into an electronic folder that was shared with the group leaders for future dissemination if desired.

Cody Davis



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Occupational Therapy's Role in
Preventing Workplace Injuries Among
Farmers

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Mr. Nathan Winter, MS, OTR/L, ATP, CEAS

Mr. Austin Nahlen

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience focused on education and advanced practice in the area of ergonomics. The agriculture industry is one of the largest industries in Arkansas and

every year there are numerous musculoskeletal injuries that happen on farms. During this capstone I was able to meet multiple farmers in central Arkansas and evaluate their operations leading to the application of ergonomic principles to their work routines. I was also able to develop a work safety presentation that was presented multiple times to groups of farmers. The overall goal of this capstone was to take a preventative approach to the high number of injuries taking place within the Arkansas agriculture industry.

Anna Grace Duggan



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Engaging and Relating: Relationship
Based Pediatric Occupational Therapy

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Dr. Jacquie Rainey, PhD, MCHES

Dr. Whitney Harper, OTD, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This project was dedicated to understanding the benefits of and practices of relationship based pediatric occupational therapy. In relationship based practice, the principle is building a connection with the clients and

their caregivers and using a strengths based approach to meeting developmental milestones. This project was completed with mentorship from a DIR Floortime certified clinic, Building Bridges Pediatric Therapy Services, aiding in the process for certification in DIR Floortime practice. DIR Floortime is a model of therapy that is used to promote an individuals development through a respectful, playful, joyful, and engaging process. It uses the power of relationships and human connections to promote engagement, communication, positive behaviors, and thinking.

Anna Grace Ellis



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

UCA OTD International Level I Fieldwork
in Tanzania, Africa

Committee Members:

Dr. Brittany Saviers, PhD, OTR/L

Dr. Philip Bailey, PhD

Kevin Linderman

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone project has focused on the development and evaluation of a Level I fieldwork experience to Tanzania, Africa for the UCA's occupational therapy doctoral program. The main focus for developing this

program is to provide educational opportunities for the development of cultural competence and humility skills and attitudes among UCA occupational therapy students, so that they may be equipped to serve and provide the best care to an increasingly diverse population. Throughout this experience I assessed the level of student interest, an institutional need, and a departmental need for the fieldwork experience in Africa. I also participated in research to create educational materials, learning experiences, and strategies to implement before, during, and after the fieldwork experience to develop cultural competency, cultural humility, and meet course objectives. Lastly, I met with international partners, university leaders, and organization leaders to produce a study abroad experience that will positively impact future participants and those they serve as future occupational therapists.

Mattingly Fallon

**Title of Doctoral Capstone:**

Performing Actual Life Skills (PALS): A Program for Foster Home Youth

Committee Members:

Dr. Tina Mankey, EdD, OTR/L

Victoria Lee

Jennifer Wyse

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone project is centered around program development, program implementation, and program evaluation for girls who are living at Haven House, a foster home in Conway,

AR. The 8 session summer program being developed will target 8 different skills that the girls are learning or should have learned (how to make various appointments/filling out forms, budgeting, college readiness, job application/interviews, importance of nutrition, grocery shopping skills, cooking, and the importance of leisure). There are basic life skills that every child should learn when growing up to help them build independence and care for themselves in an effective and appropriate manner. Children in foster care often fall behind in these skills due to lack of learning opportunities which is why this capstone project is relevant in this population.

Kalyn Garrett



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

To Love as Jesus Loves: An Inclusion Ministry

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Casanova, DPT, PT, BCPCS

Anne Purcell

Katelyn Tolle

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

To Love as Jesus Loves: An Inclusion Ministry was aimed at developing advanced clinical practice skills and creating educational support for staff

members and volunteers at The Summit. The education was delivered in pre-recorded format and had a goal of reducing the stress and anxiety that accompanies handling maladaptive behaviors. Additional educational presentations were delivered to increase the knowledge and tools to help children with special needs thrive within the children's ministry. This project produced outcomes associated with developing interprofessional communication skills and advocacy skills while also promoting application of knowledge that was learned throughout occupational therapy school. This project has been nothing less than a blessing from the good Lord and facilitated growth spiritually, personally, and professionally.

Emily Goolsby



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Ready, Set, Roll: Roller Skating Camp for Children with Disabilities

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Rebecca Corder

Holly Miguët, MS, OTR/L

Steven Southerland

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This project was focused on program development and advocacy within a roller-skating atmosphere. A 6-week roller-skating camp: *Ready, Set, Roll* was designed to

assist children with various social, emotional, and physical limitations in participating in the occupation of roller-skating. During each week's session there were games and activities that targeted social interaction and aimed to make the children more comfortable in a skating environment. The student delivered pre- and post-assessments from her occupational therapy toolbox to determine individualized goals to be reached by each child participating in the program as well as document any progress. Each child who participated in the program had different needs in regards to their individualized skating experience, and each child's perception of roller skating looked different depending on their wants and needs. For some their end goal was simply to be more comfortable in the environment and on skates, and for others it was to be able to skate without any assistance. By the end of the roller skating camp, all 7 of the participants verbalized that they felt more comfortable with roller skating.

Emily Ann Griffin



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Cultural & Linguistic Inclusion in OT: Meeting the Needs of Latino/a, Hispanic, & Spanish-speaking Clients & Families

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Luis Fernando Restrepo, PhD, MA

Toni Reddell, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience focused on advocacy and advanced clinical practice to address existing cultural and linguistic barriers within pediatric occupational

therapy practice for Latino/a, Hispanic, and Spanish-speaking clients and families. Advocacy efforts included development of a Bilingual OT Resource Manual with tools for caregivers and therapists, as well as in-service training at Grow Learning Centre. Advanced clinical practice included completion of a Medical Spanish curriculum and certification exam for a Qualified Bilingual Staff Credential, development of professionally translated caregiver education materials, and bilingual evaluation and treatment of clients from Spanish-speaking backgrounds at Grow Learning Centre. Additionally, participation in the Health Sciences Entrepreneurship Camp at UCA provided an opportunity to learn more about the legal, financial, and administrative aspects of consultative and entrepreneurial OT practice as it relates to providing specialized, bilingual OT services.

Lauren Harper



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Aging in Place: The Impact of Environment on Occupation

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Randi Metcalf

Nicole Vogler

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

Aging in place strategies focus on enhancing the safety and quality of life for older adults in their home environment while encouraging participation in valued occupations. Thoughtful, client-centered home modifications can be a cost-effective solution to support quality aging

in place (Mann, 1999). Occupational therapists are qualified to be at the forefront of the home modification market because of our foundational knowledge of the interactions between the person, environment and occupation in addition to our understanding of disease processes and functional abilities. This project addressed key areas of advanced clinical practice and education. The overall purpose of this doctoral capstone experience was to explore and advocate for occupational therapy's role in home modifications to support productive aging. The capstone purpose was accomplished through a myriad of means: completion of a five course certificate through USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology called The Executive Certificate in Home Modification (ECHM), creation and implementation of preventative educational classes at various Arkansas senior centers, completion of 10 in-home consultations for older adults wanting to age in place and provision of personalized home modification recommendations, creation of educational resources for OT practitioners and clients, connections and communication with other OT leaders in the field through the Home Modification Occupational Therapy Alliance, and engagement in leadership and professional development through books, webinars, and podcasts.

Cassidy Icenhour



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Family Education: A Holistic Program

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Hanna Qedan, OTR/L

Meggie Bretz, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This program was designed to provide educational seminars, materials, and experiences to the families and teachers of ACCESS schools in Little Rock, Arkansas. Four seminars were provided to families on the following subjects:

Sensory processing, behavior, fine motor and handwriting skills, and self-care. Throughout this program, unique opportunities were also provided to Access students to promote holistic education and carryover. After recognizing a lack of educational materials for teaching children about their sensory systems, this doctoral experience led to the creation of *The Sensory Superheroes Storybook* that is set to publish on Amazon on August 13, 2022.

Paige Jackson



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Utilizing Care Farming as a Therapeutic Activity to Improve Quality of Life

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Alexis Tyce, OTR/L

Tamara Moore, CDP, SSD, AD, CNA, AT

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience focused upon program development in a long-term care and short-term rehabilitation facility. The main component of the experience is care farming. Care farming, or farming for health,

uses farming and agriculture activities as a therapeutic base for promoting health and wellness. The residents at the facility tended to a sensory garden and participated in interactions with various animals. Additionally, educational, physical, and art related opportunities were implemented along with a program manual, research paper, and educational in-service for improved sustainability.

Olivia Karnes



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Patient and Caregiver Resource Modules
for Improved Post-Discharge Outcomes
from an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR
Rebecca Beck, OTR/L
Matt Gaines, DPT, PT

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

Occupational therapists often provide a
discharge plan for their patients
following treatment within an inpatient
rehabilitation facility. Due to secondary

complications of the diagnoses seen in this setting, patients often have difficulty generalizing their discharge plans from the hospital setting to their daily environment. This project was completed in partnership with the Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute in Conway, AR, and consisted of the revision and development of evidence-driven, multi-faceted and occupation-focused resources to adequately prepare patients and caregivers for their departure from the facility. The contents of these resources were placed into a portfolio and all therapy team members were given access to them. The development of a Christian-based group therapy program was also implemented and will be sustained to improve the well-being of patients through connectedness and self-assurance.

Emily Lock



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Supporting Parent-Child Dyad Within a Community-Based Program

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Lynne Hollaway, OTR/L

David Bise, OTR/L

Jessica Nichols

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone project was centered around the development and implementation of the *S.P.I.C.E.D Parent-Child Cooking Program* through Community Connections in Conway,

AR. *S.P.I.C.E.D.* (Supporting Parent Inclusion Creates Engagement & Development) aims to promote enhancement of the parent-child relationship. Through engagement in co-occupation and parent education on relationship-based therapy techniques, the program goals target increased parent self-efficacy surrounding the parent-child relationship, overall better family dynamic, and increased social participation through co-occupation. *S.P.I.C.E.D.* is a 5-week program consisting of parent training and cooking a variety of recipes. In addition to cooking with their family, parent participants are provided specific parent-coaching techniques to practice while engaging in shared activity. Parent education is provided through the parent training session, handouts, and verbal instruction prior to each session. In addition to cooking, participants also engage in enrichment activities promoting the parent-coaching techniques. To test parent self-efficacy and program effectiveness, parent participants complete the *Brief Parental Self Efficacy Scale (BPSES)* prior to the program and after program completion. Parent participant survey results in the capstone pilot program indicated overall improved parent self-efficacy following participation in *S.P.I.C.E.D.*.

Kelli Mayer



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Communication Experiences of Parents and Occupational Therapists in Pediatric Outpatient Clinics in Arkansas

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Lindsey Cashion, MS, OTR/L

Luke Hill, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience focused on conducting qualitative research to explore experiences of parents' communication with their child's OT in

outpatient therapy clinics in Arkansas. Interviews were conducted with parents and OTs within four outpatient therapy clinics located in the central part of the state to gather qualitative data. Observations of parent and OT interactions were completed in two of the four clinic locations. Through coding and thematic analysis, four themes emerged: (1) impact of COVID on parent/therapist communication, (2) consistency in communication is key, (3) medium of communication impacts connection, and (4) parent-therapist match through established relationships. Results of this study and other resources were used to create handouts for each clinic that consisted of the research results, pertinent information on communication from other resources, communication tips, and recommendations for alternative communication methods.

Eden McGhee



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Exploration of Occupational Therapy in
Mental Health at an
Inpatient Psychiatric Unit

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Dr. Rebekah Jenkins, OTD, OTR/L

Allie Clark, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience focused on the areas of advanced clinical practice and education. This experience provided an opportunity to explore mental health,

mental illness diagnoses, occupational therapy's role in mental health, and the creation of resources and interventions that were implemented in an inpatient psychiatric unit during occupational therapy groups. This experience occurred at Jefferson Regional Medical Center (JRMCC), located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Along with the creation of evidence-based and client-centered interventions, I also created an assessment tool that served as the evaluation method that measured the outcomes of each group session to determine the effectiveness of the created interventions. This experience promoted active participation, motivation, and served as an aid in the recovery process to address barriers associated with decreased mental health that inhibits participation in daily life.

Paul McLarty



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

All Inclusive Sports Clinic: A Recreational Community Outreach Program for Children of all Abilities in Searcy, AR

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Mrs. Jessica Nichols

Dr. Jennifer Anderson, OTD, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The goal of this capstone project was to promote occupational justice for children of all abilities by providing equal opportunity to participate in recreational community

programs. An eight week, all inclusive sports clinic was developed and implemented in Searcy, Arkansas. Each week, the children were introduced to a new sport and engaged in a variety of activities/drills related to that sport with the goal of promoting inclusion, community building, and overall well being. A weekly participant survey revealed that a vast majority of children enjoyed the program each week. A post survey given to parents revealed participants' made improvements in the following areas: Self-esteem, self-confidence, social skills, and the development of new hobbies. A majority of parents reported they felt supported by other families attending the program, and there was an overwhelming request for more programs throughout the year. This capstone experience supports OT's role in the development of adaptive sports programs to improve the quality of life for children with special needs and their families.

Mathew McQuay



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Resilient Care: An Interprofessional Student-Led Support Program for Dementia Caregivers

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Dr. Kerry Jordan, PhD, RN, CSN, CNL-BC

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

In the Spring of 2022, in-person support groups for dementia caregivers were still shut down in Conway, Arkansas and surrounding communities due to the pandemic. Resilient Care was created to fill this gap in support for these communities, utilizing an interprofessional approach from the

University of Central Arkansas' Doctor of Occupational Therapy and Master of Mental Health Counseling programs. An graduate student from each program balanced a psychosocial and skill building educational approach to each weekly two-hour session from their relative graduate education backgrounds. Research was conducted in conjunction with developing these sessions, measuring caregiver burden, mastery, and coping strategies while also conducting a focus group with participants of Resilient Care. Although the results from these assessments were not found to show significance, qualitative data from the focus group indicated a highly positive and educational experience for all seven participants. To ensure continuity of the skills, education, and network of resources available at the federal and state levels, a resource binder was created for each participant. Sustainability outlook for this much needed program is positive, as the foundation has been laid for future UCA graduate students with the goal of replicating Resilient Care at other universities throughout the state. A student binder has been created for continuity and continual growth for the next cohort of graduate student leaders of Resilient Care. Both graduate students will be continuing this program throughout the Fall of 2022 due to the feedback from the participants and the needs of Conway and surrounding communities.

Blair Miller



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Rural Law Enforcements' Perception, Knowledge, and Training Regarding People with Disabilities

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Tommy Norman

Sarah Harper, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience focused on conducting qualitative research to explore rural law enforcements' perceptions, knowledge, and training

regarding people with disabilities in Arkansas. Law enforcement participants were recruited by phone call and willing participants were interviewed. Interviews took place at rural county sheriff offices or over zoom. Through coding and thematic analysis, three themes emerged: (1) Law Enforcement Officers Perceptions of PWD is Shaped by Training and Personal Interaction, (2) PWD Experiences with Law Enforcement is Shaped by Socioeconomic Factors, and (3) Failures of the Legal System Lead to Repeat Interactions Creating a Cycle. Results of this study will be sent to rural sheriff offices that were interviewed. Last, this research will be written into a final manuscript and submitted for publication and/or presentation.

Katie Mitchell



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Advanced Practice in Occupational
Therapy: Pelvic Health

Committee Members:

Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, PhD, OTR/L, ATP
Dr. Darla Cathcart, PhD, PT, DPT, WCS, CLT
Dr. Cassidy Qualls, OTD, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This Doctoral Capstone Project
focused on advanced clinical skills
and patient advocacy/education in
women's health and pelvic health.

Advanced clinical skills were obtained

through clinical experiences at Conway Regional Core & Pelvic Physical Therapy Clinic in Conway, AR and Reaper Physical Therapy in Searcy, AR, as well as through two advanced continuing education pelvic rehabilitation courses through Herman & Wallace Institute (45 CEU hours) to gain "entry level" competency. Knowledge gained through both clinical experiences and advanced practice courses were utilized to create low to no-literacy accessible advocacy and educational materials for Afghan mothers in Oklahoma City, OK through SPERO project, for biomechanical, stretching, and relaxation strategies related to women's and pelvic health. Additionally, this knowledge was applied to create general education and advocacy posts for Dr. Quall's Pelvic Possibilities social media platforms, to better educate the community on common pelvic health challenges.

Makenzie Mooneyhan



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

More Than a Beat: The Effects of Implementing an Interactive Music Program in Long-Term Care Facilities

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Anna Laura McAfee, MMT, MT-BC

Tamara Moore, CDP, SSD, AD, CNA, AT

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone project focused on providing residents within a long-term care facility the opportunity to engage in an occupational therapy-based music

and movement program two times a week for 6 weeks. I had the wonderful opportunity to partner with Barnes Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Lonoke, AR to provide their residents with love, fun, and the power of music. Residents were involved in activities such as seated chair dances, musical bingo, drum alive, shaker dances, and more. Although program implementation was the highlight of this project, qualitative research was conducted to gain insight into the effectiveness of music through observed changes in sleep patterns/quality, mood, and motivation to engage in activities of daily living (ADLs). The results suggest that music, as well as group social interaction, contributed to improvements in the quality of life in all of the residents who participated.

Destanie Nelson



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Increasing Social Participation in Adults with IDD at Group Living, Inc.

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Wendy Atkinson, OTR/L, SIPT Certified
Shelia Hunter

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience centered upon increasing social participation at Group Living, an adult day center. The capstone had two main

components: program development and staff education. A weekly multisensory activity group was developed and implemented over eight weeks to provide an opportunity for engagement and target the clients' physical, mental, sensory, and social needs. Clients were involved in activities such as painting, drawing, creating sensory bottles, ring toss, ladder ball, and foam axe throwing. Further elements of the capstone project included staff education on clients' sensory needs and involved providing recorded trainings, handouts, and resources to facility staff. Additionally, clients received individualized sessions focused on enhancing the development of skills vital for social participation and community integration, including money and time management, basic arithmetic, and appropriate interactions with others.

Erin O'Donnell



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Advocating for Occupational Therapy's Role Within Primary Care While Working with People Experiencing Homelessness

Committee Members:

Dr. Brittany Saviers, PhD, OTR/L

Melissa Ross Bowen, MDiv, MS, OTR/L

Mrs. Katie Craig

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The purpose of this Capstone was to further learn about OT's role in working with people experiencing homelessness through an already established primary

care site. I had the unique opportunity to work alongside ARcare to provide services to this specific population at Canvas Community church in downtown Little Rock. The project consisted of implementing the OT process (i.e. screening, evaluation, intervention, discharge) to patients at the ARcare clinic to gain a better understanding of OT's role within this community and to meet the needs of the patients and the clinic through patient-centered goal setting and one-on-one therapeutic intervention sessions. I summarized my learnings in an article that is being submitted to AOTA's OT Practice magazine.

Maci Parrish



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Cultivating Inclusion in the Community
Through Organizational Change

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA

Lynne Hollaway, OTR/L

Laura Weigt, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

Have you ever been overwhelmed during a visit to a theme park, a museum, or even a zoo? *Making Sense: A Guide to Sensory Inclusion* was created to encourage organizations and community sites to think

deeper about accessibility and how to further develop inclusion in their setting. *Making Sense* is a generalizable resource that offers basic information, insight, tools, and additional resources to continue learning and adapting to meet the evolving needs of the neurodiverse community. The purpose of this project was to foster accessibility in community spaces and explore how public leisure settings can better engage neurodiverse guests. The goal of this experience was to discover areas within community spaces where supports could be added to better accommodate individuals with sensory processing differences during their visit. In addition to the creation of *Making Sense*, sensory-focused supports and staff training modules were created for both the Little Rock Zoo and the Arkansas Game and Fish Nature Center in order to further develop sensory inclusion at their sites.

Madi Rich



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Choosing Wisely®: Implementation of Occupation-Based Treatment in Stroke Interventions

Committee Members:

Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, PhD, OTR/L, ATP

Dr. Brooke Poppe, OTD, OTR/L

Dr. Talon Boyd, OTD, OTR/L

Dr. Melanie Beck, DPT

Dr. Amanda Hitzemann, OTD, OTR/L, CSRS

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience incorporated key areas of interest emphasizing

advanced clinical practice and research. The study by organized and categorized stroke interventions utilized at two facilities and compared to the AOTA Choosing Wisely® recommendations. It started with observation hours on site with documentation of interventions taking place, and interviews with therapists to gain insight to their intervention selection process and what interventions they use. This data was analyzed to create a report in the form of a handout. This handout listed the AOTA Choosing Wisely® recommendations, and appropriate intervention suggestions that apply to the recommendations relating to post-stroke rehabilitation and was provided during an in-service to participating sites.

Graycen Russell



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Fostering Connections

Committee Members:

Dr. Tina Mankey, EdD, OTR/L

Tiffany Lepard-Tassin, MS, CGC

Dr. Elizabeth Cleveland, PhD, SLP-CCC

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

Fostering Connections was focused on promoting connections between the field of occupational therapy and the world of foster care. This was designed to help bridge the gap between the two and prevent children from “falling through the cracks” when it comes to receiving developmental therapy services. Through

a partnership with The Call in Arkansas, educational trainings were provided to foster parents regarding developmental therapy services. This training session was around the state, totaling 81 parents from 16 different counties. 19 graduate level students were also recruited to provide respite care during five of these training sessions to allow more parents to attend the training. Additional fostering connections presentations included two parent support groups, a conference, two weekly sessions with a young adult mentoring group, and a life skills class for teenagers in foster care. Further, close partnerships were formed with the interdisciplinary teams at the Dennis Developmental Center, Arkansas Children’s Hospital’s high-risk newborn follow up clinic, the Specialty Diagnostic Resource Center, and within the Project for Adolescent and Child Evaluations. Throughout these clinical experiences, there were rich opportunities to advocate for the role of occupational therapy and consult with the interdisciplinary teams on ways to improve the screening process for referring children for formalized evaluations. Other service opportunities presented themselves to be able to serve at a Project Zero adoption event and at a week-long Royal Family Kids Camp. Fostering Connections promoted the opportunity to fully investigate existing community systems for children in foster care.

Morgan Scott



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

OTeam: A Web-Based Application to Facilitate Consistent and Effective Communication Between Occupational Therapists, Teachers, and Parents

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Kelli Miller, OTR/L

Alison Wish

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This capstone project was centered around web-application development, education, and evidenced based practice for pediatric occupational therapists, teachers, and parents. Collaboration within the therapy team is essential to ensure best practice. High caseloads, differing locations of members of the therapy team, and lack of time to communicate pose barriers to effective collaboration. Throughout this capstone experience, *OTeam*, a web-based application, was developed to increase communication within the therapy team with the ultimate goal of improving client outcomes across environments. Amongst many features, *OTeam* offers the ability of the therapy team to send protected, real time updates to each other regarding an individual child. In addition, evidenced-based written and multimedia resources were created and embedded with the application to empower teachers and families to be an active member of their child's therapy experience at home and in the classroom.

Haley Shearer



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Occupational Therapy in School-Based
Mental Health

Committee Members:

Dr. Tina Mankey, EdD, OTR/L

Jessica Krug, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, ATP

Amy Goddard, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, ATP

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The goal of this capstone project was to build the capacity of school personnel to address the mental health needs of students.

Occupational therapy is uniquely equipped to support and educate school professionals in

this area. Dr. Susan Bazyk, an occupational therapist out of Ohio, developed the Every Moment Counts content material and course to meet this need. In partnership with Dr. Bazyk and Easterseals Outreach, I organized and facilitated a community of practice to engage in this material. Our group was held via Zoom on Wednesday mornings in June, and we had about 18 regular participants each week. This group consisted of school-based professionals in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. It included teachers, principals, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, mental health counselors, paraprofessionals, and athletic trainers. We had fantastic discussions and were able to generate a variety of fresh ideas for practice. Pre- and post-test survey results indicated an increase in knowledge and motivation to address mental health in schools and lean into available resources.

Bailey Smith



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Abstract Dance Company: An Inclusive Dance Program for Children with Special Needs

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA
Lindsey Chance, MS, OTR/L
LaDonna Ford

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

During the Capstone experience, a dance program for children with disabilities was created; thus Abstract Dance Company came to be. The program was

implemented in two sites in Arkansas, Fort Smith and Conway. The Fort Smith site was open to the public, the Conway site was in a mental health facility. The program's goal was to create an inclusive leisure activity that focused on social, gross motor, and application skills. During this program, practice sessions took place one time per week. Each session included a social activity, feeling identification and understanding, learning a dance, skill development, and character trait application. At the end of the program, the dancers performed at a dance recital in front of their family/staff members and friends. After reviewing feedback from family and staff at each recital, both programs were effective in improved participant confidence, communication, and follow-through of instruction.

Kirsten Stiller



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Enhancing Student Understanding of Occupational Therapy's Role and Scope in Adult Practice Settings

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Dr. Brandy Pate, OTD, OTR/L, Low Vision Specialist

Dr. Ashley McClain, OTD, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This project was designed to help UCA OT students find their place within the field of Occupational Therapy. This discipline offers

countless unique professional opportunities; however, students typically have limited opportunities to explore the variety of professional roles available. Throughout this project, multiple educational and professional tools were created. First, in-depth informational packets were created to cover the role and scope of OT services within the five traditional, adult-based practice settings: Acute Care, Inpatient Rehabilitation, Outpatient Rehabilitation, Home Health, and Skilled Nursing Facilities. Second, a practice-setting compatibility calculator was designed to help students gain insight into their own person-job match with different OT roles. These resources will be implemented in the UCA OT program to help students achieve academic mastery of the discipline and prepare for the transition to practice.

Shannon Stone



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Program Development for Increased Engagement in Meaningful Leisure Activities for Service Members and Their Families

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

TSgt. Paul Herr, USAF

Mr. Wayne Ojala

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

With the blessing of the Wing Commanders of Little Rock Air Force Base, this Capstone Experience permitted me to

develop a Social and Hobby Club program for the United States Air Force. The purpose of these clubs are to increase engagement in meaningful leisure activities while bolstering a sense of community for service members, their families, and veterans who call Little Rock home. I gained in-depth experience in the roles of leadership, administration, and program development as well as some clinical practice skills. My team and I started from the ground up, seeking approval from base legal and voting members of the base's Community Action Board. Once approved, we planned and held Club Leader meetings to educate volunteers on the new program. Then we were able to advertise and host Little Rock AFB's first ever Club Fair, promoting over 50 individual clubs. The Fair drew in almost 400 visitors and five more clubs were created on the spot! Out of my love for all things psychological and mental health based, I also studied to become a Certified Integrative Life Coach and furthered my clinical skills relating to the holistic healing of my future clients.

McKenzie Svebek



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Development & Implementation of an
Interprofessional Community-Based Stroke
Support Program

Committee Members:

Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, PhD, OTR/L, ATP

Dr. Duston Morris, PhD, MS, CHES, CHCS

Richelle Weese, MS, CCC-SLP

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

In the United States, someone has a stroke
approximately every 40 seconds (CDC, 2021).

Improvements in and emphasis on quality acute care
has improved the mortality rate of strokes, increasing
the number of individuals with long-term

impairments (Whitehead & Baalbergen, 2019). The purpose of this capstone experience was to develop and implement an interprofessional, community-based stroke support program, to examine the outcomes of an Occupational Adaptation (OA) approach within the program, as well as to enhance personal knowledge and experience in stroke rehabilitation. Through collaboration with professionals and students from the University of Central Arkansas, a nine-week pilot Stroke Support Program was implemented in which chronic stroke survivors were able to receive educational content, occupational practice, community resources, and social support. Participants improved in overall relative mastery regarding their self-identified, occupation-based goals and communicated that they most valued the social aspect in connecting with other stroke survivors. The OA approach and its instrumentation demonstrated to be useful within this community setting. Advance knowledge in stroke rehabilitation was gained through review of evidenced-based literature, completion of the Lee Silverman's Voice Treatment BIG® (LSVT BIG) Certification, attendance at the AROTA Conference, and collaboration with community professionals. As a result of this capstone experience, the Stroke Support Program will continue in Fall 2022 within the Conway Brain Injury Community to enhance reach, services, and resources for chronic stroke survivors in the community.

Jacklyn Tufu



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Injury Prevention in Junior Volleyball
Through Health, Nutrition, and Exercise

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Jamie Ryan, MS, RDN, LD

Hannah Busbee, MS, ATC, LAT

LeAundre Zeno, NASM, CPT, CES, PN1

Nutrition

Marissa Clements

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

During this capstone experience, an 8-week program was created and

implemented to educate younger volleyball athletes the importance of becoming holistically healthy through the topics of injury prevention, nutrition, and mindfulness. During this program, in-person sessions took place two times per week. Sessions included a warm-up activity, workout, and stretching series. Handouts were created and released each week for athletes to practice mindfulness activities, learn about various nutrition topics, and have workouts available to do outside of the in-person sessions. All handouts were printed and distributed to Conway Volleyball coaches to allow them to educate their future athletes in the seasons to come.

Grace Velte



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Exploring the Role of Occupational Therapy in Working with the Homeless Population

Committee Members:

Dr. Catherine Acre, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Jane Carmack, OTD, OTR/L

Dr. Jacquie Rainey, PhD, MCHES

Melissa Dyson

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The purpose of this capstone project was to explore the role of occupational therapy in working with individuals

experiencing homelessness. I had the opportunity to partner with Bethlehem House, a transitional living facility in Conway, to create and implement a four week occupational therapy program to provide group psychosocial skills and individual life skills interventions to the residents there. A mixed-methods research study was conducted to measure the effectiveness of this program in improving occupational performance and satisfaction. Overall, the results indicated a clinically and statistically significant improvement in occupational performance and satisfaction indicating the value and role of occupational therapy services in working with this population. In addition to research conducted, I also completed other tasks to explore the role of OT in this population such as presenting at the AROTA MOTivate conference, completing a STEEP analysis and completing a program development plan.

Hope Wages



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

All Aboard for Inclusive Travel

Committee Members:

Dr. Brittany Saviers, PhD, OTR/L

Lynn M. Center, SLP-CCC

Katy Gibbins

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience centered around education, program development and advocacy. All Aboard for Inclusive Travel was created to give hope to and serve as a resource to parents and individuals when planning

travel for themselves or their families. Travel is considered a leisure activity and categorized as an instrumental activity of daily living. Travel can occur at any age across the life span with family, in groups, or independently. Resources and educational materials were created and distributed to individuals through social media platforms and through a student developed website. Materials focused on accessible travel for wheelchair users, destinations such as accessible theme parks and beaches, cruise lines, staycations, and more as well as sensory integration education and blog posts from tour guides with knowledge of accessible travel. Weekly features on social media pages consisted of travel tips as well as featured destinations that were accessible or offered sensory friendly experiences.

Karly Waller



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Trauma, Planting Seeds of Hope, and Remaining Healthy: Training Leaders Who Work with Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Dr. Kevin Rowell, PhD

Dr. Lori Basey, OTR/L, DD

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The heartbeat of this capstone was to equip leaders to help those who have experienced trauma. I had the

opportunity to work with Dr. Rowell and his training, *Trauma 101*. I added occupational therapy aspects learned through my mentorship with Dr. Basey, my own experiences through OT school, and trips overseas. I gave the training to nonprofit organizations, ministry teams in the U.S and overseas, classmates, and also spoke about trauma-informed care at two different conferences. My favorite opportunity was getting to meet and conduct interventions with Afghan women who are refugees living in OKC attending grief groups through SPERO international. I have learned that trauma work is deep work, and it takes time. As humans we get the opportunity to connect, enable, advocate, and encourage. The dignity we can bring to others through listening and loving makes more of an impact than we know. We must link arms and plant seeds of hope together.

Meredith Wallus



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Delirium Management in Acute Care:
Occupational Therapy's Role in Program
Development

Committee Members:

Dr. Dana Barber, PhD, MHSA
Dr. Kali Dayton, DNP, AGACNP-BC
Dr. Mallory Wiles, OTD, OTR/L
Mrs. Laurie Curry

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience
involved clinical program development
and education focused on a

multidisciplinary delirium prevention and treatment protocol in an acute care setting. The site used for this project was the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Medical Center. The program development involved reviewing all of UAMS' program-related staff education, analyzing early program data, meeting with program stakeholders to determine areas of need, and multidisciplinary staff observations to better understand each profession's role in the program. The education involved developing training content for nurses, providers, and occupational therapists to enhance their skills in assessing and treating delirium and to support the sustainability of UAMS' inpatient delirium management program. All educational content and an evidence-based delirium resource guide for the occupational therapists were provided to UAMS.

Allison Welch



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

A Case Study on the Effectiveness of Social Stories

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Haley Ward

Erica Kennemer, OTR/L, MOT, HPCS

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone experience consisted of conducting research on the effectiveness of social stories within the pediatric population. The site used for this project was a pediatric outpatient

clinic in Conway, AR serving children with developmental disabilities. Qualitative data was collected via obtaining pre-existing data from past treatment notes at the clinic and by conducting parent/caregiver interviews of children who utilize social stories. Data was coded and analyzed using thematic analysis to find recurring themes. Results included parent/caregiver perceptions of the effectiveness of social stories on their child, how long it took to see changes in the child's behavior, and if any other methods were deemed more effective than social stories. The results of this case study were shared with the owners of the clinic site. Recommendations on how to conduct further research related to this case study were also provided in the final paper.

Delaney Willibey



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Diff'rent Strokes: Empowering
Individuals to Participate in the Game of
Golf

Committee Members:

Dr. Chris Ryan, OTD, OTR/L

Michael Pate, PT

Angela Green, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

My capstone project continued the Diff'rent Strokes adaptive golf program. This year, the community-based program expanded to further empower individuals with and

without disabilities to participate in the game of golf in the central Arkansas area. Six individuals golfed together weekly throughout the summer and assistive technology and adaptive means were trialed throughout on an individual basis. Following the program's conclusion, qualitative research investigated and explored the effectiveness of the program in regard to occupational engagement, social participation, leisure, and life satisfaction. In vivo coding and thematic analysis revealed three major themes: (1) program participation broke barriers to occupational engagement, (2) empowerment through inclusion, and (3) meaningful engagement facilitates success. The results suggest that community sports-related programs like Diff'rent Strokes have a positive effect on an individual's occupational engagement.

Paige Wilson



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

A Program Evaluation of a Special Education Setting

Committee Members:

Dr. Deborah Gangluff, ScD, OTR

Dr. Olivia Brown, OTD, OTR/L

Chris Wilson, CALT, CSLDS, DBCT

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

The capstone project focused on advocacy of students with autism spectrum disorder, through the completion of a program evaluation focusing on the self-contained

kindergarten through second grade classroom at a public school district in Arkansas. Quantitative and qualitative data, along with observation, was collected from both employees and caregivers of students. All data collection was analyzed using tools such as Qualtrics, Otter.ai, and thematic analysis. From the program evaluation the strengths of the program, as well as the need for improvements were highlighted. Recommendations were generated from the research to facilitate improvement of the overall well-being of the students, future students, and the classroom.

Emily Wish



Title of Doctoral Capstone:

Advanced Clinical Practice and Research
in Evidence Based Neurorehabilitation

Committee Members:

Dr. Lorrie George-Paschal, PhD, OTR/L, ATP
Chris Whaley, OTR/L
Dr. Mary Ellen Stoykov, PhD, OTR/L
Susan Roach, OTR/L

About Doctoral Capstone Experience:

This doctoral capstone project was
focused on advanced clinical practice
within the neurorehabilitation setting.

Through a research internship at Shirley

Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago, IL, there were opportunities for growth within the occupational therapy clinical research setting and within community programming for those living with a brain or spinal cord injury. Education modules provided by Shirley Ryan AbilityLab were utilized to increase knowledge of neurophysiology and rehabilitation. Clinical experience days were held throughout the capstone experience at Conway Regional Rehabilitation Hospital and Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute. Lastly, the Conway Brain Injury Community program was established and developed. This program will be implemented in September and will allow for individuals living with brain injuries to continue working towards their functional goals and occupational performance in daily tasks through guided therapeutic exercises and activities.