



Scholarly Activities

The examples of scholarly activities listed below have been previously submitted by chapters to be considered for the PTE President's Award.

- Second-year PTE students at the Alpha Pi chapter at Touro University Nevada developed a monthly **Lunch and Learn program to present current research to peers**. This program provided students a way to delve deeper and better understand current research in the field. The monthly Lunch and Learns then helped guide students to select a speaker for the Alpha Pi chapter "Evening with a Scholar" event. During this event, current OT practitioners and professionals shared their research pertaining to OT and healthcare. These events helped students gain a greater understanding of how research is conducted and applied to OT practice, and knowledge regarding emerging practice areas.
- Each year the Alpha Eta Chapter at University of Southern California Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy holds **the Occupational Therapy Extravaganza** at the Center for Occupation and Lifestyle Redesign. This event brings together students, faculty, and the community to engage in discussion and activities related to a specific theme. The 8th Annual OT Extravaganza was entitled "Occupational Therapy in Primary Care: A Health and Wellness Experience." The event showcased the experience of occupational therapy in primary care through the following planned activities: **keynote speaker, panel of experts, wellness workshops, and a student competition**. The keynote speaker addressed OTs role in primary care and the approaches OTs can take to bring our practice into this field. A panel discussion followed the presentation.
- Previously, the OT Extravaganza event theme was "the Art and Science of Occupational Therapy", featuring **lectures from faculty and practitioners, an art competition, and hands-on intervention tables**. The extravaganza facilitated engagement between students and occupational therapy practitioners centered on therapeutic style and therapeutic use of self and how they affect clients and their needs. Over 100 attendees were present; Alpha Eta chapter surveyed attendees and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.
- East Carolina's Delta Beta chapter hosted a **Clinical Skills Review Day to help second-year occupational therapy students prepare for fieldwork**. The review topics included feeding, transfers, physical agent modalities, splinting, and documentation. It was an interactive review allowing students to practice their skills as well as listen to information. The chapter received many positive comments in a survey following the event including the comprehensive, well-organized, and important subject matter. The review day also provided PTE students with leadership opportunities in planning and leading review sessions and learning activities.
- The students of the Delta Epsilon chapter and Salem State University's OT department co-hosted their **11th Annual Occupational Therapy Graduate Student Research Conference**. The conference goals included an opportunity for students to disseminate their research outcomes, to provide OT practitioners in the New England area with an affordable educational opportunity, and

to instill the quality of being a life-long learner into students. There were approximately 300 practitioners attending 13 different workshops, five presented by Pi Theta Epsilon students. After the conference, surveys and outcomes were collected giving specific feedback on student presentations as well as overall comments on the conference. Over 75% of attendees rated the conference as excellent, supporting the hard work that was put into planning and presenting.

- The students of the Xi chapter at the Washington University School of Medicine used a poll to identify areas of need within their occupational therapy program. They collaborated with professors to create **ten review sessions for first-year students to assist with the transition into graduate school and to support student knowledge, confidence, and performance**. Review sessions included **lectures, peer discussions, hands-on activities, and question and answer time to benefit students of all learning types**. The event met its goals of: providing students with opportunities to review skills and knowledge important to future practice, presenting a variety of learning styles in order to enhance acquisition of course material, and fostering collaboration with students while creating a supportive learning environment.
- Beta Mu chapter at A&M University hosted a **backpack awareness event** including backpack weigh-in at their School of Allied Health Sciences. Students gathered information including each participant's age, weight, and their backpack weight. In turn, participants were provided with AOTA recommendations on proper loading of backpacks. The local newspaper published the event's results to facilitate further community awareness. Participating students were surprised not only at how one should load a backpack but also at how their backpacks compared to the recommendations.
- The students of Beta Theta chapter at Duquesne University created an **OT Department Journal Club**. The aim was to promote and advance evidence-based practice skills within their student cohorts that will carry over into entry-level practice. The club was open to all students within the entry-level master's program. The main objective of the journal club was to create an educational opportunity bringing together students of all levels, sharing knowledge, and increasing familiarity with evidence-based practice. Students took turns leading discussion and review of the articles. After nine journal reviews, the PTE students had an overwhelmingly positive response with attendance of over thirty students, 25% of the master's program student body at the time.
- The students of the Alpha Delta chapter at St. Catherine University initiated an annual fundraising challenge to **support the American Occupational Therapy Foundation's mission of occupational therapy research**. The students created promotional documents, started a Facebook page, and promoted the challenge at the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave. The St. Catherine Challenge of the Alpha Delta chapter had a remarkable inaugural year raising over \$12,000 between 18 participating schools and involving non-PTE members as well –the St. Catherine Challenge is still going strong with over 30 schools participating each year nationwide!
- The Kappa Chapter at the University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy, Beta Pi at the University of Mary, and the OTA program at the North Dakota State College of Science OTA Program worked collectively to host the **9th Annual North Dakota Occupational Therapy Student Conference**. The conference has become a way for students of different levels of OT education to come together and learn more about occupational therapy. Five occupational therapists, all past graduates of one of the sponsoring schools, shared on topics addressing professional practice and career-building. This year's topics included occupational therapy's role in aquatic therapy; occupational therapy in the neonatal intensive care unit; what it's like to be a traveling therapist; and the first-year experience as a practicing occupational therapist. Students contact the speakers, develop and distribute the brochures, secure the venue and organize the day. 103 attendees were present from five area occupational therapy programs.

- Pi Theta Epsilon chapters from Misericordia University, University of the Sciences, Temple University and Salus University joined together to hold a **speaker event**. Three occupational therapists from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia came to speak about their experience in working with the first pediatric bilateral hand transplant patient. They discussed the intervention planning process, the interventions they used and how they incorporated evidence into their practice. 100 students and staff attended from all four universities.

Fundraising ideas to support chapter operations:

- *Creative and crafty!*
 - Paint a Picasso! Canvas and paints can be purchased in bulk at a craft store. Coordinate a paint night and invite the whole student body to attend for a donation fee. Print out some of the classics to use as a guide. This can be hosted on a space on campus, or outdoors! Encourage finger painting and painting with non-traditional instruments.
 - Poetry Open Mic Night
 - Tie Dye T-Shirt day
 - Reach out to your connections! Do you know a yoga instructor, pilates instructor, self-defense teacher, etc. who would be willing to host a class for free? A donation can be collected to participate in the class instead. The entire student body and community can be invited to participate!
- *Tried and true:*
 - Local vendors: Work with restaurants in your area to host an evening where a portion of sales go towards your chapter.
 - Bake sales
 - Car washes
 - T-shirt sales: Reach out to a local vendor or use an online platform to create a T-Shirt for your chapter, or a general shirt to sell at your school.
 - Garage/Yard sales: Have limited time to host this event? Collect clothes items at a central location instead and take them to a gently used clothing store/ consignment shop. Any items they can't take can be donated!