



ALPHA PHI OMEGA OMICRON IOTA NEWSLETTER

This Semester in APO—by Fay Whittall (edited by Marco Venegas)

As Omicron Iota continues to grow as a chapter, change after change has been made this semester. First off, **this was our first semester with a leadership requirement**. Our chapter believed that while we have requirements reflecting our core principles of friendship and service, it was important for our brothers to show their leadership as well.

Our chapter also brought a new position to our executive board: the **Leadership Vice President** (LVP). This semester, the LVP oversaw committees, ran leadership workshops, and helped with the creation and implementation of our new leadership requirement. He also connected us to LEADS courses and helped bring EXPLORE onto our campus. This semester's LVP (and Omicron Iota's first ever!) is Drew Ciccarelli. For more details on how we brought leadership into our chapter, see Drew's article on page 5.

This semester also brought us a new annual service: **Badge Blast!** This service is in a similar light to MBU – but for Girl Scouts. We taught two badges: Mechanical Engineering and Robotics. Overall, this service was a

success and we will bring Badge Blast back for D term next year. This semester's Badge Blast was run by our D term annual service chair Julia Cuendet. For more details on Badge Blast, see her article on page 4.

A central theme of this semester was **diversity**. Having a diverse chapter is important to us so we can cultivate an inclusive space. We introduced adding our pronouns on name tags during recruitment events and on brother meeting slides. Also, during one of our brother meetings, we held a diversity theme. Brothers were encouraged to wear clothes from a country they are from or that they have visited. There was also food available from these different countries so that our brothers can literally get a little taste of the world!

Another way to increase our diversity also comes from **reaching out to other organizations on campus**. These organizations include:

- Residence Hall Council
- Omicron Delta Kappa
- Black Student Union
- Panhellenic Council
- Swim Team
- Active Minds

Some of our brothers also helped out the Kappa Omicron (UMass) chapter with their MBU, and the Alpha Chi (MIT) with their recruitment! Our push to connect with other organizations has been quite the success this semester, and we hope to connect with more organizations and create a more diverse chapter!

All in all, this semester brought us a lot of new things. **We hope to continue to grow** as a chapter, and spread our leadership, friendship, and service!

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No one can quite agree which house is best!

Meet the Execs!

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**PRESIDENT—
ALEXA DAVIS**

Alexa is a junior majoring in biology and biotechnology. Her favorite service this semester is Badge Blast—and she will chair this event next year!



**LEADERSHIP VICE
PRESIDENT—
DREW CICCARELLI**

Drew is a senior majoring in computer science. He is our very first leadership vice president!



**SERVICE VICE
PRESIDENT—
JORDAN "J-SERVICE" MYERS**

Jordan is a junior majoring in chemical engineering. She has held the positions of recruitment chair, secretary, raffle for relief chair, and will be our president in Fall 2019!



**SERVICE VICE
PRESIDENT—
KRISTEN DETTLOFF**

Kristen is a senior majoring in biomedical engineering with a minor in biology. She has also held the positions of secretary and treasurer.



**MEMBERSHIP VICE
PRESIDENT—
BROOKE DAWSON**

Brooke is a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering. She has also held the position of quartermaster.



**MEMBERSHIP VICE
PRESIDENT—
BRITTANY GOLDSTEIN**

Brittany is a sophomore majoring in computer science. She has held the position of quartermaster and will be our pledge trainer with her twin, Jon Barr, in the Fall!



**FELLOWSHIP VICE
PRESIDENT—
JONATHAN BARR**

Jon is a junior majoring in civil engineering. He won superpledge during the Spring 2018 semester.



**FELLOWSHIP VICE
PRESIDENT—
SEBASTIAN STYPUKOWSKI**

Sebastian is a junior majoring in chemical engineering. He has also held the position of Omega Head of House.



**PLEDGE TRAINER—
MARCO VENEGAS**

Marco is a senior majoring in chemical engineering. He has held many positions in the chapter, such as FVP, SVP, and Conclave chair.



**PLEDGE TRAINER—
SELENA LIVRAMENTO**

Selena is a junior majoring in management engineering and management. Her favorite service with the brotherhood is Waterfire.

Meet the Execs!



SECRETARY— FAY WHITTALL

Fay is a sophomore majoring in computer science with a minor in data science. They are also involved in the WPI Marching and Pep Band.



TREASURER— JORDAN "J-MONEY" GROZT

Jordan is a sophomore majoring in robotics engineering. He is also involved in the WPI Marching and Pep Band and has performed in a couple of Masque productions.



HISTORIAN— ARNOLD MURLALT

Arnold is a sophomore majoring in robotics engineering. He is also a brother of Beta Theta Pi and a member of LNL.



PUBLIC RELATIONS— CAMRYN "SCOUT" BERRY

Scout is a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering. She is also involved in Alden Voices.



SERGEANT AT ARMS— ADRIAN REDDICK

Adrian is a sophomore majoring in civil engineering. Her favorite service to do with the brotherhood is Girl Scout Cookie Sorting.

CHAIR POSITIONS:

Anniversary:

Salome Maldonado

Weekly Service:

Cecelia Schroeder

C Term Annual Service:

Jordan Myers

D Term Annual Service:

Julia Cuendet

Recruitment::

Emily Osterloh & Julia Cuendet

Retention:

Syzygy Allen

Alumni Relations:

Finn O'Brien

Intramurals:

Elizabeth Quevillon

Formal:

Sam Hires & Jacquie Claveau

Quartermaster:

Chloe Melville & Leah White

Fundraising:

Guadalupe Lira

Web:

Lisa Spalding

Alpha Head of House:

Matthew St. Louis & Faith Stewart

Phi Head of House:

Antoinette Mavrotheris

Omega Head of House:

Cameron Walsh & Leah White



The Spring 2019 Exec Board

Badge Blast—by Julia Cuendet (edited by Fay Whittall)



These are the badges earned at Badge Blast!

This semester, we had the brand new event, Badge Blast. **We brought girl scouts to campus, and taught them badges!** We had about 40 girls attend and taught four badges. We taught Juniors Mechanical Engineering: Crane Design Challenge, and Programming Robots. For Brownies, we taught Mechanical Engineering: Fling Flyer Design Challenge, and also Programming Robotics.

The girls had a ton of fun! In the mechanical engineering classes, they got to learn about the engineering thinking process by building and testing either cranes or fling flyers. In the robotics classes, they learned how robots work and a little bit of basic programming.

We got lots of great feedback from the girls, parents, and troop leaders. Many were extremely happy with the event. Parents were impressed by our ability to teach this information, and girls learned a bunch about engineering.

We sent out a

feedback form after the event and here are some of the responses:

"The college students in this program were absolutely amazing. They were friendly, engaging, kept the class interesting and really served as role-models for my science/engineering oriented daughter."

"The fact that so many students volunteered nearly an entire Saturday to run this program was perhaps what left the biggest impression on my daughter - the students were excellent aspirational role models for the young participants. In terms of activities, some highlights were the draw-your-own robots (in the excellent context of robot parts and simple machines), the "programming" of one of the students, and the eyes-closed coloring. The final segment of computer coding programs was perfect...not overkill on the screen time, but also a chance to use those "grown-up" computers in front of them."

"I liked the egg drop and how they would say things like: 'Everyone makes mistakes!'"

As you can see— feedback was great! Brothers were very inspiring for these girls, and some of them came out of Badge Blast wanting to be engineers.

Finally, Badge Blast committee would like to give a huge thank you to Tammy Breen at Girl Scouts and Sue Sontegraph and Ryan Meadows— this event wouldn't have happened without their help!



girl scouts



Jon Brownlow, who walked the last leg of the relay, holding our flag

Relay for Life—by Faith Stewart (edited by Fay Whittall)

As someone who has never been to a relay before, I'm not exactly sure what I was expecting. But, I can now say that relay is one of the most amazing, emotional, and uplifting experiences. Cancer is a disease that affects everyone in one way or another no matter what. It seems like today everyone has either, unfortunately, battled cancer or knows someone that is battling or has fought the

battle. Yet, Relay for Life makes this as a time for everyone to come together and acknowledge this to try to fight back against it so we can one day win the battle for good. Throughout this entire event, **APO stood strong as a team**. No matter what time of the night it was, someone was always walking along the track, carrying our flag to represent us. Even during the Luminaria ceremony,

every brother was supporting one another as the night became emotional so that no one felt alone. **In the end, we, as a team, were able to raise a total of \$5,399 and more than \$146,000 was raised by WPI.** This money goes to the American Cancer Society who will help patients and spread the word about cancer prevention as well as continue research so that a cure may be found.

New Leadership Requirement & Leadership Vice President—by Drew Ciccarelli 5

This semester we implemented a new leadership requirement and Leadership Vice President (LVP) with the goal of **helping brothers develop their leadership skills**. Leadership is one of the cardinal principles of Alpha Phi Omega but until now our chapter has not had an official program for developing leadership. The Leadership Requirement for active brothers is 4 leadership credits per term of which 2 must be

from participating in the work of a brother's designated committee; the other two credits may be earned from attending more meetings of that or any committee, exec board meetings, LEADS courses, workshops, or holding a leadership position in another organization. Our hope is for committees to provide an environment where any brother can be a leader through planning chapter events and voicing their opinions on chapter decisions.

Our first semester of this new program was a resounding success. The highlight of our program was hosting APO Explore and having brothers from Northeastern, Clarkson, and Bentley take the course along with nearly 20 of our own brothers. In addition to this we sent 4 Brothers to Serve and 3 to Membership Academy. We held over 10 regularly occurring committees and several personal development workshops. This has been a great start

to our chapter's leadership program we are looking forward to seeing how it grows next year!



Four of our brothers attended SERVE in Albany, NY with around 35 brothers from other chapters!

Pledge Class Spring 2019—by Fay Whittall

This semester, we had a pledge class of twenty-four trained by Marco Venegas and Selena Lirvamento. This group contains everyone ranging from freshmen to grad students, and they all joined for different reasons. Some had friends in APO and were encouraged to join. Some saw APO as an opportunity to make more friends and have fun. Plenty of pledges showed up for the community service opportunities as well. **But all in all, when I asked pledges what their favorite thing about APO is, they all came to one conclusion: the people.** Whether they spoke of close friendships or a sense of community, many of our pledges found a true family in our brotherhood. Congratulations, S19 pledge class!

Fun fact: While dogs and cats are the most popular favorite animals of this pledge class, two pledges stated that one of their favorite animals is the tardigrade!



The Spring 2019 Pledge Class

Bentley Chartering—by Kristen Dettloff

The Alpha Theta Zeta Chapter at Bentley University was officially chartered on November 11th. This is our “little” chapter, and we were so proud to be a part of this important day. With this new charter, their chapter gained thirty-two new members. We are looking forward to future services and fellowship opportunities with our new brothers!



Brothers from Omicron Iota with the Alpha Theta Zeta chapter at their chartering ceremony.

Nationals—by Kristen Dettloff

Some of our brothers attended the National Convention in Austin, Texas this past winter. They were able to attend presentations, workshops, services, and a banquet in addition to meeting brothers from all over. We found out that the next National Convention (2020) will be in Phoenix, Arizona. One highlight was [receiving the Earle M. Herbert Friendship Award, which recognizes the chapter with the best fellowship program in the nation](#). In addition to all the events that happened, the APO regions were all realigned and renamed. [We are now a part of Region R, which includes all of the chapters in New England, and a part of Section R-3](#).



Our brothers, advisors, and alumni with the Earle M. Herbert Award at Nationals

Klondike Derby—by Adrian Reddick (edited by Fay Whittall)

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A caravan of four cars left WPI at 4pm to head up to Castine, Maine to help the Phi Epsilon chapter with their annual Klondike Derby. The almost five hour drive was filled with fun, Chipotle and **some of the best road trip jams known to mankind.**

During the Derby, **many of our brothers** manned stations throughout the scouts outlined path, covering everything from emergency rescue to fire safety to plant identification. But before the scouts could race, they had to prepare a meal, where many cooked over a fire but some built easy to carry grills. The brothers who graded the scouts on taste, how easy it was to cook, and if they left no trace. Two of the brothers from our chapter had the opportunity to try a bunch of different meals. Each station on the derby trail had a badge that the scouts were supposed to be practicing, all types of things from plant identification to fire building and first aid. The actual derby spanned a



Brothers from Omicron Iota and Phi Epsilon gather around a campfire.

couple of hours in the cold, but made watching each team cross the finish line even cooler. And at the end of the derby our brothers stood around a fire and warmed up before heading off to lunch.

After the derby, we had the opportunity to eat in the dining hall surrounded by scouts. For many of our brothers, this was their first time going up to MMA and meeting the brothers for Phi Epsilon.

Quick Spring '19 Stats & Superlatives



Total Service Hours Completed: **2890.21**
Service Hours Completed with the Brotherhood: **1904.79**
Fellowships Held: **79**
Active Brothers: **86**



Most Service Hours Completed: **Matt Bisson**
Most Fellowships Attended: **Drew Ciccarelli**
Most Leadership Attended: **Drew Ciccarelli**