

AO Articulator

The student publication



November 2011

Highlights of this issue:

- Fall Leadership Convention – Los Angeles
- More from 'AO Sunny Days' – 2010 Convention, San Diego
- Chapter Spotlight
- Externship Spotlight
- Spring Leadership Convention – Philadelphia
- AO Exchange



Fall Leadership Meeting in Los Angeles

Over a beautiful weekend in Los Angeles, Alpha Omega alumni, students, and officers converged for the fall AO Leadership Meeting, October 28-29, 2011. The weekend kicked off with a gracious invitation to the home of Eddie and Anjele Harouni for Shabbat dinner. This was a wonderful opportunity for old friends to reacquaint as well as new friends to be introduced. In attendance were members from the BOCA, Los Angeles, and San Fernando Valley chapters as well as PIPs Max Cutler and Lionell Greenberg.

Saturday turned the focus to the meeting with Michael Spektor, President-Elect, facilitating and Mike Tenenbaum, President, Marcy Schwartzman, Secretary, Shawn Groyeski, ISR, Heidi Weber, Association Director, and Wendy Spektor, former international board member and member of the Seattle chapter. AO invited several alumni from the local chapters as well as several students from Denver, Chicago, Columbia, Denver, UCLA, USC, Washington State, and Louisville.

The overall goal for this meeting was to introduce alumni and student members to an expanded look at AO and how they can participate more at an international level.

During the ice-breaker session, the group provided over 20 descriptions of what an individual might find in AO, including community, duty, friendship, identity, international focus, professionalism, and values. This exercise

illustrated that there is not one critical reason why people join AO but shows that AO can offer many things to the members.

The group also covered the best practices of leadership, engaging in a mentor/mentee relationship, SWOT analysis for a practice, and the importance of converting students to young alumni members after graduation. During the entire meeting, the group provided exceptional feedback and suggestions that will enable headquarters to hopefully use in the future.

On Saturday night, a reception in honor of Mike and Marlene Tenenbaum was hosted at the home of Bob and Amy Simon. It was another occasion for members, both alumni and students alike (plus three PIPs Max Cutler, Lionell Greenberg, and Milford Gilbert), to mingle and share their mutual support for AO.

Special thanks are extended to the members who travelled to Los Angeles as well as the local chapter members who made time in their weekend to participate. Thank you to the Harounis, Simons, as well as the BOCA, Los Angeles, and San Fernando Valley members who proved the saying true---- you can go anywhere and be welcomed by AO.

The next AO Leadership Meeting will take place in Spring 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Mike Tenenbaum



Leadership Meeting



Leadership Meeting



Exploring Pacific Beach



Honors Night



Student Night Out



USS Midway Tour



Incoming and Outgoing Student Leaders

More about 2010 Convention in San Diego

Shahzad Morim (UCLA)

I remember how excited I became when I made the decision to attend my first AO convention in 2009, which happened to be the first AO cruise convention. This past December, I had the privilege again to spend my last week of winter break with my AO family and friends. From my first day amongst Alpha Omegas, I felt welcomed by all the AO members and their families and had the opportunity to network with students and other members from all over the world. I enjoyed all the activities during the trip; from the first day when we as students participated in a human knot game, to going on the Midway tour to, visiting Dr. Silverstein's free clinic in downtown San Diego, and finally to the Honors night and New Year's Eve gala. I recognized the value of the student meetings & activities since they allowed me to get to know the students better, relate to their experiences, and find out about their AO chapters and activities. Overall, this year's convention broadened my perspective more about Alpha Omega as an international fraternity, and made me appreciate the value of true fraternalism and professionalism that connects all of us.

Reanna Rochman, (Toronto) 2011 Fundraising Chair

The 2010 San Diego convention was my first ever AO convention experience and it is one I will never forget. People told me that it would be amazing and unforgettable and they were absolutely right. After twenty-four hours of being there I found myself at a Mexican restaurant with about twenty of my new friends having a great time. For me, that's what the convention was all about. Meeting a lot of students, getting to know each other and just having fun.

We all had some really great experiences together including trying the surfing simulator at Wave House, singing together at a dueling piano bar and just relaxing in the hot tub.

There was a more serious side to the trip as well including business meetings and continuing education seminars, but these events were really worthwhile to attend. I learned about charitable organizations and some great causes that I hope to have the chance to support this year as the Foundation Rep. This trip is what AO is all about and I can't wait to do it again next December in Fort Lauderdale!

Lindsey Steele (Loyola)

The 2010 Alpha Omega Sunny Days Convention will forever stand out in my mind as my first true introduction to one of the three angles of the AO triangle- Fraternalism. I am proud to say that Alpha Omega is the one and only fraternity/sorority to which I have ever belonged. While many of my friends went away to a number of Big Ten schools and joined fraternities/sororities, I attended a smaller private school and did not participate in the Greek system. Dental fraternities, from what I was told, were to model the friendship and fraternal aspects that one finds in the co-ed Greek system, but without hazing, 'keggers,' cold dorms or drama, so I thought I would try it out.

From my experiences at the University of Michigan and Convention, this has held true. I very much felt like I belonged, not only as a dentist, but also as a woman, a peer and finally, as a half-breed Jew, a somewhat touchy subject. I am from a multi-spiritual family, and as Alpha Omega moves into a new era and focuses on member recruitment and retention, it is crucial to remember that not all members are Jewish or Christian—sometimes they're both! My background (all facets) was greeted with open arms, and I am so happy to say that for the first time, I *felt* fraternalism. Alumni were warm, interested, accepting, and eager to help in any way possible. I am forever grateful and truly touched.

*A note from our International Editor, Dr. Michael Stern:

Thank you, Lindsey, for your comments. Alpha Omega was started in 1907 as a Jewish dental fraternity, whose initial mission was to combat overt anti-Semitism in the dental community. The three pillars of our fraternity are, and always will be, Fraternalism and Clinical Excellence, based upon a moral and ethical basis of Judaism and Judaic Values. This being said, we have always been an inclusive fraternity, encouraging student from all faiths to join our organization, because we feel that people, no matter what their faith, share our common values. We encourage all of our members, regardless of their religious leanings, to remain fraters following graduation, enjoying the many benefits of alumni membership.

Chapter Spotlight



Harvard University's *Delta* Chapter

By Whitney Mostafiz

The Delta Chapter of Alpha Omega organized a Harvard Medical/Dental team for Harvard University Relay for Life at the Gordon Indoor Track. Held on April 22-23, Relay for Life was an overnight 12-hour fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, held from 6PM to 6AM.

The AO team fundraised a total of \$1,246, which exceeded the team goal of \$1,000. With a Mardi Gras theme, the team held an on-site fundraiser of baked goods and Mardi Gras mask-making station for other relay participants. Everyone stayed up for the whole night, participated in activities and contests, and danced the night away to remember and honor those members of our community touched by cancer. Cancer never sleeps, so neither did we!

Attention 4th Year Students!

Did you know that if you continue to remain an active member of Alpha Omega after you graduate, AO will pay for your first year of malpractice insurance with



Externship Spotlight: New York City

By: Yonit Rebibo (McGill)

Visiting New York as an extern student was a completely different experience than that of a tourist. I was given the opportunity to walk into the high-rise buildings and see what lay inside.

Going to dental offices in New York was an amazing experience because I was able to observe different techniques and new technologies that I have not learnt about in dental school in Montreal. It was interesting to see how a successful private office functions and the effort and dedication that needs to be put in. I was also able to speak with the dentists and learn about their educational experiences, the specialty schools and residencies they attended, as well as how their personal lives helped lead them to where they ended up. I went out for lunch with one of the dentists and we were able to talk about different career opportunities that exist as a dentist and the endless possibilities that one has as a general dentist.

I enjoyed visiting Dr. Schupak's orthodontics office because of the interactions that she had with her patient population. It helped me realize how much I would enjoy working with kids. I am grateful for having been given this opportunity so that I could expand my horizons as a dental student and gain more clarity about what path I would be interested in taking in the future. Externing with AO was an invaluable experience that I know will help me with whatever decisions I will make throughout my dental career.



Yonit and Dr. Schupak at her office

Spring 2010 Leadership: Philly



ALPHA OMEGA
CONVENTION
2011



DECEMBER 25, 2011 - JANUARY 1, 2012

Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa
3030 Holiday Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Go to the following link for more information on the convention
<http://destination2011.ao.org/>



ALPHA OMEGA

WIN CASH \$\$\$

\$500 – 1st place

\$300 – 2nd place

\$200 – 3rd place

\$100 – each of the
15 additional
presenters

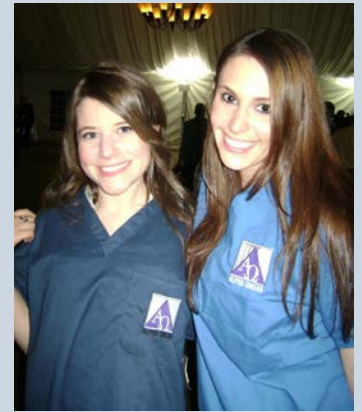
**AO Convention 2011
Announcing the 2nd Annual
AO Student Poster Presentation Contest**

Here are the rules:

- You must be registered for the Convention: Go to <http://destination2011.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 30th from 11 AM – 1 PM
- Only AO Dental Students and Residents are eligible
- You may present previous posters that you have presented elsewhere, except for the 2010 AO convention

Look out for the 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, in keeping 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 putting together an 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. More information will be provided once the design is finalized. Please note we are also continuing the sale of our GOHI shirts - more information about the shirts can be found at <http://students.ao.org/shirts.html>



facebook

Now you can follow
Alpha Omega International Dental
Fraternity on
FACEBOOK
by clicking on the page below



Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity Headquarters

50 West Edmonston Drive, Suite 303
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 1-(877)-368-6326
Fax: 1-(301)-738-6403

Editor

[Dr. Michael Stern](#)

Student Editor

[Amy Panzok](#) (Alpha, University at Buffalo)

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

Student Web Site:

<http://students.ao.org>

Junior Dental Student? Interested in an externship?

The AO externship program is an awesome opportunity to experience a week in the life of an AO alumnus and their practice. Whether you are interested in general dentistry or a specific specialty, this a great way to get better insight into what life will be like after dental school. There are multiple cities offering externships including Toronto, Calgary, Washington DC, New York, San Francisco, London, Seattle, Los Angeles, Israel and many more!

Get more information and download the application at <http://students.ao.org/externship.html>

Applications are due by February 28th, and preference is given to students that joined AO in their first and second years.

New Networking Tool: The AO Exchange

Alpha Omega has created a new networking tool called the AO exchange. This forum is a great way to meet alumni, get a feel for the organization following graduation and to keep up with AO socially. Here's how to join:

1. Go to www.ao.org.
2. Enter in you Member ID and your password
3. Click "Join the AO Exchange" in the right hand column
4. Enter your email address