

P T E H I G H L I G H T S

A Look at the Year Ahead

- **September 1, 2010-** Fall Mailer emailed to all chapters
- **October 20, 2010-** Nominations due to the Nominations Committee for National Officer Elections
- **October 1, 2010-** Mary J. Bridle Award Application due
- **November 1, 2010-** President's Award Application due
- **November 5-6, 2010-** AOTA-NBCOT Student Conclave in Louisville, KY
- **November 15, 2010-** Resolutions due to the National Office
- **February 1, 2011-** Delegate's Packets and National Fees Packet emailed to Chapters
- **March 1, 2011-** National Fees due to the National Office
- **March 1, 2011-** Election Ballots due to the National Office
- **April 13, 2011-** PTE Annual Business Meeting during AOTA Annual Conference
- **April 14-17, 2011-** AOTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA
- **April 16, 2011-** Mary J. Bridle Award and President's Award winners recognized at AOTA-AOTF Award Ceremony at the AOTA Annual Conference

Continue to visit us on our website at www.aotf.org for information about upcoming events!

President's Palette

Melissa Oliver, MS, OTR/L

PTE Executive Board hopes you had a fun filled summer!

We are very appreciative of Beta Rho chapter for their hospitality at the 20th Annual PTE Business Meeting in Orlando, FL. It was Kentucky Derby theme and if you weren't there you missed some fantastic treats! In addition, Beta Rho was awarded with the President's Award. We were also honored to have Deanna Ramsay, American Occupational Therapy Foundation President, as our guest speaker. She shared her knowledge and vision on occupational therapy and leadership

At the close of our meeting, we honored two outgoing executive board members, Kim Schoessow, Vice President, and Kelly Fleming, Treasurer. Emily Kringle, incoming Vice President, and Rachael Proffitt, incoming Treasurer, were recognized. We are very appreciative of Kim and Kelly's dedication to

PTE and look forward to growing the organization with Emily and Rachael.

PTE continues to work with AOTF in growing the *Martha Kirkland Leadership Legacy Fund* to honor Martha and her commitment and contributions to occupational therapy over the past 30 years. Several chapters worked to contribute to the fund last year of which we are very grateful. We continue to challenge our chapters to develop creative ways to donate to the fund so that the endowment will award PTE scholarships to our members in the near future.

Please note that the **President's Award** deadline has been moved to **December 1** of each year, and the **Mary J. Bridle First Research Award** deadline is **October 15**. We look forward to receiving your applications

We are very excited about the coming school year. Continue to visit our website at www.aotf.org for more info!

Mary J. Bridle First Research Award

Emily Kringle, MOT/S

Applications are currently being accepted for the Mary J. Bridle First Research Award. This award was established by PTE to promote student engagement in occupational therapy research. To be eligible for this award the researchers must meet the following requirements:

- This must be the first OT research study completed by the researcher/research team.
- The study must be initiated while the researcher(s) are considered students, and submitted for the Mary J. Bridle First Research Award within three years of graduation. Students do not need to be members of PTE to be eligible for this award.
- The researcher/research team submitting for the award must be the

primary author(s) or principal investigator(s).

- The significance of the study results in the field of OT must be established.

The Mary J. Bridle First Research Award of \$250 will be presented at the 2011 AOTA Annual Conference Awards Ceremony. Applications are due to Jessica Halterm, PTE National Coordinator, on or before October 1, 2010. The application is located at www.aotf.org/pithetaepsilon.aspx.

The Scroll & Pen/PTE Highlights is published by Pi Theta Epsilon, P.O. Box 31220, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220, phone (540) 338-1705, fax (540) 338-1706. Send contributions via email to jhalterm@aol.com. Contact PTE at www.aotf.org. President- Melissa Oliver; Vice President- Emily Kringle; Secretary- Helene Lohman; Treasurer- Rachael Proffitt; *Scroll & Pen* Editor- Kelly Fleming Ptachick; National Coordinator- Jessica Halterm.

Kudos to One of Our Own!!!

-Rachael Proffitt, OTD/S

Congratulations to Kim Schoessow, former Vice President of PTE! She has recently been awarded a position as Instructor in Ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston, a teaching hospital associated with Harvard. At Washington University in St. Louis, Kim completed research for her OTD degree in a low vision lab and followed her passion to Boston, first working as an OT in the clinic.

As an Instructor in Ophthalmology, Kim participates in both research and education while still fulfilling all of her clinical duties. She keeps up with many of the research projects that on-going in the clinic as well as applications for grants for larger projects. On the education side of things, she reaches outside the boundaries of OT and helps to train ophthalmology residents. Every 6 weeks Kim takes one resident with her on a full day of home visits. Kim says:

Many medical professionals know about occupational therapy's role in physical medicine but not for low vision. Too many of our patients had low vision for years and said that their ophthalmologist only ever told them "there's nothing more we can do for you." Our goal in bringing the ophthalmology residents on home visits is to change this trend. We want them to understand that just as physicians would never send away a spinal cord injury patient without proper equipment, a wheelchair, home modifications, etc, a patient with permanent vision loss should never be sent home without a referral to rehabilitation. Their visual condition may have no medical treatment available, but there is always greater independence to be gained through OT.

In addition, the clinic has a regular flow of OT fieldwork students. A true go-getter, Kim is also on the hospital's Institutional Review Board (IRB) which meets monthly to approve all research performed in the hospital.

Kim believes that her involvement in PTE has helped her develop many of the skills she uses today, such as being an effective committee member of the IRB. She also says that her "involvement in Pi Theta Epsilon also surrounded me with other OTs who are passionate about research, which helps me stay motivated about my own clinic's research when it becomes difficult." Kim truly exemplifies the ideals of Pi Theta Epsilon of excellence in scholarship and leadership in the field. Congratulations again Kim!!

PTE Annual Business Meeting Highlight: Keynote Address by Diana Ramsey on Leadership

Helene Lohman, OTD, OTR/L

The highlight of the this year's PTE meeting was a keynote address on leadership from the current President of AOTF Diana L. Ramsay, MPP, OTR, FAOTA. Ms. Ramsay has had a remarkable career with management/executive positions in community programming, university settings, government settings and hospital and health systems. She currently leads the consulting practice for Project Management and Operation Redesign for John Hopkins Health System. Highlights from the presentation are summarized below.

Why are Occupational Therapists Best Suited for Executive Positions?

Ms. Ramsay began her presentation by addressing the high amount of change that is occurring in our society, especially with health care reform. She stated that occupational therapists need to "control their own destiny or someone else will". Throughout the presentation she creatively used the exemplar of the Wizard of Oz to illustrate how occupational therapists have the power to be leaders and agents of change. Three questions provided the foundation for the presentation; 1). Why is it important for occupational therapists (OTs) to become leaders in our workforce today? 2). Does occupational therapy education and fieldwork prepare us for success in executive and high-level management positions? and 3). How do our unique qualities correspond to the qualities of a great executive?

Ms. Ramsay addressed the first question by stating that occupational therapists "need to be at the table where decisions are made." She asked the audience for their thoughts on why so few therapists are in leader-

ship positions. Several ideas were presented among them that occupational therapists may not have the skill set to be qualified to be leaders. On the contrary Ms. Ramsay believes that occupational therapists have the foundational skills from education and fieldwork to prepare themselves for leadership positions. She described therapy skill sets that contribute to leadership including interpersonal skills, group organization and leading skills, problem solving and systems analysis, personnel management, planning, and marketing and advocacy. She believes that a unique leadership skill that therapists have is passion. "I don't believe that there is a more passionate group of professionals. We know that what we have is special!" Ms. Ramsay also feels that occupational therapists unique qualities correspond to the qualities of great leaders. She mentioned that just as occupational therapists are client centered in their intervention approach similarly being customer focused is a prime aspect of good leadership. Ms. Ramsay's describes her client as being the organization. She focuses on the "individual personal qualities" of the managers she supervises to determine what motivates them.

Throughout the presentation Ms. Ramsay provided personal examples from her career trajectory. She discussed instances when she had to move out of her comfort zone and be challenged as a leader. As Ms. Ramsay stated "I learned not to limit myself, and I learned that my training as an OT had prepared me for leadership". It was truly inspiring to hear Ms. Ramsay's speech.