

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

A Look at the Year Ahead

- **February 1, 2009**– President's Award Nominations due
- **February 1, 2009**– Delegate's Packets and National Fees Packet sent to Chapters
- **March 1, 2009**– National Fees due to the National Office
- **March 1, 2009**– Election Ballots due to the National Office
- **April 23-26, 2009**– PTE Annual Business Meeting AOTA Annual Conference Houston, TX

The President's Award: Examples of Scholarly Activities

- Sponsoring key note speakers
- Holding workshops for OT students, practicing OT's, or prospective students
- Providing community awareness (Wellness/Health Fair, Backpack Awareness Campaigns, Career Fairs, Women's Health Fair, Healthcare Awareness Week)
- Tutoring pre-OT or 1st year students
- Providing "Tool" Packages for practitioners
- Participate in community service and philanthropic events

President's Palette

Melissa Oliver, MS, OTR/L

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great Holiday Break!

In November 2008, I had the privilege to represent PTE as an invited guest at AOTF's Annual Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Charles Christiansen, AOTF's executive director, updated the AOTF Board sharing that PTE is part of AOTF's recognition programs. We are working closely with Dr. Christiansen to achieve the following PTE goals: 1) increase the number of PTE chapters in occupational therapy programs, 2) increase visibility, and 3) engage chapters in various national, state and local scholarship opportunities. Announcing, AOTF is now a part of

www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx which is an affinity search where a certain percentage goes back to AOTF. Using these links whenever possible creates opportunities for scholarships and programs for PTE. In addition, the AOTF Board focused on their strategic planning. I was able to express how and in which areas PTE would be the most effective. Areas discussed included mentorship, scholarship and leadership opportunities. I also was able to spend time with the various board members and share your individual and chapter stories of occupational leadership.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Houston at PTE Annual Business Meeting in April.

Deadline Quickly Approaching for President's Award Applications

Marcee Sandeen, MS, OTR/L

Each year Pi Theta Epsilon looks to award chapters with the Presidents Award for scholarly activities they have completed. As the February 1, 2009 deadline for the application process is fast approaching, we as an executive committee felt it was important to provide you with examples of activities that qualify for the President's Award (see text box to the left). When looking through the examples, remember this is not an exhaustive list. By providing members with examples, our hope is that the list will

allow chapters to realize scholarly activities they may have been involved in from February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009.

We encourage chapters to complete the application for any scholarly activities your chapter may have held. The application can be found on our website at: www.pithetaepsilon.org/presidents-award.pdf. All applications will be reviewed by the executive committee and recognition will be given at the Annual Business Meeting held in Houston, TX.

Please check out the following two websites to find out how to give back to PTE & AOTF!



www.goodsearch.com

1. Go to the website
2. Choose AOTF as the charity/ organization that you would like to raise money for
3. Search the web via the GoodSearch engine which is powered by Yahoo



www.goodshop.com

1. Go to the website
2. Choose AOTF as the charity/ organization that you would like to raise money for
3. Shop at more than 700 stores online
4. Up to 30% of your purchase will go to AOTF



**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

Executive Board Nomination Biographies

Please review the following two personal statements for the office of PTE President and Secretary and cast your vote. Remember that election ballots are due back to the National Office by March 1, 2009.

Melissa Oliver, MS, OTR/L, CBIS Nominee for President of PTE

I have served as the National PTE Treasurer for four and a half years and now as the President. During the years as President, I have worked with the executive committee and AOTF to dissolve our 501(c)3 status and develop our future as a program of AOTF. I continue to work in exploring ways to improve our organization to meet the needs of our chapters. Currently, I am the acting occupational therapy supervisor as well as staff occupational therapist at McGuire VA Medical Center, serving active duty personal and veterans who have a traumatic brain injury. I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your President and hope that I can continue to assist in the progression of PTE through the work on the executive committee and with AOTF.

Attention Faculty Advisors:

PTE has grown to include 84 established chapters throughout the country, but that leaves a third of our OT programs without a chapter! At the National Student Conclave in November, many students at these schools expressed an interest in founding chapters at their schools, but they need faculty support.

By serving as a "sister chapter" to a school that is in the process of establishing a chapter, advisors will have the opportunity to provide advice to new faculty advisors. Being available to answer the occasional question or provide ideas for activities will greatly assist in recruiting faculty to advise students who are hoping for the chance to join PTE.

Please visit our website to view the list of current chapters. If there is a school in your area that is not on the list, please contact Jessica Halterman, PTE-National Coordinator, at jhalterm@aol.com.

Helene Lohman, MA, OTD, OTR/L Nominee for Secretary of PTE

I am a life-time member of PTE and faculty advisor of the ALPHA IOTA chapter. I strongly support the mission of PTE by promoting scholarship with myself and in students that I mentor to do research and publish. I also believe in helping PTE to grow. Recently, I counseled two students who advocated successfully for post professional and web-based students to participate in PTE. Now we are working on the logistics of communication for a hybrid (on campus/distance) chapter. ALPHA IOTA will serve as a prototype for other hybrid chapters. I desire to hold the position of secretary to further PTE's growth with involving web-based students and with other trends that are happening in the 21st century.

Chapter Happenings– Phi Chapter

Nichole Nowakowski & Lauren Andelin

The Phi Chapter, at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond) is gearing up for a busy year and exciting new endeavors to promote PTE and enhance member participation. We are continuing to meet twice a month, once for business and socializing and a second time for Journal Club, which was successfully started by last year's leadership. This year we are excited to implement a service project! The project will consist of raising money throughout the year that will be donated to an orphanage in Ghana, Africa. Stacey Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L, a VCU OT faculty member who has a relationship with this orphanage will be leading a study abroad to Ghana in December. Several of our PTE members plan to make the trip. Our members are very passionate about the service project this year! We are looking forward to tying in our first journal club of the semes-

ter to the project by discussing an article on children in international orphanages. In November Susan Lin, Director of Research at AOTA, will facilitate the journal club discussion of her research article entitled "The Relation Between Length of Institutionalization and Sensory Integration in Children Adopted from Eastern Europe," published in AJOT in 2005.

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