



ALPHA ETA

President's Column

Dale Fish, PT, PhD

Charlotte Rumsey Jackson never wrote a textbook or a scientific publication, and never presented findings at a national conference - still, we can learn a lot from her. In 2009 she was 86 years old and a regular 'dynamo' - preparing meals for family members and soups for church functions, running errands in her SUV, playing bridge, and sewing. Then in December, the 'rains' came - not precipitation, but a sudden shower of emboli lodged in the posterior part of her brain - particularly, her right occipital lobe. She survived this life-threatening stroke, but emerged to a very different life than the one she had before. She had joined the ranks of the 40 to 50 million Americans living with disability.

'While in the hospital, she had blood drawn and analyzed, had respiratory therapy, and had her initial rehabilitation. The right occipital lobe processes visual information from the left field of vision in each eye, so when it's damaged, vision to the left is lost out of both eyes. This impairment, coupled with a general decrease in strength and balance, had a profound effect on Charlotte's function. In "rehab" she slowly learned how to walk without



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"Together We Serve"

Annual Meeting, 2010

The 2010 Annual Meeting was held at the *Omni* Charlotte in Charlotte, NC on October 22, 2010.

President Dale Fish 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 Daniel Voight who was a student in Rehabilitation Sciences major

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without bumping into objects on her left, and she regained dressing skills that were already challenged by advanced arthritis in her shoulders.

Charlotte moved into a good assisted living facility and continued with OT and PT. Gradually she realized that many of her previous activities were either too difficult or unsafe. But with the help of her family, she was determined to be as cheerful as possible and to continue her life with grace and dignity. She appreciated the "great gifts God has given me", and actively participated in the difficult life decisions that followed her stroke.

As we step back, and examine our own lives, and our careers as allied health practitioners and

academicians, what do we learn from Charlotte? First and perhaps foremost, we observe that she is not, and never was, a "stroke patient" - she is a person, a wonderful person doing her best to live life despite its challenges. Our patients, our students, our colleagues - all persons - deserve our very best efforts and compassion. The Alpha Eta Society, the Scholastic Honor Society for the Allied Health Professions, exists to promote excellence among those professions. Its motto "Together We Serve" causes us to reflect on the collective, inter-professional mission of the allied health professions - to serve persons - persons like Charlotte, and millions of others who need our support and encouragement.



"Charlotte reminds us that our patients, our students and our colleagues deserve our very best efforts and compassion."

Secretary/Treasurer's Column

David A. Lake, PT, Ph.D.

Alpha Eta continues to grow, with three new chapters joining this past year, and an equal number of additional academic institutions have expressed interest in joining our organization. As we continue to grow as an organization with the additional resources that this growth brings, we will need to refocus our efforts on additional ways to serve our members, our chapters and our professions.

We presently support the annual meeting of the Association of Schools of Allied Professions through sponsorships and advertising in the program. We support faculty scholarship through sponsorship of

the poster session at the ASAHP Annual Meeting. We support allied health student excellence through the awarding of the Rodenberg scholarship for outstanding undergraduate students and the Holder scholarship for outstanding graduate students. Finally we have the President's Award that celebrates excellence at the Chapter level in promoting the goals of Alpha Eta.

But now we need to look further to explore other activities which will expand our role of promoting excellence in Allied Health education and the Allied Health Professions.

Chapter News

Western University of Health Sciences

As a new chapter, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona CA, College of Allied Health Professions celebrated their first Alpha Eta Society membership induction at the May 2011 Commencement Luncheon. A total of 33 students representing 3 healthcare professions; Physician Assistant, Health Education and Physical Therapy were inducted. We are confident that these individuals will continue to excel as scholars, leaders, and community service volunteers, as they embark upon their careers. As a new Chapter, we look forward to expanding our membership and increasing our contributions to the enhancement of the Western University campus, the community, and the healthcare professions.

included canned goods, dry goods and other household items.



Pictures from the day spent at the Bi-State Pet Food Pantry by the SLU Alpha Eta Chapter Members

St. Louis University

The Saint Louis University (SLU) chapter did two major service projects this year:

1) Their fall project was collecting donations for the Bi-State Pet Food Pantry. The pet food pantry is a new St. Louis based volunteer organization committed to keeping pets with their families during financially difficult times by providing emergency assistance with pet food. The chapter collected 450 pounds of dog food, 105 pounds of cat food, 21 pounds of treats along with cash donations. Also, on a cold Saturday morning, faculty and students health unload the donations, inventory and bag food at the Pantry.

2) Their spring project was collecting food for 2 local food pantries. Both food pantries provide food for families that will enable them to use their income for other needs. Over 140 items were collected and distributed. The items collected

Thomas Jefferson University

May 25, 40 members of the 2011 graduating class were inducted into the Alpha Eta Honor Society, the largest number of inductees in the history of Jefferson's Chapter, which was established in 1982. Thomas J. Lewis, President and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, addressed the new members and their guests on "Integration and Alignment as the Value Proposition under Health Reform."



Newly inducted members with President Fran Gilman, (front row, left), and Secretary/Treasurer Michael Paquet, (front row, right)

Annual Meeting

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at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. The Holder award recipient was Danielle Whittington from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Both recipients were at the meeting to receive the award and both made brief statements about their professional activities.



Danielle Whittington receiving the Holder Scholarship Award from President Dale Fish

The membership raised the cost of honor cords from \$10 to \$11 each and voted to offer the option of both the kelly green and green & white cords.

Discussion of bylaws revisions with the following motions approved: 1) Addition of awards committee, 2) Eliminate the time requirement for alumni member nominations, 3) Keep role of president-elect, and 4) Extension of the term of the president to 3 years. Bylaws will be submitted to all chapters for approval.

EDITORS NOTE: Society Bylaw revisions were approved by two-thirds of the chapters, January 18, 2011.

Jodi Cahalan, Sandra Dimeo, Barry Eckert and Shirley Richmond were elected to 2-year terms on the Executive Council and Stanley Wilson was elected to a 1-year term to fill a vacancy in on the Executive Council. David Lake was re-elected to position of Secretary-treasurer to serve a 3-year term. Dale Fish was elected to the President-elect position for a 1-year transitional role of President from 2011-2012 so that the President and Secretary-treasurer serve overlapping terms. Sequence of elections will be: President-Elect in 2011, 2014 for Presidential terms of 2012-15 & 2015-18 respectively and Secretary-treasurer in 2013 & 2016.

Chapters present shared their activities during the year.



Daniel Voight receiving the Rodenberg Scholarship Award from President Dale Fish

NEW CHAPTERS

Monroe College

Monroe College's School of Allied Health Professions is located in Bronx, New York and has undergraduate degree programs in Public Health, Health Services Administration & several other programs at the associate degree level.

Western University of Health Sciences

Western University of Health Sciences' College of Allied Health Professions offers a wide range of graduate level professional programs including Health Science, Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant

New York Institute of Technology

The School of Health Professions, located on the Old Westbury, NY campus combines strong undergraduate preparatory programs and graduate programs in Clinical Nutrition, Mental Health Counseling, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, and Occupational Therapy