



# ALPHA ETA

## President's Column

*Dale Fish, PT, PhD*

Alpha Eta's motto, "Together We Serve", is worthy of examination if for no other reason than mottos, like bumper stickers, can be ambiguous due to their brevity. I whole-heartedly support Alpha Eta's motto but see in it a challenge to current and future members - a challenge we should strive to meet. Who are 'we' and who do we 'serve'? And, do we truly serve 'together'?

allied health professions organizations such as Alpha Eta and the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. Separately, each



'We' are allied health professionals who serve a broad diversity of patients and clients. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) provides employment figures for each health profession - those data secondarily reveal why

allied health profession is small (rarely exceeding 200,000 persons), whereas some of the health professions not typically included in the 'allied health' category, e.g., registered nurses (2,584,000) and physicians/surgeons (274,000) are relatively large and well-known.

SEPTEMBER, 2010

### CONTENTS



President's Column

1



Annual Meeting

1



Secretary/Treasurer's Column

2



Chapter News

3



New Chapters

4

*"Together We Serve"*

## Annual Meeting, 2009

The 2009 Annual Meeting was held at the *Omni La Mansion Del Rio* in San Antonio, TX on October 21, 2009.

President William Frey presided over the meeting. Minutes and Financial report were approved.

The next order of business was the presentation of

the Sidney Rodenberg and Lee Holder Awards for outstanding academic performance, leadership and scholarship by undergraduate and graduate students in the allied health profession. This year's Rodenberg Award recipient was Trisha McCulloch

**Continued on page 4**

## President's Column

Do we truly serve 'together'? It seems there is ample room for improvement here because discipline-specific education dominates our professional preparation programs, and tends to carry over into clinical practice. Interprofessional education (IPE) is perhaps best summarized as 'learning together to work together', and holds great promise for allied health professionals. IPE promotes respect, cooperation and collaboration among the professions, while valuing the skills and knowledge represented within each profession. IPE focuses on knowledge, skills and attitudes in areas such as communication, teamwork, leadership, ethics, cultural competence, evidence based practice, and health

informatics. These core areas together with the common goal of promoting the health and well-being of our patients/clients, represent a 'glue' that can bind us together, and lead to better and more efficient clinical outcomes.

Alpha Eta is an interprofessional honor society. As such, its members have unique opportunities to provide leadership that transcends single disciplines. We can promote IPE opportunities and activities that enhance the often fragile linkages among the health professions – these efforts will add substance to our motto, 'Together We Serve'.

Join us in Charlotte, NC on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to promote IPE activities.



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## Secretary/Treasurer's Column

*David A. Lake, PT, Ph.D.*

As I approach the end of my term as Secretary/Treasurer, I want to thank the hard work of the Executive Committee and the two president's under whom I have served: Bill Frey and Dale Fish.

It was quite a transition to move from leadership in a local chapter to move to leadership at the national level. So much to do and so much to think about with the duties ranging from organizing the Annual Meeting each year, to filing taxes, to supplying the local chapters with honor cords, membership pins and membership certificates. It has been quite a balancing act, particularly when you include what I

refer to as the "job I get paid for". But it has also been very rewarding as well. It has given me the opportunity to work with Alpha Eta members throughout this country and to see how "together we serve" allied health students and our professions.

In the past 3 years we have added an average of 3 new chapters each year to serve students and faculty in even more allied health programs throughout the country.

I look forward to Alpha Eta continuing to grow!

## Chapter News

### Ithaca College

As a new chapter, Ithaca College induced its first 12 student members, 7 faculty members and 3 honorary members this Spring.



Chapter President Paul Geisler (center right) is seen with Steven Siconolfi, Dean of the School of Health Professions and Human Performance and the student inductees

within the area. The Alpha Eta members along with other from the college contributed several boxes of toiletries, household supplies, toys, and administrative supplies to the International Institute this past spring.



Project Santa Christmas tree being decorated by the SLU Alpha Eta Chapter Members

### St. Louis University

The Saint Louis University (SLU) chapter does two major service projects each year:

1) Their fall project is Santa SLU. As a part of that project, they fulfill Christmas wishes for designated low-income families in the community. They put up a Christmas tree with ornaments with the first name of the family member and a desired gift. Faculty, staff and students select the ornaments, purchase and wrap the gifts. Campus Ministry assists the chapter in making the deliveries right before Christmas.

2) Their spring project for the last couple of years has been a supplies drive for the International Institute of St. Louis, an agency responsible for resettlement of refugee families from other countries and assisting foreign-born residents

### Bossier Parish Community College

The Alpha Eta Chapter at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, Louisiana each year sponsors the "Cavalier Closet" (named after the school mascot). Graduating allied health students donate their gently used clinical uniforms, old stethoscopes and other equipment so that the incoming allied health students who are in need can pick up what they could use during their time as a student.



Bossier Parish Community College  
Mascot - the Cavalier



## Annual Meeting

continued from page 1

who was a student in Rehabilitation Science Major at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. The Holder award recipient was Kathryn Solari, a physical therapy - DPT - student at St Louis University. Neither recipient was able to attend because both were involved in the Physical Therapy Student Conclave which conflicted with our meeting (Note: Ms McCulloch is presently a DPT student as well)



Dean Jodi Cahalan receiving the President's Award from Alpha Eta President Bill Frey

The President's Award was presented to Jodi L. Cahalan, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, representing the Des Moines University Chapter.

Elections for Executive Committee Members (4 positions for 2-year term and 1 for a 1-year term) were held. James Temme, Linda Reilly, Mike Paquet, Charles Fox were elected to the

four 2-year terms and Barry Eckert was elected to the one year term to replace Dale Fish who became President at the end of this meeting.

Motion that only programs recognized as accredited and/or certified by an approval body will be used for determination if candidate institutions have the 3 allied health programs needed to establish an Alpha Eta Chapter was approved by consensus vote.

Chapters present shared their activities during the year.



Bill Frey outgoing President congratulating incoming President Dale Fish

Incoming President Dale Fish closed the meeting by encouraging interprofessional activities through embracing other programs, by encouraging Alpha Eta to both continue to expand with the addition of new chapters but to also awaken activities in current chapters, and by urging us to optimize outreach and service to our members.

## NEW CHAPTERS

### Mercy College

Mercy College's School of Health and Natural Sciences is located in Dobbs Ferry, New York and has graduate and undergraduate degree programs in Communication Disorders Occupational Therapy & Physical Therapy

### Mercy College of Health Sciences

Mercy College of Health Sciences offers a wide range of professional programs including Clinical Laboratory Science, Physical Therapy Assistant, Nuclear Medicine Technology, various imaging programs and many others.

### Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

The School of Health Sciences is located on the Pomona, NJ campus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. It is quite new being formed in 2008 from the Division of Professional Studies. It offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in occupational therapy physical therapy, public health, and speech and communication disorders