

Pi Theta Epsilon's Mission

"...to support the development of occupational sciences and the practice of authentic occupational therapy by promoting research and other scholarly activities by its members. In this way, the organization serves not only the profession, but helps to insure quality health care services for the general public."

The Purpose of PTE

- ❖ To recognize and encourage scholastic excellence of occupational therapy students
- ❖ To contribute to the advancement of the field of occupational therapy through scholarly activities, such as research development, continuing education, and information exchange between student and alumni members; and
- ❖ To provide a vehicle for students enrolled in accredited programs in OT to exchange information and to collaborate regarding scholarly activities.

The History of PTE

- ❖ PTE had its beginnings at the University of New Hampshire in the fall of 1958.
- ❖ In 1988, ASCOTA asked AOTF to sponsor PTE towards achieving recognition as a national honor society. An advisory committee within AOTF was established and an operating budget was generously provided to support PTE activities through 1994.
- ❖ The first national elections of officers for PTE were held in 1989.
- ❖ On November 23, 1993, the Pi Theta Epsilon Service Mark (logo) was published in the Trademarks Official Gazette.
- ❖ In 1995, PTE became a member of ACHS. At that time there were 43 chapters.
- ❖ Currently PTE has 80 active chapters. AOTF continues to support PTE by providing a central location for communications and records and by housing the PTE coordinator.

Student Membership Requirements

- ❖ An eligible student shall rank not lower than the highest 35% of their class in scholarship, shall have a GPA of at least 3.5 on a scale of 4.0 since entering the OT program and shall have completed the number of credit hours used by the institution to designate one full academic term equivalency in a Masters or doctorate program in occupational therapy.
- ❖ An eligible student must have at least one entire semester remaining after initiation before leaving for a fieldwork placement.
- ❖ A piece of scholarly written work, completed while enrolled in the occupational therapy program, shall be submitted as evidence of the applicant's ability. The applicant shall also submit a short essay (250 words) stating why she/he wishes to join PTE.
- ❖ Part-time students are eligible for membership if they have completed the number of graduate credit hours used by the institution to designate one full academic term equivalency in an entry-level post baccalaureate program in occupational therapy.

PTE Chapters

PTE currently has 84 active chapters represented in the following 30 states & districts: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, & Wisconsin.

PTE Sponsored Awards

(Applications available on our website)

www.aotf.org/PiThetaEpsilon.aspx

Mary J. Bridle First Research Award

This award was established to encourage students to become actively involved in OT research. The award is in the sum of \$250.00 and is presented annually at the AOTA Conference. Applications for the award must be received by the National Coordinator by **October 15th** each year.

In order to be eligible, the manuscript must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Be the first research study in that individual's/team's OT career
- ❖ Be initiated while the individual/team is still considered a student(s) and submitted within 3 years of graduation
- ❖ Individual/team is the senior author or principal investigator on the study
- ❖ Clearly demonstrate significance to the field of OT

For additional information about the award refer to the website at www.pithetaepsilon.org

The President's Award

This award was established to honor and recognize PTE chapters who organize and implement outstanding scholarly activities. Examples of these events/activities are those developed to increase knowledge, develop professional skills, and further contribute to the advancement of occupational therapy. In order to be considered for the award, the event must take place between February 1st & January 31st annually and all applications must be postmarked and mailed by **February 1**.

All entries will be published in the Spring issue of the Scroll & Pen & the winning chapter will be recognized at the PTE Annual Business Meeting in conjunction with the AOTA Conference.

Benefits of Membership

- ❖ Receive membership card and honor certificate. PTE pins and honor cords can be purchased from the National Office
- ❖ Receive four issues of the *Scroll & Pen*
- ❖ Establish networking across the profession
- ❖ Attend the Annual Business Meeting at no cost, which includes participation from prominent therapists in the profession.
- ❖ Eligibility for scholarships and awards
- ❖ Attend extra activities during AOTA Conference at no cost such as poster sessions, alumni receptions & student mixers
- ❖ Opportunity to contribute knowledge to the profession
- ❖ Opportunity to be published in the *Scroll & Pen*, PTE's quarterly newsletter
- ❖ Opportunity for leadership by serving on one of PTE's committees and/or by serving as an elected national officer



PTE Sponsored workshop at the 2006 AOTA Conference: "Social Justice: Overview of Health Disparity Throughout the United States"

Please contact us for more information:

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Check out our website:
www.aotf.org/PiThetaEpsilon.aspx

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