

AO Articulator

The student publication



April 2012

Highlights of this issue:

- AO Destination- 2011 Convention
- "Not an Undergrad, Not Yet an Alumni"
- Chapter Spotlight – UPenn's Beta Chapter
- AO Scrub Sale
- GOHI awards
- Scottsdale, AZ- 2012 Convention



Celebrating a "Red Hot" New Year's Eve in Tampa, FL

And this is what the students have to say...

Steve Boss (Eta, Columbia)

First of all, I'd like to start by saying there is no way to actually describe what an incredible experience an Alpha Omega Annual Convention is without experiencing it firsthand. Now that that's out of the way, let me tell you all about it.

Alpha Omega Annual Convention is a place where the most successful and knowledgeable dentists in the world come together to share their skills and their lives with each other. During the day, there were educational lectures given about oral surgery techniques, Botox, practice and life management by the foremost leaders in their fields, all of whom are AO members. The best part is that these learning opportunities weren't limited to the lecture rooms. There was free time to relax on the beach and mingle with the very same people who just dropped some of the most insightful knowledge any dentist, let alone student, could ask for.

But experiencing Alpha Omega as a student is surely different than experiencing it as an alumni. There are about 15 or so dental students spending their days in the sun and their nights at the bars, hoping to be welcomed into this tight knit family that has been around for over 100 years. And welcomed we were.

All of the students were assigned an alumni mentor.

Some of the mentors were the aforementioned lecturers, others were deans of dental schools, and a few were just straight ballers.

Time was set aside for us to get to know them better, but more importantly, they WANTED to get to know us better. There was genuine interest in letting the young members in; a concerted effort to educate the young members alongside, and independent from, the alumni; and an atmosphere where just by showing up and participating, we belonged.

Faryn Berger (Pi, U-Toronto)

This year I had the opportunity to attend the AO International Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The event was my first convention, having been a Pi chapter member at the University of Toronto for the past two years. It was a wonderful experience, giving me great insight into the international arm of AO. I attended business meetings, continuing education lectures, dinners, and foundation events throughout the week. Meeting other dental students and dentists from North America, Israel and Europe was an amazing experience.

Overall, I was overwhelmed by how welcoming everyone was and how I immediately felt like a part of the international AO family.



Students enjoying an honors night



2012 ISR Steve Boss with Dr. Marvin Stone

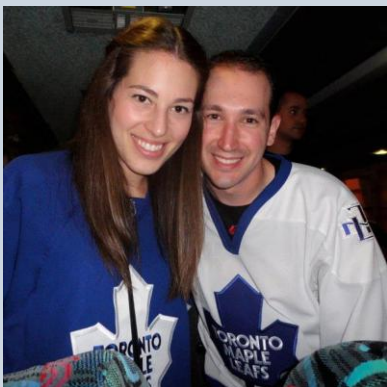
Student blurbs (continued)



2011 Poster Competition



Students night out in Tampa



Having fun at the Panthers vs. Leafs game in Florida!

My experience at convention has inspired me to not only bring new ideas back to my own chapter, but has also motivated me to become involved in the fraternity at the international level. I am excited to have been given the position of Canadian Student Representative to the AO Foundation and my goal is to help raise awareness and funds for the foundation in the upcoming year. I hope to continue attending conventions in the future and look forward to contributing to this most worthwhile organization.

Elnaz Hendifar (Alpha Tau, UCLA)

Attending the Alpha Omega International Annual Convention for the first time in 2011, I had no idea what to expect. Nonetheless, it did not take more than a day at the convention for me to realize that this would be an amazing experience where I could learn and interact with many great people from all over the world. And not surprisingly, this event far exceeded my expectations of a regular convention. It was not just an event full of meetings, but rather, it was a big family getting together, sharing what activities their chapters participated in during the past year, doing philanthropic and fun activities together and celebrating different occasions. What I loved the most about it was the friendliness and the warmth of everyone and their interest to learn about you and offer to help you. I always felt welcomed and never intimidated to approach all the great and successful dentists even though I was just a student. In fact, the Student Mentor Program created such opportunity for all the students. Moreover, I got to dine with such amazing people on different occasions and celebrate New Year's Eve with them. What amazed me the most at the convention was the scale of Alpha Omega worldwide and learning about the impact it has had on different people.

I was thrilled to learn more about the projects and mission trips AO is involved with and also how much AO is helping Israel. Moreover, I was honored to be participating in the GOHI project on the first day. It was also interesting to hear about the impact AO has had on the career or even the love life of some people at the convention.

Needless to say, interacting with other students and learning about their chapters while spending time with them at the hockey game and going to different places also has left me with great memories. Leaving the convention, not only was I touched by the inspiring speeches such as Steve Anderson's, but I also felt fortunate to be part of such a big, yet friendly and welcoming family. Nevertheless, I realized that my chapter needs to be more connected with the other chapters and I will make every effort to do so.

Whitney Mostafiz (Delta, Harvard)

This was my 4th convention this year, and I'm happy to say that I've been able to share all of my winter breaks with my AO family. Each year has offered me a new opportunity, meeting outstanding fraters and serving as Foundation and international Student Representatives. This year was particularly special. My dean, Dr. Donoff (who happens to be in AO), was receiving the Achievement Award, Alpha Omega's highest honor. Seeing him there with his family and hearing him speak was a touching experience, despite being made fun of for my dance moves at the New Years Eve party! It was also great to see some AO members I've befriended while overseas in Australia. I had been in touch with Dr. Rapoport for several years, encouraging him and his family to attend convention. Finally this year he came and he also gave a CE pearls lecture. I look forward to seeing him when I revisit Sydney in the near future, as well as my other Australian AO friends who I'll be staying with! I truly value the worldly connections AO has to offer us all. While this is my last year participating in AO as a dental student, I look forward to continuing my involvement in AO as an orthodontics resident and a soon-to-be practitioner one day.

Not An Undergrad, Not Yet An Alumni

Guy Aboodi

It has been few weeks since we came back from the latest AO convention in Florida. As always, it was a wonderful week: we enjoyed the great weather, we had lots of fun meeting old and new friends, and re-discovering what AO is all about. As I grow as a professional in AO, I learn more about the role of AO in my professional life.

Please allow me to introduce myself: I'm Guy, a graduate of Tel Aviv University. Currently, I am a perio grad student at the University of Toronto. It was the sixth convention I attended, 4th as a young alumni, 2nd as a grad student. I guess this "in-between" situation - as I am not struggling with clinical requirements any more, and not yet facing the challenges of the "real world", provides me with the opportunity to discover a different aspect of AO. It is one which I was not aware of previously: AO members have tons of experience, and they are happy to share and help!

Since my first convention, students have always been told that they should take advantage and pick the brains of any of the alumni members. Yet it always felt a bit awkward to me, for which I take the blame. I was far from taking full advantage of what AO is all about. Very far. For that reason, I was very excited to be a part of the new initiative that took place during this convention: a student-alumni event which was completely dedicated to one-on-one interactions. I was fairly close to one of the organizers (my beautiful wife - *Andrea Heckler*), and I was able to see the list of alumni asking to take part in this event growing by the second. We actually stopped inviting alumni once we realized that we had twice as many alumni participants as students!

I was a spectator during this event, and I had the opportunity to watch the interactions across the room. I quickly realized how fortunate we all are: having direct access to dentists who were in our shoes just few (or more...) years ago, but more than that – a dentist who loves to share their experience, guide with good advice, and help in any way they can. We, in our very first steps as young professionals, were given this amazing gift by Alpha Omega; all we need to do is ask.

It is not a unique feature of convention attendees. Talk to the alumni in your local chapter. Ask! They will be so happy to answer. I believe that this is exactly what *Fraternalism* in AO is all about: helping with your "*Professionalism*" development. Supported by the base of *Judaism*, of course...



Dr. Guy Aboodi with wife Dr. Andrea Heckler

Chapter Spotlight: University of Pennsylvania's Beta Chapter

My name is Zach Korwin and I'm the Beta chapter Treasurer this year. As our VP Cassie said, we've been quiet recently but not inactive. I wanted to take the time to update you all on our fundraising and charity events:

With the help of the board and Jamie Lazin, our social activities chair this year, we have planned the "AO Black-tie Bowling Double Fundraiser." We rented out the whole alley at PEP Bowl, the fundraising arm of the local non-profit "Programs Employing People". This charity finds employment for the developmentally-disabled in the Greater Philadelphia area. All the proceeds from the bowling alley go directly to their efforts. In addition, we're selling tickets to the event and donating the profits to the Oral Cancer Foundation. When all of the tickets are sold we will have raised \$450 for PEP and \$700 for the Oral Cancer Foundation. I've submitted a press release to all of the local TV news and newspaper outlets in the area so we should get some coverage on a regional level for this. Jamie is also in touch with the people at Citizens' Bank Park--home of the Philadelphia Phillies--to organize a free dental screening at a Phillies game this season.

We also had a great time volunteering for the Jewish Relief Agency last month which hopefully is apparent in our pictures of the event on Facebook. We are going again this month with Marc Rothman.

We are currently organizing an AO dinner speaker series with the first guest speaker being my dad, Dr. Robert Korwin. He's a "super-general" dentist. For those deciding on whether or not to apply to a specialty program, my Dad is going to come to the Beta house to talk about his experiences as a general dentist during 30 years of practice. The event will be catered by a local kosher falafel restaurant.

On the fundraising front, we've already broken our fundraising goal of \$4,000 for the year which we typically raise with Penn Dental by selling apparel to students. I put together a website for our chapter last year (at www.pennaq.com) with a shopping cart so that our apparel can be purchased online. Since being up, we raised approximately \$1,300 in additional sales to alumni and friends around the country (and even in other countries!).

We contracted with a new apparel company Magic Designs (<http://www.magicdesigns.us/>) to offer a brand new American Apparel embroidered hooded sweatshirt which resulted in an additional \$700 of sales. This year we are also able to sell to alumni on Penn's "Alumni Day". In addition, we also had Penn Dental umbrellas printed up which generally brought in \$80-100 in sales every time it rains. I

We also partnered up with Leader Brand (www.leaderbrand.net), a company that makes the LeaderLight loupe light and who has a unique fundraising program. We organized a group sale of their lights in our school with a coupon code charging \$378 for their LeaderLight Pro kit. They provided the lights to us for \$325, so we netted \$53 on every sale. So far, 10 lights have sold bringing in \$530. It has been a very easy fundraiser to do since all it required was directing people to the leaderbrand website and having them use the coupon code. Any chapter can contact them through their website to set up the same deal for their school.

I am happy to share any information on our efforts with other student chapters.



Chapter members volunteering for the Jewish Relief Agency



AO Beta Chapter speaker dinner with Dr. Marc Rothman



Go to the following link for more information on the convention
<http://aoventure2012.ao.org/>

WIN CASH \$\$\$

\$500 – 1st place

\$300 – 2nd place

\$200 – 3rd place

\$100 – each of the
15 additional
presenters

AO Convention 2012 Announcing the 3rd Annual AO Student Poster Presentation Contest

Here are the rules:

- You must be registered for the Convention: Go to <http://aoventure2012.ao.org/>
- Only the first 18 applicants for the poster presentation will be accepted.
- Contact CE Co-Chair Fred Margolis at kidzdr@comcast.net to register
- You must be present at the poster presentation CE program Friday, December 31st from 10 AM – Noon
- Only AO Dental Students and Residents are eligible
- You may present previous posters that you have presented elsewhere



Look out for the continuing AO International Scrub Sale!

Alpha Omegas around the world are constantly contributing their time and finances to worthwhile causes. Community service is an integral part of what makes Alpha Omega great; keeping consistent with AO's Global Oral Health Initiative - reducing the debilitating nature of dental disease facing those in need, worldwide. This year, as an effort to have Alpha Omegas recognized while performing community service, the students are continuing the international scrub sale. We would like these scrubs to act as a uniform so that those being helped by Alpha Omegas can immediately acknowledge the presence of such a great organization.



AO Scrubs
(design may vary)

**Alpha Omega International
Dental Fraternity Headquarters**
c/o The Third Eye Group
1582 South Parker Rd., Ste. 201
Denver, CO 80231
1-(877)-677-8468

Editor

Dr. Michael Stern

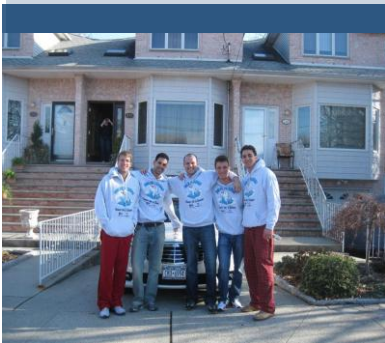
Student Editor

Gabrielle Balderman (Alpha
Chapter, University at Buffalo)

Please submit any future
articles, pictures, and exciting
chapter news to Gabrielle at
articulator@ao.org

Student Web Site:

<http://students.ao.org>



Eta Chapter's Polar Plunge



2012 ISRs visit Boston

2011 Winners of the \$2500 Global Oral Health Initiative Awards

There were four awards granted at the 2011 International Convention. Each award recipient will receive a \$2500 grant. **The GOHI Corporate Task Force members for 2011 are as follows: Henry Schein, SSWhite, Argon, and Heraeus.**
Student Chapters:

Eta Chapter—Columbia University School of Dentistry-Yoni Moskowitz, Student Chapter President

Project: "The Polar Bear Plunge" supporting Special Olympics

Alpha Nu Chapter—Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry

Project: "5K Run" April 16th, 2012

Kevin Solt, Fundraising Chair; Marlina Judd, Student Chapter President

Phi Chapter—University of Louisville

Project: "AO Handmakers at the St. James Court Art Show"

Submitted by: Lawrence Gettleman, Chapter Co-Advisor; Rachel Davis, Alumni Chapter President; Ashley Lee, Student Chapter President

Alumni Chapter:

Detroit Chapter "Jewish Dental Clinic"

Submitted by: Michael Zuroff, Committee Chair and Marvin Sonne, Chapter President

The Global Corporate Advisory Board Members: Steve Kess, Chair; Steven Anderson, Fred Margolis, Michael Stern, Richard Shapiro, and Mervyn Druian.

Information on Young Alumni Dues

Once a student graduates from a program and becomes a practicing dentist, the individual is called a Young alumni and this person is eligible to receive (3) years of international dues for \$99.

The new offer is (5) years of international dues for \$165 (5 x \$33). This will be paid at once to international and not in five installments of \$33. Chapter dues are arranged separately and we encourage your chapter to provide some flexibility.

Please also note that young alum are eligible to **receive free malpractice insurance from Medical Protective in their first year of Young Alum status.** After paying the international dues, the person must apply directly to Medical Protective. {For US students only.}

Also, for the students, we will charge \$18 per student per any year of school. There is no more \$55 initiation fee. Residents are also charged \$18 per year.

For more information please contact Heidi Weber at hweber@ao.org