

Spring 2012

# Alpha Omega Epsilon

University of Maryland, Upsilon Chapter

## 2011-2012 Executive Board:

### President

Mandy Dols, Senior,  
Bioengineering

### Vice President

Lauren Tullis, Alumna,  
Aerospace Engineering

### Secretary

Charlotte Vorwald, Senior,  
Bioengineering

### Treasurer

Katie O'Brien, Senior,  
Civil Engineering

### Membership Educator

Rosalie Wills, Senior, Fire  
Protection Engineering

### Historian

Erin Rhode, Senior,  
Civil Engineering

### Sisterhood Committee Chair

Laken Ensor, Senior,  
Civil Engineering

### Professional Committee Chair

Hilary Grebe, Senior, Chemical  
Engineering

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## From the President

Dear Sisters,

Hello! This will be my last letter as President of the Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon. Becoming president was an exciting and trying experience that taught me a lot about myself and my sisters.

First, I would like to congratulate our new executive board! These lovely ladies worked very hard to contribute to our sorority this year and are excited to take over next year. Good luck ladies!

I would also like to say good luck and see you later to our graduating class of 2012. You did it!! I won't say goodbye because I know that I will be seeing you all again soon at alumnae events.

Congratulations also to our new Xi class sisters. It was a pleasure getting to know each of you as candidates, and we can't wait to see what amazing things you accomplish as sisters!

This year, we defined ourselves by caring for others. I am so proud of all of my sisters and their efforts to raise money for causes that are important to them. We made record contributions to Relay for Life and were the top fundraising team at UMD. We had a large team participate in Terp Thon, held our third annual charity 5K and participated individually in various other philanthropy and service activities on campus.



A.O.E. goes to the zoo! Sisters pose at the entrance of the National Zoo in D.C. after a visit.

The Upsilon chapter had a crazy busy spring semester packed with professional, academic, philanthropic, social, and sisterhood events. We finally made it to the national zoo, and we also went to D.C. to see the beautiful botanical gardens!

In this newsletter you will read more about our annual Turtle Trot 5k, Date Auction, Relay for Life, our successful fundraising efforts and the awesome A.O.E. spirit of our 80 active sisters! Enjoy the newsletter and come see us soon, we love visitors!

In sisterhood,

Mandy Dols

President 2011-2012



The 2011-2012 Executive Board matching at Spring Day Away!

## Welcoming the Xi Class!

*Rosalie Wills*

This spring, the Upsilon Chapter of A.O.E was excited to welcome 17 amazing new sisters! The girls represented 6 of the 9 engineering majors at Maryland and ranged from first to third year students.

To catch the interest of potential candidates, the sisters of A.O.E. hosted two information sessions during the first few weeks of the semester. Sisters and potentials decorated cupcakes and passed around scrapbooks filled with photos of past sisterhood events. The

girls also participated in a Valentine's Day card making event for The Children's Hospital and a diner social with a fun ice breaker. This was a great way for sisters and interested girls to meet and bond!

To make the candidates feel comfortable and welcomed right away, a flipper friend (a sister of the same major) was assigned to each of them. Candidates also enjoyed numerous big-little events throughout the semester. Trips to a local frozen yogurt shop, egg

decorating, speed dating—we sure kept them busy! Sisterhood, philanthropic, fundraising, and professional events were also spread out over the course of the semester, giving both candidates and sisters the opportunity to get to know each other and have fun.

On Sunday April 29th, the Xi class of the Upsilon Chapter was inducted into A.O.E. We couldn't be happier to have them, and can't wait to see the remarkable sisters they are sure to become!



The 17 sisters of the Xi class of the Upsilon Chapter

"It's great walking into a classroom and seeing so many familiar faces from A.O.E. I know I always have somebody to count on, and the friendships I have formed will keep me motivated to excel in engineering."

*-Alex Paraloglou*

## Date Auction and Relay for Life

*Charlotte Vorwald*

the cause. This year we incorporated new incentives for bidders, including small prizes with each date and a 50/50 raffle, where half the money collected goes back towards the cause. We were able to raise over \$4000, with record high bids up to \$900.

Each year, students of the University of Maryland participate in Relay for Life, an event to help raise money for the American Cancer Society to support cancer research. The event is from 5pm to 5am, rain or shine, with teams walking around a track to symbolize the constant efforts of cancer

patients, their families, and their friends. Alpha Omega Epsilon continued to be a top raising team, with over 40 girls participating and acquiring donations. We raised a total of \$9440, the top raising team for the University of Maryland this year!



2011-2012 Executive Board at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Date Auction

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Alpha Omega Epsilon hosted its Sixth Annual Date Auction to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. This event was a huge success, with sisters and friends getting together and bidding to support



Sisters ready to walk at the Relay for Life Opening Ceremonies

## Financial Planning 101

*Sudi Jawahery*

On Wednesday, March 28, representatives from Diamond State Financial Group in Newark, Delaware spoke at an open Financial Planning Workshop hosted by the sisters of Alpha Omega Epsilon, Upsilon Chapter. The professional committee of the Upsilon Chapter was in charge of contacting the representatives and organizing the seminar.

Diamond State Financial Group has a relationship with a number of other engineering organizations on-campus at the University of

Maryland, including ASME and AICHE. This was the first time they had presented for the sisters of Alpha Omega Epsilon.

The seminar was geared primarily towards financial decisions after college and how young engineers can start planning early to achieve financial success. Amongst other topics, the representatives discussed how to navigate cumbersome employee benefits packages, choosing between different retirement savings plans and investing in the stock market.

The attendance of the sisters of Alpha Omega Epsilon, Upsilon Chapter was very high. While sisters of all ages were present, many of the graduating seniors in particular came and had the opportunity to ask specific questions of the recruiters. We hope that the event served as an educational experience for sisters who will soon begin to make the financial decisions of the working world on a regular basis.

## Maryland Day

*Lauren Trollinger*

Every year the Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon participates in Maryland Day, one of the University of Maryland's biggest annual events. On April 28th, we joined other campus organizations at the event to show what each group has to offer prospective students, to set up games and demonstrations, and to flaunt our

Maryland pride! This year, our table included a demonstration that used dry ice and ordinary dish soap to blow bubbles and offered an interactive activity where kids could make their own straw-and-paper airplanes. The demonstration drew in the crowds outside the engineering building, and the activity encouraged the kids to learn all

little about engineering in a fun and engaging environment! Our table was a huge success, and it was a great feeling to see everyone--parents and children alike--walking around with their bright paper airplanes as they left at the end of the day.

Amanda C. (above) and Kayla M. (right) help some young visitors make their straw-and-paper airplanes.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Turtle Trot

*Lauren Tullis*

On March 31, 2012, the Upsilon Chapter held its third annual *Turtle Trot* 5K Walk/Run, benefiting Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS). GEMS is an organization that works with girls in Prince George's County public schools to foster their interest in scientific fields. They provide after-school tutoring, scientific field trips, and encourage parental involvement. GEMS will utilize the funds donated by continuing to improve and expand upon their already successful program.

Leaders of GEMS, university students, community members, and

Upsilon sisters gathered on that Saturday for a walk, jog, or run around the beautiful Lake Artemesia, located about half a mile from the University of Maryland's campus. Although the threat of rain loomed over the early morning hours, by start time the dark clouds had abated and the sun shone brightly. There were about seventy in attendance at the race, and many sisters volunteered their time by arriving early to mark the course, prepare for registration, and distribute bagels (our pre-race snack of choice) to all participants.

The top three race finishers from both the men's and women's divisions received prizes, as well as the winners of our gift basket raffles. This year we raffled off four gift baskets, each with a different theme - the favorite was the beach themed basket.

As in previous years, the event proved to be a successful one and received sponsorship and donations from local businesses, national companies, and individuals. In all, the Chapter raised over \$3,600 for GEMS. We look forward to continuing this event next spring, and will continue striving to make this event even better.



On your marks, get set, GO!



Past and current presidents at the Turtle Trot

## Fundraising

*Katie O'Brien*

This semester, our chapter held several fundraising events. Every basketball season, the sisters of the Upsilon chapter staff a concessions stand at a few men's and women's games to raise money for the chapter. Everyone gets a chance to spend time with each other while meeting and serving our enthusiastic

Maryland fans! We also held a fundraiser at Noodles and Company, a local College Park restaurant. Sisters were able to spend time with friend, candidates, and other sisters while enjoying a delicious dinner. Last but not least, we continued once again with our famous grilled cheese sales. Our organization is well

known for selling grilled cheese sandwiches a few times a month in the front lobby of the engineering building. This is a great way to increase our notoriety in the Clark school of engineering and provide students with an affordable lunch!



Lauren Tullis working concessions at a Terps basketball game

## Dated

*Laken Ensor*

Our dated dinner event that we have each semester during ritual week is always one of the most attended events that all the sisters look forward to. This year was no different.

The sisters and candidates got to dress up and bring a special someone to the Marriott Inn and Conference Center at UMUC, located just off campus. Everyone

enjoyed a delicious meal together catered by the Marriott staff. Dinner was followed by an opportunity to dance and hang out at the Cornerstone Loft, a local bar and grill.

This event was a hit as usual, with the sisters and candidates having a good opportunity to relax and unwind before finals set in. Dated was a great kickoff to ritual week, and set the ball rolling for a fun-filled week.



Everyone at dated!

## Terp Thon "For The Kids"

*Chelsea Gratz*

This year, the Upsilon Chapter was excited to participate in Terp Thon! Terp Thon is a yearlong philanthropic event that raises money for local children's hospitals in the nearby DC area. On March 10, 2012, close to one thousand University of Maryland students participated as dancers in support of kids with cancer at Cole Field House, located right in the center of campus. This year, the Upsilon Chapter had twelve sisters raise money and participate in the exciting event, raising \$3,470. This was an exciting start to what will undoubtedly

become a large philanthropy event in years to come for our chapter. Our sisters stood on their feet for twelve hours in honor of the nurses who work twelve hours shifts at the local children's hospitals. The event was filled with fun events, student performances, and various themed hours. Our sisters were even able to meet some of Terp Thon's "miracle children," children who have been affected by cancer. The entire organization was able to raise over \$266,000, the most that any other Dance Marathon organization has ever raised in their third year

of existence. Overall, the entire experience was truly enjoyable and we look forward to participating again next year!



Some sisters with one of the "miracle children"

## Meet the 2012-2013 Executive Board!

### President

Chelsea Gratz, Senior,  
Civil Engineering

### Vice President

Alex Paralogou, Junior,  
Bioengineering

### Secretary

Spenser Keane, Senior,  
Civil Engineering

### Treasurer

Sudi Jawahery, Junior,  
Bioengineering

### Membership Educator

Amanda Abutaleb, Junior, Civil  
Engineering

### Historian

Brianna Brassard, Junior,  
Aerospace Engineering

### Sisterhood Committee Head

Kristen Giles, Junior,  
Bioengineering

### Professional Committee Head

Laura Detrick, Junior,  
Bioengineering

## ESC Field Day

*Hilary Grebe*

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, many sisters of Alpha Omega Epsilon participated in Field Day hosted by the Engineering Student Council. Luckily, it was a beautiful afternoon and all of the sisters came ready to play. It was quite

a fun afternoon competing against some of the other engineering societies in events such as a hula hoop contest, 3-legged race, corn hole, around the world soccer, the human chair and

Frisbee racing. In the end, the sisters ended up taking home third place! Whether watching or playing everyone had a great time.



Sisters and other Field Day participants

## About Our Organization..

Still building a strong foundation, the University of Maryland Colony was founded on September 17, 2005. The Upsilon Chapter was established in Spring 2006. The sisters are avid promoters of friendship, leadership, individual growth, and professionalism to all members of the organization, the

community, and the professional world. Alpha Omega Epsilon provides many opportunities for involvement to help strengthen the roots of the chapter. Upsilon abides by the ideals and objectives set by the International Board. Formed with only fourteen girls, the chapter now has over seventy actives and is

continuing to expand. Active in the A. James Clark School of Engineering, the chapter participates in engineering related activities such as the Engineering Fall Picnic, ESC field day in the spring, intramurals, and grilled cheese sales every other week in the building lobby.