



Alpha Omega Epsilon

Upsilon Chapter,
University of Maryland

Spring 2014

FRIENDSHIP, LEADERSHIP, PROFESSIONALISM

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From the President by Savannah Vogel

Dear Sisters,

Time has flown by this semester! I cannot believe my term as President is over! This year I wanted our chapter to focus on quality; quality of our events, our philanthropy efforts, and our recruitment process. Through new additions, ideas, and even a focus group, I think we've definitely enhanced the quality of all of them!

This semester we installed 39 wonderful candidates – a record for our chapter! This posed a new logistical challenge for us but Jordan handled it excellently. We are very proud to say that we were able to induct all 39 candidates as sisters! Congratulations Pi Class!

Not only did we break an Upsilon record for the size of our candidate class, we also broke records the amount of money we raised for our philanthropies. At our Turtle Trot 5K supporting Girls Excelling in Math

and Science, our community raised approximately \$2,500. We partnered with Chi Phi and raised \$5,000 for TerpThon, benefitting the Children's National Medical Center. Finally, we raised over \$5,300 at our annual Date Auction event, making us the top fundraiser for Relay for Life. We were able to donate over \$10,500 to Relay for Life with all of our fundraising efforts combined. In total, I am very proud to say that the Upsilon Chapter donated over \$18,500 this semester. Way to go ladies!

This semester we held our first formal at Martin's Crosswinds. Normally we hold Dated each semester at a local restaurant, allowing sisters to bond in a formal, yet laid back setting. However, this semester we went all out and had a formal! We rented buses, there was dancing, an all-you-can-eat buffet, and even a DJ. This was a great way to celebrate the end of our year,

congratulate the newly inducted Pi Class, and send off our seniors.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this year amazing. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to serve as President for the past year. Thank you so much to my amazing board – you girls are awesome. Sisters past and present, please stay in touch, I am going to miss you so much! Good luck to our seniors this year – I know you're going to rock it in the real world!

With Sisterhood and Gratitude,
Savannah Vogel

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Welcome 39 Beautiful Baby Dolphins! Pi Class of Spring 2014

by Jordan Hollady

The Upsilon Chapter of AΩE was lucky enough to be able to induct 39 lovely new sisters into our chapter this spring! These girls worked so hard during the new, condensed 6-week candidacy period to go above and beyond the candidate requirements that were set for them. They showed the chapter how excited they were to become a part of our sisterhood and contribute to our core values as a sorority. These unique ladies represent 7 out of the 9 undergraduate engineering majors offered at the University of Maryland and range in year from freshmen to juniors.



Congrats candidates!

Since we held so many exciting interest events in the fall, the spring semester recruitment and candidacy periods moved quickly! In our new, two-week recruitment period, we held two Cupcake Information Sessions, a Valentine's Day Philanthropy and Crafting Event, an "I Went to the Career Fair... Now What?" Professional Event, a Game Night Sisterhood Event, a Sandwiches 'n' Shakes event at a local restaurant, and a Dinner with the Executive Board Night.

By hosting a variety of events, (philanthropy, professional, sisterhood, fundraising, etc.) potential candidates were able to get a good idea of the sorority's core ideals and values while simultaneously getting to bond with sisters and each other. By the end of this longer recruitment period, everyone felt as though they got to know the new ladies before they were installed as candidates that Sunday.

On Sunday, April 13th, 39 amazing new sisters, the Pi Class, joined our chapter at our New Sister Inductions Ceremony! We couldn't be happier to have them as sisters and we are so excited to see how they contribute to our chapter over the next few years.



Welcome Pi Class!

A Fantastic Formal! by Katie Atwater

To celebrate our new sisters and the end of the semester, we finished our year with a formal dinner dance for sisters and dates. The formal event was held at Martin's Crosswinds, a wedding and catering facility near campus. We had a three course buffet dinner that included a delicious chocolate mousse cake and all-you-can-eat crabcakes! After eating their fill, sisters and dates danced the night away as the DJ played all our favorite songs. We handed out superlatives and ended the night happy and tired from all of the dancing. Everyone had a blast dressing up, eating good food, and dancing! What a great way to end the semester!



Some of our newly inducted sisters at formal



Sisters taking a break from dancing to pose for a picture

Get with the Bro-Gram: Excelling in a Male-Dominated Field

by Emily Guerra

Get with the Bro-gram was a new event this semester hosted by Lockheed Martin, who we had never networked with before. It focused on establishing ourselves as women in a male-dominated field, such as engineering. This event completely exceeded expectations and was many of the sisters' favorite professional event of the year.

The panel consisted of six women who work at Lockheed Martin and hold managerial roles within the company. We began by asking the panel a series of questions, such as "tell us about a particularly challenging moment you have experienced because you are a woman" and "tell us about and describe the best

and worst career decisions you have made." However, we quickly realized that many girls had many questions of their own.

One of the most frequent points of the evening was that there are so many challenges women face in the work force aside from just snide remarks from men or the wage gap. Many of the women had stories of a time when they were a manager for a project for almost the entire duration, but when the project moved abroad, they were no longer able to manage the project. They explained that this is because the clients in those areas would not take them as seriously as their male counterparts, due to their culture. A few of the women

also faced challenges of having to turn down projects, because it meant they would have to travel frequently to a location that is unsafe for women. These are all challenges that the sisters of the Upsilon Chapter had never even thought of.

This event was phenomenal and we are excited to continue working with Lockheed Martin in the future

by hosting similar types of events. It was so informative and the women were candid and fun to talk to, yet professional. They were so inspiring when talking about how far they have come in their careers and they have been very supportive to our chapter by giving out their contact information to answer any further questions.



Panel of women from Lockheed Martin and all of the sisters that attended the event

8th Annual Date Auction for Relay for Life!

by Madison Kafer

This April, the Upsilon Chapter held their 8th annual Date Auction in order to raise money for University of Maryland's Relay for Life. The event was held at Looney's Restaurant right outside UMD's campus on a beautiful spring evening, and fifty-seven sisters and candidates volunteered to be auctioned off. The event was complete with a DJ and two energetic emcees from our brother fraternity, Sigma Phi Delta. Our emcees kept the crowd entertained and laughing throughout the night while reading our girls' clever bios, while our beautiful sisters and candidates owned the stage (an executive board member even dressed up in a hot dog suit)! After each bio was read, the crowd began bidding at \$10 until the highest bid was made. Many of our sisters were "bought" by friends for over \$50, with our highest bid reaching over \$600. We had a great turn out this year and the restaurant was packed with people attending the auction! Most impressively, we raised **\$5,372.36** for the American Cancer Society, which is the largest amount the Upsilon Chapter has raised in the history of this event! Our chapter looks forward to continuing this wonderful tradition in the coming years.



The executive board celebrates another successful event

National's Game with GW Chapter by Meghan O'Lone

This year we strengthened our relationship with the G.W. Chapter of A.O.E. by going to a Washington Nationals baseball game. The night may have started out a little rainy, but we waited it out and it cleared up to be a perfect evening! We all enjoyed a night of watching

baseball, eating stadium food, and meeting new sisters. The Nats ended up winning the game which made a good ending to our night. We had so much fun with the GW chapter and this is definitely an event that we hope to continue in the future!

Etiquette Dinner by Emily Guerra

In past years, the Upsilon chapter has hosted an etiquette dinner to teach the girls how to eat like a lady, especially in front of potential employers. In recent years, it has become more and more prevalent for a company to screen a candidate with a phone interview and then invite them to fly out for an on-site interview later on in the process. These on-site interviews usually will have a networking dinner the night before the interview, so it is important for the candidates to be polite and gracious during the dinner. Even though the dinner is not the actual interview, the potential employers will still be watching the candidates to see how they interact with the others. If one of the candidates is eating unprofessionally or bringing up inappropriate table topics, the employer would think "is this how they would act around our customers or clients?!" Therefore we continue to host the etiquette dinner to prepare our sisters for these interactions.

This year, we had Heidi Sauber of our Engineering Co-op and Career Services office speak to us during the event. She did a really great job incorporating her

presentation into a "networking dinner" scenario by beginning the event with handshakes, quick introductions or elevator pitches, and then going over the place settings. Once we all had our food, Heidi went into how to properly eat bread, cut your food, pass items around the table, etc. The next portion of the presentation discussed appropriate conversation topics and how to network in a large room, talking to as many people as possible. Overall, the event was really informative and it was a great excuse to freshen up and enjoy some free food.



Don't eat like this!

Turtle Trot 5K for G.E.M.S. by Lauren Trollinger

May 3rd marked our 4th year hosting our "Turtle Trot 5K" to benefit the local non-profit, Girls Excelling in Math and Science. GEMS is an afterschool program in PG County middle schools dedicated to promoting young girls' interest in math and the technical sciences—they coordinate afterschool tutoring sessions, educational fieldtrips, mentorship programs with University of Maryland undergraduate students, and meetings to involve parents in their child's learning process. We have been a partner of GEMS since 2010 because the GEMS program aligns so well with our own mission to promote women in engineering, math, and science.

The Turtle Trot 5K this year was a huge success! The weather was beautiful, over 75 people showed up on race day, and we beat our fundraising goal, raising a grand total of \$2500 to support GEMS! Many of our alumnae

come back for this event, so it was great to get to hang out with alumnae we haven't seen in a while.



One of our sisters, Emily Ruppel won first place!

The 5K wouldn't have been so successful without the donations from local businesses, who supplied us with bottled water, bagels, and gift cards to give away to the top runners. Engineering companies like Appian, SG&H, and the A. James Clark School of Engineering sponsored larger donations to the cause. We also coordinated with the campus police department and the local parks to make this event safe and fun for all of our runners. Watching students all over campus wearing our event T-shirts to class over the next few weeks was pretty cool, too!



Friends and family came to support us!

We look forward to working closely with GEMS next year, and to another successful Turtle Trot!



Pi Day Pie and Pi Class Celebration!!

by [Jordan Hollady](#)

By the name of the title, you can tell this event was super exciting for us. As the nerdy engineering majors that we are, we decided it was only fitting to host a Pi Day celebration (March 14th, or 3.14) with sisters and the Pi Class Candidates! We had sisters put their family recipes (or grocery store shopping skills) to the test and bring out their most prized pies for a dessert tasting party.



Pi cake made by one of our sisters!

We had everything from fruit pies to Oreo Pie to an extra-large cheesecake "pie" to Peanut Butter Cup

Pie... MMM it was amazing if you couldn't tell. We played music while sisters played Pi Day Trivia games, guessed as many digits of pi as they could, and stuffed their faces with delicious sweets. This was a great way for sisters and candidates to get to hang out and bond over a shared love of pie (and pi...). Candidates especially loved it because this semester, they made up the Pi Class of the Upsilon Chapter! What better way to celebrate such a fundamental number?



Pi class candidates playing Pi Day Trivia

Keeping our Alumnae Involved!

by Lauren Trollinger

We are very serious about including our alumnae in as much as possible—they are wiser, more experienced, they have the professional advice we love to hear, and they are our friends and family!

Alumnae Tailgate

In the fall we had an alumnae tailgate during the last home game of the UMD football season, and nearly 20 alumnae—including one of our chapter's founders—showed up to hang out, play games, grill burgers and hotdogs, and catch up with sisters. Everyone had a good time, and we look forward to continuing this tradition!



Alumnae & sister at the tailgate

Alumnae Brunch

This past spring we invited our alumnae to an Alumnae Brunch, where we rented out a room on campus, enjoyed delicious food catered by the University of Maryland, and caught up with each other's lives. The nice, relaxing atmosphere was a great way for candidates, sisters, and alumnae to network with each other. One of our founders was there as well, so we got to ask her all kinds of questions about how Alpha Omega Epsilon has grown at the University of Maryland over the years. This took place immediately before our chapter went to the University of Maryland's Relay for Life, too, so it was an AOE-filled day. We were so excited to have such a great turnout, and everyone had a fantastic time!



Sisters and alumnae at the Alumnae Brunch

Upsilon Mentoring Program

This year we began a new mentorship program between past and current members of the Upsilon chapter. For those who chose to participate, we paired sisters and alumnae together based on interests, employers, and undergraduate degrees. The goal of the program was to amplify the relationship we have with our alumnae, bring them into current events, and guide younger girls as they move into the professional world. Those who participated in the Upsilon Mentoring Program emailed their pair once every two weeks with a question designed to open up discussion—then they were encouraged to carry on the conversation themselves. We received great feedback from everyone; we will definitely be carrying on the program next year! We hope to make it an even better platform that will further foster our alumnae relations.

TerpThon and Relay for Life 2014

TerpThon

On March 8th, 2014, sisters and candidates participated in the 5th annual TerpThon, a 12 hour-long dance marathon that raises money for Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Students pledge to stand for 12 hours, which is the length of a nurse's shift at the hospital. The University of Maryland raised almost \$430,000, making us the top 5th year dance marathon team in the nation! We are so fortunate to participate in such an amazing organization and look forward to TerpThon 2015!

by Rachel Wolfson



Sisters for the kids!

Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a non-profit organization that raises money to support the American Cancer Society. Sisters of AΩE have been participating in UMD's event for many years now, which have helped raise awareness for the cause. With the help of our Date Auction, we were able to raise over \$10,000 for Relay for Life! During the event, sisters walked around the track for 12 hours in honor of those who have battled/are battling cancer. When not walking, the girls had some fun with an inflatable hamster ball, obstacle course, laser tag and volleyball courts.



Sisters hanging out at Relay for Life

Skating with Friends by Katie Atwater

Nothing says winter more than ice skating. In February, the sisters of the Upsilon Chapter at the University of Maryland went ice skating at a local ice rink. We rented the rink for ourselves for an hour and it proved to be an awesome time! Sisters even brought dates and everyone ice skated around the rink, having a blast. Everyone had a lot of fun ice skating to the music, even if a few people fell down! We had a great turnout and everyone has an amazing time bonding and getting to know each other's friends from outside the chapter.



Sisters and dates at the rink!



We might have some future Olympians in this crowd!

Maryland Day by Meghan O'Lone

Every year, the University of Maryland takes a day to celebrate and showcase all of the achievements and innovations that take place at UMD. Children from the community come and explore what Maryland has to offer, so we always have fun and kid-friendly activities that hopefully will help get kids interested in the field of engineering.

This year, sisters of the Upsilon Chapter made "oobleck", which is a simple mixture of corn starch and water. Oobleck is a non-newtonian fluid, and application of pressure actually increases its viscosity. It behaves like a liquid and a solid, and kids love to get their hands dirty and play with it! It's also great because it's really easy to make at home (if their parents will let them). Maryland Day was a great day to bond with sisters and increase our presence in the community!



Sisters experimenting with the oobleck!

Google Hanging with Alumnae by Emily Guerra

This semester, the Upsilon Chapter wanted to start something new when it came to professional development and reach out to the awesome alumnae of the chapter to talk about their experiences transitioning into the working world. Our alumna speaker, Juli Magnus, used Google Hangout to chat with us after one of our chapter meetings. She was much more candid than an actual recruiter would be and our sisters felt so much less intimidated asking questions. Another aspect of the event was that we focused on reaching out to the more remote alumnae, who are not always able to come back to the University of Maryland to attend our events. That way, we can continue to keep them feeling involved and invested in our chapter even though they are living further away.



Juli (on screen) with some of our sisters and candidates!

Some of the main talking points of the evening varied from moving to a new location after school and adjusting to full time work responsibilities to more casual topics such as making friends in the office and finding fun activities and events in your area. Juli gave really great advice and answered each question in a fun and constructive manner. This event was also the first professional event during our candidate period, so the candidates especially loved getting to know one of our alumnae!

We are definitely planning to continue hosting this type of event in the future. It was super easy to host, because we could arrange for Juli to do a Google Hangout on a Sunday evening right after a chapter meeting! This also helped us increase attendance, because the girls have that time blocked off in their calendars already. We are also looking forward to continuing this event next semester, because a lot of our newly inducted alumnae are working for really impressive companies such as Microsoft, General Electric, and Unilever, so we would love to keep in touch with them through this initiative!

Upsilon Chapter Quiz

Answer these True/False questions to test your knowledge on the Upsilon Chapter!

1. (T/F) The Upsilon Chapter was founded on September, 17th, 2005.
2. (T/F) A.O.E. sisters are famous among UMD's engineering students for making the best grilled cheese on campus!
3. (T/F) For the past two years, the Upsilon Chapter has been the top Relay for Life fundraising team at the University of Maryland.
4. (T/F) Our Chapter started a very successful mentoring program this year.
5. (T/F) The Upsilon Chapter welcomed 39 incredible new sisters this spring!

**** Answer: All but 3 are true - we have actually been the top fundraiser for the past 3 years!****

A Look into the Future by Savannah Vogel

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Farewell to the 2013-2014 Upsilon Board!



Good luck to all of our recent grads!



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