

# Alpha Omega Epsilon

## University of Maryland, Upsilon Chapter



[www.aoeupsilon.weebly.com](http://www.aoeupsilon.weebly.com)

### From the President

Dear sisters,

I cannot believe this year has come to an end! It has definitely been a pivotal year in our chapter's history. Our main theme from the start was change. We did many things differently this year, while at the same time continuing to hold our traditions. All of our sisters, as well as our candidates, embraced the change with open arms and really seemed to have positive feedback about our new recruitment structure and events.

This past spring, we installed 39 beautiful and amazing candidates – 36 ultimately inducted – which definitely gave the board a new challenge! However, we tried out some new ideas and in turn had a very successful candidate semester, considering the large class size. Amanda definitely had her hands full, but with the extra help of Jordan Hollady (newly elected Membership Educator), they were able to manage the class well and create a fun semester for both candidates and sisters!

We continued to participate in some of our favorite philanthropies on campus, such as Relay for Life and Terp Thon! This year, we were once again the largest fundraising team, raising close to \$10,000 with over \$5000 solely from our Date Auction! We also teamed up with Chi Phi once again and were one of the top ten fundraising teams for Terp Thon as well! This year we raised close to \$10,000! I am so proud of our sisters for making such huge efforts in the charities that mean so much to them. We have truly made a mark on campus and have shown great support for those we care about.

We also held great new, as well as, traditional events this semester that made our spring such a fun one to be a part of! Our annual Dated was a huge success with girls getting the chance to dress

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up and travel into DC (and eat some delicious food) while our barbeque with Theta Tau was a fun new event where we got to relax on a beautiful Friday afternoon and get to know the brothers of the co-ed Engineering fraternity a bit better. As well, our Dolphin Dates continued to be a huge success with new ideas such as a dessert party, but also making sure to visit Noodles as much as possible. ☺ Our professional events, as well, were very helpful and entertaining for our sisters. We were able to hold our traditional information sessions, but also plan resume clinics and even a Networking dinner with some of our supporting companies! Overall, the girls had many things to keep them busy and it was a very fun semester to be a sister of the Upsilon Chapter!

To all sisters past and present, it was my absolute honor to represent the Upsilon Chapter as your President this semester. I had the chance to work with seven wonderful board members who I have learned so much from over the year and know that they will continue to do great things. Good luck to the beautiful seniors who have graduated this semester, I cannot wait to see what you accomplish in your futures! Thank you all for the experience of a lifetime; I am excited to spend one last semester with all of you and see what's in store for the future of our chapter!

With sisterhood and gratitude,  
Chelsea Gratz

## Welcome to the Omicron Class!

By Amanda Abutaleb

This spring, the Upsilon Chapter of A.O.E. was excited to welcome 36 incredible new women into our chapter. With our new recruitment structure, a large class was expected, but this group was quite amazing. Their enthusiasm, dedication to their candidate period, and acceptance of the new system was so wonderful and I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to lead. This unique class of girls represented 7 of the 9 engineering majors at Maryland and ranged from first to third year students.

Seeing that we had a whole semester of interest events in the fall, our recruitment process in the spring moved pretty quickly. A few weeks into the semester we had our information session where potential candidates were able to meet sisters, eat cupcakes, and learn about being an A.O.E. sister. That week we also had a Valentine's Day crafting event, dinner at a local restaurant, and dinner with the executive board. The variety of these activities were



Omicron Class at Inductions on April 28, 2013

ideally to give the potential candidates a clear idea of the women in the sorority, give them the opportunity to ask questions, and give them the chance to picture themselves in our organization.

On Sunday April 28th, the Omicron class was inducted into the Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon. We couldn't be happier to have them, and can't wait to see what these girls contribute to our chapter in the years to come!

## Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Record-Breaking Date Auction

By Spenser Keane

On April 17th, 2013 the Upsilon Chapter hosted their 7th Annual Date Auction to raise money for Relay for Life. This was one of the most highly anticipated events of the year for the Upsilon Chapter! During the event, sisters were auctioned off as dates. One by one, sisters got on stage and were welcomed with clapping and cheering from fellow sisters and others in the audience. After the emcee announced the sister's name, year, major and other fun facts, the bidding began. Sisters were sold anywhere between \$20 and \$1050 – with

Chelsea setting the highest record in the Upsilon Chapter's Date Auction history! Once the sister was sold to the highest bidder, money was collected promptly and later donated to the American Cancer Society. With the help of sisters, alumnae, family, and friends, we were able to raise over \$5,000! Overall, this year's Date Auction was a huge success and will continue to be a staple in the Upsilon Chapter's philanthropic efforts.



Left: The Board at Looneys Pub for our annual Date Auction event  
Right: Sisters and Alumnae at our Date Auction event

## Annual Spring Dated

By Kristen Giles

Each semester, sisters look forward to the dated dinner event that we have during ritual week. It provides girls with the opportunity to get dressed up, spend time with their friends, bring along a special someone to meet their lovely sisters, and take lots of fun pictures. This semester, we decided to get out of College Park and host our dated dinner somewhere in DC.

We held our dated dinner in the equestrian room at Clyde's of Gallery Place. The room was absolutely beautiful due to its woodwork, equestrian décor, and chandeliers. There was even a balcony for sisters to go out on to enjoy the fresh air and take pictures. The wait staff was fantastic and the delicious dinner was comprised of bread, salad, roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, and a brownie sundae. Nobody was hungry at the end of that meal! After dinner, we had an award ceremony and handed out our superlative awards. A whopping 120 guests attended the event, making it one of the most successful Dated events yet! It was a truly magical night that allowed sisters to bond with one another and meet new people.



*All of the sisters who attended Dated at Clydes in Washington, DC*



*Kimi Berlic winning the  
“Sweetheart”  
Superlative at our  
Dated dinner*

## Spring Barbeque with Theta Tau

By Kristen Giles

This semester, we had a barbecue event with Theta Tau, the professional co-ed Engineering fraternity. The brothers of Theta Tau were kind enough to invite us to their house to bring our sisters and the brothers of Theta Tau together. The weather was absolutely beautiful and a barbecue event was the perfect way to celebrate the end of the school week. Our sisters and the Theta Tau brothers got to sit back, relax, and chow down on delicious hamburgers and hot dogs. There was a great turn out from both groups. Lots of games were played, with corn hole being an especially big hit. This event allowed the candidates to meet some of the Theta Tau brothers and the sisters to get to know them even better. Girls were able to enjoy the last ritual week event in a casual and relaxing setting. It was a lot

of fun and definitely something to do again in the future!



*Omicron Sisters with a brother of Theta Tau  
at our Spring BBQ event*

## Spring Fundraising!

By Sudi Jawahery

This spring was a very busy fundraising semester for the sisters of the Upsilon chapter! Fundraising events began over winter break, when sisters traveled from their homes to campus to staff the first of four basketball concessions stands. Sisters typically devote 5-7 hours to work concessions events, and many sisters volunteer to work multiple times. Concessions events are an excellent opportunity for sisters and candidates to get to know each other and interact. The concessions events for the semester were also a financial success, yielding over \$1600 for the sorority. As in past semesters, the sisters of the Upsilon chapter regularly sold grilled cheese in the Engineering Building lobby from 11am-2pm. This semester, however, the chapter held twelve grilled cheese events as opposed



Sisters at one of our earlier Basketball Concessions

to the usual seven. This was made possible by our larger than average candidate class, which provided us with more volunteers. Grilled cheese events over the course of the semester yielded over \$800 for the sorority. Volunteers typically spent an hour working at grilled cheese, and many sisters and candidates used the opportunity to socialize with each other.

## Maryland Day Fun!

By Sudi Jawahery

On Saturday, April 27, 2013 the sisters of the Upsilon chapter upheld A.O.E.'s tradition of working Maryland Day by setting up a kid-friendly booth in front of the Kim Engineering Building! The event was planned by the Maryland Day committee, which brainstormed and selected activities.

This year, the Upsilon chapter put on two activities. One was a science demonstration, the sprite-in-mentos experiment: every 15 minutes, a sister dropped a mint into the sprite bottle, which

caused a chemical reaction to occur and resulted in a short-lived jet stream of soda! Kids and adults were excited by the experiment. The second activity was a DIY-tutorial where sisters guided kids through the steps of making homemade silly putty. Kids had the option of choosing their favorite color of silly putty! By the end of the day, most kids walking around the Engineering building had a bag of silly putty to take home with them.



Upsilon Chapter sisters help children and their families with our fun experiments at Maryland Day

## Terp Thon and Relay for Life!

By Brianna Brassard

This past spring has been full of philanthropic events for the Upsilon Chapter! In March, 20 sisters and candidates participated in Terp Thon, The University of Maryland's dance marathon. Sisters raised money and pledged to stay on their feet for twelve hours. The twelve hours is to honor the nurses at Children's National Medical Center, who work twelve hour shifts every day. During the event, sisters had fun learning the morale dance and listening to inspiring stories from the Terp Thon "miracle children". Miracle children are children who have been affected by cancer. Throughout the day, these children get on stage to tell their motivating stories of their battles with cancer and how it affects their everyday lives. Although Terp Thon is still a fairly new event, it continues to break records for dance marathon fundraising efforts. This year Terp Thon was the 15<sup>th</sup> highest fundraising dance marathon in the nation, raising over \$306,000 For The Kids!

Another philanthropic event sisters of the Upsilon Chapter participated in was the university's Relay for Life event, to raise money for the American Cancer Society. With the help of our annual date

auction, and many personal donations, our team was once again the top fundraising team for the whole event, raising over \$9,796! During the event, sisters walked around the track for twelve hours in honor of cancer patients and their families. When participants are not walking around the track, there were many other activities such as pick-up soccer, volleyball, or inflatable obstacle courses.

Both of these philanthropic events were a lot of fun for sisters, and we cannot wait to participate in more events in the coming years!



Sisters at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Terp Thon!

## Forming a More Professional Sister

By Laura Detrick

This semester we started our professional events off with Lieutenant Commander Marlon Terrell coming to talk to the girls about engineering opportunities with the Navy Reserve. This information session was a great way to show our A.O.E. girls the different types of careers that they can have with their engineering degree! We opened the event up the men of Theta Tau, and the event got a great turnout.

Later in the semester we held our favorite spring professional event, which is the Alumnae Panel. We had 9 A.O.E. Alumnae with different backgrounds, visit and talk to us about their experience post-graduation. Everyone always enjoys this event because we love to see our sisters who have graduated and moved on to bigger and better things! We also co-hosted a Networking Dinner with the Society of Women Engineers to bring representatives from Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Lab49 and Accenture to campus. This was a great event for sisters to network with many different companies, and enjoy some delicious Noodles & Co.

Our final professional event of the year was a Resume Clinic held during Ritual Week. This was a fun event that was hosted by fellow A.O.E. sisters who work in the Engineering Career and Coop Services Center on campus. The girls were able to learn how to incorporate their A.O.E. involvement into their resumes, and also have their resumes critiqued by their sisters. Overall, the professional events were very successful this semester and we look forward to see what the next professional committee head, Emily Guerra, has in store for us!

## **2013-2014 Full Board**

### **President**

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## *A Look into the Future!*

By Chelsea Gratz

There are many exciting things to expect for next year! First off, the chapter voted to keep the recruitment structure in place for next year. The incoming board may decide to make a few changes to accommodate older students or girls that have shown prior interest; however, we will be forming our next candidate class in the spring. This way we can once again form stronger bonds with our newest sisters as well as veteran sisters before we install a new class of candidates. We hope that we can better assess the structure after two years of placement in our chapter.

As well, we will be welcoming a new Faculty Adviser to our chapter! Bria McElroy, of the Women in Engineering Department at UMD, will be joining us in the position and we are very excited to see what she has in store for us! We think she will be a great addition to our chapter as well as very beneficial to the growth of our sisters. We look forward to formally welcoming her at our first meeting in September!

The newest board members have already began to meet and plan for our upcoming year and I am personally very excited to see what new ideas and events they will bring to our chapter. I believe they will bring strong leadership and a positive outlook that will continue to make our chapter such a fun organization to be part of. I wish them good luck in their adventure and encourage them to reach out to this past year's board for any assistance they made need!

## *Farewell to the 2012-2013 Board!*



Top: Kristen Giles, Chelsea Gratz, Laura Detrick, Spenser Keane

Middle: Brianna Brassard, Alex Paraloglou, Amanda Abutaleb

Bottom: Sudi Jawahery