

# Scroll & Pen

Pi Theta Epsilon  
The National Honor Society of Occupational  
Therapy

*A program of the  
American Occupational Therapy Foundation*



Fall 2018 Volume 28, Issue 3

## President's Report

Hello,

During the May edition of our quarterly newsletter, we discussed the discontinuation of our formerly-held national events (i.e., Annual Business Meeting, PTE Poster Session, & PTE Special Presentation) at the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave in November and moving them to the AOTA Annual Conference in April. At that time, we had urged you to complete numerous surveys to better understand how to best meet your needs and maximize your presence as we begin planning our events at conference.



I am so excited to inform you that we received 115 responses to guide our conference planning! THANK YOU to those who participated! Based on your feedback, National Office has been working diligently to create the most effective schedule of events for the 2019 AOTA Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. We are especially excited about the first ever Speed Mentoring Session.

Since May, the executive committee has put together the following changes:

- [Conference Schedule of Events 2019](#)
- [Award Deadlines](#)
- [National Vice President & Treasurer Elections](#)
- [Partnership renewal with OT.com](#)

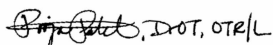
Please read below as we highlight the changes in detail. As always, we encourage you to reach out to [National Office](#) to voice your questions, concerns, comments, and ideas.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to [Kim Clark](#) for her years of service and dedication to PTE as Vice President -- you will be greatly missed! We know we will still see you at PTE events.

Since May, National Office has also introduced a new member to our team: [Natasha Bragg, National Coordinator](#). Join me in welcoming her to the team by reading her welcome address below.

Stay tuned for more updates in the next edition of our newsletter right before conference! We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Best,

 Pooja Patel, D.O.T., OTR/L

Pooja Patel  
National President

# Join PTE at the AOTA Annual Conference in New Orleans -- April 4-7, 2019.

The PTE schedule has been developed to optimize the attendance of PTE members nationwide. Dates and times are subject to change at the discretion of National Office. Stay tuned for any updates to scheduling should they arise.

- PTE Faculty Advisor's Workshop: Wed., 4/3/19 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- PTE Reception & Student Posters: Thurs., 4/4/19 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- PTE Annual Business Meeting: Thurs., 4/4/19 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- PTE Speed Mentoring Session: Sat., 4/6/19 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

At Conference the first ever [Speed Mentoring Session](#) will take place! PTE will be hosting this Speed Mentoring Session with Susan Murphy, ScD, OTR, and Susan Lin, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA. Speed mentoring is similar to speed dating but instead will allow participants to gain knowledge regarding research in quick one-on-one sessions! Participants will gain tremendous knowledge from two great researchers. Stay tuned for more information including registration for the event! Currently, this event will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019, and will be available to PTE members only.

The Executive Committee has decided to place the Special Presentation Session (originally held at Conclave) on hold for the 2019 Conference as we better understand our transition needs. We look forward to re-establishing this session in 2020.

Once again, we are incredibly thankful to the 115 participants of our Conference Planning Survey.

## PTE News

### Changes to Award Deadlines

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.

Check out the [website](#) for information on the Mary J. Bridle First Research Award, the President's Award, and the Award for Excellence in Interchapter Collaboration.

Visit the [AOTF scholarship page](#) for the Martha J. Kirkland Endowed Scholarship (one of over 50 scholarships sponsored through AOTF). Award and scholarship deadlines are typically in October, view the above links for more detailed information and specific deadlines.



## Welcome, National Coordinator, Natasha Bragg

Natasha Bragg joined AOTF in July 2018 as Member & Program Coordinator responsible for the coordination of Pi Theta Epsilon and the St. Catherine Challenge.

She has a background in fundraising and has worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations and companies, including an older adult services nonprofit and home health care agency.

Natasha has a BA in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Denver. She belonged to the Golden Key International Honour Society and the University's Chancellor's Scholars and Leaders applied leadership program. In her free time, Natasha studies classical violin and pre-columbian archeology.

Natasha is thrilled to have recently launched the St. Catherine Challenge kickoff on October 1. She is looking forward to meeting PTE members at the AOTA Annual Conference this April in New Orleans.

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## National VP & Treasurer Election Results

Congratulations to Sean Brim who was re-elected National Treasurer, and Rich Whalley, our newly-elected Vice President.

Sean Brim graduated from Florida International University (FIU) in 2015 where he was the president of the Mu chapter. Sean led the chapter's expansion of scholarly activities and participation into the AOTF St. Catherine Challenge. Sean was also involved in the Student Occupational Therapy Association and was the first delegate FIU sent to the Assembly of Student Delegates. Currently, Sean is a full-time pediatric therapist and works part-time in an orthopedic setting. As treasurer, Sean aims to facilitate better communication about upcoming fundraising events to PTE students.

Rich joined the Board as the new Vice President of PTE in September 2018. Rich is an OTD student at Washington University in St. Louis and will graduate in 2019. Originally from Long Island, New York, he completed his BS in human development with a minor in sociology at Binghamton University in 2011. While an undergraduate, Rich spent two months as the lone American on an international team working in the West Bank to build sustainable programming for the Jahalin Bedouin children of Khan Al-Ahmar.

Following his undergraduate degree, his first career was in clinical research working with OTs on the clinical trials of the implantable miniature telescope for end stage age-related macular degeneration. This experience with OTs ultimately led him to pursue the profession. Rich's primary practice and research interests include student-run clinics and their role in underserved populations, hand therapy, and the low vision population. He is active as the Conference Committee chair for the Xi Chapter of PTE, and has held past committee chair positions for the OT student association at Wash U. He believes serving PTE in this capacity will allow him to promote OT research and scholarship, and develop community across PTE



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## PTE Renews Benefit for Lifetime Members with OT.com

PTE continues its partnership with [OccupationalTherapy.com](http://OccupationalTherapy.com) to provide three **FREE** CEU webinars per year to its lifetime members. There was tremendous growth with each CEU successive webinar offered last year.

This upcoming year the PTE/OT.com partnership will offer three new CEU webinars. Make sure you sign up to ensure your registration. Based off of popularity the following three webinars were selected:

- Seating for Special Populations: Pediatric, Geriatric, Bariatric, and Degenerative October 22-November 5, 2018;
- Executive Functions and Everyday Activities January 28 - February 11, 2019;
- Ethics in Rehabilitation: A Clinical Perspective for Occupational Therapists May 6 - 20, 2019.

Watch your inbox for more information or contact [pte@aotf.org](mailto:pte@aotf.org) to make sure you are registered.

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## Join the St. Catherine Challenge and Raise Money to Support OT Research

**AOTF** 2019  
**ST. CATHERINE  
CHALLENGE**

44 schools raised over \$45,000 for the AOTF Intervention Research Grants during the [2018 St. Catherine Challenge](#). Did your school make the list? If not, contact Natasha Bragg at [StCatherineChallenge@aotf.org](mailto:StCatherineChallenge@aotf.org) today..

This student-led initiative supports OT research by raising funds for occupational therapy research grants provided by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Since its inception in 2013 by St. Catherine University, the St. Catherine Challenge has raised over \$200,000 to advance the future of OT.

## Chapter & Member News



# Spalding University's Buddy Ball: Improving Community Connections through PTE Scholarship and Service

The Beta Rho Chapter of PTE at Spalding University's Auerbach School of Occupational Therapy, Louisville, Kentucky, hosted the first annual "Buddy Ball," a fundraiser for The Saint Catherine Challenge. The Beta Rho Chapter has approximately 68 student members. Students reached out to two local organizations, Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Louisville (FEAT) and Best Buddies, to share details of the event with the targeted population of participants. Inspiration for the ball came from students' desire to do something both unique for the fundraiser and provide a way for individuals with developmental disabilities to come together in the community. The goal for this event was to encourage a welcoming, entertaining, low-cost event.

Approximately 30 participants attended the Buddy Ball, including parents and caregivers. Donations were made from Kroger, Chipotle, Raising Caine's Chicken, and Jimmy Johns. Student volunteers served food, acted as DJ, chaperoned, and were responsible for the setup/tear down of the ball held at the Spalding University Center Ballroom. Participants ate, danced, and made friends during the evening.



Several parents commented that it is difficult to find affordable and accommodating events like this in the area, which is what made this ball so important for our members. Parents expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate and were enthusiastic about the idea of having a similar gathering next year. This aligns with the Beta Rho Chapter's goal to continue this new tradition. PTE members were pleased to see that their outreach efforts far exceeded the original goal of working with only two local organizations. Attendees included individuals from schools and other community agencies. Students felt that by providing services to maximize occupational participation and socialization to the community, this fundraiser stayed true to the spirit of the core values of occupational therapy as a profession.

*Submitted by PTE Secretary Kaitlyn Collins, OTS, PTE Treasurer Vanessa Klawitter, OTS, and Faculty Advisor Laura Stimler, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, C/NDT, Beta Rho Chapter, Auerbach School of Occupational Therapy, Spalding University.*

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Welcome, Delta Gamma Inductees



On September 18, 2018, College of Saint Mary welcomed 14 inductees into PTE Delta Gamma Chapter. The new inductees are eager to take on this new leadership role, both on and off campus. The new members include: Jessica Arias, Paige Finken, Allison Radil, Katherine Wilson, Brittney Banks, Megan Dostal, Sharon Coleman, Samantha Veys, Megan Michel, Morgan Delaney, Emily Rood, Betsy Foltz, Victoria Johnson and Katie Brungardt. These young women will remain active in PTE until fall of 2019.

We would love to hear from your chapter! Fundraising ideas and successes, scholarly events, journal clubs, and whatever else your chapter is up to. You can submit a 5-10 minute video clip for your chance to be featured on Chapter Chat. Please contact [pte@aotf.org](mailto:pte@aotf.org) with your submission today.

## Mentoring for All

**Susan H. Lin, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA**  
co-chair, Mentoring Committee  
Past National President PTE

Mentoring comes in many formats and is widely utilized across professions and industries. The traditional model is one-to-one (face-to-face or virtual) over a significant period, but this may not be feasible in some circumstances. Creativity and innovation often begins with acknowledging a problem and then asking, "What if...?" What if you could ask multiple accomplished leaders and scholars of occupational therapy a few questions? What if you could mentor someone without committing to a year of meetings? What if AOTF could offer this opportunity freely to you as a PTE member benefit?



When Dr. Susan Murphy, ScD, OTR, co-chair of the PTE Mentoring Committee, mentioned the idea of speed mentoring, I was elated; I've been wanting to launch one for years. I am extremely pleased that AOTF is willing to support the scholarly growth and career planning of PTE members. This may actually be the very first speed mentoring event at AOTA Conference!

Like speed dating (which I must confess, I have only gleaned from the internet

and not from direct experience), mentees move from table to table, chatting with mentors for a short period of time. After an audio cue is given, mentees are given a minute to jot down their answers and wrap up their conversation before moving to another mentor's table. Although speed mentoring was designed to match mentees to mentors, we will just be using this format for a single session of informal mentoring. Mentees will benefit by receiving perspectives and sage advice from mentors and mentors will not have to commit much time.

If this opportunity interests you and you plan to attend the 2019 AOTA Conference in New Orleans, we invite you to save the date: Saturday, April 6, 9:00 -10:30 a.m. If you're interested in attending as a mentee, you can start thinking about your questions for mentors with experience in leadership, research, academia, and scholarship. I hope to meet you in N'awlins!

## Chapter Chat -- The Official PTE YouTube Channel

Did you know that PTE has an official YouTube Channel?

Search Pi Theta Epsilon OT Honor Society on YouTube or [follow this link](#) and subscribe. Chapter Chat is a forum for chapters to interact with the National Board, AOTF, and each other. Whether you are looking for content to fill chapter meetings or ideas for scholarly events, this is a tool we want to build up as a resource for PTE Chapters. At the moment we have several educational videos, interviews from Boston University's Omicron Chapter of AOTF Intervention Research Grant recipients, and San Jose State University Gamma Mu Chapter's video on the St. Catherine Challenge.

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### Outgoing message from PTE Vice President Kimberly Clark



It has been my pleasure to serve as the National Vice President of PTE for the past four years. When I started my role on the National Board I was a new practitioner trying to figure out how to balance managing patient care while continuing to incorporate evidence-based practice and uphold the mission of PTE. One of the most valuable things I have gained from my ongoing involvement in PTE is a constant inspiration from student and alumni members alike. The interactions with PTE members, who represent some of the most driven occupational therapists and OT students, inspire me to incorporate leadership and excellence in my daily OT practice.

As I move on from my role as VP, I aim to become more involved in my local leadership organizations and clinical research at the hospital I am currently employed. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities PTE has provided for me and the role it has played in my professional development. I am more than happy to welcome Richard Whalley as your new National VP! I am excited to see the evolution and progression of PTE as an organization under the influence of the new addition to the board!

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