



# Alpha Omega Epsilon

Upsilon  
Chapter,  
University of  
Maryland

FREINDSHIP, LEADERSHIP, PROFESSIONALISM

WWW.AOEUPSILON.WEBLY.COM

## From the President

Dear Sisters,

Wow! What a bittersweet moment! This newsletter marks the official end to my term as president of Alpha Omega Epsilon. It has been such a reward and honor to lead such an amazing organization. Two years ago, I joined A.O.E. as a recent transfer student. I wanted to make some connections in the engineering school and field, but ultimately I got much more than that. I got close to some the most talented girls in engineering. I got help in my classes and gained an amazing support system through such a difficult major. I even coincidentally landed my first internship and now post grad full time job through A.O.E. connections. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to give back to the sorority that made such a huge impact on my life and allowing me to lead such an incredible group of girls. Each one of you have impacted my life greatly.

Boy, did we have an eventful semester! We started the semester with a two-week recruitment period. During which, we held two information sessions with yummy cupcake treats, a second annual mixer, and two events in each of our three values: sisterhood, professionalism, and service. By the end of recruitment we installed 38 wonderful candidates who all met their requirements and were inducted as sisters in April. I am so proud of each one of the new dolphins and cannot wait to see all their contributions to A.O.E. They truly proved themselves to be an amazing addition to our sisterhood! Congratulations Sigma Class!

We went above and beyond in our philanthropic efforts this semester. We continued our involvement in Relay for Life and Terp Thon. As always our date auction brought in a lot of donations towards Relay for Life-we ended up with a grand total of \$7,282 placing us second place in the Relay for Life fundraiser. For the first time ever, the sisters baked and delivered tasty treats for Terp Thon bringing in \$6,164. And of course, we held another great 5K supporting GEMS. This year we made \$1,900.

This year the Upsilon chapter celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Throughout the last 10 years, we have established many wonderful traditions but we are continuously working on growing and making new traditions. This semester A.O.E. took over Aqua Bar in Washington DC for a night of dancing for our spring formal.

Additionally, during the last 10 years we have developed and maintained relationships with numerous prestigious engineering companies and continue to hold events with them. In this same spirit, we also plan events to help the sisters grow professionally. This semester we discussed proper eating etiquette in a professional setting and also got helpful hints to improve our LinkedIn pages.

I want to congratulate and wish best of luck to the new executive board. I am so excited to see all that you have to offer to our sorority. And last but definitely not least, I want to thank the seven girls that were on board with me; I could not have done this without all your help.

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 do great things and I can't wait to hear about it!

In Sisterhood,  
Rana Shams

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Recruitment Open House by Emily Rowe

We had a full afternoon of fun planned for our chapter during our recruitment period this year. On Sunday, February 14th, 2016, AOE hosted 41 potential candidates to mix and mingle among themselves and current sisters. The afternoon began with potential candidates asking sisters predetermined questions to break the ice and to start learning names and faces a bit better. This game was then followed by a game called "Connecting life," in which each person in a small group would go around telling a fact or story about herself that is similar or related to the fact or story of the person before her. The afternoon concluded with everyone getting into new small groups then going around the circle picking a random notecard and answering the question written on it. By the end of the event, sisters were more aware of which girls were truly interested in becoming sisters and potential candidates become more motivated to fulfill their requirements in order to get closer to those they bonded with during the Open House.

## FIRST Robotics by Monique Dalton

Our chapter was introduced to the new partnership with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and as philanthropy chair I volunteered to represent our chapter at two events this year. I volunteered at the FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) event in Edgewater, MD as a Team Queuer all day March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Although I was on my feet all day I enjoyed what I did, because I got to talk to so many participants who seemed to me to be budding engineers. I especially loved seeing girls in the robotics teams. I also have to mention that the "Stronghold" competition was pretty cool to watch, with robots competing on either the Blue or Red Alliance to bust through barricades and take their castles!



I also volunteered for A.O.E. at the Jr. FLL (FIRST Lego League) Expo on April 9<sup>th</sup> as a Reviewer. Since this event was for kids from about 6-9 years old, every presentation I saw was very cute. They used Legos to build a system to recycle a certain type of material including motorized and electrical components! I was extremely impressed with how knowledgeable they were about the recycling process and how to model a plant. I even got to see one boy accidentally stop powering the electrical Lego parts on the computer and fix it right in front of me! Part of my job was to assign awards to the teams I saw (each team got an award since at this level they foster encouragement instead of competition) and I made sure the astute youngster I mentioned before received Master Programmer for his team!

## Skated by Jillian Holt



Skated is an event where sisters and candidates go ice skating at College Park's local rink. Sisters are invited to bring friends or dates, making it an enjoyable

evening for everyone. Skating abilities don't matter; in fact, several attendees mentioned that they hadn't been ice skating in years. Music played during the skate, which encouraged some attendees to dance out on the ice! Although it was tiring, everyone had a great time.

## Starting Pitching by Emily Ruppel

A good elevator pitch can work wonders when chatting with a recruiter, so in preparation for the University of Maryland's spring career fair, our chapter held a workshop designed to help sisters and potential candidates practice their own elevator pitches. The workshop began with a presentation about the Do's and Don'ts of succinctly describing one's experiences and objectives as well as tips on how to tailor a pitch in the moment to better relate to a company's mission. After that, the sisters and potential candidates were divided by major, and each group was given job descriptions for actual positions for their major. Then, the sisters pretended to be recruiters looking to fill those positions, while potential candidates gave elevator pitches to them. Afterwards, the sisters gave feedback and advice to the potential candidates to help them polish their approaches. In the end, it was a very productive way for sisters and potential candidates to get to know each other and to benefit from the exchange of experiences. The first professional event of our chapter's recruitment turned out to be a fantastic way to show off our talented sisters, not a curveball for potential candidates!

## Terp Thon by Monique Dalton

Terp Thon is a very special event where students at the University of Maryland raise money to donate to Children's National Health System for children with serious illness such as leukemia or cancer. We hosted many events that supported this cause for the Miracle Kids (the endearing term for children being treated at Children's National) and their families making a huge impact. As a sorority we tie dyed shirts, crafted inspirational cards, Skyped with our Miracle Kids, ran a Miracle Treats baked goods delivery event, and stood and danced for Terp Thon for up to 12 hours! We did all of this FTK (For the Kids).

As philanthropy chair I am most proud of the Skype session and the inaugural Miracle Treats event. In the video conference with Tess and Alexander we learned that both of them wanted to pursue careers in STEM and seeing as A.O.E. is a big supporter of women in engineering, it inspired more of our chapter to be involved. In our Miracle Treats event we took orders online for various baked goods and delivered them straight to students' homes on or near campus. Our team, Engineering Miracles, placed high in the overall team ranks surpassing our original goal of \$5,000 to raise \$6,164.45! As a school we were able to raise \$728,453.16 and I could not be more proud of my school and sorority for dreaming big and making miracles possible



### Eating with Etiquette by Emily Ruppel

We went back to our roots this semester by bringing back the tradition of the Etiquette Dinner! During this event, sisters and candidates were coached through appropriate table manners as they enjoyed a meal that put their new skills to the test. A representative of the University of Maryland's Engineering Career and Co-op Center was our fearless leader for the evening. She started by explaining the very basics of eating politely and progressed to some of the finer points of navigating, for instance, a meal in an interview setting. We discussed everything from professional dress to reliable topics of discussion to prevent conversation from lagging. Though a few spaghetti stains had to be removed that night, most attendants finished the dinner with nary a spill and everyone left with a smile.

### Fundraising by Nicole Sabatelli

This semester we hosted a huge fundraiser at Chipotle where we received 50% of the proceeds. Everyone craves delicious burritos and we had a great turnout from sisters and friends. We ended up receiving around \$425! Not only are these fundraising events great for funding other events we hold, but they also provide a wonderful opportunity to hang out and catch up with sisters. At the end of the semester, when it finally started to warm up, we had a Cold Stone Creamery fundraiser! A lot of girls came to beat the heat and we were really successful as well. We had quite a few fun events and we look forward to more next year!

### Outwit, Outplay, Outlast- Geek Week 2016 by Emily Ruppel

The Survivor theme of this year's Geek Week hosted by the Professional Greek Council of the University of Maryland made for lots of friendly competition as the professional sororities and fraternities on campus competed against each other in the name of inter-chapter relations and bragging rights! The events were designed to give chapters the opportunity for internal team building and for interfacing with other organizations. They ranged from traditional athletic events such as dodgeball and a field day to service events like weeding the University Chapel's meditation gardens. Throughout the week, members of our chapter got to know many of the members of other professional Greek organizations and are looking forward to maintaining these relationships in the future.



### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Date Auction for Relay for Life by Shoshie Bloom

This past April, the Upsilon Chapter held their annual Date Auction to raise money for the University of Maryland's Relay for Life! The auction, while historically held at Looney's Restaurant, was held at Applebee's. Over 50 sisters and candidates volunteered to be auctioned off for this great cause! As the ladies were auctioned off, our wonderful MCs from SPD read clever bios written by sisters and candidates. Sisters were "bought" by friends who collected money to further help this cause, and many were "bought" for over \$50. Our amazing president, Rana Shams, went for more than \$1,100, our highest bid of the night! We had a great turnout of sisters, alumnae, Sigma Phi Delta brothers, and friends, all who helped us to raise \$5,200! With our other fundraising efforts, our chapter was able to raise over \$7,000 for Relay for Life, coming in second for the highest fundraising team for the event behind the Relay for Life Executive team. Sisters had a meaningful time at Relay and look forward to surpassing what we raised this year when we participate again next year!



## We Love Seeing Our Alumnae! by Sam O'Donnell



Each year, we host multiple events to keep our alumnae involved. This year was our chapter's 10th anniversary, so we definitely have a lot of lovely alumnae! We love seeing their smiling faces and getting advice from them, whether it's about careers, grad school, or postgrad life in general.

### **Alumnae Brunch**

Every April, we invite the alumnae back to campus for a yummy brunch with sisters and

candidates. This year, 14 alumnae came to meet new sisters, catch up with old ones, and network! We all enjoyed breakfast sandwiches, fruit trays, and mini muffins, and as in previous years, fueled up for Relay for Life later in the day. There was a great turnout, and we know our seniors are already looking forward to continuing the tradition and coming back as alumnae next spring!

### **Mentor Program**

This spring, we continued our alumnae mentor program, in which sisters and candidates get matched up with alumnae based on majors, career paths, and career goals. Due to a shortage of mentors, we decided to pair all of the candidates with mentors since they're new to the program. New questions are sent out every other week to help start conversations, but the mentors and mentees are encouraged to correspond as often as they liked. The candidates got some great advice from our alumnae, and we're looking forward to growing the program again in the fall to accommodate more sisters!

## Turtle Trot 5k for GEMS by Sam O'Donnell

On April 23rd, we hosted our 7th annual Turtle Trot 5k benefitting GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science). GEMS is a great local outreach program aimed at getting younger girls interested in STEM fields, such as engineering. They host afterschool programs in Prince George's County public middle schools, and run activities such as mentoring, field trips, and tutoring. We have enjoyed our on-going partnership with GEMS and are excited to continue working with them in the future!

This year, we decided to keep the course on campus, but with a different loop than last year. Unfortunately, it rained the entire morning, but we still had a great turnout! There were volunteers on



every corner cheering on the runners while staying dry under umbrellas and in raincoats. We had over 45 participants, and were able to raise over \$1900 for GEMS! We were also able to give the winners gift certificates to local restaurants such as Nando's, Krazi Kebob, and Bread N' Greens, thanks to their generous donations.

Turtle Trot would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, in addition to the local restaurant donations. Some of the major sponsors were Whiting Turner, Exxon Mobil, the A. James Clark School of Engineering Alumnae Association, STV, Jacobs, and Balanced Athletics, and you can find their logos as well as the logos of other donors on the back of this year's race shirt. The race was a big success despite the weather, and we are so excited to pass on the money we raised to GEMS!

## Maryland Day by Nicole Sabatelli



Maryland Day is a fun-filled day on the UMD campus when it is open up to the public for events and interactive activities. Clubs and organizations host booths to represent their group and present an activity for students, alumni, children, prospective students and families to enjoy! Our chapter tries to focus on kid-friendly activities that expose them to simple engineering tasks to help them start thinking creatively and critically. This year their mission was to build the tallest tower they could build with the specified amount of materials we gave them. The marshmallow toothpick towers were at times messy, but it was so much fun to interact with the kids and see them brainstorm and build. For an extra motivation, we gave them a lollipop for when they finished building! We also kept a leaderboard of who had the tallest tower for a little bit of competition. It ended up being a great day and we had so much fun talking to families and kids about our sorority and what it means to be an engineer!

## A Fabulous Formal by Jillian Holt

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Upsilon Chapter sisters and their dates traveled into Washington, D. C. for the annual formal event. The opportunity to get dressed up and to have a night focused on something other than coursework can be rare, so it was a special event for many. A DJ kept everyone dancing for hours, and a cool laser light show provided lots of entertainment and cool energy. At formal, the executive board revealed the winners of the semester's superlative awards. Blue and white sashes were given to sisters who won superlatives, which included "Most Likely to Get a Ticket for Jaywalking" and "Candidates Attached at the Hip." There was lots of dancing, picture taking, and (of course) fun!



## A Warm Welcome to the Sigma Class by Emily Rowe

The Upsilon Chapter of AΩE was lucky enough to be able to induct 38 lovely new sisters into our chapter this spring! These girls are all such amazing young women and worked so hard to go above and beyond the candidacy process throughout all 6 weeks. They showed our chapter how excited they were to become a part of our sisterhood and contribute to our core values as a sorority.

These amazing ladies represent 6 out of the 9 undergraduate engineering majors offered at the University of Maryland and range in year from freshmen to juniors. We had many exciting interest events in the fall then the spring semester recruitment and candidacy periods moved quickly! The potential candidates met requirements to attend one of two Cupcake Information Sessions, one of two professional events, one of two sisterhood events, one of two philanthropy events, the Second Annual AOE Open House, and a Dinner with the Executive Board. The potential candidates were able to get to know sisters through their two required interviews which they completed over the two weeks of recruitment. By hosting a variety of events, they ladies were able to get a better ideas of AOE's core ideals and values while also bonding with the sisters and other potential candidates. On Sunday, April 10th, 38 wonderful new sisters, the Sigma Class, joined our chapter at our New Sisters Inductions Ceremony! The candidacy process for AOE is a great accomplishment and each of the new sisters should be immensely proud! We couldn't be happier to have them as sisters and we are so excited to see how each of you thrive in and contribute to our chapter over the years.



### Past, Present and Future by Rana Shams

10 years ago, the Alpha Class of A.O.E. was inducted. April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 marks the day that the Upsilon Chapter fulfilled its requirements and transitioned from a colony to a chapter. This was a huge milestone! 10 years later the chapter has grown to one of the largest chapters of A.O.E. This semester we started with approximately 62 active sisters, we inducted 38 new sisters. By the end of the semester, we inducted 40 sisters to alumnae status.

The chapter has developed a number of great traditions and it has been an honor to be a part of carrying them on. This year, we had the opportunity to learn more about our traditions from one of the women who knows them best- one of our founding sisters! A charter member of the Upsilon chapter made a guest appearance at Day Away this year. We were able to find out the root of all our Day Away traditions and see what has changed.

Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Upsilon Chapter of A.O.E! We've grown so much during the last ten years. Since this was a special year for us, the board decided to splurge on the gift and get all the active sisters tank tops. A picture says a thousand words: the Upsilon Chapter has grown quite a bit throughout the past 10 years, and we are so excited to see what the next 10 has in store for us!



The Alpha Class Picture



2016 Group Picture: Sisters wearing their day away tanks

2016-2017 Full Board

**President**

Brittney Hanson  
Senior, Civil Engineering  
upsilonpres@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Kathleen Cooley  
Senior, Chemical Engineering  
upsilonviceprez@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Nicole Wilson  
Junior, Civil Engineering  
upsilonsec@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Caroline Massey  
Junior, Mechanical Engineering  
upsilontreas@gmail.com

**Membership Educator**

Rachel Anomattei  
Junior, Civil Engineering  
upsilonmemed@gmail.com

**Professional Committee Chair**

Mackenzie Fitzgerald  
Junior, Chemical Engineering  
upsilonprofhead@gmail.com

**Sisterhood Committee Chair**

Jessica Mulju  
Senior, Mechanical Engineering  
upsilonsishead@gmail.com

**Historian**

Tiffany Wun  
Junior, Bioengineering  
upsilonhist@gmail.com

# Goodbye to the 2015-2016 Upsilon Board!



## Best of luck to all of our recent graduates!



Visit our website at

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

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram!

@a\_o\_e\_upsilon