

**Elizabethtown College**  
**The 21st Occupational Therapy**  
**Graduate Research Symposium**  
**2025**



**“Advancing the Profession Through Legacy,  
Leadership, and Graduate Scholarship”**

**April 21, 2025**  
**Sponsored by**  
**Pi Theta Epsilon**  
**Upsilon Chapter**

**The Occupational Therapy Faculty and Graduate Students  
welcome you to  
*The Occupational Therapy Graduate  
Research Symposium 2025***

**Elizabethtown College  
April 21, 2025**

**(Closed Captioning provided for all sessions.)**

5:00-5:50

**Opening Remarks**

Debbie Waltermire, DrPH, OTR/L,  
Director of BS/MS Program

Kerri Hample, OTD, OTR/L, NBC-HWC  
Director of EOTD/PPOTD Programs

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Dan Panchik, D.Sc., OTR/L

**Keynote Speaker**

**Tamera Humbert, FAOTA**



Dr. Tamera Keiter Humbert is an occupational therapist, educator, and scholar with expertise in mental health, wellness, rehabilitation, community practice, and spirituality. Her work has taken her to countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Haiti, focusing on cross-cultural collaboration, women overcoming violence, and therapeutic relationships. She authored *Spirituality in Occupational Therapy: A Model for Theory and Practice* and other publications. In 2023, she was named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

This year's symposium will be hybrid (in person and virtual). Masters Project Presentations will be held concurrently. Each Graduate Project will have Zoom links listed in the Program for those wanting to attend virtually, along with room locations for those wanting to attend in person.

Recording, downloading and/or photographing of the OT Graduate Research Symposium events is strictly prohibited.

*SPECIAL NOTE:* Up to 2.75 Contact Hours will be awarded to attending clinicians who registered for this Graduate Symposium on the evening of April 21, 2025 only. Registration will be available at 4pm on the evening of the Symposium at

<https://www.etown.edu/depts/occupational-therapy/index.aspx>

Time		PDU
5:00-5:50 Gibble Auditorium	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks; Keynote Address</b>  Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/97611787980">https://etown.zoom.us/j/97611787980</a>	.75
Time	MASTERS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	PDU
6:00-6:30 Esbenshade 360	<p><i>Expanding Occupational Therapy's Role in Maternal Health: Developing a Screening Tool to Identify Mothers' Occupational Performance Needs</i></p> <p>Graduate Students: Megan Heise, Alyssa Noll, Lucy Krug, Jillian Mulder Faculty Mentor: Gina Fox, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> We will be presenting the development of our maternal health screening tool, the Preparedness for the Occupation of Mothering Measure (POMM). This tool aims to address the occupational performance concerns of mothers in order to produce OT referrals and expand OT's role in this emerging practice area.</p> <p>Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489">https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489</a></p>	.50
6:00-6:30 Esbenshade 382	<p><i>Perspectives of Occupational Therapy Practitioners on Barriers to Addressing Vision in an Inpatient Setting</i></p> <p>Graduate Students: Gillian Blades, Brelynn McCarty, Lori Schlosser, Zoe Sheppard Faculty Mentor: Richelle Walker, OTD, MOT, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of our study is to explore the perspectives of occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) regarding vision in the inpatient setting, and regarding barriers and possible solutions. We aimed to gather a further understanding of OTP's perspectives of their own assessment of vision in the inpatient setting, the barriers that may impact vision assessment, and if they are consistent with current literature, and what can be done to overcome these barriers and improve vision assessment and patient outcomes.</p> <p>Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990">https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990</a></p>	.50
6:00-6:30 Esbenshade 370	<p><i>Bridging Care Gaps: Utilizing Functional Screening Tools for Adults with Congenital Heart Disease</i></p> <p>Graduate Students: Isabella Mendez, Abigail Bromley, Mylea Neidig, Olivia Prosser Faculty Mentor: Debbie Waltermire, DrPH, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> There is a limited understanding of adults with Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) deficits, and no universal standardized procedures or screening tools exist that use a client-centered approach to address both health and functional outcomes. In response, the Adult Congenital Heart Disease - Functional Performance Screening Tool (ACHD-FPST) was created, aiming to enhance the quality of life for ACHD patients by helping practitioners identify potential issues that may require further intervention.</p> <p>Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/91661712433">https://etown.zoom.us/j/91661712433</a></p>	.50

Time		PDU
<p>6:40-7:10 Esbenshade 360</p>	<p><i>Perceptions of Parent Training Toileting Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder</i> Graduate Students: Kylie Fair, Abigail Heller, Charlotte Long, Leah Thomas Faculty Mentor: Kerri Hample, OTD, OTR/L, NBC-HWC</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this study is to examine parental perceptions of participating in training modules focused on interoception and nutrition to improve toileting in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). By identifying barriers and preferences for parent training, this research aims to inform the development of effective interventions that support improved toileting skills in children with ASD.</p> <p>Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489">https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489</a></p>	<p>.50</p>
<p>6:40-7:10 Esbenshade 382</p>	<p><i>The Role of Playgroups in Fostering School Readiness, Child Development, and Community Connections Among Immigrant and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Families</i> Graduate Students: Sadie Forbes, Erin Miller, Nicole Ringwald, Kerrigan Surles Faculty Mentor: Diane Martin, OTD, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To provide foundational support for a program initiative aimed at understanding how playgroups can be used to support school readiness in immigrant and SED families and how the playgroup impacts their perspectives related to healthy play and engagement in the community.</p> <p>Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990">https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990</a></p>	<p>.50</p>
<p>6:40-7:10 Esbenshade 370</p>	<p><i>Identifying Grief Experiences and Management Services for Long-Term Care Staff and Residents</i> Graduate Students: Grace Costenbader, Miriam Englehart, Gracie Grieco, Payton Sauder Faculty Mentor: Beth Smalls, MS, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this study was to gain insight into the experience of grief for staff and residents in LTC, and the need and availability of formal programs to address grief management.</p> <p>Join us via ZOOM LINK: <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/91661712433">https://etown.zoom.us/j/91661712433</a></p>	<p>.50</p>

Time		PDU
7:20-7:50 Esbenshade 360	<p><b><i>Impact of an Interoception-based Intervention for Individuals with Concussion-Related Self-Regulation and Visual Efficiency Challenges</i></b>  Graduate Students: Brian Coletta, Autumn Finke, Cara Jandzio, Emily Polimeni  Faculty Mentor: Meghan Chemidlin, OTD, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> This study utilized a single-group pretest-posttest design to determine if a six-week interoception-based intervention improves visual efficiency and self-regulation skills in those with a mild traumatic brain injury, specifically a concussion.</p> <p><b>Join us via ZOOM LINK:</b> <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489">https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489</a></p>	.50
7:20-7:50 Esbenshade 382	<p><b><i>Mindfulness-Based Intervention: Effects on Emotional Regulation, Behavior, and Social Participation for Preschool Students</i></b>  Graduate Students: Ella Longenecker, Samantha Deiaco, Ellysa Herr, Sarah Lloyd  Faculty Mentor: Helen Russell, OTD, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> This study examined the effects of the Calm and Alert mindfulness-based intervention on emotional regulation, behavior, and social participation among preschool students. Researchers employed a quasi-experimental pretest-posttest design with a waitlist-control group to assess the intervention's impact on student behavior and self-regulation, using the Head-Toes-Knees-Shoulders (HTKS) task and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) as key measures.</p> <p><b>Join us via ZOOM LINK:</b> <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990">https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990</a></p>	.50
8:00-8:30 Esbenshade 360	<p><b><i>The Implementation of Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs) in Post-Concussion Syndrome (PCS) Patients for Visual-Motor Integration</i></b>  Graduate Students: Morgan Bleicher, Kylie Evoy, Magan Gangl, Grant Kuhn  Faculty Mentor: Dan Panchik, D.Sc., OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Researchers utilized a case study methodology to advance a motion capture app which added a novel feature designed to be used in intervention to help patients with visual tracking and smooth pursuit deficits. The visual tracking feature was used by two occupational therapists who specialize in concussion rehabilitation and three of their patients.</p> <p><b>Join us via ZOOM LINK:</b> <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489">https://etown.zoom.us/j/93776476489</a></p>	.50

<p>8:00-8:30 Esbenshade 382</p>	<p><i><b>The Impact of Parents' Interoceptive Awareness and Parenting Beliefs on Child Emotion Regulation</b></i> Graduate Students: Amber Blake, Alyssa Eckstein, Rachel Pryslak, Diana Scafuto Faculty Mentor: Kelly Mahler, OTD, OTR/L</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> This study investigated the relationship between parent interoception and beliefs about their parenting, as well as their child's emotion regulation. Parents of children aged 2 to 5 were asked to participate in an online survey which ultimately provided information that would impact the field of Occupational Therapy (OT).</p> <p>Join us via <b>ZOOM LINK:</b> <a href="https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990">https://etown.zoom.us/j/98256529990</a></p>	<p>.50</p>
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*Thank you for attending the 2025 Elizabethtown College Occupational  
Therapy Graduate Research Symposium.  
We look forward to seeing you again next year.*

*No effort of this magnitude is possible as a solitary pursuit.  
To that end, please thank the OT Graduate  
Research Symposium Committee for their efforts  
in making this celebration of scholarship and  
occupational therapy possible.*

*Laura Cunningham, OTD, OTR/L  
MaryAnn Sluzis, BSW  
Members of Pi Theta Epsilon*

For more information on the Occupational Therapy Program at Elizabethtown College  
visit our website at:  
[www.etc.edu/ot](http://www.etc.edu/ot)

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