

AO Articulator

The student publication



June 2011

Highlights of this issue:

- 'AO Sunny Days' - 2010 Convention, San Diego
- A Dentist in the Himalayas
- Chapter Spotlight – Columbia's Eta Chapter
- Externship Spotlight- Hebrew U
- AO Scrub Sale
- ULSD Chapter Wins \$2500 Grant



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

Dr. David Dano (Beta Epsilon, Boston U.)

As one who spent most of his young and mature life in two religious cities in Israel- Tiberias and Jerusalem, I have witnessed and participated in numerous volunteer projects for the benefit of local as well as distant communities.

One of the greatest *mitzvot*, or good deeds, in Judaism is helping those in need, whether through *Tzedakah* (charity) or *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). Living in close proximity to religious communities and being the grandson of a Rabbi, I greatly connected to these values and tried to implement them during my studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at Boston University. In both clinics, I came across a variety of people and learned to understand and help those in need regardless of their race nationality or religion.

When I was "born" into the AO family during my education at Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, founded by The Alpha Omega Fraternity in 1953, I was happy to discover that the same principles constituted one of the core values of the fraternity. So, in the first week after I arrived in Boston, I was pleased and excited to be given the opportunity to take part in the AO "Special Olympic – Special Smiles" event. There was nothing more rewarding than seeing the friendly smiles of the children, especially after arriving in a new foreign place – it was then that I was sure I could make a difference in the U.S. as well.

Helping those in need, by providing food packages to a local community during the AO convention in San Diego was another profound experience for me. It was a great and humbling notion to help those less fortunate, and I believe if we continue to support these programs – the world might be a better place than it was yesterday.

I look forward to partaking in future AO events, hoping I will have the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, while contributing and sharing my knowledge and life experience with my extended AO family.

Gabrielle Balderman (Alpha, Buffalo)

As a first year dental student and a new member of AO, I am just beginning to learn about this organization. Being a Buffalonian and hearing of the opportunity to travel to San Diego for winter break, I knew that this was the fraternity for me. I was lucky to be able to attend my first convention with two other members of the Buffalo chapter.

Upon arrival in San Diego, I was warmly welcomed by both the student representatives and alumni, and was made to feel a part of the organization. In a mere seven days, I learned about orthodontics, sleep apnea, and patient care. I viewed the impressive research of my peers during poster presentations, and met many experienced dentists and specialists who welcomed me warmly to the profession. I met students from all over the country (and Israel), and made



Incoming and Outgoing Student Leaders



First meeting – Flag Ceremony!



USS Midway Tour



Exploring Pacific Beach



Honors Night



Student Night Out



USS Midway Tour



5-4-3-2-1 Happy New Year!

Student blurbs (continued)

what I'm certain will be long lasting friendships. After a week of beautiful dinners, mingling with my fellow students, and celebrating with my fraternity, I have come to truly value the foundations of AO: professionalism, fraternalism, and Judaism.

Helena Kilic (Gamma, Tufts University)

Finally, I experienced my first Alpha Omega convention as a student. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I knew it would involve meeting great people, learning new things, and most important, having a lot of fun. I definitely experienced it all, along with making new friends and building new memories. Although AO Sunny Days was not so sunny, it didn't matter to us! The week was filled with great events, naps, student meetings and nights out, which made my experience a memorable one.

The convention was not only a time to network, but a time to share my own experiences as a dental student and express my opinions during our meetings. My experience at convention gave me the opportunity to better myself as an individual frater, and to better my student chapter with all the information I had learned. During the convention, we laughed, cried, and commemorated with fellow Alpha Omegas, young and old – all were kind and welcoming. After having such a great experience as a student, I am greatly looking forward to experiencing convention as an alumnus.

Kelly T. Standish (Phi, Louisville)

During our week at the 2010 Alpha Omega Convention, Alumni and students took an evening tour of the USS Midway in San Diego Bay. During the hors-d'oeuvres, I was able to meet new friends from the US, Canada, and Israel. We spent our time on the ship taking pictures in the belly of a SH-3 Sea King helicopter, on the flight deck, and even in the war room. With both of my parents retired Naval officers, this was destined to be my favorite excursion of the week.

Dinner was delicious, and the skyline was amazing to see. With all these spectacles to enjoy, it was actually the new friends with whom I spent the evening that made the night great! I was pleasantly surprised with how well we "clicked" after only being together for a few hours. I still talk to several of the people I met that night, and I know that we will stay in touch for years to come. After all, one of the best parts of AO is making friends for life!

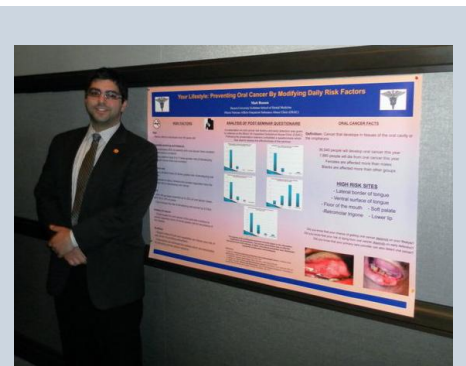
Harrison Mackler (Delta, Harvard)

This convention's first annual poster session boasted seven original student presentations in oral health research. While this was a great showing, there is always room for more discovery coming from our student fraters. What are you interested in?

You might be surprised that the possibilities are endless within dentistry. Do you like working in bench science? There is growing research in matching genomic maps to the development of dental diseases as well as matching salivary biomarkers to systemic diseases. Mucosal vaccines are also being developed to prevent or halt the progression of dental caries and periodontal disease. Are you into technology? Why not look into the role of tissue engineering in bone regeneration or wound healing?

If spending time in the lab isn't your forte, there is an expanding need for chart review projects looking into the correlation between oral diseases and diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and coronary artery disease. Advocacy and access to care issues have also never been greater. What are the reasons why dentists in your state don't accept Medicaid or treat patients with disabilities?

As it turns out, science and technology in Israel is one of the country's most developed sectors. The percentage of Israelis engaged in scientific investigation, and the amount spent on research and development in relation to gross domestic product, is amongst the highest in the world. Let's turn Fort Lauderdale into a little Israel next year and really show each other how we've answered the questions that interest us.



Matt Rosen, Outgoing ISR at the First Annual Poster Presentation

A Dentist in the Himalayas

Jordan Benjamin

It's August 10th and I am sitting by the side of a dirt road surrounded by the white-peaked Himalayan Mountains of Northern India. I am resting after a vigorous game of cricket with local Indians and army officers. The calm blue skies belie the turmoil and tragedy that brought me to this sublime moment.

After my third year of dental school at McGill University, I joined a program organized by the Himalayan Health Exchange. Every summer a group of 25 doctors, dentists, medical and dental students are recruited from around the world to bring medical and dental care to the remote villages of the northern Indian Himalayas. It's an ambitious adventure requiring us to trek over a hundred kilometers between seven villages, including crossing the daunting Shingo-La pass at over 5,000 m

(16,500 ft). Because we carry all our gear, my dental work would be limited to extractions of painful and hopelessly decayed teeth, and oral health advice.



As we left our staging station in the Ladakh valley, the same torrential rains that devastated Pakistan last summer assaulted northern India. With nothing to stop the water on barren mountains, monstrous mudslides ravaged the city of Leh behind us, leaving hundreds dead and missing. Ahead of us, the sole road was hopelessly blocked by tons of debris and mud.

We spent the next week trapped in our improvised roadside camp treating and feeding hundreds of local villagers, stranded European travelers and injured Indian army personnel. We worked long days in primitive conditions. When I was not extracting teeth or giving hygiene instructions via 2 translators (from English to Hindi to Ladakhi), I was helping the physicians. Or, I picked up a shovel and helped dig out homes and monasteries filled with impossibly heavy mud. Duct tape was used to cover the unavoidable blisters, allowing us to continue.



The patient we all remember best was our first - a stranded bus driver. He came to our tent the first night with excruciating pain, unable to open his eye. We found some light and space at the back of his bus, and extracted the guilty canine. For the rest of the week he stayed around the camp, continuously thanking us, helping where he could and playing cards in our scattered moments of rest.

In the end, we all made it safely out of India. It was an incredible trip - frightening at times but wonderfully rewarding and enlightening, and an amazing opportunity to work with doctors and dentists from all over the world in a tragic but magical setting. It was something I could never have imagined and something I will never forget.

Chapter Spotlight: Columbia University's Eta Chapter

It has been an exciting year for the Columbia Eta Chapter in New York City! Over the last 3 years, the chapter has grown from a small group led by a few hard-working students to a large cohesive fraternity with strong involvement that is still growing!

In the beginning of the Fall semester our Rush week, or what was more like Rush month, consisted of 3 different social events and a power point presentation. Our goal was to mix fun, fraternity, and BBQ chicken wings all into one. Students interested in learning more about AO were invited to Boat Basin, a beautiful bar and hangout overlooking the Hudson River, where new students got exposure to the "city," as well as a chance to meet upperclassmen for the first time. The second event, quite the hit amongst fraters and rushers alike, was the first "Annual Alpha Omega Labor Day BBQ." With a no-books-allowed policy, students trekked down to George Washington Park with all the barbecue essentials for a fun day in the sun! Footballs were thrown, and wings were eaten to the bone. Over "Rush Month," rushers had fun and got a chance to meet and hang out with AO members, learning first-hand about the fraternity, what it stands for, and the people in it. This year's class represents the largest incoming class yet, composed of 18 students.

Another focus of the Eta Chapter is on philanthropy. A favorite event amongst students this past year was the Special Olympics volunteer experience. 20 students from our chapter joined a group from NYU, teaming up to do hundreds of oral screenings on participants. Gail Schupack, our wonderful and committed chapter adviser, was in attendance as well. Though exhausted at the end of the day, there was definitely a strong feeling of warmth, unity, and fraternalism after working together on such a project. We have also seen an increase in alumni involvement from the local NYC chapter. In November, set up by our alumni Chair, Henry Schein provided both student and alumni fraters the pleasure of hearing a presentation from Peter Buddrus-

Breil, a dental technician and key implant tool designer for over 30 years, flown in from Germany! The presentation was followed by a wine and cheese tasting, with wine from the not (yet) related Napa Valley Alpha Omega Winery.

We would also like to congratulate someone who put so much into our chapter, having served as president for the last two years take on an important role on the International level. Congratulations to Bobby Geiman on becoming new ISR!

Yoni Moskowitz, Chapter President 2011



D4 Danny rushing freshman (now members!)

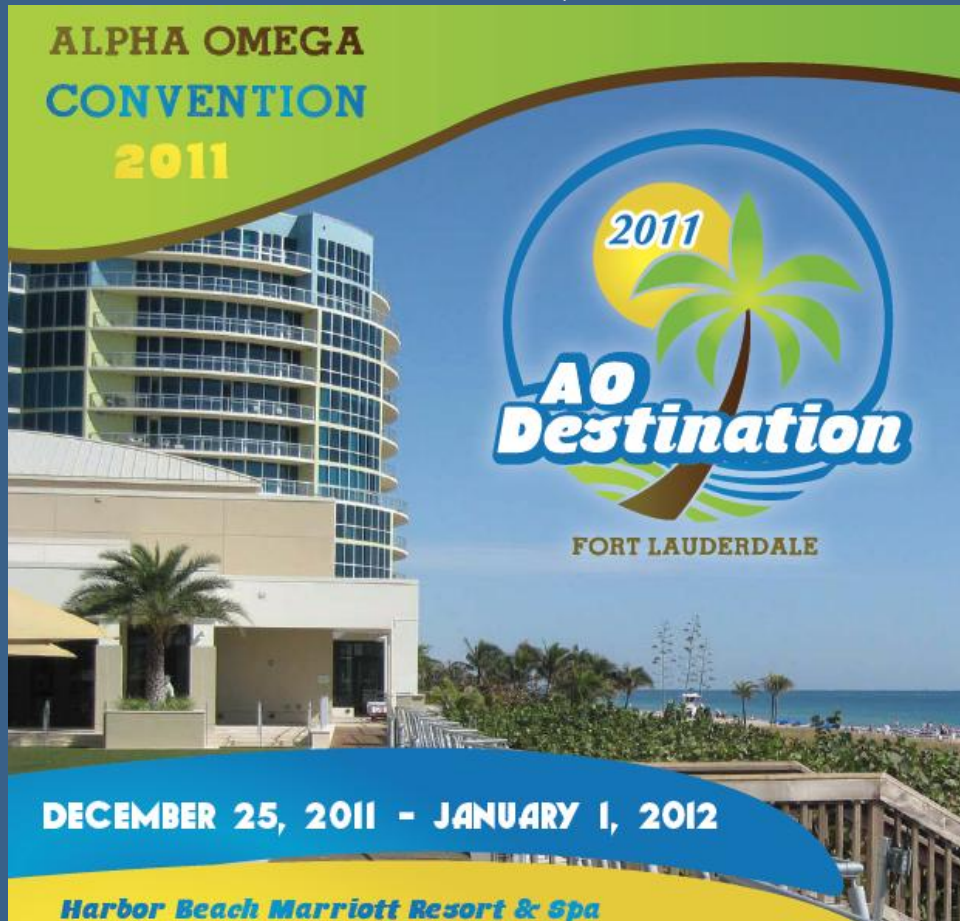


18 "Crossing over" into AO



Swabbing for "Gift of Life" bone marrow drive

AO Destination – 2011 Alpha Omega Convention Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



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



ALPHA OMEGA

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

WIN CASH \$\$\$

\$500 – 1st place

\$300 – 2nd place

\$200 – 3rd place

\$100 – each of the
15 additional
presenters

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 31st from 10 AM – Noon
- Only AO Dental Students and Residents are eligible
- You may present previous posters that you have presented elsewhere

My Alpha Omega Externship: Hebrew University School of Dental Medicine

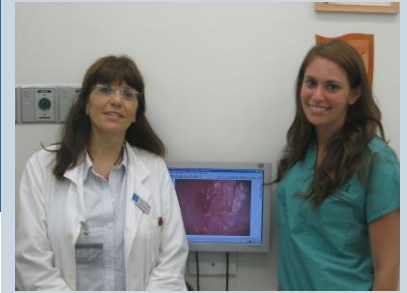
Amy Panzok, Alpha, University at Buffalo

Last year, I had an incredible opportunity to do a summer externship at the Hebrew University School of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem, Israel. The opportunity presented itself when I met an AO alumnus, Dr. Stuart Fishman, at my very first fraternity meeting. He was visiting from Israel, where he lived and taught dentistry at Hebrew University. At the time, I had known little about AO and was surprised to learn that our fraternity helped found the two dental schools in Israel. Having an Israeli father and many relatives in Israel, I thought it would be amazing to spend the summer in Jerusalem doing dental research and exploring the country. When I approached Dr. Fishman about studying at Hebrew U., he told me about the AO externship program and promptly set me up with all the contacts I needed in order to make my trip happen – before I knew it I was in Israel!

At Hebrew U., I worked with two doctors in the Oral Medicine Department- Dr. Rakefet Czerninski and Dr. Sharon Elad. I was interested in working in Oral Medicine because unlike in the United States, Oral Medicine is a recognized specialty in Israel with its own post-graduate program. I thought that the experience would help me gain a lot of knowledge in a field that isn't very stressed in my dental school curriculum. In addition to shadowing in the clinic, I helped write research articles with some of the data that past graduate students had collected. I helped with editing, translating from Hebrew to English, and doing my own research to add to the papers. My most important journal was on the metabolic syndrome and how taking waist circumference measurements in dental clinics could help with early diagnosis of the disease.

When I wasn't doing research, I frequently found myself visiting the AO Centennial Museum, a part of the school paying tribute to the 100th anniversary of Alpha Omega. The museum featured the history of AO along with many old relics and awards from years past. It was extremely interesting to learn all about our organization and how much it has evolved over the past century.

The experience I gained from my externship was invaluable. I am so appreciative of all of the alumni that helped make this possible and my mentors at Hebrew University for being so welcoming and accommodating. I highly recommend that all AO students consider applying to the externship program at some point in their dental school career.



Amy Panzok and Dr. Czerninski



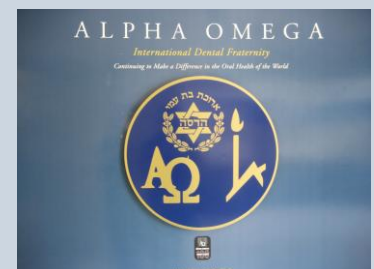
Examining radiographs with oral medicine residents



The Alpha Omega Seal



The Oral Medicine Clinic



The AO Centennial Museum

The Inclusiveness of Alpha Omega

Katherine Dubois, Gamma, Tufts University

I am a proud member of the Alpha Omega Gamma chapter at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. As a third year dental student, I have been an active member of the fraternity within my school chapter for three years, serving as an undergrad student liaison and then as Secretary. When I found out about the opportunity to go to San Diego for the Sunny Days National Convention this year, I decided to make a leap and join in on Alpha Omega business and activities on an international level. I also decided to come because while our Gamma chapter is very active and fulfilling it is important to see how an organization is portrayed by its leaders, and also to affirm that our current local level model of the fraternity is aligned with international standards and ideals. As a non-Jewish member I believed that our chapter, while not stressing Judaism but Jewish values and being advocates for equality was an exemplary example of fraternity, and I hoped that this belief was to be mirrored at the convention.

Upon arrival I was immediately urged to join an ongoing party in the presidential hospitality suite. Introductions and conversation abounded as I wandered around the room meeting my fellow fraters of all ages, and I felt warm and welcome immediately. The next day was the first of the business meetings, and again, I was looking forward to seeing the fraternity run on a different level. During the first meeting there were many welcomes to be given, and thanks to be had, as well as presentations about all of the good that Alpha Omega has been doing around the world. It is heart-warming to know that just by being a member I helped support programs that not only helped indigent Jewish populations but also went towards aiding in disaster relief for Haiti and other Global Oral Health Initiatives aimed towards anyone who most needed our support. The emotion that was brought forth during that meeting, not only from me, but from a room full of devoted members, reaffirmed my choice to belong to this great organization. In a haze of afterglow we completed the day's activities, and that evening I went to the student hospitality suite to better get acquainted with fellow dental students. In the process of getting to know my student fraters I was confronted with one of the most discriminatory statements ever made toward me. Without highlighting this incident I will say that I was generally told that as a non-Jew I should not have even come to the convention*. This was devastating as I had already deepened my bond with the fraternity after attending but only two events. I returned to my room despondent that evening, nervous for the week ahead

of me. I felt as though this sentiment was not present in any of my previous conversations, and that I could prove this statement wrong by the end of the week.

The next day we had our first Student Meeting, an activity during which each chapter highlighted their signature events with other fraters. We had many speakers, all of whom genuinely and wholeheartedly believed in the fraternity and what it could do for us as students and future professionals. One speaker in particular really caught my attention. Dr. Renzo Nylander has been a member for over 40 years and may have been the only non-Jewish member who addressed us all as a group all week. He is so passionate about AO and the opportunities afforded to him that he is an avid supporter and participant on the international level. He urged us to recruit more members, and started his recruitment speech with the statement "I am not a Jew, but I support the Jews...". I realized then that while there may be pockets of people who are not welcoming to all backgrounds, this organization for over 40 years has helped and respected this man through his career. Although I had been met with one statement of prejudice, I believed that the organization as a whole was embracing the presence of all of the students and realized the importance of respect and tolerance towards all members, especially those who are soon to be given the choice of becoming a young alumnus.

I came away from this conference with the belief that our Tufts Gamma Chapter is a pinnacle of success for an AO Chapter as we align ourselves with all sides of AO's triangle. Our professionalism is evident in our many academic endeavors throughout the school year, including Dinner with the Deans, academic help sessions, clinical help sessions and proud representation at local and national events. The values of Judaism are present in our many charity events including a mission trip to the Dominican Republic each summer, free oral cancer screenings at Fenway Park, as well as the beginnings of an ongoing relationship with a local women's shelter. Within our chapter we strive to be inclusive of all and encourage all members to actively participate in our many events throughout the year. This local fraternalism was realized on a grand national scale when I got to meet many alums at the convention, most of whom immediately wanted to know ways in which they could help us along in our dental careers, as well as forging friendships with students and future colleagues from across North America and even Israel. It does not matter that the Tufts chapter is being led by an executive board that is mostly made of people not of the Jewish faith. We are a wonderful example of the ideals of Alpha Omega.

A Message From International President, Dr. Mike Tenenbaum

***As international President I felt it was imperative that I respond to this article. I have spoken to Katherine and apologized on behalf of the entire fraternity for remarks that have no place in our organization. They go totally against everything we stand for. We obviously cannot control the inappropriate remarks that are made by any of our membership but we can publically condemn them. ~Fraternally, Mike Tenenbaum**

Look out for the upcoming 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 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>



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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>

ULSD Phi Chapter Wins \$2500 Global Oral Health Initiative Award

A \$2500 grant was awarded to the Phi Student Chapter of Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity at the University of Louisville's School of Dentistry for its community service projects. The principal projects were "Beat the Pumpkin," a 5k run in the fall, and "Give a Little, Love a Lot," a food drive to benefit Louisville "Dare to Care" in the spring.

The dental students ran a 5k race called "Beat the Pumpkin" where competitors in Halloween costumes chased a very fast runner dressed as a pumpkin on the Cherokee Park 5k loop and raised \$2000 to help indigent patients of the dental school's pediatric dentistry department. The fraternity also raised cash and collected more than 1000 pounds of food items from students, faculty and staff at the dental school, for the Dare to Care food bank.

The \$2500 Global Oral Health Initiative Award was given by Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity for past and future community service projects. Farzan Pouranfar, '12, and Blair Jones, '13, wrote the grant proposal and Caroline Curtis, '12, Erin Dobbins, '13, Rhonda Hale, '13, Leighton Kennedy, '13, and Ashley Lee, '13, participated in the efforts for the dental fraternity.

We are proud to announce that Dr. Fred Margolis is the 2011 AGD Humanitarian Award recipient!

The Humanitarian Award is presented to a dentist who contributes voluntary service, in conjunction with a consistent commitment to enhance the image of general dentistry through the continuous delivery of quality dental care and leadership in areas of civic involvement. Congratulations Fred!