

# AO Articulator

## The student publication



**Figure 1 –**  
New Year's Eve -  
Tel Aviv 2007  
Convention

## Welcome to AO!

On behalf of the officers and board of directors of the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity I would like to welcome those of you who are new members. Let me tell you what membership in Alpha Omega can do for you. First of all, I know you like to party! Do we know how to party? A picture is worth a thousand words.

### Figure 1 - New Year's Eve

You all work hard at your studies and you are probably starting to think about what you are going to do after graduation. So, perhaps you would like to participate in the AO Externship program. This program enables you to spend one or two weeks visiting dental practices and getting to know alumni in the area of dentistry that you are contemplating for a post-graduate specialty program. Many alumni chapters throughout the world participate in this program. If you are interested in this program, ask Stephanie or Jamie (the ISR's) about this unique program. We have many fraters that are in academia full or part-time that can be mentors for you if you are considering a post-graduate program or general practice residency.

Do you like to travel? If so, AO offers you a wonderful opportunity to see the world while a student member. The AO International Centennial Convention was held last December in Tel Aviv. The upcoming convention will be held from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January

1st - where I hope to meet all of you - will be in Scottsdale. In 2009, our convention will be a Caribbean Cruise and in 2010 in San Diego. Join AO and see the world. Speaking of the world - we have chapters in over 25 countries. Through AO my family has visited our fraternity brothers and sisters in Italy, France, Canada (Saskatchewan, Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto), England, Israel, and South Africa.

### Figure 2: AO families

Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity founded the two dental schools in Israel. Would you like to meet the dean of the dental schools at Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University? Come to convention and you will!. Here is a photo of Dean Haim Tal with our Immediate Past International President, John Wolffe, with 3 students from Tel Aviv University.

### Figure 3: Presentation to Tel Aviv

You are important to Alpha Omega! You are the future members of our fraternity. The student delegates at convention vote on every resolution and have an equal vote.

### Figure 4: International Council Meeting

Welcome! We are here to help YOU in any way we can! Please contact me at [kidzdr@comast.net](mailto:kidzdr@comast.net) if I can be of service.

Fred S. Margolis  
International Editor

## Highlights of this issue

- Welcome from AO Editor Fred Margolis
- Recap of the Student Leadership Conference
- Alpha Omega's first student chapter in the UK



**Figure 2 –** AO Families at Masada, Israel



**Figure 3 –** Presentation to Tel Aviv University School of Dentistry



**Figure 4 –** International Council Meeting 2007



Students from Manitoba, Toronto, Detroit, LA, Buffalo, and Birmingham



Israeli students and faculty

## Alpha Omega Suite at the IADR

Alpha Omega has a history of supporting dental research, both through individual student grants and institutional grants. This year, AO decided to celebrate its commitment to dental research by hosting a hospitality suite at the **International Association for Dental Research** annual general session in Toronto, Ontario on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was organized by SAC member Andrea Heckler and University of Alabama chapter president Nate Lawson, and sponsored by the Toronto Alumni chapter and AO International.

About 30 student and faculty members from **Israel, Toronto, Manitoba, Montreal, Detroit, Alabama, and UCLA** shared drinks and conversation in the 11<sup>th</sup> floor suite throughout the evening. The comments of one Jerusalem student summarized the night - he said he had never felt something like this - the "ahava" (love) and

connection that AO has to offer! The event was a great success and a great opportunity for AO to be a part of an international dental meeting. It will hopefully be followed by a suite at the **Miami AADR meeting in 2009**. Check the website for future information.

Just a quick story – this was my (Andrea's) first dental research meeting, after quite a few AO seminars and conventions. I was heading up the escalators to the registration booth on the first day of the meeting, thinking to myself that it's not the same as arriving at an AO Convention where you know you will see so many friends. As I got to the top of the stairs, I heard someone say "Andrea" - it was Hagay and Iris Slutzky and their daughter from Israel! It was a great start to the meeting!

Fraternally,  
Andrea Heckler

## SLC Meets in Hotlanta!

This October, student members of AO met in Atlanta for a weekend of leadership training and all-night partying! The meeting was attended by over 30 students from chapters across the US and Canada, including: **Florida, NOVA, Chicago, Louisville, Toronto, Maryland, Manitoba**, and more. The meeting kicked off Saturday with presentations by ISRs **Stephanie Rashewsky** and **Jamie Luria**, Foundation Rep **Pejman Nasibi**, and PIP **Dr. Richard Shapiro**. Their talks focused on the national and international benefits and services of Alpha Omega Fraternity that are specifically geared for student members. Highlights included mention of the upcoming deadline for the student externship program, participation in the student fundraising program (Chai Club), and the introduction of a sponsored AO mission trip to Guatemala. The meeting would not have been possible without the input of the student advisory committee, with members, Josh Souweine, Mark Shefrin, Rachel Davis in attendance.

Saturday night began with a private group dinner at Shout. From there, the group headed out to explore the Hotlanta nightlife and get to know each other better. As hard as it was to wake up the next morning, it was made a little easier by a fantastic brunch sponsored by the **Atlanta Alumni Chapter**. As we shuffled back in planes to the wonderful life of tests and patients, we could only look forward to the great times ahead at the national convention in Scottsdale.

ISR Stephanie Rashewsky  
ISR Jamie Luria



Dinner at Shout.



Students out on the town in Atlanta.



(left to right) Professor Nairn Wilson (Head and Dean of the Dental Institute Kings Collge London), Dr Mervyn Druian, Ian Arad, PIP Dr John Wolfe

## New UK Student Chapter of AO Unveils Charter

Fate occasionally takes you on interesting twists and turns. Never did I think that having to rearrange my elective would bring about the formation of the **first UK and European student AO chapter**. My elective was very enjoyably spent with Mervyn Druian who, very soon after I arrived, started talking to me about Alpha Omega. As there were few student members, we set out not only to increase the student membership but also setup a UK student chapter.

Within four weeks, and after many phone calls and emails, we had the required number of seven students to start formalities into recognising the chapter. We did not, however, stop looking for other Jewish dental students and as weeks went on we progressively built our student membership. It was a real honour to attend my first convention in December, and receive the official charter for **Alpha Mu – the first UK student chapter** from Immediate Past International President **John Wolfe**, who was the first UK International President. Since convention, Alpha Mu has continued to grow not just in numbers but in profile too. A committee has been formed and a ceremony to unveil the official charter recently took place at **Kings College London** where the charter is now displayed. It's a very exciting and promising time for Alpha Mu and I look forward to keeping you up to date with its future progress

Ian Arad  
Alpha Mu

### Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity

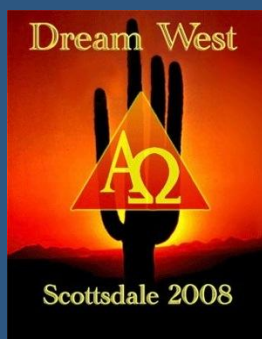
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[www.students.ao.org](http://www.students.ao.org)



2008 Convention  
Dec 25 - Jan 1

## Foundation Donates Funds to Every US Dental School

A recent initiative of the **US Alpha Omega Foundation** was to donate \$300 to the Dean of every dental school in the United States. These donations were made in April 2008. Alpha Omega has always had a strong financial commitment to US dental schools, and in recent years, the Foundation has awarded many grants to US schools. Direct financial donations by the US Foundation to the Dean of every dental school, however, was a tradition that had been discontinued until 2008. I am very excited that the Foundation has resumed their donation and I hope that it continues into the future.

At the **University of Alabama at Birmingham**, the donation was sent to our dean, **Dr. Huw Thomas**. Dr. Thomas immediately pledged to spend the money on student programming. Our chapter constructed a 4-foot long check

that we presented to Dr. Thomas. The dean joked that it was the biggest check that he had received all year.

Nate Lawson  
Alpha Lambda



Students at UAB present a check to their Dean, Dr. Huw Thomas

## Don't Forget to Register for the AO International Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona

The Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity will be hosting its annual convention at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona. All students are encouraged to come. This meeting will give you the opportunity to meet fellow Alpha Omegas from across the world, participate in the business meetings of the fraternity and even run for an international office. Please register by filling out the form at the convention website: <http://aodreamwest08.org/>