

Suzanne Rappaport

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Education

Tufts University

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

Medford, MA

Expected May 2015

- *Qualitative Research course sequence*: Qualitative Research. Learned the theoretical underpinnings, trustworthiness, rigor, and implantation of qualitative research methodology. Facilitated qualitative research study, employed ethnographic journaling, gathered interviews, utilizing phenomenological methodology.
- *Business Leadership & Entrepreneurship course sequence*: Entrepreneurial & Business Leadership. Learned the eight core business concepts; opportunity assessment, market research, research & development, financial modeling, sales/marketing, operations, financing, & pitching and the types of businesses & enterprises. Participated in collaborative entrepreneurship project that was pitched for venture capitalists.
- *Research Project: Circus and Occupational Therapy: Gaining Great Performance Strategies* conducted as a part of the Research course leading to a professional regional and national presentation.
- *Research Project: Cancer Patients' Perception of Participation in a Circus Workshop* conducted as a part of the qualitative research course leading to a professional national presentation.

Tufts University

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Medford, MA

February 2013

- *Elective Occupational Therapy course sequence*: Assistive Technology. Learned the clinical practice and application of assistive technology across the life-span from professional practitioners from Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Easter Seals, Perkins School for the Blind: Assistive Devices Department. Participated in early intervention community project building low technology cardboard construction device to aid in seating & posturing.
- *Research Project: Adult Sensory Sensitivities: Daily Occupations and Coping Strategies* conducted as a part of the Research course leading to a professional regional and national presentation.

Syracuse University

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting & Photography

Minor in Art History

Syracuse, NY

May 1999

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- *Undergraduate Representative for Studio Art Department*: Attended monthly meetings with faculty and administrators to represent undergraduate program concerns.
- *Undergraduate Representative for Committee for Selecting Visiting Professors*: Attended once a semester meeting to aid in selecting visiting professors to Syracuse University College of Visual and Performing Arts.
- *Diversity in the Arts Chairperson*: Facilitated artist in residency and guest lecturers.
- *Supervisor of The Drawing Room*: Organized and oversaw student gallery exhibitions.
- *Syracuse University Center, Florence, Italy*: Attended specialized program in Florence, Italy and worked as coordinator of art shows.

Honors and Scholarships

Awarded an academic scholarship of \$9,800 per year by the Tufts Department of Occupational Therapy.

Grants

Awarded grant of \$2500 for 2013 Circus for Survivors programs by the Lloyd Symington Foundation.

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Awarded grant of \$5000 for 2014 Circus for Survivors programs by the Lloyd Symington Foundation.

Awarded grant of \$5000 for 2015 Circus for Survivors programs by the STARS Arts Foundation.

Professional Associations and Activity

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) member

Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Association (MAOT) member

American Circus Educators (ACE) member

Tufts Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) member

- 2011-2012 Academic Year SOTA Buddy, providing mentorship for the incoming entry-level and post-professional master's students at Tufts University Department of Occupational Therapy.
- Volunteer representative in 2010 at the Tufts Community Day doing backpack fitting for community youth members.
- Occupational Therapy Circus Day at Aircraft Aerial Arts hosting occupational therapy students to learn circus arts for recreation in 2010 & 2011.

Presentations

American Circus Educators Annual Conference 2011 **Sarasota, FL**

Workshop Presenter for *Connecting Neurology & Psychology to Circus*

Massachusetts Association of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference 2011 **Norwood, MA**

Poster Presenter for *Adult Sensory Sensitivities: Daily Occupations and Coping Strategies*

American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference 2012 **Indianapolis, IN**

Poster Presenter for *Adult Sensory Sensitivities: Daily Occupations and Coping Strategies*

American Circus Educators Annual Conference 2012 **Seattle, WA**

Workshop Presenter for *Adapting Circus to Enable Participation for All*

American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference 2013 **San Diego, CA**

Workshop Presenter for *Using the Performing Arts To Promote Social Participation and Mental Health*

Massachusetts Association of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference 2013 **Norwood, MA**

Workshop Presenter for *Circus and Occupational Therapy: Gaining Great Performance*

American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference 2014 **Baltimore, MD**

Poster Presenter for *Circus for Survivors: Cancer Patients' Perception of Participation in a Circus*

Workshop and poster presenter for *Circus and Occupational Therapy: Gaining Great Performance*

College of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference 2014 **Brighton, England**

Workshop Presenter for *Circus and Occupational Therapy: Gaining Great Performance*

American Circus Educators Annual Conference 2014 **Montreal, Canada**

Workshop Presenter for *How to research circus: Building an evidence base & critical outcomes*

Massachusetts Association of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference 2014 **Norwood, MA**

Workshop Presenter for *Occupational Therapy & Circus: Cancer Patients' Perception of Participation in Circus*

American Group Psychotherapy Association Annual Meeting 2015 **San Francisco, CA**

Workshop Presenter for *Circus Arts and Group Intervention: Swinging into Self-esteem and Self-efficacy*

Research in Progress

Primary investigator with Dr. Sharan Schwartzberg, Ed. D, OTR/L, FAOTA, CGP, FAGPA, Professor of Occupational Therapy on a mixed methodology study looking at using circus as an occupational therapy intervention and the perception of participation from the participants.

Primary investigator with Leah Abel, MSW on a quantitative research project investigating occupational therapy and circus and its effects on physical literacy.

University Guest Lectures

Tufts University, Medford, MA

April 2013

OTS 244 Health Conditions: Pathology and Prevention III

Lecture topic: Using the Performing Arts To Promote Social Participation and Mental Health

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Tufts University, Medford, MA 232 Health and Community Systems Lecture topic: Circus and OT: Gaining Great Performance	October 2013
Tufts University, Medford, MA 233 Occupational Therapy Management and Administration Lecture topic: Business & Entrepreneurship	January 2014
Tufts University, Medford, MA 232 Health and Community Systems Lecture topic: Circus and OT: Gaining Great Performance	October 2014
Eastern Washington University, Spokane, WA Emerging Occupational Therapy Practices Lecture Topic: OT and Circus: Developing an Emerging Practice	January 2015

Relevant Work Experience

Circus for Survivors Owner/Founder	Medford, MA January 2012 – present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created intervention combining circus arts and occupational therapy for at-risk populations (e.g. traumatic brain injury, acute psychiatric, Deaf/Hard of hearing, cancer patients, and children at risk for bullying).• Implemented program evaluations, quantitative & qualitative research methods to analyze outcome measures and ensure program success.• Produced executive summary to demonstrate business plan and entrepreneurship.• Built website and created social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.• Managed student interns, group facilitator assistants, and community stakeholders.• Sent out press releases for program promotion.• Wrote grants to continue funding for workshops for lower income participants.	
SEEM Collaborative Occupational Therapist	Stoneham, MA August 2013 – present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated with specialists, teachers & parents to ensure understanding of student's occupational performance strengths and needs, through evaluation, academic program planning, and service delivery.• Evaluated students through a variety of functional, behavioral, and standardized assessments, skilled observation, checklists, histories, interviews, and data collection.• Synthesized evaluation results into a written report that reflects strengths and barriers to student participation in the educational environment.• Participated in multidisciplinary meetings to review evaluation results, integrate findings with other disciplines, offer recommendations, and develop individual education plans [IEP] and intervention plans to achieve IEP goals.• Consulted with teachers for adaptation and modification of environments, equipment, and materials.• Created adapted cooking curriculum to enable Instructional Aides to administer tasks to each child to support their engagement in cooking and learning functional cooking skills.• Created transition questionnaire to partner with vocational interest checklist to ensure safety in the home and potential further workplaces.	
Medford Public Schools Occupational Therapist	Medford, MA July 2013-August 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated with teachers & parents to ensure understanding of student's occupational performance strengths and needs, through evaluation, educational program planning, and service delivery.	

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- Evaluated students through a variety of functional, behavioral, and standardized assessments, skilled observation, checklists, histories, and interviews.
- Synthesized evaluation results into a written report which reflects strengths and barriers to student participation in the educational environment.
- Adapted and modified environments, equipment, and materials.

Cambridge Public Schools: Office of Special Education

Cambridge, MA

Assistive Technology Specialist

April 2013 – June 2013

- Per Diem position duties include being contact person for there is a need for new/different devices or when devices are broken, training staff, families and students in the use of technology and providing consultation to the teams for the implementation of the technology.
- Technology includes AAC devices (DynaVox, Vantage Lite, Saltillo ALT-Chat, TouchChat App on ipad, recordable switches, and tangible symbols), amplification systems (Red Cat, Lightspeed, Phonak Inspiro transmitter), specialized word processors (Dana, Alphasmart 3000), scan-read systems, some internet applications, ipads, some computer access technology (adapted keyboards).
- Participated in organizational meetings and team meetings to included assistive technology for team approach to reach goals on students' IEP.

Perkins School for the Blind: Assistive Devices Department

Watertown, MA

Occupational Therapy Intern

September 2012 – December 2012

- Created or modified high and low technology devices that were needed to enhance participation in the school environment or in the dormitories.
- Managed workshop volunteers and coordinated with assistive technology students to aid in implementing their assigned projects for the Perkins community.
- Observed SMI sessions; aided with a weekly cooking class in the lower school and worked in a one-on-one capacity with secondary students with independent living goals to work on ADLs.

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

Roxbury, MA

Occupational Therapy Intern

September 2012 – December 2012

- Responsible for facilitating task group therapy sessions & one-to-one sessions with the goals of working on gross motor, fine motor, exercise, problem solving, participation & socialization, task analyses, and adaptive strategies.
- Utilized standardized & non-standardized assessment tools for gauging new learning and understanding levels of functioning.
- Worked closely with occupational therapist on staff, case managers, day habilitation coordinator, as well as, with day habilitation members, to determine areas of need and create client goals.

Butler Hospital

Providence, RI

Occupational Therapy Intern

June 2012 – August 2012

- Facilitated task and discussion therapy groups, administered cognitive and mobility assessments for the senior specialty unit.
- Collaborated with psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, mental health workers, and senior specialty patients to find best fit for living arrangement placement outside of hospital.
- Coordinated student interns and managed hospital volunteers.
- Additionally, initiated a twice-weekly circus therapy group for the inpatient adolescent unit with the goals of raising the group affect, increasing group and self-efficacy and working on fine and gross motor skills.

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Continuing Education

American Group Psychotherapy Association: San Francisco, CA Presenter & Attendee Winter 2015
Massachusetts Association of OT Annual Conference Norwood, MA Presenter & Attendee Fall 2014
Friends of Mel: Life After Cancer Conference: Quincy, MA Attendee Fall 2014
American Circus Educators: Montreal, QC Presenter & Attendee Summer 2014
College of Occupational Therapy: Brighton, England Presenter & Attendee Summer 2014
American Circus Educators: Boston, MA Attendee Spring 2014
AOTA Annual Conference Baltimore, MD Presenter & Attendee Spring 2014
Massachusetts Association of OT Annual Conference Norwood, MA Presenter & Attendee Fall 2013
AOTA Annual Conference San Diego, CA Presenter & Attendee Spring 2013
Massachusetts Association of OT Annual Conference Norwood, MA Attendee Fall 2012
American Youth Circus Organization: Seattle, WA Presenter & Attendee Summer 2012
AOTA Annual Conference Indianapolis, IN Presenter & Attendee Spring 2012
Massachusetts Association of OT Annual Conference Norwood, MA Presenter & Attendee Fall 2011
American Circus Educators: Sarasota, FL Presenter & Attendee Summer 2011
American Circus Educators: Brattleboro, VT Attendee Fall 2010
American Circus Educators: Starrucca, PA Presenter & Attendee Summer 2009
American Circus Educators: Boulder, CO Attendee Fall 2010