Upcoming Events:

Alumnae Weekend
April 24-26

Carnation Ball
April 4th

BARCC Walk for Change
April 5th

AXO All-Chapter Retreat

On March 1st, we had our annual chapter retreat, with the theme Back To School (Elementary School Style). The retreat planning committee consisted of Maria Frendberg, Meghan Dow, Alicia Kaestli, and Amy Zhang. The day started with breakfast from Sunny’s. During this time, sisters were given a chance to write notes to each other which were pinned on a clothesline and were collected at the end of the day. After breakfast, there was a song review session and a risk presentation. Then sisters were then given a chance to paint quilt squares which were fashioned into a quilt for the house over Spring Break (see below). We then took some time to play some of our favorite childhood games, such as Duck Duck Goose. Next came lunch and a ritual review session. During ritual review, sisters broke into groups and created skits and mnemonics to help remember opening and closing. After lunch, we had pledge class skits with a new twist. Each pledge class was given a box of clothes and was required to use every item. We then finished the day with an AXO improvement discussion in which sisters discussed how issues such as Senior disinterest and sister divisions (East vs. West, House vs. Campus) affect the chapter and what could be done to improve them. The Retreat Planning Committee had a great time planning this event and we hope that everyone had a fun time and had a chance to bond with their sisters!

By Maria Frendberg ’11
Spring house cleaning took place at the end of IAP, one day before registration day. We enjoyed the company of our sisters while having fun cleaning the house. We organized and gave the kitchen, the bathrooms, the hallways, the blue room, the dining room, the parlor rooms, the chapter room, and the basement a good scrub-down. It involved holding shaky ladders for our sisters to change lightbulbs, hanging composites and seeing that our last one is so big that the frame overlaps with the previous one, jumping in dumpsters such that the trash company can't take out the trash jammed to the bottom, and making the house shine like the stars Alpha Chis are. After lunch with our sisters, the winner of the house cleaning day outfit contest was announced. Katie Kauffman '12 and Alicia Kaestli '12 won the costume contest with their ridiculous shiny spandex clothes and trucker hats. For the rest of the day, we were still working hard with no complaints and sisters were ready to do extra work when called upon. I am so grateful to everyone who made House Cleaning Day a success!
Alumnae Weekend Coming up Next Month!

Get Pumped! Alumnae Weekend is April 24-26th this year, coinciding with the annual LipSync Event on Friday night. I am planning this event along with Rachel Ellman, MIT ’07 AXO ’04, and we are very excited to see many of you come back to visit Theta Omicron!

If you have suggestions for events you would like to see happen at alumnae weekend or questions, feel free to email carried@mit.edu or ellman@mit.edu.

In the works so far are karaoke night, house tour, networking brunch, and senior transition panel where YOU get to talk to the seniors about what YOU do! And come on, who doesn’t like talking about themselves?

AXO’s Being Baller Athletes in a Wide Range of Sports

This winter (and for the start of spring season), AXO’s participated in 9 different Varsity Sports ranging from fencing to basketball to diving.

Amy Jacobi ’11 made her second appearance at NCAA Division III Nationals where she participated in the 100 free, 100 butterfly, and 50 freestyle races. Robin Shin ’12 will also make an appearance at NCAA DIII Nationals for fencing.

Other AXO seniors finished up great careers as MIT athletes. Cheryl Kwinn ’09 finished up basketball season and headed right into softball season. Steff Brennman ’09 took off her hockey skates from winter season and began her final lacrosse season. Kristin Uhmeyer ’09 was a captain of the Varsity Swimming and Diving Team in her final year, leading the divers to a very successful season.

Watch out for more updates as AXO’s participate in their spring sports: softball, lacrosse, track, crew, water polo, and figure skating.

Cheryl Kwinn ’09 boxes out a player from Wellesley in one of her final basketball games as an Engineer.

AXO members of the Swimming and Diving Team: Carrie DeBoer ’11, Katie Creasey ’11, Lauren Cippichio ’10, Ashley Pinchinat ’10, Kristin Uhmeyer ’09, and Amy Jacobi ’11

Jackee Nowicke ’08 also made an appearance at the swimmers last meet to cheer them on!
Summer Teaser

Already, AXO’s are making incredible plans for this summer. From internships at NASA to jobs with Apple, AXO’s will find themselves across the US…and the world. Alicia Kaestli ’12 will be continuing her UROP at the Weinberg Lab in Boston. Alicia is working to isolate cancerous stem cells, which, in her words “is super fun!!” Alicia, a member of the Varsity Cross Country and Track teams will also be exercising with some other AXO’s in Boston (who although may be a little less running-inclined, are still extremely motivated), so watch out for them running through the city!

Amrita Saigal ’10, will be working at Proctor and Gamble in Cincinnati - specifically on Always Pads. She will be concentrating on design and manufacturing of the pads, something we all should definitely respect!

Emilienne Repak ’09, this summer, will be working for a US Non-profit 501(c)3 in Chile. It's called Save the Wild Chinchillas (did you know that the wild chinchilla, both of the remaining 2 species, are critically endangered?!) She’ll be teaching children’s environmental education/sustainability classes and restoring habitat in our reserve on the edge of town. Here’s a link to the website to learn more:

www.wildchinchillas.org

Recently, 7 AXO’s, 7 APhi’s, 4 SK’s, 5 Theta’s, 1 AEPhi, and 2 PiPhi’s were chosen as Panhellenic Recruitment Counselors for Recruitment 2009. Samantha Marquart ’11, Megan Kercher ’11, Veronica Wilson ’11, Alex Wright ’11, Amanda Fried ’11, Carrie DeBoer ’11, and Steph Leger ’11, will help guide potential new members through the Recruitment process next fall. Already, they have been attending weekly PRC meetings where they interact with PRCs from other chapters and train to be effective leaders of the PNMs. These AXO’s are very excited to help PNM’s choose the right place for them, but are also nervous about missing their sisters during their periods of disaffiliation.

7 AXOs chosen as Pi Rho Chis for 2009 Recruitment

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Hello, my name is Libby Palmer and I’m graduating from MIT this June with a degree in Ocean Engineering. (You might now be saying course 13 doesn’t exist... that’s true, but I will still have a degree, so fear not). So I decided in this delightful economy that I would sell my soul to the oil industry and move to Houston, Texas to kill baby seals. This entire situation is much to my mother’s dismay since the entire population of the state of Maine (where I was born and raised) is about 1.3 million and the population of Houston alone is almost twice as big at 2.2 million. So in all seriousness, I will be working for Exxon-Mobil, working in the Marine department building and installing offshore platforms to solve the world energy crisis. I know absolutely no one in Houston (and about 2 people in all of Texas), so if you want to be my friend, I will gladly be your friend and even bake you cookies. Seriously.
AXO Exec Board attends Regional Retreat

The New England regional AXO exec board retreat was held at MIT this month. 6 chapters were in attendance including MIT’s Theta Omicron chapter: Zeta Theta from Brown University; Delta Mu from University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Alpha Tau from University of New Hampshire; Gamma Sigma from University of Rhode Island; and Theta Tau from Rutgers University. The day included singing recruitment songs, a hallmark of our Recruitment events, and learning each other’s songs. The exec board also split up into their respective offices to discuss the highlights and challenges each office was having regarding their individual chapters. Each exec board office discussion was facilitated by an alumna member who had volunteered their time for the weekend to come help foster healthy discussion among the chapters and offer advice from their collegiate member days. Some offices, such as VP Chapter Relations and Standards and VP Risk Management, also presented skits to model situations that each officer can possibly encounter to help other exec members understand these specific roles. Additionally, everyone was continuously fed healthy meals and snacks prepared by Jennifer Crotty, the New England regional advisor who led the planning for this inter-chapter retreat. Overall, it was a great opportunity for our Theta Omicron chapter exec members to learn about the different ways in which other chapters encourage community among sisters.