

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

President's Award Submissions

- **Gamma Epsilon, University of South Alabama-** PTE members served as mentors to the members of the Pre-OT Association at the University of South Alabama by leading monthly informative and demonstrative meetings. Furthermore, they assisted the South District of the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association with planning and hosting three training sessions for local professionals.
- **Alpha Omicron, University of Toledo-** PTE members sponsored a speaker for 72 attendees. The guest speaker, Dr. Erica Stern, presented her research entitled "Shifting Gears: Post-Deployment Driving After Service in Iraq and Afghanistan." She also met with PTE members to discuss student research projects.
- **Alpha Iota, Creighton University** Members worked in collaboration with Creighton post-professional distance doctoral students on developing a prototype to include distance students in PTE. The first distance PTE member was inducted and participated in all PTE meetings via web-based technology.
- **Xi Chapter, Washington University in St. Louis-** A PTE member offered a 10 week American Sign Language class to students and the community. Attendees were exposed to the deaf culture, gained a basic vocabulary, and gained understanding of how to communicate through an interpreter.

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President's Palette

Melissa Oliver, MS, OTR/L

Houston Here We Come!!!

As you and your chapter are making plans for the Annual PTE Business Meeting in Houston on Wednesday April 22, 2008, I wanted to send you a few highlights!

- PTE Chapters from across the country will be showcasing their scholarly work at the PTE Poster Session immediately following the Annual Business Meeting. Come see what your fellow PTE chapters have been doing!
- Dr. Sonia Zimmerman, faculty advisor from Kappa Chapter at the University of North Dakota, will be speaking on formal poster presentations.
- Dr. Charles Christiansen, AOTF Executive Director, will be making an exciting announce-

ment.

- President's Award will be presented.
- AOTF/PTE will have a booth at AOTA registration so stop by and check out the NEW WEBSITE!

I also want to send special congratulations to Dr. Tracy O'Connor, OTR/L, faculty advisor to Gamma Epsilon chapter at the University of South Alabama on being a recipient of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) Adviser Grant Program for her work on *Social Responsibility: The Power of the Association of College Honor Societies to Make a Difference, A Chapter Leadership Project*.

On behalf of the PTE Executive Committee, we look forward to seeing everyone in Houston!

AOTA Conference Highlights

PTE Annual Business Meeting & Poster Presentation

Hilton Americas, RM # 340 AB
 Wednesday, April 22, 6:00-8:00pm

AOTF Qualitative Research Exchange 2009

"Qualitative Research and Opportunities in Public Health"
 Thursday, April 23, 8:30-11:30am
 Included with registration

Welcome Ceremony & Keynote Address

Thursday, April 23, 4:00-5:30pm
 Included with registration

AOTF Breakfast With a Scholar

Friday, April 24, 7:30-9:00am
 \$50.00 per person

AOTF Research Colloquium and Tea

Friday, April 24, 1:30-4:30pm
 \$30.00 per person

Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture

Friday, April 24, 5:15-6:30pm
 Included with registration

AOTF Gala: Sparkle and Shine

Friday, April 24, 9:00-11:00pm
 \$100.00 per person

- **Phi, Virginia Commonwealth University**– PTE members raised money throughout the year to donate to an orphanage in Ghana, Africa. To tie in with their service project, members held a journal club, led by Susan Lin, to discuss her research on children in international orphanages.
- **Kappa, University of North Dakota & Beta Pi, University of Mary**– These two PTE chapters collaborated to plan and host the first annual North Dakota Student Occupational Therapy Conference. Students from all ND OT programs attended sessions on assistive technology, Service Dogs of America, employee benefit packages, and the Recovery Model.

AND THE WINNER IS...

- **Beta Delta, Nova Southeastern University**– PTE members developed an educational module to increase osteopathic medical students' knowledge about OT treatment strategies and referral indicators. Members then conducted a study of knowledge gained from the educational module and compiled results. The chapter's research will be presented in poster format during the upcoming AOTA Conference in Houston.



**Don't Forget...
PTE IS ON FACEBOOK!**

www.facebook.com

1. Go to the website
2. Sign up for free or log in to your account if you are already a member
3. Search for Pi Theta Epsilon Group
4. Request to join the group
5. Begin sharing information once you are approved

Spotlight on Spectacular Advisors

The Executive Committee realizes that PTE would not be successful without the support and dedication of the local faculty advisors. We would like to share some personal experiences about advisors who have helped us along the way. If you would like to recognize your advisor, please submit a brief article to Jessica Halterman at jhalterm@aol.com

**Sonia Zimmerman, Ph.D, OTR/L:
The University of North Dakota**

Marcee Sandeen, MS, OTR/L

During the last two years I have had the pleasure of serving as PTE's National Secretary. This is not an endeavor I would have taken on without the help of my faculty advisor Dr. Sonia Zimmerman. When Dr. Zimmerman presented me with the challenge of running for National Secretary I was weary, but her confidence in my abilities allowed me to step up to this challenge. I believe that we all need individuals in our lives that are able to push us to our limits. Dr. Zimmerman is able to look at the strengths of all her students and push each of us to be the best that we can be in our field.

Not only did Dr. Zimmerman challenge me during PTE, she also showed her dedication to the profession and her students through her teaching. In each of her classes, Dr.

Zimmerman challenges students to not only look at the information that was presented in books, but to also look outside the box. Since I became a practicing therapist, I have learned how important this skill is. Each day I am presented with new situations that cannot only be addressed using the answers found in a book. With these situations I have come to realize what a great opportunity I had to have a faculty advisor and professor like Dr. Zimmerman.

I would like to take the time to thank Dr. Zimmerman and all other faculty advisors for the hard work they put into their local chapters and chapter members. Many of us would not be the students or practicing therapists that we are today without the help of our Pi Theta Epsilon faculty advisor.

**Monica Perlmutter, M.A., OTR/L:
Washington University in St. Louis**

Kim Schoessow, OTD, OTR/L

Monica Perlmutter has been the advisor for Xi chapter at Washington University in St. Louis for years. Monica has always been a strong example of servant leadership. She assists each new set of officers in getting started, but then lets them learn and practice their own leadership skills. Throughout the year Monica supports the chapter in whatever ways she can. She has assisted the chapter in tackling new activities such as community service projects and a sign-language class, and she helps to maintain faculty support of the chapter by involving faculty members in chapter activities. By endlessly supporting and assisting

the chapter but allowing students to take the lead, she not only keeps the chapter strong year to year but provides opportunities for students to practice and refine their own leadership skills. On behalf of past and present members of Xi chapter, thanks to Monica for being an example of strong, servant leadership!

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.pithetaepsilon.org. President– Melissa Oliver; Vice President– Kim Schoessow; Secretary– Marcee Sandeen; Treasurer– Kelly Fleming; National Coordinator– Jessica Halterman.