



UNIVERSITY of ST. AUGUSTINE  
for HEALTH SCIENCES

## Accolades Insider

*University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) alumni are passionate about making a positive impact on the healthcare industry and the communities in which they serve. We are proud of the thousands of leaders, practitioners and educators who are part of the USAHS family and are focused on connecting alumni to the University. This e-newsletter is a supplement to Accolades magazine, our biannual University publication for alumni.*

## University Updates

### Register to Attend the Complimentary Career Fair

Whether you are a University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences alum seeking a new healthcare career opportunity or looking to hire USAHS students/alumni, make plans to attend the upcoming [Virtual Career Fair](#). The complimentary career fair will be held from **7-9 p.m. ET Wednesday, April 13** and [registration is necessary to attend](#). More than 200 nationwide employers will host one-on-one and group virtual sessions to discuss full-time jobs, part-time jobs, clinicals and internships.

#### Preparation Tips:

- Tutorials will be sent prior to the event to those who register.
- USAHS alumni may set up an appointment with Career Services to have their resume reviewed and to practice a mock interview. Contact **Naomi Kinley**, Director, Career Services at [nkinley@usa.edu](mailto:nkinley@usa.edu).

#### More Career Services Resources

Employers can post jobs for graduates of the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences on our virtual job board by creating a free Handshake account. [After setting up the account](#), request to connect with the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. For additional details, visit <https://www.usa.edu/partnerships/career/>.

Virtual Career Fair  
April 13, 2022



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Register at  
[CareerEco.com/Events/USA](https://CareerEco.com/Events/USA)



### Will You Serve as a Mentor?



Every term, the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences assigns students to more than 2,000 clinical placements across the United States. Students filling these positions are frequently placed in locations that they are unfamiliar with. To help students with the transition to a new area, we have started

a **Geographic Mentors** program. **We are looking for alumni who are willing to help students before they start their clinical placements with information about a specific city or area.**

- Students are looking for information on:
- Housing and resources for setting up a household
  - Recreation and points of interest
  - Shopping and eating
  - Travel and accommodations
  - Cultural resources and activities

If you are willing to serve as a Geographic Mentor for our students starting clinical placements in areas you are familiar with, please complete the **mentor sign-up form** (if you do not have a Google account, please email [alumni@usa.edu](mailto:alumni@usa.edu)).

Students are placed three terms per year and will be matched as requested by students. There is no guarantee that geographic mentors will be matched with students. If at any time you wish to be removed from the list of available geographic mentors, please let us know. *Thank you in advance for your participation.*

## Alumni Association Advisory Board Sets Committee Goals



Formed in September 2021, the USAHS Alumni Association Advisory Board provides valuable insight into how the University can support and engage its alumni. The volunteer board members help share alumni engagement initiatives to strengthen the University in pursuit of its mission to develop professional healthcare practitioners.

Representing most degree programs, campuses and the broad range of graduation years of our alumni, [meet your current USAHS Alumni Association Advisory Board members here](#). The Advisory Board has formed three committees to divide the responsibilities associated with engaging alumni. You can learn more about each committee’s [purpose and view their goals here](#).

Each of the committees has been hard at work developing the strategic plan for the Alumni Association. The committee members are breaking down goals into tasks that will allow tracking and measurement of performance. Currently, the Board is tackling the approval of bylaws for the Alumni Association, the identification of potential advocacy roles for alumni in the healthcare industry and the engagement of alumni through geographic mentoring, recorded testimonials for the University and participation on social media channels.

New board members are selected for the Alumni Association Advisory Board each year. If you are interested in learning more about being a board member, please email [alumni@usa.edu](mailto:alumni@usa.edu) and let us know!

## Step #BehindtheB: We All Play a Part

At the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS), we believe in the power of education to change lives and transform society. USAHS is committed to making a lasting impact in the communities we serve, and we are proud to be a Certified B Corp institution, joining a global movement of people working as a force for good. B Corps have been independently certified using metrics and rigorous standards for valuing **workers, customers, environment and community**—and having corporate **governance** that keeps those values in place. USAHS has been a Certified B Corp since 2015.

### What Is a Certified B Corp?

Around the world, organizations, including USAHS, are undergoing rigorous reviews by the nonprofit group B Lab in their quest to become a Certified B Corp organization.

These organizations are leaders that meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal accountability. They aspire to use the power of business to solve social and environmental problems.



### #BehindtheB and Why It Matters

It’s sometimes hard to know what makes one business better than the





next. Because any business can make any claim, about anything.

**B Corps are different.** Our institution isn't about what we say. It's about what we do. ***Because doing is everything.*** It's what we do that defines us—and the world we want to live in.

Our Certified B Corp status enables us to demonstrate our commitment to social impact and measure it, so that we can continue to expand and strengthen our efforts. Being a Certified B Corp institution underscores our social mission and is aligned with our national movement to address critical health care needs in this country.

**Join the Movement!**

We are proud of our work in helping to make the world a better place. We know we are better together. Here are 10 ways you can participate:

1. Learn more at [bcorporation.net/en-us/](https://bcorporation.net/en-us/).
2. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about B Corp.
3. Become a [mentor to a student on clinical placement](#)
4. Watch [this video](#), because everything starts with a B.
5. Read [the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences' impact report](#)
6. Volunteer for a few hours this month. Better yet, volunteer for cleanups in your community.
7. [Use the B](#), as it can let you know which businesses are putting people and the planet first.
8. Explore an article at [bthechange.com](https://bthechange.com).
9. Make a commitment to change at least three things in your behavior to protect our planet—ideas include bike more and drive less; reduce, reuse and recycle by cutting down on what you throw away; use a reusable shopping bag; flip the light switch off when you leave the room; or choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.
10. **Find a B Corp:** [Search here](#) to buy from, work with or learn more about Certified B Corp organizations around the world.

***Each of us makes a difference every day behind the scenes. How are you or your organization making an impact on people, community or planet? Let us know at [alumni@usa.edu](mailto:alumni@usa.edu).***

**Alumni Directory to Arrive Summer 2022**

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences is partnering with [Publishing Concepts, Inc.](#) (also known as PCI) to produce a new alumni directory. The data collection phase of the USAHS directory is complete, and the directory is now in the production phase.



- If you purchased the **digital directory**, the link will be emailed to you by the end of summer 2022.
- If you purchased **merchandise** and/or the **print version of the directory**, they should be shipped to you by the end of August 2022.
- If you have any questions regarding your order status, please contact PCI directly at 800-982-1590 or [customerservice@publishingconcepts.com](mailto:customerservice@publishingconcepts.com).

**Alumni Achievements**

**Improving Healthcare Management for Work Injuries**

Inspired by a *Wall Street Journal* article on healthcare cost reduction, **Dr. Tim Phillips'** graduate capstone project focused on improving healthcare management for injured workers. Dr. Phillips received a [Manual Therapy Certification](#) from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) in 2006 and is also a 2008 [Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy](#) (tDPT) graduate.

Dr. Phillips' capstone sparked the interest of his supervisor at Spectrum Health, a not-for-profit managed care organization that employs 31,000 people in western Michigan. Spectrum supported Dr. Phillips in running a pilot study testing early therapy intervention for its employees who were receiving

worker’s compensation. He served as principal investigator for the study, leading a team of six physical therapists and three occupational therapists.



Dr. Phillips’ research paper, “Early Access to Physical Therapy and Specialty Care Management for American Workers with Musculoskeletal Injuries,” was published in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. It has helped raise the stature of physical therapy to the executive level at Spectrum Health, says Dr. Phillips, who credits his doctoral training with helping him develop strong critical thinking and reasoning skills. “We are now viewed as a critical part of a cost-saving team that is giving customers what they want.”

Dr. Phillips, who never envisioned himself as a researcher, now sees research as a path to promote change in healthcare. “You do not need an elaborate study design. Find a good mentor, and if you have a hunch about a promising research project, particularly where waste is evident, pursue it.”

Read the full blog, “[Advancing the Profession: Early Intervention for Injured Workers](#)” to learn more about Dr. Phillips’ research project, study results and research paper.

## Alum PPOTD Graduate Receives OTAC Award



At its October 2021 conference, the [Occupational Therapy Association of California](#) (OTAC) awarded **Rebecca “Becky” Crouch, OTR/L**, who graduated from the Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (PPOTD) program in December 2021, the “2021 Fieldwork Educator Award.”

This award recognizes an OTAC member who has demonstrated outstanding skills in fieldwork education. Crouch has served on the OTAC board as a Regional Director and oversees the fieldwork program for Goodfellow Occupational Therapy, placing numerous fieldwork students in that organization each year.

She says, “Through my own fieldwork experience, I truly discovered the connection to education and OT through school-based practice. I love that I can combine these two things that I love. I feel that fieldwork education provides an opportunity to inspire both students and fieldwork educators’ passion for the profession.”

Watch the [awards presentation](#) (Becky Crouch appears at 21:00), and view the [blog post from her company](#) with details about the award.

# Alumni Resources

## OT and PT Alumni: Join the New Facebook Groups

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy alumni can join private Facebook groups to connect, network, learn, share ideas and build community. Member requests will be reviewed within 24-48 hours. If you have questions, or if you are finding your member request has not been approved, please contact [alumni@usa.edu](mailto:alumni@usa.edu).



You must be a USAHS PT alum to join the PT group and a USAHS OT alum to join the OT group.

- Join the [PT Alumni Group](#)
- Join the [OT Alumni Group](#)



## Stay Informed about Upcoming Networking and Educational Events

Be sure you're checking out [usa.edu/about/usahs-alumni](https://usa.edu/about/usahs-alumni) frequently to learn about exclusive alumni networking events and continuing professional education offerings available to you, as well as invitations to upcoming virtual webcasts, speaker series and more.

- [Alumni Association News and Benefits](#) is where you can stay up to date with the latest information, services and resources specifically for USAHS alumni. For example, alumni are invited to the Contexts Virtual Event Series, Advancing Equity and Justice through Research, hosted by the USAHS Library.
- [Continuing Professional Education, Networking and Events](#) is where you'll find current CEU offerings, information on CEU alumni discounts and networking events exclusive to USAHS alumni. For example, the alumni and faculty reception at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Inspire conference takes place March 31 in San Antonio, TX.

Also, we will email alumni when these opportunities arise, but if you've opted out of our alumni emails, or if we have an incorrect email on file for you, you won't receive these notifications.

## Class Notes: We Want to Hear from You!

In December 2021, we introduced **Class Notes** in *Accolades* magazine, where USAHS alumni share updates about their professional achievements and personal milestones. We will begin production on the next print publication of *Accolades* in April, so please submit your professional or personal updates using [this Class Notes Form](#) soon to make it into the next edition. Let's hear from all our alumni who:

- Have a new job or have been promoted
- Received a prestigious award
- Celebrated a career milestone or achievement
- Are recently married
- Had a baby or adopted a child
- Transferred or moved to a new city

[Class Notes submissions](#) will be included in an upcoming edition of *Accolades* magazine, the University's biannual alumni publication. *Accolades* also welcomes photos with your Class Note.

Submit Your Update

## Student Spotlight

### SPTA Supports Local Mentoring Organization

The **Student Physical Therapy Association** on the Dallas, TX campus hosted an event in late 2021 to create birthday cards for a local mentoring organization. The students created 100 birthday cards for children through the birthday card club of All Things Made New.

[All Things Made New](#) is an organization in Irving, TX that mentors local youth and provides positive youth development programs for at-risk fifth-12th grade students. Dallas SPTA students have hosted a dry fit T-shirt sale in the past for this organization. The proceeds of that sale were used to purchase an air hockey table that youth could use in the All Things Made New building.



### SPTA Students Build Cars for Go Baby Go

Two of the University's **Student Physical Therapy Association (SPTA)** chapters recently sponsored cars for Go Baby Go. Students from the St. Augustine, FL campus sponsored a car

for Go Baby Go First Coast Cruisers event hosted by Brooks Rehabilitation October 23, 2021, in Jacksonville, FL. Students worked on the sponsored car, as well as other cars during the event, by decorating them and modifying them for children with mobility impairments. The Miami, FL SPTA chapter sponsored and worked on three cars in February 2022 for Go Baby Go Powered Mobility.

Go Baby Go is a worldwide, community-based outreach program that provides modified ride-on cars to children with limited mobility free of cost so that they can move around independently. To learn more about the program and mission, visit [Go Baby Go](#).



## Austin OT Students Design Adaptive Costume

Third-term Occupational Therapy (OT) students enrolled in Clinical Applications of OT in Pediatrics and Adolescence on the Austin, TX campus competed for the chance to design a Halloween costume for a young child who participates in a campus physical therapy study.

The winning design was by Master of Occupational Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy students **Michael Cauble, Blair Clayton, Sarah Domenico, Natasha Hinson, Shelbi Picard** and **Lindsay Spiers**.



## OTD Alum Presents OT and Black Women's Hair to Student Organization

The San Marcos, CA campus COTAD (Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity) chapter has started a leadership and advocacy speaker series featuring USHAS alumni. First to present in the series was **Dr. Rajae Jones, OTD '21**, who spoke to students February 23 on occupational therapists' roles in working with black women's hair. Dr. Jones also presented [Occupational Therapy and Black Women's Hair: An Educational Course](#) for the Occupational Therapy Association of California. The goal was to educate occupational therapists on the cultural importance of hairstyling for women within the Black community and the effects it plays on their occupational identity and ultimately, occupational performance throughout their different life stages.



Says student and COTAD Chair **Kayla Gibson**, "I thought about our chapter's goals for COTAD, and it made sense to promote our alumni who are pushing the field of occupational therapy forward. I thought Dr. Jones' topic, which she had also worked on for her capstone at USAHS, would be interesting and inspiring. For one, capstones are about areas that OTs are not often in or implementing new techniques for OTs to use. Secondly, as students, we get to see people who were in the exact same place as us, and it reminds us that we can and will do it too, while also learning about an interesting topic!

Have you moved, or do you have a new email or phone number?  
Update your contact information [here!](#)

**USAHS Alumni:** Let us know what you've been up to personally and professionally! Submit a **Class Note** at <https://www.usa.edu/about/alumni/class-notes-accolades>.



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