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Pi Theta Epsilon

National Honor Society of Occupational Therapy

A program of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Spring 2021 | Volume 31, Issue 3

Letter from the President

Dear Pi Theta Epsilon,

Hello! I hope you all are well, safe, and healthy.

As this Spring semester comes to a wrap, it appears that some form of normalcy is slowly returning. We will continue to plan our annual events according to state and national guidelines in partnership with AOTF.

First up, we have our Annual Business Meeting next week in a virtual format! Please read below for more information.

Faculty Advisors should have received an email with a survey link to help us plan our next annual event virtually, the Faculty Advisors' Workshop. Please reach out to **pte@aotf.org** if you are a PTE Faculty Advisor and did not receive an email.

PTE began a new initiative this year with our one-page monthly newsletter that comes to your inbox ~15th of each month. So far, we have had positive feedback. A formal survey will be sent out this summer to evaluate the effectiveness and perception of this newly added communication channel.

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. I hope to see many of you soon in our virtual events!

Sincerely,

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

PTE's Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion

Over the past year, the Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) National Office has received multiple communications regarding our commitment to diversity & inclusion as well as PTE's relationship with research. We would like to address this concern in a constructive and considered manner to ensure we are upholding our mission and values to their highest standards.

As many of you may be aware, PTE is an established affiliate of AOTF, the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. It is a formal relationship as part of the legal arrangements for our non-profit status. AOTF, like PTE, has been reviewing its policies and procedures related to diversity and inclusion and has formed a task force with PTE to discuss key topics. I am a member of this task force.

In partnership with AOTF, we are addressing a few key topics that have surfaced. These topics include:

- the potential impact of PTE's eligibility criteria on inclusivity and diversity,
- alignment between AOTF and PTE missions and purposes, and
- internal and external opportunities at PTE and/or AOTF to build research capacity and develop career scientists.

I will provide periodic updates on the progress of this task force as able. In the meantime, we ask you to continue reading our communications and contact PTE with any questions and/or comments.

-Pooja Patel, PTE President, DrOT, OTR/L, CDP

Virtual PTE Annual Business Meeting May 10, 7p.m. (ET)

The PTE annual business meeting will again be VIRTUAL this year! You voted, and our virtual annual business meeting will be held on Monday, May 10th, 7 p.m. Eastern, 6 p.m. Central time. We invite each chapter president or delegate to join us for this meeting to ask questions, share concerns, vote, and engage with the PTE National Board. We will also review our national initiatives and have roundtable discussions. Your participation is critical for the success and future of PTE!

Annual Business Meeting ZOOM information is **here**

2021 Delegate's Packet

Welcome Ali to the PTE Executive Board

Happy Spring! If your weather is anything like mine in Tennessee, you might say it's more like summer. Regardless of your geographic location, the warm-up is amongst us, so bring on all the sunshine! My name is Ali Lannom, and I am a graduate of the Delta Phi Chapter at Huntington University (Fort Wayne, Indiana). I am so excited to serve as the Pi Theta Epsilon – National Vice-President for the 2021-2023 term. A little bit about me: I love all things hand therapy, industrial rehabilitation, and prosthetics. I currently work at a large outpatient clinic where I have the opportunity to incorporate all of my passions into my daily practice. This means that there is never a dull moment! During my time as PTE Vice-President, I hope to help facilitate member engagement, interchapter collaboration, and leadership development opportunities. I cannot wait to work with you to promote the advancement of PTE. If you have any questions or ideas, please let me know!

- Ali Lannom

Welcome J. M. Treviño to the PTE Executive Board

Hello PTE! I'm Jay and I am so excited to be the incoming National Treasurer of PTE. I am an alumna of the Beta Alpha Chapter at Howard University, in Washington, D.C, receiving my MSOT December 2020. I'm from the Entertainment Capital of the World, Las Vegas, NV, by way of Southern California. My goals as national treasurer are to continue promoting the mission of PTE, fulfill the functions of this role, increase communication between

the executive board and chapters, and increase scholarship opportunities for underrepresented/marginalized groups. I look forward to this amazing opportunity and working with you all!
- J. M. Treviño

Thank You 2021 St. Catherine Challenge Participants!

AOTF 2021 ST. CATHERINE CHALLENGE

Over $43,000 was raised for
AOTF Intervention Research Grants by 50 schools.

PLATINUM $5,000 - $7,499

University of Pittsburgh

GOLD $2,500 - $4,999

Washington University in St. Louis

NYU STEINHARDT Department of Occupational Therapy

UF College of Public Health and Health Professions, Department of Occupational Therapy, UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SILVER $1,000 - $2,499

MVP

MGH Institution of Health Professionals*
Columbia University
Indiana University
Misericordia University
St. Catherine's University
San Jose State University
Texas Woman's University
University of North Dakota
Anonymous

BRONZE $500 - $999

Rush to the Top Award

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
Boston University
Brenau University
Florida International University
Missouri State University
Spalding University
Stanbridge University*
St. Louis University
St. Scholastica University*
Temple University
Towson University
Tufts University
University of New Hampshire
University of Louisianna-Monroe
University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston
University of Illinois-Chicago
University of Southern California
Virginia Commonwealth University

CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

Texas Tech University
Indiana State University
University of Tennesse HSC
Salus University
Northern Arizona University
Gwynedd Mercy University*
Mary Baldwin University
University of Mary
University of New England
University of South Dakota
Sacred Heart University
Rockhurst University
Creighton University
Eastern Carolina University
Nova Southeastern University, Tampa
University of Oklahoma-HSC

#AOTFSCC

*Indicates 100% faculty participation

Make the pledge to be a part of the 2021-2022 St. Catherine's Challenge

2021-2022 Pledge Form

Faculty Advisors' Workshop- SUMMER 2021

The Faculty Advisor's Workshop will also be virtual this year! This is a great opportunity for interaction of faculty all across the country, and to allow everyone to discuss questions and ideas to improve chapter success! The meeting will include roundtable discussion questions as well as an opportunity to ask questions to the national board. **Vote** for a date and time that works best for you- majority rules! We also continue to encourage you to browse our website, join the **Facebook group**, and email us with any questions.

ADVERTISMENT

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Earn a transitional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (tOTD) degree from Marymount University. You have 24/7 online access to your lessons, assignments, forums and more when you are ready, from virtually anywhere. And all for $14,500. Apply for Fall 2021 today.

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AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Pi Theta Epsilon award recipients!

President's Award:
This award is presented to one or more PTE chapters that organize and implement outstanding scholarly activities. This year's recipients are **Gamma Pi & Beta Psi Chapters Russell Sage College & Stony Brook University**

Mary J. Bridle First Researcher Award:
The Mary J. Bridle Award is one of four awards through PTE annually. It honors first-time researchers with the opportunity to have their research published in the *OTJR: Occupational, Participation, & Health.* Next round of letter of intents (LOI) due October 31st.

For the 2021 award cycle, we received six LOIs - four were approved to submit applications with manuscripts. All four manuscripts were reviewed by Academy of Research members, ultimately identifying one recipient.

The awardee for the 2021 Mary J. Bridle Award is: **Keri Kamphoff** from the University of South Dakota! Manuscript Title: *Occupational Therapists Addressing Quality of Life Issues for Clients with Lymphedema.*

The Martha Kirkland Scholarship:
This scholarship is one of over fifty scholarships available through AOTF and state associations. This scholarship is awarded to a deserving occupational therapy student and PTE member. This year's recipients are **Sarah Smith, Northern Arizona University – Delta Xi & Julia Zezinka, University of Pittsburgh – Beta Tau.**

Grant for Excellence in Interchapter Collaboration:
This award is presented to two or more chapters who have exceeded efforts to create interchapter collaboration that supports PTE's mission with an aim to increase knowledge, develop professional

skills, and/or contribute to the advancement of the OT profession. **Nebraska Methodist College, Creighton University & College of St. Mary** hosted a virtual research symposium which truly highlights the mission of Pi Theta Epsilon. The three schools also made further efforts to involve each chapter's alumni community, building upon PTE's national initiative to promote alumni participation.

PTE University & College Updates

Augusta University

Augusta University's recently founded Epsilon Rho Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon co-hosted its first guest speaker event with the Augusta University Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) Chapter. Dr. Khalilah Johnson, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, facilitated discussion about her recent publication *Occupation, injustice, and anti-Black racism in the United States of America*. Students were challenged to consider the impact of occupations as a reinforcer of racial injustice, prejudice, and social inequality. The Epsilon Rho Chapter also inducted two new members on March 8th, 2021 and is hosted an AU alumni guest speaker panel in April.

Stanbridge University

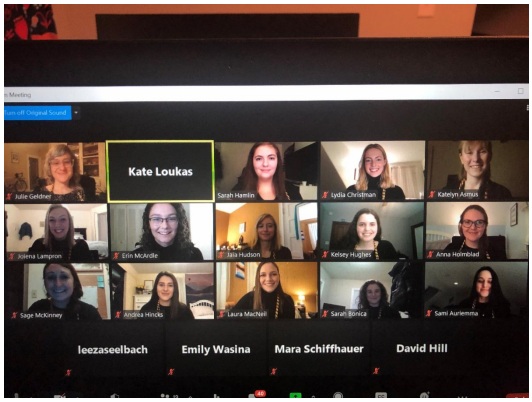
Stanbridge University's Delta Psi Chapter continues to serve Pi Theta Epsilon's mission through scholarly activities. In the beginning of 2021, we participated in a roundtable discussion regarding the effectiveness of yoga, current evidence-based articles on yoga, and how we can incorporate it into our future practice. We concluded the roundtable discussion with a 1-hour yoga class led by a certified yoga instructor in our cohort. PTE leadership was further demonstrated during an online, in-service presentation to the kinesiology club and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society at Whittier College. PTE executive board members discussed occupational therapy's role in various settings, explained the differences between a career in OT and a career in PT, discussed common graduate school prerequisites, and explained the process of applying through OTCAS. We also had the privilege of hosting an online workshop with Dr. Brent Braveman, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. He discussed with PTE members and Stanbridge faculty on the importance of mentorship, leadership, and advocacy. The Delta Psi Chapter is excited to continue engaging in scholarly activities, and further support the advancement of occupational therapy through the discussion of current evidence-based practice, community service, and raising funds for the St. Catherine's Challenge.

Additionally, the Delta Psi Chapter is proud to have fundraised a total of $525 for the 2021 St. Catherine's Challenge. We exceeded our $500 pledge goal, and also received 100% faculty participation! The Delta Psi Chapter would like to thank our community for their contribution and unwavering support for occupational therapy research.

Lastly, the Stanbridge University's Delta Psi Chapter welcomed 19 inductees into Pi Theta Epsilon in April 2021. The inductees were welcomed into PTE through a virtual Zoom ceremony. We had the pleasure of having Dr. Hiral Khatri, OTR/L, OTD, founder and CEO of OT ParkBox, and Dr. Ali

Lannom, OTR/L, OTD, CEES, CLIPP, the National PTE Vice President-elect, as our keynote speakers. Friends, family, and faculty members were in attendance to celebrate the inductees' scholastic achievements. The new members are looking forward to upcoming opportunities to engage in scholarly activities, and to continue to advocate for occupational therapy within their community.

New England University



On February 22, the University of New England's Alpha Psi chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon inducted its newest 14 members with a virtual ceremony accompanied by family and friends of the inductees. The Dean of the Westbrook College of Health Professions, Karen Pardue, gave a warm welcome speech to the incoming members. Professor Emeritus Nancy MacRae provided an overview of the Alpha Psi chapter's history and gave thoughtful advice for practice as the keynote speaker. Program Director Kris Winston offered her support during an inspirational closing to the ceremony.
The incoming members have elected the following individuals to serve as officers: Sarah Hamlin, President; Katelyn Asmus, Vice President; Julie Geldner, Treasurer; and Lydia Christman, Secretary. The Alpha Psi chapter of PTE aims to plan its annual Nancy MacRae Meaningful Occupations Silent Auction in a virtual format. The chapter hopes to carry on this important tradition, whose proceeds go the St. Catherine's Challenge.

On April 27, the University of New England's chapters of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) and Coalition for Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) co-sponsored a panel of emerging occupational therapy researchers. The virtual panel featured three emerging researchers in the field: Kierra Peak, MSOT, PhD candidate, OTR/L; Dr. Alaa Abou-Arab, OTD, OTR/L; and Dr. Ryan Lavalley, PhD, OTR/L. These emerging scholars discussed their paths to research, innovative work, and what diversity, equity, and inclusion mean to their research and OT academia. Attendees had an opportunity to ask the panelists questions about their careers and research. The event showcased the importance of diversity and evidence-based practice in the field of occupational therapy.

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center's PTE members are working diligently to share knowledge, even as virtual learning continues. Each year, the chapter vice president facilitates a workshop for first- and second-year OT students outlining the most up-to-date version of the APA manual. This workshop falls just before the MOT1's first major research paper in the graduate program. PTE members attend the workshop and are available to answer specific questions about in-text citations, references, and other APA logistics in small break-out rooms after the vice president's presentation. This event is an incredible opportunity for all students to sharpen their professional communication abilities—all while maintaining social distancing guidelines. Just because we're apart doesn't mean we can't stay sharp!

Congratulations 2021 Graduates!

AOTF would like to congratulate the class of 2021! Please keep in touch as you contribute to the advancement of the field of occupational therapy.

Although your graduation celebrations may not be quite as you envisioned, we have PTE honor cords and pins available to help make it special.

Best Wishes!

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