

# alpha phi omega

week of 10/25/16

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alpha pi term  
Fall 2016  
Recent Chi Chapter  
highlights

# 5 Ways to be a true friend

Good friends are like stars.  
You don't always see them, but  
you know they're always there.

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Always  
be there,  
even in silence.

Be there for  
the other person  
in the same way  
you would be there  
for yourself.

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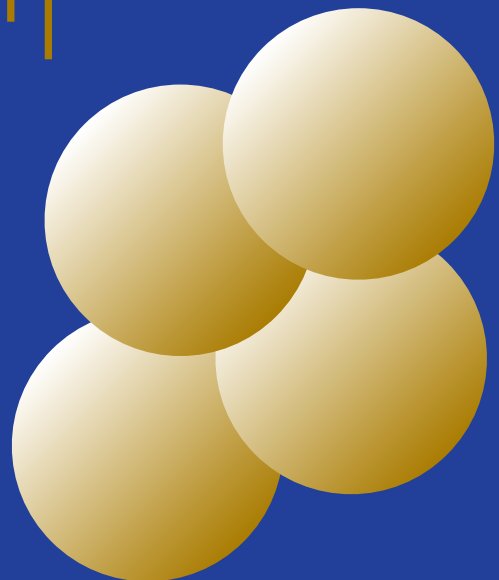
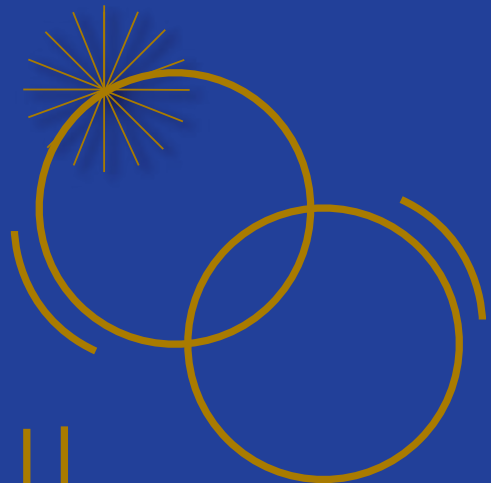
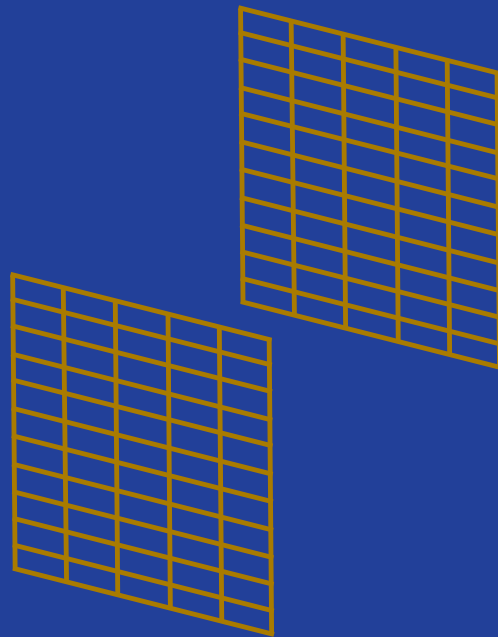
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Guide  
each other  
in times of need  
with your honest  
opinions.

Be kind  
and listen.  
Be fun  
and light.

Help  
yourself  
and those closest  
to you  
grow.

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1 HOUR PHOTO



1 HOUR PHOTO



1 HOUR PHOTO

1 HOUR PHOTO

1 HOUR PHOTO

# SUDOKU

		3	8		1		7	9
9		8	4	3				5
1		6			5	8	4	
	6		7	5		4		1
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6	9			1	8			4

# HOW SERVICE HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE

What is service? How do we define it? What does it mean in the context of our personal lives?


In all honesty, I had no idea what service was growing up. I was raised in a privileged household in Taiwan, so I got pretty much everything I wanted in life. My family ate out multiple times per week, I received new clothes and toys on a regular basis, and I was spoiled by my grandparents' love. Despite our social status in Taiwan, my parents never focused too much on money, and family always came first. In short, life was really good. It wasn't until the death of my younger sister that I suddenly realized I wasn't living in a fairytale. It wasn't until my family came to America that I realized how harsh the world could be. It's like they say on *Fresh Off the Boat*, being rich in Taiwan means being middle class in America. I still remember the day my dad said to me, "Son, we don't have enough money to buy you Christmas presents this year." Come to think of it, maybe that's the reason my family never really celebrated Christmas in the first place...

I've always carried an unnecessary burden on my shoulders. I put extra pressure on myself because I believed I had an obligation to live life not just for me, but also for my sister who didn't have the chance to do so. Throughout high school, I was very community service oriented. I completed over 500 hours of service during those four years and I worked on projects ranging from park cleanups to tutoring kids. I wanted to make not only my parents, but also my sister, proud. I wanted her to see that I was making the most of my life for her sake.

When I arrived at UCLA, I got lost. I got caught up in the hustle and bustle of the party scene. I was pulled into a constant cycle of staying up late and waking up late that stemmed from a desire to be cool like the other kids. I deviated from my passions. I stopped playing tennis, I stopped working out, and I stopped focusing on my academics. Basically, I stopped trying in life.

When my friend Shifa first told me to come rush for Alpha Phi Omega with her in the spring of 2015, I was very reluctant. I had just crossed at Phi Psi, so I was ready to be done with pledging forever. However, the people I met at rush and APO's vision drew me in. This was a chance for me to reconnect with something I had always loved: service.





That is what service is to me. Service is appreciating the things I have in life. It means realizing how lucky I am to be alive and in good health. It means understanding what truly matters. It means doing things that may be uncomfortable at first for the greater good. It's about understanding how my actions can have a huge impact on another person's life. Participating in service makes me feel good about myself, and that's completely okay. However, the most important thing is recognizing that my feelings pale in comparison to my actions.

This definition of service is very broad. Anything can be a service to someone; that's the beauty of it. It doesn't have to be over-the-top or extravagant. Something you may consider to be an insignificant act can change another person's life forever. Handing out one sandwich on Skid Row could save someone from starvation. Helping with one tutoring session at Kid City could permanently change a kid's outlook on school. Delivering one meal to an elderly person could brighten up their entire week. Service is what you make of it. You don't have to approach it with the mindset that you're going to change the world. Participating in service, in any form and on any scale, can contribute to greater, positive change.

As a service fraternity we have an obligation to try to better our community. We are so blessed and fortunate to live in Los Angeles and go to one of the best schools in the world, but we rarely remember to take a step back and enjoy what we have. Too often we find ourselves focusing on/anguishing over what is missing from our lives. Every day is a blessing. Every moment we share with our friends and loved ones is precious. Enjoy these moments, take full advantage of them, but don't forget about those who aren't as lucky as we are. Share your happiness, joy, and gratitude with them. Help them get back on track. Who knows? Maybe it will help you too.

In closing, I encourage everyone to get motivated and check out as many service events as possible. Participating in service shouldn't feel like a chore or a burden; it isn't supposed to be something you dread at 4 AM, nor it is something to joke about. Service is meant to help connect you with your community and those who are less fortunate than you. Strive to keep an open mind and an open heart at the events you attend. Service might just change your perspective on life. I know it changed mine.

-Szu Chen Lee, Service VP