

Suzanne Rappaport

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Education

Tufts University

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

Medford, MA

May 2015

- *Qualitative Research course sequence:* Qualitative Research. Learned theoretical underpinnings, trustworthiness, rigor, and implementation of qualitative research methodology. Facilitated qualitative research study utilizing phenomenological methodology, employed ethnographic journaling, conducted interviews.
- *Business Leadership & Entrepreneurship course sequence:* Entrepreneurial & Business Leadership. Learned core business concepts (opportunity assessment, market research, research & development, financial modeling, sales/marketing, operations, financing, & pitching) 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 regional and national presentations.
- *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 collaborative research project with Jane Koomar leading to regional and national presentations.

Syracuse University

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting & Photography

Minor in Art History

Syracuse, NY

May 1999

May 1999

- *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.

Suzanne Rappaport - Curriculum Vitae

Grants

Awarded grant of \$2500 for 2013 Circus for Survivors programs by the Lloyd Symington Foundation.
Awarded grant of \$5000 for 2014 Circus for Survivors programs by the Lloyd Symington Foundation.
Awarded grant of \$4000 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 of 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, United Kingdom
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*

OT24Vx – Occupational Therapy 24 Hour Virtual Exchange 2015 Salford, United Kingdom
Workshop Presenter for *Occupational therapy and circus arts: Gaining great performance*

National Association of Social Workers Annual Conference 2016 Framingham, MA
Workshop Presenter for *Circus is Social: Social Circus with Social Work and Occupational Therapy*

American Circus Educators Annual Conference 2016 San Francisco, CA
Workshop Presenter for *Social Circus with Social Work & Occupational Therapy, Program Effectiveness Step 2: Gather Good Data, Circus & Occupational Therapy: Health Professionals' Perception of a New Intervention*

Research in Progress

Primary investigator with Leah Abel, MA, LSCW on a mixed methods research project investigating occupational therapy, social work and circus and its effects on physical literacy, self-esteem, and self-efficacy.

University Guest Lectures

Tufts University, Medford, MA OTS 244 Health Conditions: Pathology and Prevention III Lecture topic: Using the Performing Arts To Promote Social Participation and Mental Health	April 2013
Tufts University, Medford, MA OTS 232 Health and Community Systems Lecture topic: Circus and OT: Gaining Great Performance	October 2013
Tufts University, Medford, MA OTS 233 Occupational Therapy Management and Administration Lecture topic: Business & Entrepreneurship	January 2014
Tufts University, Medford, MA OTS 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
Tufts University, Medford, MA 232 Health and Community Systems Lecture topic: Circus and OT: Gaining Great Performance	October 2015
Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK Emerging Occupational Therapy Practices Lecture Topic: Circus and OT: Gaining Great Performance	February 2016

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">• Collaborate with specialists, teachers & parents to ensure understanding of student’s occupational performance strengths and needs, through evaluation, academic program planning, and service delivery.• Evaluate students through a variety of functional, behavioral, and standardized assessments, skilled observation, checklists, histories, interviews, and data collection.	

Suzanne Rappaport - Curriculum Vitae

- Synthesize evaluation results into a written report that reflects strengths and barriers to student participation in the educational environment.
- Participate 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.
- Consult 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 life skills transition questionnaire to supplement with vocational interest checklist to ensure safety in the home and potential further workplaces.

Regis College

Adjunct Lecturer

Weston, MA

January 2017 – present

- Created curriculum for community-based occupational therapy practice course and assistive technology course
- Instruction of the necessary skills, knowledge, and roles utilized by occupational therapists in community-based settings
- Explain program planning, design, and implementation, legislative and systems issues related to community-based practice, program evaluation, entrepreneurship, and future directions in community-based practice
- Facilitate discussions and evaluation models for early intervention programs, adult day health programs, primary care models, low vision and fall prevention programs, forensic mental health, return-to-work, and other similar models of community-based practice
- Manage service learning component of course
- Facilitate examination of problems associated with designing and providing assistive devices to individuals with disabilities, in order to assist mobility, communication, positioning, environmental control and daily living
- Impart needs assessment, search for available devices, resources available, and creative problem solving. Students will work with materials commonly used to create individualized devices, as well as in teams on a design for a specific user or group
- Explore problems of funding and delivery of devices

Arbour-HRI Hospital

Occupational Therapist

Brookline, MA

October 2015 – December 2016

- Administered cognitive assessments & mobility assessments as requested by the team for patients on acute inpatient unit.
- Evaluated patients as needed by the team for life skills, stress management skills, & coping skills.
- Collaborated with psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, mental health workers, and patients to find best fit and inform discharge planning & placement outside of hospital.

Medford Public Schools

Occupational Therapist

Medford, MA

July 2013-August 2013

- Collaborated with teachers & parents to ensure understanding of student's occupational performance strengths and needs, through evaluation, educational program planning, and service delivery.
- 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.

Suzanne Rappaport - Curriculum Vitae

- 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 device repair/replacement, training staff, families & students in the use of technology, providing consultation to the teams for the implementation/adoption of technology.
- Technology included 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 include 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 needed to enhance participation in school environment or in dormitories.
- Managed workshop volunteers & coordinated with assistive technology student interns to aid in implementing their assigned projects for the Perkins community.
- Observed SMI sessions; facilitated weekly cooking class with lower school & worked one-on-one 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 & discussion therapy groups, administered cognitive & 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 & managed hospital volunteers.
- Initiated a twice-weekly circus therapy group for the inpatient adolescent unit with the goals of improving affect, increasing self-efficacy & working on fine and gross motor skills.

Continuing Education

Massachusetts Association of OT Annual Conference Norwood, MA

Attendee Fall 2016

American Circus Educators: San Francisco, CA

Presenter Fall 2016

AOTA Annual Conference Chicago, IL

Attendee Spring 2016

National Association of Social Workers Conference 2016, Framingham, MA

Presenter Spring 2016

Occupational Therapy 24 Hour Virtual Exchange 2015, Salford, England

Presenter Fall 2015

Massachusetts Association of OT Annual Conference Norwood, MA

Attendee Fall 2015

Suzanne Rappaport - Curriculum Vitae

American Circus Educators: Portland, ME Attendee Summer 2015
AOTA Annual Conference Nashville, TN Attendee Spring 2015
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