

Monthly Newsletter

APTA ALABAMA STUDENT
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

2 September 2024



APTA AL ANNUAL CONFERENCE - INAUGURAL SSIG MEETING

Welcome to the revived Student Special Interest Group!

Dear PT and PTA Students of Alabama,

We are thrilled to announce the relaunch of the Alabama Student Special Interest Group (SSIG)! As members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), all DPT and PTA students in Alabama are automatically part of the SSIG. This group provides a valuable platform for networking, leadership development, advocacy, and career enhancement.

We have had so many new members join over the last few weeks, and we want to continue providing information about the SSIG and how to join or get involved. If you are already a member and saw last month's edition of the newsletter, feel free to skip to page three for updates from APTA Alabama, a discussion of the Student Conclave, and more upcoming events!

The SSIG aims to provide networking opportunities for PT/PTA students across Alabama. It serves as a platform for discussing issues affecting the physical therapy profession and informing members about the roles and activities of APTA/ APTA Alabama. The SSIG enhances communication among students, fosters professional relationships, and promotes and educates about the physical therapy profession and key stakeholder interests.

You can look forward to monthly newsletters with updates on APTA Alabama events, information on the upcoming Student Conclave, and PT Night Outs in your area. Stay tuned for these exciting opportunities and get involved to make the most of your SSIG membership.

Enjoy this issue and stay engaged as we build a vibrant community within Alabama's physical therapy student network!

In this newsletter
you can expect:

How to Join
Contact Us

Get Involved!

Student
Spotlight!

APTA AL
Conference
Recap

Student
Conclave and
Other Events

Natasha Brooks,
Student Council Representative



How to Join and Follow Us

1. Join APTA Membership: Sign-up for APTA membership [here](#) to become a member. This membership allows you to join the Alabama State Chapter and receive emails and updates from us. It also automatically enrolls you in the Student Special Interest Group (SSIG).
2. Join APTA Sections: Join the APTA Alabama Chapter. Explore other sections/academies, which focus on various special interest topics such as patient populations, practice areas, and policy areas. Some sections produce specialty publications and offer courses and conferences. Find academies of interest [here](#).

Once you join, follow us on social media to stay up to date!



@apta_alssig



<https://www.ptalabama.org/student-special-interest-group/>



Contact Us

For any questions or to get in touch with an executive council member, please email your student council representative or any of the executive council members:



nabrooks@uab.edu

Additionally, you can submit updates about exciting events at your program here or nominate a fellow classmate for a student spotlight in next month's edition [here](#).

APTA- How to Get Involved and More Membership Benefits

- Find the right volunteer opportunity for you via [APTA Engage](#).
- Join the [APTA Advocacy Network](#) to receive and respond to action alerts to support APTA's public policy priorities.
- Take advantage of free courses in the [APTA Learning Center](#).
- Find jobs and sign up for alerts from the [APTA Career Center](#).
- [Donate to PTPAC](#), the sole fundraising organization that supports and influences federal legislators in order to advance and protect APTA's priorities.
- Save 40% or more on the [APTA's Combined Sections Meeting](#).
- Check out these APTA scholarship opportunities for students within 12 months of completing all requirements for graduation!
 - a. [Mary McMillan Scholarship Award](#)
 - b. [Minority Scholarship Fund](#)
 - c. [Outstanding PT Student and PTA Student Awards](#)
 - d. Explore other section opportunities [here](#)!
- Get full text access to research and articles from more than 4,500 clinical and academic publications through the EBSCO discovery service provided by APTA's [Article Search](#).

To view a complete list, click [here](#)!

Student Spotlight



Phillip Croom

PTA STUDENT -
WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

After a successful and fulfilling career as a police officer and deputy sheriff for over 10 years, Phillip made the bold decision to return to school at the age of 28. His inspiration for pursuing a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant came from a personal experience in high school. After suffering a knee injury while playing football, Phillip underwent knee surgery and fell in love with the environment and process of his recovery during therapy.

Despite the demanding nature of his work, Phillip pursued his education with unwavering

determination, often dedicating 60 hours a week between his responsibilities at the Seminole County Sheriff's Department and his collaboration with local farmers to support his family, all while his wife pursued her Master's in Nursing and they cared for their two-year-old son. His ability to balance his professional, academic, and personal responsibilities while striving for excellence is a testament to his resilience and dedication.

Looking ahead, Phillip has always been drawn to the sports side of physical therapy and hopes to work with athletes after graduation. We are proud to have him as part of our community and look forward to seeing all the great things he will achieve in the future!



APTA Alabama Annual Conference Recap

The APTA Alabama Annual Conference, held from August 23-25 at Faulkner University, was a tremendous success, bringing together physical therapy professionals and students for a weekend of learning and networking. A highlight of the event was the inaugural meeting of the Student Special Interest Group, which saw an impressive turnout of over 40 students, marking a significant step towards enhancing student engagement in the profession.

The conference featured several impactful lectures, including "Stepping Up: Integrating High-Intensity Gait Training into Clinical Practice," which discussed incorporating high-

intensity gait training to improve patient outcomes, and "The Role of Primary Care Physical Therapy in Mental Health Management," which explored the integration of physical therapy and mental health care. The event also recognized outstanding achievements within the field, awarding Cathy Carver, PT, MSPT with the Innovations in Physical Therapy Award, Steven Owenby, PT, DPT with the Governmental Affairs Award, and Emmett Parker, PT, ATC, MS with the Marilyn Gossman Professionalism Award. The weekend concluded at Silo Brewing, offering a perfect opportunity for attendees to connect and unwind after a productive conference.



Save the Date! APTA Alabama Student Conclave

 Date: November 2, 2024

 Location: University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Health Professions

Who: PT and PTA Students from across Alabama

Cost: \$20 for APTA AL Members, \$30 for Non-Members (Don't miss early bird registration for discounted rates!)

Following the conclave, join us for a PT Night Out at Cahaba Brewing Company!

This event offers a unique opportunity to attend engaging lectures on current evidence-based practices, as well as opportunities for networking and professional development. You'll hear from the UAB Chief of Sports Medicine/Orthopedic Surgeon, along with sessions on Practice Entrepreneurship for PTs and PTAs. Additionally, there will be panels like the Professional Development Panel for the PT: Residency and Clinical Specialization in the afternoon!

 Keep an eye on your emails for registration details—more information coming soon!



Announcements

Become a Program Representative!

We need representatives from each PT/PTA program to serve as a communication link between the AL SSIG Executive Council and your respective program. Your role will include sharing SSIG initiatives, encouraging APTA participation and involvement, and attending quarterly meetings to discuss student needs. Click [here](#) to apply!

Other Events

October is National Physical Therapy Month! Keep an eye out for exciting events and service activities happening in your area throughout the month.

Join us in celebrating Global PT Day of Service on October 12, 2024—a day dedicated to giving back to our communities and showcasing the impact of physical therapy worldwide. Stay tuned!

Our neighbors have extended an invitation to all Alabama and South Carolina PT/PTA students to attend the Georgia Student Conclave. The event will take place on September 28th at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Suwannee, GA.

Click [here](#) for more information!

Thank you for reading!