

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTS: EMPOWERING FUTURE PT & OT PROFESSIONALS



PT OT

LEARN HOW THE PRESIDENT OF UT'S STUDENT PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SOCIETY IS ORGANIZING INNOVATIVE EVENTS AND INCREASING MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

SPOTS, short for Students Pursuing Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, serves as a pre-professional society for students interested in pursuing careers in PT or OT. With a mission to introduce students to these dynamic fields, foster connections among like-minded individuals, and prepare them for the rigors of graduate school, SPOTS plays a crucial role in shaping the future of healthcare. At the helm of this vibrant

organization is it's president, Gina Durkin, whose innovative leadership and unwavering dedication have propelled SPOTS to new heights.



PRESIDENT: GINA DURKIN

WHAT IS SPOTS?

Amidst the bustling halls of the University of Tampa, a beacon of inspiration shines bright for aspiring physical and occupational therapists—SPOTS. Founded with the vision of nurturing future healthcare professionals, SPOTS has become a cornerstone of the university community, offering students a platform to explore their passions, connect with peers, and pave the way towards their professional goals.



GINA AT A SPOTS EVENT WITH SOME OF HER FELLOW SPOTS EXECS

"At SPOTS, we're not just a club; we're a family," remarks Gina, the dynamic president leading the charge.

With a fervent commitment to enhancing member engagement and fostering a sense of belonging, Gina has introduced a slew of innovative initiatives aimed at propelling SPOTS into uncharted territory.

"I see my role as president as more than just organizing events," Gina explains. **"It's about creating meaningful experiences that resonate with our members and empower them to pursue their dreams."**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

One such initiative spearheaded by Gina is the collaboration with Unified, a student organization with shared interests in promoting inclusivity and diversity. Together, they organized a basketball event, showcasing the intersection of athleticism and rehabilitation—a testament to the multifaceted nature of PT and OT.



UNIFIED X SPOTS BASKETBALL EVENT

"By partnering with Unified, we not only raise awareness about our respective organizations but also underscore the importance of collaboration in the healthcare field," Gina notes.

But Gina's innovation doesn't stop there. With a keen eye for increasing member engagement, she has embraced digital platforms such as GroupMe—a group chat designed to facilitate communication among SPOTS members. By actively participating in discussions, answering queries, and fostering a sense of camaraderie, Gina has

cultivated a vibrant online community that complements SPOTS' offline endeavors.

"Communication is key," Gina emphasizes. **"By fostering open dialogue and creating a supportive environment, we ensure that every member feels heard and valued."**

From volunteer events to fundraising drives, SPOTS is actively involved in initiatives that extend beyond the confines of the university campus. Whether it's organizing community health fairs or participating in campus-wide initiatives, SPOTS members are committed to making a tangible impact in the world around them.



SPOTS GROUP PILATES SESSION

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, SPOTS is on a mission to expand its reach and attract new members. By speaking in introductory allied health classes and leveraging social media platforms like Instagram, SPOTS aims to showcase the myriad opportunities it offers to students within the PT and OT fields.

"We want students to know that SPOTS isn't just another club—it's a gateway to professional growth and personal development," Gina asserts.

As SPOTS charts its course for the future, innovation remains at the forefront of its agenda. With plans to host guest speakers, organize specialized workshops, and introduce new activities such as Pilates sessions led by esteemed faculty members, SPOTS is poised to redefine the student society experience.

"Innovation is about pushing the boundaries and exploring new horizons," Gina reflects. **"As we continue to evolve and adapt to the changing landscape, SPOTS will remain a beacon of inspiration for future generations of PT and OT professionals."**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For those keen to join SPOTS and delve into the world of physical and occupational therapy, the path is straightforward. By signing up for the email list, joining the GroupMe chat, and following SPOTS on Instagram, students unlock a gateway to a vibrant community. Led by President Gina, SPOTS embodies the essence of camaraderie, innovation, and dedication. It's not just a club; it's a platform for growth and connection. Aspiring PT and OT professionals find mentorship, support, and opportunities for advancement within SPOTS, shaping their journey towards excellence in healthcare.