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Pi Theta Epsilon

National Honor Society of Occupational Therapy

A program of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Fall 2020 | Volume 31, Issue 1

Mary J. Bridle Research Award

Submit Letter of Intent by Oct. 1

Lifetime Members:

A new complimentary OT.com course is coming your way Sept. 28- Oct. 12, *OT & Covid: How to Navigate a New World with Older Adults.* Check your emails to RSVP by Sept. 21.

CEU Course #1

New Chapters:

York College @ CUNY
University of Michigan - Flint
Gwynedd Mercy University
Thomas Jefferson University
University of North Dakota - Casper

Whose up for the **St. Catherine Challenge** (#AOTFSCC) to support Intervention Research Grants (IRGs) and build evidence together?! Submit your pledge forms today.

Letter from the President

Dear Pi Theta Epsilon Members,

Happy (almost) Fall! Too soon? I agree; I am so not ready for summer to be over. However, the closing of summer brings us a fresh new school year, and this year, it is looking a lot different.

While some of you may have returned to campus, many of you have set up home offices to attend your courses virtually. Labs and lectures are likely not what you imagined; and for some of you, it likely is **not** how you expected your last year in school to begin. Nonetheless, time is moving on, and you all are being forced to hopefully make the best of it.

Since May, we have spent our time strategizing the next year as we adapt and innovate within this new environment. We have reviewed our initiatives, our awards and scholarships, and our programs to ensure we are developing sustainable alternatives in the interim until life returns to what we know as “normal”.

For those unfamiliar with PTE’s annual events, we typically host five events at the Annual AOTA Conference in the spring. The PTE National Office worked together to virtually host the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) on April 21st and the Faculty Advisors’ Workshop on June 22nd. Due to the significantly positive response to these two virtual events, we are planning to bring one more to you within the next two months! In collaboration with AOTF, we are hoping to host the *How to Become A Researcher* research panel in a virtual format sometime in October or November pending the schedules of the panelists. Stay tuned for more information!

PTE has once again renewed its partnership with OT.com to offer our lifetime members with three **free** continuing education courses this year. Thank you to the 250+ responses we received for our course survey. Continue reading below to see which three courses will be offered during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, along with dates and timelines to register!

PTE will also be hosting its second annual Beginner’s Orientation next month! Continue reading below for more details.

As always, we encourage you to reach out to National Office to voice your questions, concerns, comments, and ideas. Thank you all for your continued support of Pi Theta Epsilon, and I wish you all continued health and safety over the upcoming months.

Best,

Pooja A. Patel, DrOT, OTR/L, CDP
National President of Pi Theta Epsilon
Occupational Therapist
Certified Dementia Practitioner

PTE Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

In this current climate, we have heard many concerns and feedback from faculty regarding PTE's role in addressing disparities within the occupational therapy community. We understand that our eligibility criteria and membership requirements are not perfect. We understand that our students across the nation have risen from many different walks of life and have various arrays of responsibilities outside of their graduate school programs. We want our membership and faculty advisors to know that we are listening to you, we are processing all of the needs, and we are working together with AOTF to identify possible solutions and/or changes that we may need to consider. We ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate this critical initiative and potential changes. We will do our best to communicate any future efforts as able.

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Beginner's Orientation

Make sure to attend our 2nd annual Pi Theta Epsilon "Beginner's Orientation"!

Are you a new faculty advisor, chapter president, or member that wants to know more about PTE? Or, would you just like to know more about all of our great resources? Join us virtually on **Wednesday, October 21st at 7PM EST** for evening with members of the PTE national board. During this event, we will go over:

- Member benefits
- Chapter logistics
- Event plannin
- Fundraisin
- Q&A.

Last year we truly enjoyed connecting with our members live and being able to address questions and concerns in real time. Our feedback from those who attended last year was incredibly positive. We look forward to answering your questions, problem solving and collaborating!
More details to come soon.

Faculty Advisor's Workshop Recap

Thank you to all the faculty advisors who virtually attended the Faculty Advisor's Workshop this past June. There were very productive discussions as well as a collaboration on different topics:
One big topic was the **Interchapter Collaboration Award**. PTE discussed how planning events across multiple Pi Theta chapters can look due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also discussed increasing communication to connect chapters together for this award in addition to using different platforms to increase awareness of PTE events and opportunities for students and lifetime members. We answered a lot of great questions related to awards, membership criteria, and officer transitions. Faculty advisors are encouraged to email **pte@aotf.org** with any questions they may have.

Join the 2021 St. Catherine Challenge

AOTF 2021 ST. CATHERINE CHALLENGE #AOTFSCC

The 2021 **St. Catherine's Challenge**, a national student-driven fundraiser, will once again aim to fully fund an AOTF **Intervention Research Grant**. The 2020 Challenge raised over $54,000 from 54 schools across the country, a new milestone in the Challenge's history. IRGs fill a critical gap in OT research funding by providing financial support for a 1-year, early stage, research study. This OT research is vital to strengthen evidence-based practice and improve the delivery of care.

As creativity is one of the key strengths of OTs, we're excited to see what ideas the OT, OTD and OTA teams come up with this year. Plus, we're developing a smoother tracking and donation system to streamline the process. The 2021 Kickoff Call will happen the week of September 28th, so don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this years success.

- **Tips to be a Successful Team Lead**
- **2021 St. Catherine's Challenge Pledge Form**

Community-Based Money Management Program for Survivors of Brain Injury

Margaret Gelburd Fox, OTD, OTR/L; Jason Young, MSW, CBIS; Kelli Williams Gary, Ph.D., MPH, OTR/L, CBIS

Background: Community Brain Injury Services (CBIS) is a nonprofit organization based in Richmond, Virginia that provides services for survivors of acquired brain injury (ABI) through case management and two brain injury clubhouses. CBIS identified a need for increased independence with financial management (FM) tasks among its service recipients. For the millions of individuals who sustain an ABI each year, difficulty regaining independence in instrumental activities of daily living, including FM, can result in diminished autonomy and reduced well-being.[1] Common FM challenges for this population include making late bill payments, not leaving enough money for essential items, and impulsive spending.[1] Survivors with ABI can experience increased capacity for FM over time and may benefit from training and education by community-based service providers. [2]

Continue Article...

PTE Scholarship & Awards Information

Did you know, as a member of PTE you have unique opportunities for scholarships and awards which can set you apart from your peers?

- As a student, you can be honored for your leadership in education, practice, and research, with the Martha J. Kirkland Endowed Scholarship and win $500-$1500
- As a first-time researcher, you can be honored with the Mary J. Bridle First Research Award and win $750, plus have the opportunity to have your research published in *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health.*
- As a chapter, you can be honored for organizing and implementing outstanding scholarly events, with the President's Award and get recognized at the PTE Annual Business Meeting.
- Working in collaboration with another chapter, you can be honored with the Award for Excellence in Interchapter Collaboration and get recognized at the PTE Annual Business Meeting between February 1 of the previous year and January 31 of the current year. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with an annual review beginning on January 31

Visit the **AOTF scholarship page** for a listing of PTE scholarships and awards.

Mary J. Bridle Research Award - Submit Letter of Intent by Oct. 1

This award provides an opportunity for PTE members to have a research manuscript reviewed by experts in the field and to be considered for publication in *OTJR: Occupation, Participation, and Health* . This award is a two-part process:

1. **Submit a letter of intent by October 1st**. The letter of intent does not need to be extravagant. It should include a brief, 2-3 sentence outline of your project and how it relates to occupational therapy. The title of your manuscript, if descriptive enough, is also acceptable.
2. The letter of intent will be reviewed by a third-party expert to determine eligibility for award submission.

Please reach out to **pte@aotf.org** with any further questions or needs for clarification.

PTE University & College Updates

University of Michigan - Flint

The new Epsilon Tau PTE chapter at the University of Michigan-Flint held their first ever induction ceremony on September 3, 2020.

Induction Ceremony

University of the Sciences

The Delta Iota chapter at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia hosted a virtual panel consisting of occupational therapists who are working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Three panelists were gathered from various virus hotspots across the United States including northern New Jersey, Delaware, and Arizona, to share their first-hand experiences of working with patients who have contracted COVID-19. Panel and audience questions centered around PPE, intervention approaches for COVID-19, advice for current students, and personal reflection. While each of the panelist's personal experiences varied, there were common themes cited throughout the event.

Continue Article...

University of North Dakota

The Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Kappa Chapter at the University of North Dakota (UND) had a unique summer semester with many firsts. As classes moved online and fieldwork experiences were halted and rescheduled, the Kappa chapter took the opportunity to continue PTE events through the summer via Zoom. Highlights and benefits from this extra semester include the following:

- Outgoing student officers trained the next year's officers, who were elected in April and officially began their roles this summer.
- Held a dual induction with students at UND's satellite occupational therapy program, located at Casper College in Casper, Wyoming.
    - Inducted 2 new members into the Kappa chapter and the very first 7 members into the Epsilon Rho chapter, on August 27th, 2020.
- Hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on a current, scholarly article, with students in the occupational therapy program in Casper, Wyoming.
    - Students, faculty, and other attendees into small groups to discuss key components of the article, methodology, application to practice, and additional questions specific to the content of the article prior to discussing as a large group.
- Planned a variety of in-services for the upcoming semester The organization has planned and adapted well to the virtual environment and are expecting another successful semester of promoting continuing education and furthering the development of professionalism in students.

Virtual officers' meeting on July 12, 2020.

Induction of members of the Kappa and Epsilon Rho chapters on August 27, 2020.

Missouri State University

The Missouri State University chapter is proud to serve Pi Theta Epsilon's mission while serving the Springfield community. While the scholastic year was cut short, Missouri State's PTE chapter had been active in becoming an official organization and representing the honor society.

PTE members eagerly had lunch with students of Bear POWER, an organization of the university that promotes inclusivity to Missouri State students with intellectual disability. Members shared stories and got to know each person in the program while promoting occupational therapy and independence with university life.

The Ozarks Food Harvest proved both rewarding to members and to the organization as members helped prepare 546 backpacks of food for local students in need. PTE members promoted the field of occupational therapy while packing over 3000 meals!

Finally, the last highlight of the year for Missouri State's PTE chapter was visiting a class of childhood education students at Ozarks Technical Community College. PTE members gave a short presentation to an overflowing room of students to discuss the overlap of their studies and occupational therapy. We felt very successful in sharing the role of occupational therapy to these students and encouraged them to go out and spread their new knowledge! Feedback was received that multiple students are now looking into careers as OTAs/OTs.

The Missouri State University PTE chapter has been honored to uphold the Pi Theta Epsilon mission in promoting occupational therapy this past year and will continue to encourage the presence of PTE in the Springfield community.

University of Texas - Medical Branch

UTMB Nu Chapter Journal Club

Written by: Bridey Thompson, OTS & Julia Bynum, OTS

The Nu Chapter's Journal Committee, consisting of Bridey Thompson, Julia Bynum, Catherine Corder, and Katie Nye, organized the first official Journal Club meeting on July 21st. The Nu chapter hoped to create a journal club with the aim of discussing recently published articles on subjects related to current coursework. Building upon a framework created by class of 2020 president, Amy Sitabkhan, the class of 2022 formed a committee to plan the Journal Club structure, content, and logistics. The first meeting, held online via Microsoft Teams, featured an article by UTMB faculty member, Dr. Amber Armstead. Dr. Armstead graciously participated in the discussion, answering questions and giving further insight into her research. The Journal Club committee plans to invite researchers and clinicians to future meetings, in order to facilitate a deeper conversation about the material and the field of occupational therapy. This journal club launch has proven to be a successful and exciting addition to the Nu Chapter's regular

activities!

Georgia State University

Georgia State University's Epsilon Nu Chapter of PTE is in its 2nd year after officially becoming a chapter in 2018. As a new chapter, we have also become an official organization at Georgia State University, have started our social media pages to reach more people, and connected with Augusta University's chapter. During the pandemic, we hosted two webinars for our OT community: management for people with Tourette's, and Sensory Integration through telehealth. We also fundraised online to create 120 "treat bags" for staff and families at the Shepherd Center, Grady hospital, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in April, when hospitals became crowded due to COVID-19. Our hand-made treat bags include snacks and easy meals, small travel-sized necessity items, and included notes with evidence-based relaxation techniques and encouraging words written by our PTE members. In the upcoming semester, we are planning more scholar activities such as webinars and literature discussions to promote evidence-based OT.

University of New England

The University of New England's Alpha Psi chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon anticipated hosting an auction this summer in support of the St. Catherine's Challenge. In consideration of the health and safety of classmates and faculty working from home, they decided to host a virtual PTE Spirit Week! The chapter hosted nightly events on a virtual platform during the week of July 27-31. Events include a presentation around local and national occupational therapy scholarships, a meet and greet panel between first and second year students, and an occupation talent show! Donations will be collected throughout the week and given to the St. Catherine's Challenge.