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OT Students Present Research at State Conference

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More than 200 students are enrolled in Dominican’s occupational therapy program, which offers an accelerated five-year, bachelors to master’s program, as well as an MS degree for students who have already earned a bachelor's degree in another academic area and are entering at the graduate level. Students learn how to research, design community-based programs, develop management and leadership skills, and implement occupationally focused education for wellness and health promotion. In recent years, the program has enjoyed a 100 percent post-graduate employment rate.

Among the Dominican podium presentations at the Occupational Therapy Association of California were "Psychosocial Fieldwork Students in the Skilled Nursing Environment" by Jane Dressler, assistant professor of OT, and community partner Gina Tucker-Roghi and "Promoting EBP in OT: Sustaining Professional Cultural Change" by adjunct instructor Tracey Airth-Edbloom.

The Dominican poster presentations included:
• "A Matter of Balance Program for Older Adults” by Kitsum Li, assistant professor of OT, and students Adrienne Angeles, Leslie Hollaway, Tiffany Lau & Victoria Reyes.
• “Assessing Validity of the Preschool Kitchen Task Assessment” by Julia Wilbarger, associate professor of OT, and students Emily Veith Fry, Hayley Gilligan, Liza Henty-Clark and Jennifer Weissensee.
• “The Bridge/Adapt Program: A systematic Cognitive Rehabilitation Curriculum” by Kitsum Li, assistant professor of OT, and students Amy Bennet, Julie Bergen, Abigail Lafrenz, Natalie Repin.
• “The Fall Risk Evaluation Tool” by Kitsum Li, assistant professor of OT, and student Mikaela Conlon, Irene Leung, Desiree Shaver, Melanie Shea.
• “First Generation Peer Mentor Experiences” by Stacy Frauwirth, assistant professor of OT, and students Jessica Taylor, Tiffany Torres, and Cindelle Leyson.
• “Interprofessional Collaboration between Occupational Therapists and Registered Nurses” by Eira Klich-Heartt, instructor, and Ruth Ramsey, associate professor of OT and department chair, and students Bethany Loy, Holly Micheff, Kelly Nguyen, and Vince O'Brien.
• “Participants' Perception of Factors in Preventing Falls” by Kitsum Li, assistant professor of OT, and students Rajvinder Bains, Jaclyn Fok, Nadine Marcelo, and Tamara Vileshina.
• “PediApp Finder: A Mobile Application Database of Pediatric Apps” by Julia Wilbarger, associate professor of OT, and students Adrienne LeBlanc, Sara Pro, April Wastjutin and Ribert Williams.
• “Standardized Patients in Occupational Therapy Education” by Eira Klich-Heartt, instructor, and students Andrea Battle, Jessica Borceguin, Joanna Dizon and Lai Zan Saechao.
• “Therapeutic Listening and Bilateral Coordination in Typically Developing Children” by Julia Wilbarger, associate professor of OT, and students. Shanee Ben-Haim, Cassie DeBonis, Jane Schwartz and Amy Smith-Schwartz.

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