

SCROLL & PEN

Pi Theta Epsilon - Newsletter

National Honor Society of Occupational Therapy



A program of the
AOTF
60th ANNIVERSARY

Winter 2025 | Volume 36, Issue 2



Dear Members of Pi Theta Epsilon,

As I pen this final welcome note as your National President, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared. Serving in this role has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my career, and I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside such talented and dedicated individuals.

Over the past few years, Pi Theta Epsilon has continued to thrive as a vibrant community committed to scholarly excellence and the advancement of occupational therapy. Together, we have celebrated academic achievements, fostered meaningful collaborations, and upheld the values that make our honor society so unique. It has been inspiring to witness the creativity, passion, and commitment that our members bring to advancing the profession and making a difference in the lives of others.

I am particularly proud of the strides we have made in strengthening engagement within our membership. From interactive workshops and thought-provoking discussions to innovative initiatives highlighting the importance of scholarship in practice, these moments have showcased the best of what PTE stands for. Each of you, whether as students, faculty advisors, or alumni, has played an integral role in making these achievements possible.

As we look to the future, I am confident that Pi Theta Epsilon will continue to grow and flourish under the leadership of those who follow. Our mission to support scholarly endeavors and encourage lifelong learning in occupational therapy remains as vital as ever, and I know our members are well-equipped to carry this torch forward. I encourage each of you to consider stepping into leadership roles within PTE, including the position of National President. Serving in this capacity has been an enriching and rewarding experience, and I have no doubt that many of you possess the vision and dedication to lead our society into its next chapter.

To my fellow officers, advisors, and members, thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and collaboration. You have enriched my life and reinforced my belief in the power of scholarship and community. With warmest regards and best wishes for the road ahead.

Jaimee M.B. Hegge, OTD, OTR/L, CKTP, HEAS
National President, Pi Theta Epsilon

PTE continues with Course #2 Of OT.com to offer CEU credit courses for lifetime members

Dates: January 20- February 2, 2025

Course # 9575: Introduction to GenAI and Chatbots for Healthcare Professionals

Length: 1 hour

Course description: This dynamic introductory webinar provides a foundational understanding of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and chatbots, focusing on their relevance, utility, and applications for healthcare professionals. It includes a basic overview of AI as well as how-to walkthroughs with current GenAI tools for typical professional uses. It is designed to equip attendees with insights and essential resources to get started with GenAI or take their skills to the next level. Don't miss this opportunity to get ahead of the curve on the rapidly evolving landscape of GenAI - one of the most important innovations shaping our future.

Presented by:

Leigha Jansen EdD, CPACC, and Carolyn Smaka AuD

Presenters bio:

Leigha Jansen, EdD, CPACC, is the director of educational technology at Continued. With degrees from the University of Minnesota and Nova Southeastern, Dr. Jansen brings brains, heart, and over 20 years of experience. Her passion is leveraging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to deliver top-notch continuing education for adult learners nationwide.

A self-proclaimed lifelong learner, Dr. Jansen holds the CPACC credential and keeps digital accessibility at the forefront. She serves on the IACET Board of Directors and as an adjunct faculty member at Concordia University because she believes in the combined power of learning and technology to improve lives. At Continued and beyond, Dr. Jansen is an educational ambassador who brings knowledge, compassion, and vision to every project. Her friendly Midwestern warmth makes everyone feel genuinely welcome.

Carolyn Smaka, AuD, is the Editor-in-Chief at Continued. Leading a dynamic team of editors, she directs the development of world-class continuing education course libraries that span multiple disciplines. Before Continued, Carolyn provided audiology care in diverse clinical settings and served in leadership roles in the hearing industry. Her dedication to audiology is reflected in extensive volunteer work with professional associations, and she is a past recipient of the Joel Wernick Award from the Academy of Doctors of Audiology.

Carolyn is passionate about the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and is excited by its countless applications in the education and healthcare sectors. As an AI ambassador, she continuously upskills through professional development, research, and early adoption of AI tools for work and play. She leads her team's efforts in incorporating AI into their workflows to streamline processes and bolster staff engagement.

RSVP:

[David Robertson](#)

Action Item: Apply for the Open PTE National President & Treasurer Positions

The PTE National Executive Team is looking to fill the President & Treasurer positions that have been excellently handled by Professor Jaimee Hegge & Shannon Skowbo, and their terms are up on Saturday, April 5, 2025. These positions will help be a part of the Executive Team from the AOTA Conference 2025 - AOTA Conference 2027. So fill out a Nomination Form (**Advisors are welcome**) and nominate yourself as the next PTE Executive Team President or Treasurer. Please send forms to [David Robertson](#)

**GET
INVOLVED!**

- [President Nomination Form](#)
- [Treasurer Nomination Form](#)

Perks:

- Expenses Paid, including flights for the AOTF Conferences in Philadelphia (2025), Anaheim (2026), and Boston (2027)
- Make a difference, advance PTE
- Great on your resume

Please return the form(s) to and by **January 31st:**

[David A. Robertson](#)
Manager, Student Affairs
PTE National Office
Rockville, MD 20852

Annual PTE Awards & Grants 2024/25



Action Alert #2 - All Applications are due by the end of January!

President's Award

The President's Award has been established to honor and recognize Pi Theta Epsilon chapters, which organize and implement outstanding scholarly activities developed to increase knowledge, develop professional skills, and contribute to advancing occupational therapy.

Inter-Chapter Collaboration

The Excellence in Inter-Chapter Collaboration Award has been established to honor and recognize Pi Theta Epsilon chapters, that have excelled in creating inter-chapter collaborations that support the PTE mission. Inter-chapter collaborations must have been organized and implemented by two or more chapters to increase knowledge, develop professional skills, and contribute to advancing the occupational therapy profession. Examples of inter-chapter collaborations include but are not limited to, events, workshops, educational/scholarly papers, etc.



Attend PTE Events and Visit The PTE Section Of The AOTF Booth In The Expo Hall

1. April 3 - April 5, 2025. Philadelphia, PA
2. PTE Sessions on Thursday, April 3:
 - PTE Session 1 (2 - 3:30pm), Making the Most of PTE and What You Might be Missing
Open to all PTE Members, including Alumni & Advisors
 - Located in the PMD Marriott, Salon K
 - PTE Session 2 (4-5:30pm), Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Open to all PTE Members
 - Located in the PMD Marriott, Salon F
 - PTE Session 3 (5:30 - 6:30pm), Open to all PTE Members, Advisors & Alumni, PTE Reception
 - Located at the Marriott, Salon B

All PTE Members attending the AOTA Conference are encouraged to attend these three PTE events

We'd love to hear your thoughts! What would you like to see from PTE this year and at the AOTA Conference? Your input is really important to us!



alumni news



Rachel Tokarski, MS, OTR/L, graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Duquesne University in 2019 and a Master of Occupational Therapy in 2020. While attending Duquesne, she was a Beta Theta Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon member.

Rachel started her career in outpatient pediatrics in 2020, working with children of all ages. With some experience and a supportive team behind her, she transitioned to working in the Pennsylvania Early Intervention Program in 2022, where she became endorsed as a coach by the state FGRBI program. In 2023, Rachel moved to Chicago, where she now works in the Illinois Early Intervention

Program.

Her passions in the OT field include play-based intervention and the neurodiversity-affirming movement. Rachel has taken various continuing education courses, including Reflex Integration courses, SOS, the FGRBI program in PA, and DIR Floortime 101. She is currently working on a certification in ACDCS.

ALUMNI UPDATES

The 2025 St. Catherine Challenge is wrapping up!

We are pleased to announce that many schools have successfully achieved 100% faculty participation! Please note the hard deadline is January 31, 2025.

Need more information, please contact [us](#)



Top 10 Chapters with the most raised funds as of 1/10/2025:

1. Texas Woman's University
2. University of Pittsburgh
3. Marquette University
4. University of Southern California
5. Misericordia University
6. St. Catherine University
7. Boston University
8. Washington University in St. Louis
9. New York University
10. University of Wisconsin - Madison

Heartfelt thanks for your participation in this year's challenge!

**PTE
STORE**

American Occupational Therapy Foundation | PTE aotf.org |
pte@aotf.org



AOTF | 12300 Twinbrook Pkwy. Ste. 520 | Rockville, MD 20852 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!