

# The Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

Research at The University of Scranton: Fall 2021



## RESEARCH RECHARGED

### Externally Submitted Grant Proposals

	20/21	19/20
<b>CAS</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>
Asian Studies	1	1
Biology	7	3
Chemistry	6	7
Computing Science	2	1
History	0	1
Hope Horn Gallery	1	1
Philosophy	1	1
Physics/EE	5	7
Psychology	2	0
Sociology, Criminal Justice & Criminology	2	2
Theology/Religious Studies	2	2
World Lang. & Culture	2	1
<b>KSOM</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
Accounting	2	2
Operations & Information Management	1	1
Management, Marketing & Entrepreneurship	1	0
<b>PCPS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
Dean's Office	2	3
Exercise Science & Sport	1	0
Leahy Clinic	1	7
Occupational Therapy	0	2
Nursing	1	1
University of Success	1	4
<b>STAFF</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>

Of the grants submitted by ORSP, 18 (from 2020-2021) and 26 (from 2019-2020) originated from Meg Hambrose, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. These grants flowed through the ORSP for compliance and budget review as required by University policy.

### IRB Guidelines Update

Effective **October 1, 2021**, the University of Scranton Institutional Review Board (IRB) has released new guidelines for studies involving human research participants where direct contact with participants is necessary. In accordance with the *Royals Back Together Plan*, researchers who are awaiting approval of pending IRB protocols that require inviting participants to campus and/or require student researchers to be in close proximity to participants can expect approval of those protocols.

Faculty, staff, and student researchers may engage in IRB approved research on campus. All COVID-19 related guidelines released by the University must be followed in accordance with protocols published by University Health and Safety.

<https://www.scranton.edu/royals-safe-together/safe-healthy-campus.shtml>

For further details please visit:

<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/sub%20pages/IRB.shtml>

### Updated EFPA Form

ORSP has an updated Externally Funded Projects Approval (EFPA) form. Faculty and staff can find the new form on the ORSP website. Please note, faculty and staff need to complete and electronically sign the form before sending to ORSP or the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for any external grants to be submitted.

<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/proposal-prep.shtml>

# Michael Bermudez, Ed.D.

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Michael Bermudez, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, is an occupational therapist. He joined the University of Scranton faculty in 2019 after earning his Ed.D. in Educational Technology Leadership from New Jersey City University. Prior to his doctoral studies, he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines; his Bachelor's of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio; and his Master's in Educational Technology from New Jersey City University. Dr. Bermudez studies the use of current technological trends in occupational therapy interventions that increase people's engagement in meaningful activities such as stress management and sleep. He has studied the use of encephalographic wearable technology (EEG)—which is worn on the forehead and measures active, neutral, and relaxed brain waves—as part of stress management of occupational therapy students. This study showed that the EEG device can be an effective device that students might use to manage stress while progressing through their academic programs. Dr. Bermudez has also completed his study regarding the effects of a sleep smartphone application (app) in sleep duration and sleep quality of occupational therapy students. The study showed that although the sleep smartphone app did not increase the sleep duration, the occupational therapy student participants perceived that the sleep smartphone app improved their quality of sleep. The participants of the two previously mentioned studies have been occupational therapy students from the University of Scranton.

Dr. Bermudez will soon conduct a study regarding the application of makerspace pedagogy (learning by making and constructing) in creating occupational therapy interventions that can be used by clients and the participants' perceptions of incorporating makerspace pedagogy in occupational therapy curricula. The participants, also occupational therapy students of the University of Scranton, will use circuit boards that can be used as switches in creating products for use as occupational therapy interventions and in therapeutic activities.

Dr. Bermudez is also exploring the possibility of conducting this study in an international setting.

Dr. Bermudez has published several articles in open-access journals. He has also completed a textbook chapter manuscript, *Surviving and Thriving in High-Demand Settings*, for an occupational therapy management textbook that is soon to be published. He plans to go to Uganda in 2022 to explore the possibilities of establishing community projects, research collaborations between the University of Scranton and several Ugandan organizations, and academic learning opportunities in Uganda for students of the University of Scranton.

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# Research Recharged