

# AO Articulator

## The student publication



Student Foundation Rep,  
Whitney Mostafiz,  
overlooks the Scottsdale  
desert

### Highlights of this issue

- *AO Dream West: A Recap of the 2008 National Convention*
- *The Star Wars of Dentistry*
- *Message from outgoing Student Foundation Rep*

## AO Dream West

On behalf of all of the students that attended I would like to sincerely thank all the International Fraternity as well as the individual chapters that helped the students attend the AO International convention at the beautiful Kierland Westin Resort. The week was amazing and many new friendships were formed. Thank you to everyone who submitted articles. The following are only a few of the many submitted but they express the feelings of all the attendees.

### Lani Kraus, Cara Lindsay & Emily Singer, Pi, University of Toronto

It was a frosty Christmas Eve when the "Toronto girls" fled our igloos and headed South in search of fajitas, fraternalism and fun! We found all three at our first, of what we're sure will be many, Alpha Omega International Conventions. With a week filled with both sweaters and sunshine, restful naps and coffee runs and AO friends both old and new, DreamWest '08 was truly a week to remember.

Each of us had attended Student Leadership Seminars in the past, but we quickly realized that those experiences provided only a small window into what it truly means to be a member of an international organization such as Alpha Omega. Convention provided us with much more than just increasing the number of networks on our Facebook pages and being able to upgrade from hostels to Hotel "The Swedes" on our next backpacking

adventure. It was an opportunity to laugh, cry and commiserate with fellow dental students. As the magic of Alpha Omega transformed complete strangers from around the world into lifelong friends, we came to understand the true meaning of fraternalism.

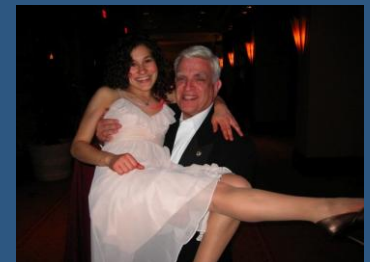
As we returned to Toronto and attempted to explain our first AO Convention experience to fellow students and young alumni, we could say no more than "You gotta see it to believe it!"

### Ian Arad, Alpha Mu. UK

Having such a fabulous time at the Israel convention last year left me in no doubt that Arizona 08 would be a definite must. It looked so good that my family came too! I can personally say that we all had a wonderful and memorable time with everyone being so welcoming and kind to us, especially as I am the only dentist in my family! At the end of the week my family truly understood the meaning of Alpha Omega and what a truly unique and amazing organisation it really is. More students from the London branch will, I am sure be coming to convention 09 and I very much hope I'll be seeing you all again there if not sooner.

### Jon Blatt, Alpha Nu, Detroit Mercy

AO Dream West 2008 was a fun and rewarding experience. I particularly enjoyed listening to the Honors Night speeches, highlighted by Dr. Arthur Dugoni's eloquent acceptance of the



ISR Stephanie Rashewsky and president Dan Uditsky



AO girls hit up the clubs in downtown Scottsdale



Former SFRs and ISR at Honors Night



Students tour the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Mesa, AZ



Lani, Emily and Cara from the University of Toronto



Student night out at a local Salsa Dancing Restaurant

## AO Dream West (continued)

2008 Achievement Medal. Getting to know students and dentists from all over the world was a lot of fun, and as a first-time attendee, the convention meetings broadened my knowledge of AOs accomplishments, its future plans and its core values. These are messages I plan on bringing back to prospective and fellow fraters at my school.

### Vladi Dvoyris and Ruthi Angel, Alpha Sigma, Jerusalem, Israel

Scottsdale? Where the hell is Scottsdale?!

It was at the International Convention in Tel-Aviv when we first heard about Scottsdale, Arizona. We reckon asking, maybe too loudly, "where the hell is Scottsdale?". The next thought, after some Googleing, was about the long transatlantic flight, only to get from one desert to another...

Another year passed, and exactly twenty nine hours after leaving home in Jerusalem, here we are on the first student meeting of the Scottsdale convention, trying to overcome the jet lag while singing "AO, listen what I say-o!". This is the appropriate moment to thank Delta airlines for its selection of alcoholic beverages – we really couldn't do it without some booze. The dreadful flight appeared to be the beginning of a great week, full of great activities, new friendships and discovery of Arizona, with all the cacti (and, apparently, the great nightlife) it has to offer. Also, it was a rare opportunity to wear evening

dress – and, living in a warm country, we should appreciate every minute of it.

Aside of being a great, warm winter holiday of the kind we never have in Israel, the convention week was an opportunity for us to witness the spirit of Alpha-Omega – and we came back home full with new ideas of activities for our chapter. It was for us an opportunity to disconnect from the daily routine and deal only with fraternity business – and those of us who did, discovered how easy it is to make new connections and start up new projects on a cup of coffee in the lobby bar. For some of us, it was the first convention, and one of the first AO activities – and certainly, it was a great beginning for an experience of a lifetime as members of the fraternity.

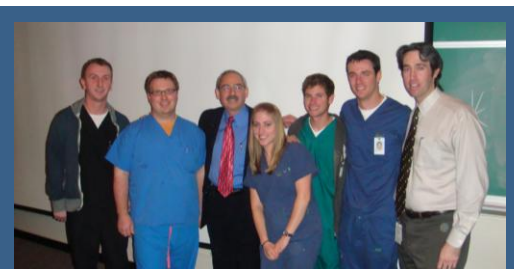
### Bill Gallagher, Chi, University of Michigan School of Dentistry

I would just like to express how excited I was in anticipation of coming to this year's International Convention, and even more so, how thrilled I am about the organization now having attended. I can say with certainty that this will not be the last convention I attend. The cruise next year seems like it will be an incredible event and hopefully even more students are able to attend. It's really wonderful how many international students were able to make the long flights to Scottsdale to represent their schools and their countries. I hope that next year, I am able to convince even more members from my own chapter to get involved!

## The Star Wars of Dentistry

The Alpha Alpha chapter of UIC would like to thank Dr. Fred Margolis for lecturing at an AO sponsored lunch and learn. The lecture was an informative introduction to the Erbium Laser. The lecture hall was filled with AO members, non-member students and faculty. The audience response was excellent and everyone enjoyed the informative meeting. Dr. Margolis topped off the meeting by giving the new AO student recruitment presentation jazzed up with some slides from the AO Dream West convention. Through this lunch and learn we were able to add several new members to our chapter.

Dr. Rachel Davis reports that over 25 student members packed the University of Louisville's auditorium for the Lunch 'N Learn catered by Chick-fil-A and listened intently to Fred as he spoke about Alpha Omega at the National level and showed a PowerPoint to illustrate the wonderful benefits of Alpha Omega.



Students from UIC (top) and Louisville (bottom) with Dr. Margolis.

## AO's presence at the CDS Midwinter Meeting



Alumni members at the Alpha Omega hospitality suite of the Chicago Midwinter Meeting

This year the Alpha Omega Chicago Alumni Chapter hosted their annually Midwinter Meeting Dinner at Wildfire in Downtown Chicago. Since the meeting is so big, every year this event is an opportunity for fraters from around the country (and world) to mix and mingle. We were fortunate to have our Chicago chapter well represented including our newly inducted International President, Dan Uditsky and the International Editor, Fred Margolis. Also during this important meeting weekend, Alpha Omega has their annual hospitality suite at the convention center where throughout the day, members can grab a quick bite and meet other members. I was fortunate enough at this suite to have met Alpha Omegans from England and France and build international relations. It was also an opportunity for me to meet up again with local AO grads to see how life is after dental school and catch up. And finally, AO holds their annual Shabbat Dinner at the hospitality suite as well.

The Midwinter Meeting is important for Chicago, the field of dentistry, and Alpha Omega. We represent ourselves well at the meeting with many members in attendance, and this year one of our Chicago Alumni members, Barry K. Freydborg, won the Gordon Christensen Lecturer Award. We are fortunate to have such a strong Chicago Alumni chapter to make these events possible which make for more networking potentials and fraternity building experiences for our members.

Jennifer Lapsker  
UIC

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**Student Web Site:**  
[www.students.ao.org](http://www.students.ao.org)

## Message from outgoing Student Foundation Rep

I came across this quotation today "Those who bring sunshine to the life's of others cannot keep it from themselves" and made me think of Alpha Omega. My Journey started during the first year of dental school, when I decided not to join AO. However, during my second year after the President of UCLA Alpha Omega chapter spent countless hours to teach me how to set up teeth for our denture course, I realized what it means to be a part of AO. Immediately after I joined and became secretary of the chapter.

During my third year, Arash Hakimain, a USC AO member, encouraged me to go to the centennial convention of Alpha Omega in Israel. Making that trip was a life changing experience. I had an opportunity to meet a lot of Alpha Omega members including Dr. Dilliberg, the Dean of ASDOH. During my second convention in Arizona, I had the privilege to meet the

same people and also new faces from all around the world. I know that I have a friend wherever I go and I know that I can ask any Alpha Omegan for their help. It is up to us to carry the torch and make sure that the we bring sunshine to the life of others as new generation of Alpha Omega.

Pejman Nasibi  
UCLA

**Pejman Nasibi**

4th year dental  
student at UCLA

Future Ortho  
resident at  
ASDOH



**2009 Convention  
Dec 27 - Jan 3**

## Save the Date

Just a friendly reminder to get the word out about Spring Student Leadership (May 15-17 in Fort Lauderdale, FL). Make your flight/travel arrangements and see you for a weekend of Fun in the Sun!!!