

Monthly Newsletter

APTA ALABAMA STUDENT
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

◆
1 August 2024



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.

The Alabama SSIG aims to provide networking opportunities for physical therapy and physical therapy assistant 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 Alabama/APTA. 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 (dates TBD), and PT Night Outs in your area. Stay tuned for these exciting opportunities and get involved to make the most of your SSIG membership.

We would love to hear your ideas and visions for student involvement. Feel free to reach out to me or any of the board members to make your voice heard.

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

*Natasha Brooks,
Student Council Representative*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Meet the Council

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APTA AL Updates and Events

Meet the Executive Council



Kiarra Bombard
CHAIR

Kiarra is originally from Louisiana. She graduated from Louisiana Tech in 2022 and earned her MBA in 2023. Shortly after graduation, she moved to Birmingham, AL to attend DPT school at UAB, where she is a first-year. She loves Taylor Swift, enjoying good Mexican cuisine, going to the gym, and Diet Coke.



Colby Hildestad
VICE CHAIR

Colby is starting his third year at University of South Alabama. Colby is a huge sports fan and his friends describe him as “head coach”.



Ashlyn Goodwin
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ashlyn Goodwin is a first-year DPT student at Faulkner University, originally from Selma, AL. She earned her M.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Alabama in 2019. In her leisure time, Ashlyn enjoys dancing, reading, mentoring, and photography.



Julia Sasser
DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Julia Sasser is a first-year DPT student at UAB. A fun fact about Julia is that she loves to travel; before starting PT school, she lived in Europe for a year and Australia for six months.

Julia will assist in organizing SSIG events, so be sure to watch social media for upcoming announcements!



Dalton Dykes
PTA DIRECTOR

Dalton is a PTA student at Wallace in Dothan, AL and counting down the last 10 months until graduation. He is also a certified personal trainer, CES, and HMS.

In his free time, he enjoys mountain biking, going to the gym, doing anything outdoors, and loves dogs!



Avery Nance
STUDENT CONCLAVE CHAIR

Avery Nance is entering her third year of PT school at USA. She is from Geneva, AL and graduated from Troy University in 2022. She loves Taylor Swift, having movie nights with friends, and volunteering with the kids ministry at church. Her special talent is saying the alphabet backwards really fast! She dreams of opening a Mommy and Me PT clinic one day!



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/>

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!](#)



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
alssig@ptalabama.org

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](#).



House of Delegates Updates

The House of Delegates is a pivotal policymaking body within the APTA. It consists of voting delegates from APTA chapters, sections/academies, and the PT Council. Annually convened, the House deliberates on critical issues that impact the association and the physical therapy profession at large. It also plays a crucial role in electing national leaders, including the APTA Board of Directors and APTA Nominating Committee.

Throughout this year's sessions, the House of Delegates addressed a range of significant topics affecting our profession including recognizing physical therapists as practitioners of choice for rehabilitating individuals with vestibular-related balance disorders, promoting physical therapists as primary care and entry-point providers, enhancing education on trauma-informed care, and investigating the prescriptive authority of physical therapists. The student council brought forth and passed a motion with 98% in the affirmative regarding the ethical and effective integration of artificial intelligence across physical therapist practice.



APTA Alabama Updates

Direct Access Win:

After many years of advocacy, we are excited to announce that Alabama has recently passed legislation granting direct access to physical therapy services! This significant milestone means that patients can now directly seek physical therapy care without needing a physician's referral, streamlining access to timely treatment.

APTA Award Recipients:

Congratulations to Rachel Thompson, DPT, UAB class of '23 for being awarded the 2024 Mary McMillan Scholarship Award and to Maya Turner, DPT, ASU class of '24 who received the APTA Minority Scholarship Fund.



23-25 August 2024

Upcoming Event

Join us at the upcoming APTA Alabama Annual Conference for educational sessions and networking opportunities.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.ptalabama.org/annual-conference/>

- Location: Faulkner University
- Come to the first in-person SSIG meeting August 24th from 1:30-2:00PM!
- PT Night Out to follow at Red Bluff Bar at the Silos, 6:00-8:00PM Saturday, August 24

Thank you for reading!