

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

A Look at the Year Ahead

- **February 1, 2010**– President's Award Nominations due
- **February 1, 2010**– Delegate's Packets and National Fees Packet sent to Chapters
- **March 1, 2010**– National Fees due to the National Office
- **March 1, 2010**– Election Ballots due to the National Office
- **April 28, 2010**– PTE Annual Business Meeting 6:30-8:00PM
- **April 29-May 2, 2010**– 90th Annual AOTA Conference Orlando, FL
- **April 29, 2010**– Qualitative Research Exchange 8:30-11:30 AM
- **April 30, 2010**– Breakfast with a Scholar 7:30-9:00 AM; Research Colloquium & Tea 1:30-4:30 PM; AOTF Gala 8:00-11:00 PM
- **May 1, 2010**– AOTA Awards Ceremony 5:15-6:15 PM

Martha Kirkland Scholarship Campaign

We would like to thank the following chapters for their generous pledges to the Martha Kirkland Scholarship Campaign: *Alpha Beta, Beta Rho, Alpha Sigma, Alpha Iota, Gamma Theta, Gamma Epsilon, Chi, Alpha Zeta, Epsilon, Gamma Lambda, Nu, Beta Psi, Beta Tau, Beta Chi, Beta Upsilon, Phi, Alpha Omicron, Gamma Kappa, Alpha Psi, Alpha Pi, and Alpha Xi.*

President's Palette

Melissa Oliver, MS, OTR/L, CBIS

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

PTE Annual Business Meeting in Orlando, FL is fast approaching and I hope you all are planning on coming to the Magical Kingdom! The PTE Executive Board has exciting things happening including a presentation on Leadership in Occupational Therapy by Diana Ramsay, the AOTF President. In addition, each chapter is encouraged to participate in our poster session on the topic of **leadership in occupational therapy**. Guidelines for this **new age poster session** are spelled out for you in this issue of *Scroll & Pen*. Don't forget to submit your chapter's scholarly project for the **PTE President's Award**. For the first time, the recipient of the PTE President's Award

will be recognized at the Annual AOTA/AOTF Award's Ceremony. The **Martha Kirkland Scholarship Campaign** is off to a great start but we need each chapter to contribute in order to establish annual PTE Scholarships. Please visit the PTE section at www.aotf.org website for fundraising ideas.

We have a very creative and energized group; therefore, we look forward to hearing about your fundraising ideas, reading about your scholarly projects through the President's Award applications and learn how your chapter is taking on Leadership in Occupational Therapy with the PTE new age poster session!

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

E-Poster Session: Guidelines for Orlando

Kim Schoessow, OTD, OTR/L

Thank you to everyone who participated in the poster session at last year's business meeting! This year we've changed the format of the posters to make them easier to transport and to stay up-to-date. Many conferences are switching to electronic poster presentations using PowerPoint – www.ismrm.org/08/epguide.htm is one example and has more detail. Chapters attending the PTE business meeting are asked to prepare an e-poster highlighting your activities during the 2009-2010 year. Guidelines include:

- Focus on **leadership**: what has your chapter done to cultivate leaders in your program, school, profession, and/or community?
- Aim for a 5-minute repeating slideshow. Provide enough detail that

slides are self-explanatory and can be followed independently by other attendees.

- Bring your own laptop. Tables and power strips will be provided.

Please contact Kim Schoessow (kimberly_schoessow@meei.harvard.edu) with any questions about the e-poster. Let Jessica Halterm (jhalterm@aol.com) know how many chapter members will attend the meeting and whether you will bring an e-poster.

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– Helene Lohman; Treasurer– Kelly Fleming; National Coordinator– Jessica Halterm.

President's Award Applications due February 1, 2010

The President's Award has been established to honor and recognize Pi Theta Epsilon 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. The event must be complete between February 1st and January 31st annually. Each chapter may submit one application which details one scholarly chapter event. To obtain an application, see the PTE section of www.aotf.org

Free Monthly Newsletter Available

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation publishes a free monthly e-newsletter bringing news of the research community to subscribers. *Research Resources* contains timely information on grants, fellowships, new publications, the Wilma West Library, and conferences including their call for papers.

Past issues of *Research Resources* and a link to subscribe can be found on: www.aotf.org/news/researchresources.aspx

Interview with Diana Ramsay: Thoughts on Leadership

Helene Lohman, OTD, OTR/L

Diana Ramsay, current President of AOTF, is a nationally recognized leader in behavioral healthcare, prevention and community-based programs. She has had extensive experience in executive, consultative, and directorship positions. Ms. Ramsay has held leadership positions with many different national organizations. While at AOTA, she has served as Federal Legislative Representative, Program Manager with State Legislation, and on the President's Workgroup on Occupational Therapy in Mental Health Systems. She also served as past President of NBCOT, as well as President of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems, and a current member of the board of the National Aquarium. Ms. Ramsay will discuss leadership as the keynote speaker at the annual PTE Business Meeting in Orlando.

How did you develop your role as a leader?

I was always willing to take risks and leave one job to try a new and different challenge. I have learned to like change and because I have embraced change, I have gained a lot of experience and obtained better and greater leadership roles. I thrive on new and different challenges. Some of my leadership opportunities were not the result of strategic planning, but rather persistently being in the right place at the right time.

Do you have a vision for leadership?

Vision and leadership are very basic, not as complicated as one may think. All OTs have the skills to be leaders. As students you are trained in the content of human occupation and occupational science. I believe that the OT curriculum is uniquely targeted to develop leadership qualities, more so than the curriculum of other professions. Beyond that it is important to be honest, true to oneself, ethical, on time, and passionate about issues: very basic ideals.

Do you have any advice for students on how to grow into leadership roles based on your life experience?

It is important that you constantly challenge yourself to get into something that you really are passionate about. For me I have grown into leadership roles as opportunities presented themselves. I was always willing to take new risks and accept new challenges. Some of the challenges that I was least comfortable with evolved into the greatest new adventures.

As a leader how did you handle the hard decisions?

Always stay focused on the top level ideals: your mission and your vision. The well being of

staff and everyone else around you will radiate from these principles. So the main thrust of decisions is for that focus. An example of dealing with a hard decision is overseeing a director who can't do his/her job. That may involve helping the person become successful in his/her position or moving the person on to a better fit.

Throughout your career you have been involved with advocacy describe this relationship to your growth in leadership.

I think that we should all be able to advocate well for things that we are passionate about. Occupational Therapists have the natural ability to do this. We do best when advocating for our clients and this passion can be carried forward to other advocacy initiatives, such as working on campaigns and in community organizations. So the skills and passion for advocacy can be easily transferred.

Describe your leadership roles within the profession

I was recently elected as the president of AOTF. I have a history of being very active within the profession. I have developed a huge passion for the profession. I believe that any person in our field who considers him/herself professional must be involved in our professional organizations. That experience can be enriching, provide a bigger picture, and connections.

Describe your thoughts on being involved on boards whether insider the occupational therapy field or outside the field.

I have encouraged my current staff to be on boards. Likewise, I believe that OTs should take every opportunity they can to serve on boards in areas that they feel passionate about. It is rewarding to start small and then become more involved. It is very rewarding to have an impact on an organization that you feel passionate about.

Do you think of every occupational therapist as being a leader?

Yes; but leadership can be defined in so many ways. Occupational therapists who work with clients to get appropriate services when they are not being served properly are leaders. I don't believe that all occupational therapists want to take higher level leadership positions. These are also personal choices.

Do you have a final message for students about leadership?

OTs have accomplished a lot in leadership roles inside and outside the profession. Passion inspires the great leaders.