



Alpha Omega Epsilon

UPSILON CHAPTER
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
COLLEGE PARK

Spring 2015

www.aoeupsilon.weebly.com

FRIENDSHIP
LEADERSHIP
PROFESSIONALISM

FROM THE PRESIDENT *By Stephanie Martinez*

Dear Sisters,

This semester flew by! 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 36 wonderful candidates We kicked off candidacy period with a mixer where sisters got to interact with potential candidates – this was a huge success! Congratulations Rho class!

This year we did an amazing job with philanthropy. At our Turtle Trot 5K supporting Girls Excelling in Math and Science, our community raised approximately \$1,150. We raised \$5,800 for TerpThon a record for our chapter, benefitting the Children's National Medical Center. Finally, we raised over \$5,400 at our annual Date Auction event, making us the top fundraiser for Relay for Life. We were able to donate over \$9,400 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 \$16,350 this semester. Way to go ladies!

This semester we held our first formal at the Greenbelt Marriott. After last years wonderful formal we wanted to follow in these footsteps, allowing sisters to bond in a formal, yet laid back setting. We rented buses, there was dancing, a delicious dinner, and even a DJ. This was a great way to celebrate the end of our year, congratulate the newly inducted Rho 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, Peace and Dance,
Stephanie Martinez

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WELCOMING 36 BEAUTIFUL BABY DOLPHINS– RHO CLASS OF SPRING 2015

By Nadjia Motley

The Upsilon Chapter of AΩE was lucky enough to be able to induct 36 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 and show 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 8 out of the 9 undergraduate engineering majors offered at the University of Maryland and range in year from freshmen to juniors. Since we held so many exciting interest events in the fall, the spring semester recruitment and candidacy periods moved quickly! This year we adapted a new recruitment structure that was designed to attract only the most dedicated group of girls to be selected to participate in this year's candidacy period. After attending one of two Cupcake Information Sessions, potential candidates were required to attend the First Annual AΩE Open House, one of two professional events, one of two sisterhood events, one of two philanthropy events, and a Dinner with the Executive Board Night.

In addition to these events, candidates were also required to interview two current sisters in order to get a better idea of the sorority's core ideals and values. By the end of this long recruitment period, all of the sisters felt as though they got to know the new ladies before they were installed as candidates and all of the candidates had the confidence that they would be able to meet all candidate requirements in order to become full sisters of the Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon Sorority. On Sunday, April 19th, 36 amazing new sisters, the Rho Class, joined our chapter at our New Sister Inductions Ceremony!



The newly inducted Rho Class with their awesome Membership Educator!

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!

FORMAL FUN By Amanda Shekarchi



Sisters having fun at formal!

To celebrate the completion of another great semester, we held a formal in late April. We traveled by bus to the Greenbelt Marriott, a short ride from campus. Sisters were able to bring a date, and we had over 120 people in attendance. The night involved music, dancing and a delicious dinner. Before the night ended we gave out our annual paper plate awards, to celebrate some of the great qualities of our sisters. Everyone in attendance had a great time and we look forward to more formals in future semesters.



More sisters enjoying formal!



SISTER NETWORKING PANEL By Hana Vienneau

The sister networking panel was a new event this semester aimed at enabling candidates and sisters to get to know each other better professionally. The panel was made up of five volunteer sisters that had a wealth of knowledge; from research experience and club activities, to on-campus jobs and internships.

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FUN FACTS ABOUT THE UPSILON CHAPTER

The University of Maryland Colony was founded on September 17, 2005.

There were 18 founding sisters of the Upsilon Chapter.

We became a chapter on April 30, 2006.

In Spring 2015, we had more than 60 active sisters and inducted 36 awesome new candidates!

In Spring 2015, we inducted more than 17 sisters into alumnae status!

Our alumnae live all across the country working for awesome companies. One alumna even works in Alaska!

We have been the number one fundraising team for Relay for Life at the University of Maryland for the last four years!

This past semester we had sisters study abroad all over the world, including Spain, Denmark, Australia and Turkey!

Also this past semester, we had sisters take the semester off to co-op at awesome engineering companies to gain real world technical experience.

In Spring 2015, we had sisters from all the engineering majors at A. James Clark School.

Our sisters are actively involved in many organizations in the Clark School and University of Maryland. Activities range from club sports to on-campus research to part time jobs to volunteering and so much more!

We make the best grilled cheese on campus!

9TH ANNUAL DATE AUCTION FOR RELAY FOR LIFE AND REALY FOR LIFE

By Kayla Russo

This past April, the Upsilon Chapter held their 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 of the school's campus. Numerous sisters and candidates volunteered to be auctioned off. Sisters went on stage while the MCs read each sister's and candidate's clever bios, the bidding began at \$10 until the highest bid was made. Many sisters and candidates were "bought" by friends for more than \$40. Our lovely president, Stephanie Martinez, went for more than \$800, which was the highest bid of the night. We had a great turn out this year, which included brothers of our brother fraternity, Sigma Phi Delta and alumnae of the Upsilon Chapter, who came out to support us. The restaurant was packed with people attending the auction. Most importantly, we raised over \$5,400 at the date auction for Relay for Life, which is a new record for the chapter. With other fundraising efforts, the chapter was able to raise more than \$9,400 for Relay for Life, making us again the highest fundraising team for the event. Our chapter looks forward to continuing this tradition in the coming years!



The Upsilon Executive Board at Date Auction



Sisters at Relay for Life!

MARYLAND DAY

By Julia Sherarcki

Maryland Day opens the University of Maryland campus to the public for a day of fun activities and events to get to know the university. Families, prospective students, alumni, or anyone who loves Maryland is welcome! Each year our chapter hosts an engineering-related, kid-friendly activity to introduce the field of engineering to young students in a fun way. We made aluminum foil boats to understand buoyancy and kept a list of each participant's name and how many coins their boat could hold. At the end of the day the top three winners won an A.O.E. prize. We loved talking to all the families about engineering and A.O.E.!

HOW TO NETWORK AND FIND A MENTOR

By Hana Vinneau

We continued our relationship with the business school by inviting Melanie Ashton, program manager for business school minors, to speak to us. She prepared a presentation on networking and finding a mentor. Sisters and candidates greatly enjoyed the presentation because skills on how to approach employers and select a mentor are greatly beneficial to anyone looking to advance their career.

She covered topics on how to prepare for a career fairs and interviews, and the difference between career fairs and networking events. She also emphasized how important it is to find a mentor that looks out for your best interests and can offer advice from their experience in the field.

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We can never get enough advice on how to network; and we hope to continue our professional relationship with the business school in the future!

SKATED By Amanda Shekarchi

To give sisters a break from the stress of midterms, we held our second annual "skated". We rented out a local ice rink, Herbert Wells Ice Rink. Sisters and some friends of sisters spent a Wednesday evening at the rink skating or learning to skate. Music was played throughout the rink so sisters were able to sing and dance as they skated. A few sisters had never skated before and more experienced sisters were able to help them learn. It was a fun event and a great way for sisters to bond.



Sisters and Candidates having fun at Skated

1ST ANNUAL A.O.E. OPEN HOUSE By Nadjia Motley

What better way to encourage girls to join AOE than to allow them to spend an afternoon packed full of fun and bonding activities. On Sunday February 15, 2015, AOE opened the doors to allow 58 potential candidates to mix and mingle within themselves and with current sisters. The afternoon started with which potential candidates walked finding sisters and asking them predetermined questions to break the ice and ensure that they have exchanged names and recognized faces. This ice breaker was followed by a game a like to call "Connecting Life", in which each person in a group would go around in a circle and tell a short story about themselves that is similar or related to the story of the person that went before them. This game was then followed by a speed round of bird on a perch and another round of "Connecting Life". By the end of the night, sisters were more aware of which girls were truly interested in becoming a sister and potential candidates be-

came more motivated to fulfill their potential candidate requirements in order to get closer to those they bonded with during Open House.



Sisters and a potential candidate (now a sister) mingling at

TURTLE TROT 5K FOR GEMS By Rachel Rubin

On May 2nd we hosted our 6th annual "Turtle Trot 5k" to benefit a local organization, Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS). GEMS is a local outreach program that helps to get girls in Prince George's County public middle schools that promotes interest in math and science by hosting afterschool activities. These activities include tutoring and field trips as well as a mentoring program with undergraduate student from the University of Maryland. We have enjoyed our partnership with GEMS and are excited to continue working with them in the future.

This year we decided to switch the race up and try a new course. We created a challenging course that took the participants through the University of Maryland campus. We had over 45 participants at the event, beautiful weather and we were able to raise over \$900 for GEMS! We even had a sister visit who has been co-opping in Connecticut!

We were fortunate to receive several donations from the local community that helped us to provide water bottles, bagels, and gift cards to our winners. We were also supported by larger players in the engineering field like ExxonMobil, Poole Fire Protection Inc., Saft, Appian, and Johnson Controls. You can definitely find students all around campus sporting these names on the back of our race T-shirts!



Large group picture!

TERP THON By Kayla Russo



A.O.E. is FTK! (For the Kids!)

Sisters and candidates participated in the 6th annual Terp Thon this semester! Terp Thon is a 12 hour-long dance marathon that raises money for Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C. Students must raise a minimum of \$120 to enter and pledge to stand 12 hours, which is the length of a nurse's shift at the hospital. The University of Maryland raised over \$600,000 this year, shattering last year's record! We are looking forward to participating in Terp Thon 2016.

GEEK WEEK By Kayla Russo

This year, the Upsilon Chapter participated in Geek Week. Geek Week is hosted by the University of Maryland Professional Greek Counsel, which consists of professional fraternity and sororities on campus! This year's theme was Netflix and the Upsilon chapter was Gossip Girl. The Upsilon Chapter was paired up with Alpha Gamma Rho, the professional Agriculture Fraternity. Geek Week consisted of a kick-off BBQ, Dodgeball, Trash Clean-Up, Geek Olympics, Soccer and Cornhole and ended with Mr & Mrs Professional. The Upsilon chapter along with Alpha Gamma Rho placed third! We are looking forward to next year, and hope to get first place!



Sisters of A.O.E. with a brother of Theta Tau!

FUNDRAISING By Julia Shekarchi



A long table full of sisters and potential candidates eat Jason's!

devouring ice cream sundaes and getting to know some fellow engineers. We love making connections with

This semester we hosted and co-hosted a few great fundraiser events.

We started the semester at Jason's Deli which doubled as a sisterhood recruitment event. The potential candidates and sisters spent the night getting to know each other while helping raise money for our chapter! We had a really great time at this event and are looking forward to more events like this next semester.

A.O.E. and A.I.A.A. teamed up to cohost an ice cream fundraiser at Cold Stone Creamery! We spent the night

WE LOVE OUR ALUMNAE! By Rachel Rubin

We know that when we join this sorority, it means we have entered a lifetime bond! We enjoy hosting several events to make sure we are getting to hear from our alumnae!

Alumnae Brunch

This spring we hosted a lovely weekend brunch to help introduce the alumnae to our new candidates! We rented out a room on campus, ordered fruit trays and breakfast sandwiches, and got to catch up! We invited all alumnae and our active sisters to either catch up, or to meet new people! The casual atmosphere allowed the sisters and alumnae to learn new things about each other and to network. Much like last year, the event fell on the same day as University of Maryland's Relay for Life so the sisters] were energized and ready to go after! There was an amazing turnout from both the sister and the alumnae and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the future!



Big and Little (and Little) Sisters!

a central location to share or find opportunities easily. As the year goes on the network will continue to grow and there will be even more opportunities for sisters.

Upsilon Mentor Program

We have continued the mentor program that was created last year. Each semester we find interested alumnae and sisters that wish to get in touch with one another. Based off of sisters' interests and alumnae's positions we work to match them up. They correspond via email and now topics are sent out every other week. The sisters can ask any question and contact each other as much as they desire. We have had some major success stories where both the sister and alumna have been bragging about how much they love their mentor or mentee. We look forward to seeing this pattern continue next year when we continue the mentoring program!

A.O.E. Jobs Posting Page

This year we decided to create a Facebook page where alumnae and sisters are able to post about available positions. We want to increase our networking power and make our sisters aware of all of their opportunities. This page is not limited to alumnae posting about their companies, either. Active sisters have posted about internships or research opportunities and alumnae are free to apply to the positions as well. This has helped us to have



Group Picture of Sisters and Alumnae!

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FAREWELL TO THE 2014-2015 UPSILON BOARD!



GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR RECENT GRADS!



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