Alpha Chi Omega Alumnae Newsletter

Summer ‘09

AXO Honored with FSILG and Panhel Awards

- Panhellenic Association Commitment to Service and Philanthropy Award
- Panhellenic Association Spirit and Participation Award
- Order of Omega Initiates (Manvi Goel, Yuri Hanada, Emily Houston, Minh Huynh-Le)
- Fall and Spring Academic Honor Roll (top third of FSILG GPAs)
- Outstanding Alumnus/Volunteer Advisor Award (Raffaela Wakeman ‘08)
- Senior Legacy Awards (Amy Gilpin, Sha-har Admoni, Cheryl Kwinn)
- Kenneth R Wedleigh Faculty-Student Interaction Award
- D. Reid Weedon Alumni Interaction Award Runner-Up
- David N. Rogers Ideals and Values Award (we've won this every year since they made it)

Photos taken by Anya Shafiro ‘10 at Senior Dinner

L to R: Katie Creasey, Sarah Mc Dermott, Esther Hu, Steph Shin, Grace Yao, Ana Escalante

L to R: The “Pirate” family- Emily Houston, Amber Stangroom, Amy Brazin, Katie Dalrymple, Amy Jacobi

L to R: Mahati Chintipali, Alicia Kaestli, Amrita Saigal, Alex Wright, Tina Srivastava, Joanna Faulk

Top to bottom: Sarah Cooper-Davis, Ingrid Chaires, Anya Shafiro, Deepa Rao
AXO recently won “Best Sorority” category in Greek Week. The winners for “Best Team,” “Best Sorority,” and “Best Fraternity” were based on a points system that was awarded for participation and results of events throughout the week.

The events throughout the week included Powderpuff football, Jar Wars, Booklet Making, Trivia Night, Dodgeball, Chariot Racing, and Volunteering at the Cambridge Community Center. AXO was victorious at Jar Wars and also had the most participation by far at the Cambridge Community Center.

In the end, despite the scandal that another unnamed sorority had a “stacked” fraternity team, AXO was victorious by more than 200 points in the “Best Sorority” category. Pearls to Grace Yao, our Panhel delegate who spearheaded our participation in Greek Week, and the rest of AXO for a great Greek Week!
YOU can be involved in the new Education Program!

Lauren Cipicchio ’10, Theta Omicron’s VP Education, has been working extremely hard on re-evaluating and redesigning our Chapter Education Program. She has spent an immense amount of time, in particular, looking at ways to improve our New Member Education.

At the AXO Regional Executive Board Retreat, Lauren got the idea for “Symphony Sisters.” This program would pair each new member with an AXO-Theta Omicron alumnae. The alumnae does not have to live in Boston, but their responsibility would be to contact the new member at least a few times a month by phone, email, or snail mail.

Symphony Sisters will be important because they can provide the new member with a perspective on AXO that spans the entire 4 years at MIT and beyond. Symphony Sisters can be any year- from 2009 seniors to our founding members.

If you are interested in becoming a Symphony Sister or would like more information, you can contact me at carried@mit.edu, Sylvie Polsky (in charge of the Symphony Sister Program) at spolsky@mit.edu, or Lauren Cipicchio, our VP Ed, at lpc@mit.edu.

Sports Highlights

Libby Palmer capped off her impressive career with a selection to the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) All-New England Women’s Team. The senior earned Second-Team Skipper accolades and was one of four Division III sailors to make the list.

8 AXOs were named captains to MIT Varsity Sports for next year. Margaret Leibovic ’10 was named track co-captain, Kerry Weinberg ’10 tennis, Katrina Ellison ’10 volleyball, Alex Wright ’11 lacrosse and field hockey, Amy Jacobi ’11 swimming, Ashley Pinchinat ’10 swimming, Emily Houston ’10 rifle, and Steph Shin ’10 fencing. Wow!!!!

We also had MVP’s including Libby Palmer and Lisa Schlecht for sailing, and Emily Houston. Steff Brenman won the Pewter Bowl Award which goes to the female senior who has shown the highest qualities of inspiration and leadership in contributing to womens’ athletics.
Congratulations to our Seniors!

- **Rebecca Adams** will graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biological Engineering. Becca will be staying at MIT next year to start her PhD program in Biological Engineering. Becca was part of the ski team at MIT. A quote on Becca’s facebook describes her caring and friendly personality: “life’s all about those people that say we’ll be friends forever, and you have no doubt in your mind that forever means until the end of time...not until the end of a chapter in your life” Congratulations, Becca!

- **Sha-har Adnoni** will graduate with a degree in Brain and Cognitive Science. Sha-har will be attending medical school next year, and a highlight of her AXO experience came recently when she was honored with a Panhel/FSILG Senior Legacy Award. Sha-har’s dedication to philanthropy was seen during her Vice Presidency of Fraternity Relations, during which she really increased AXO’s devotion to Domestic Violence Awareness. During her time at MIT, Sha-har was also president of Baker House and a member of the MIT Wind Ensemble. Congratulations, Sha-har!

- **Katie Boothe** will also graduate with a degree in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Next year, Katie will be attending UPenn Medical School. Katie was a member of the Varsity Field Hockey team as well as VP Communications of AXO during her sophomore year. Katie’s fun-loving and laid back personality always made chapter meetings and get togethers extremely fun. Congratulations, Katie!

- **Amy Brazin** will graduate with a degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. Amy will be working for Raytheon next year in Andover. Amy oversaw an extremely successful Recruitment this past year as VP Recruitment, and her awesome personality made her a popular choice for the “Character” award presented at Fiesta many times. Congratulations, Amy!

- **Steff Brenman** graduates with a degree in Brain and Cognitive Science. Steff will be off to medical school next year. She will always be remembered as the girl who did basically every single sport at MIT. Steff participated in 12 seasons of MIT Varsity Athletics...yep, that means that she did a sport every single day of her college career. Steff was a member of the soccer, lacrosse, ice hockey, and softball teams at MIT, and her drive and hard work will definitely take her far in the medical field. Congratulations, Steff!

- **Melda Buyukozturk** will graduate with a degree in Biology. Melda will be getting a PhD in Biological Sciences next year at graduate school. At MIT, Melda was a Pi Rho Chi, a member of the Turkish Students’ Association, and part of the MIT Casino Rueda Salsa Group. Melda’s smiling face always brightened the days of Alpha Chi members, and one of her favorite quotes is very fitting to her MIT career- "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."- Dr. Seuss  Congratulations, Melda!

- **Tia Cartisano** will graduate with a degree in Biology. Tia will attend medical school next year to study to be a pediatrician, a very fitting job for her sweet and loveable personality. Tia was a Panhellenic Recruitment Counselor her junior year, and was also involved in Culture Show aka C-Show during her senior year. Congratulations, Tia!

- **Sarah Cooper-Davis** will graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Next year, Sarah (fondly known as CoopD) will be working for GE Healthcare, taking part in their Edison Engineering Development Program. It's a rotational program where over the next two years she will get to have four different jobs in four different divisions and maybe even a few different cities. For the most part, Sarah will be in Milwaukee though. Sarah was a Pi Rho Chi and member of Spanish House at MIT, and will always be remembered for her love of International Cultures (she went to high school in Germany). Congratulations, Sarah!

- **Jodie-Marie Fernandes** will graduate with degrees in Electrical Engineering/Computer Science and Music. JodieMarie decided on a semester of study abroad in her 7th term at MIT, to study music, after finishing her degree in Electrical Engineering. Next fall, she’ll be studying graduate performance in voice at the Longy School of Music in Harvard Square (Cambridge) for two years, and hoping to continue after with Masters/PhD in music. At MIT, JodieMarie was involved in the Concert Choir. Congratulations, JodieMarie!
- Amy Gilpin, fondly known to the chapter with her full title—Amy Gilpin Former AXO President—will graduate with a degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering. Amy will be working for Chevron at their headquarters in San Ramon, CA. She’ll be working in their environmental management company as a project manager and will be living in San Francisco. Amy’s strong leadership, fun personality, and proneness to epic reply-all email fails will always be remembered at AXO. Gilps was also recently recognized with a Panhel/FSILG Senior Legacy Award. Congratulations, Amy!

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- Esther Hu will graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Next year, Esther will be a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton within the MSWA (Modeling, Simulation and Wargaming Analysis) group in Washington DC. Esther was a tour guide at MIT and according to her facebook, Esther enjoys “chasing bubbles and eating popsicles.” This year, Esther also joined me in trying to learn this dance: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCtEvOdOZvg
  Congratulations, Esther!

- Kelley Hutchins will graduate with a degree in Aeronautics/Astronautics. Kelley will be at UT Austin doing an MS/PhD in Aerospace next year. Kelley will be remembered for her amazing dance abilities. She was involved in ballet throughout college in both Dance Troupe and Boston ballets. She would also often entertain us with funny dances during AXO events. Congratulations, Kelley!

- Amirah Khan will graduate with a degree in Biological Engineering. Amirah will attend the University of Florida Medical School next year. During her four years at MIT, Amirah was AXO’s VP Education, Class of 2009 Social Chair, and Senior Gift Committee Member. Amirah was known for always starting dance parties during Bond Week. According to her facebook, Amirah loves “good food, good conversation, and not taking herself too seriously.” Congratulations, Amirah!

- Jackie Kunkel will graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jackie will be working at MGH next year looking at the material properties of knee and hip implants. At MIT, Jackie was part of the Varsity Swimming and Diving Team as well as UROP. Jackie was also involved in DME, and her infectious laughter will definitely be missed next year! Congratulations, Jackie!

- Cheryl Kwinn will graduate with a degree in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Next year, Kwinn will be living in Boston. She shared with me that she eventually hopes to be the head of her own lab. Kwinn was a member of the Varsity Basketball and Softball teams at MIT, and was honored recently with a Panhel/FSILG Senior Legacy Award. Congratulations, Kwinn!

- YaoYao Luo will graduate with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. YaoYao will move to Chicago next year to work for a trading firm. YaoYao spent part of her college years in Cambridge, England for the MIT/Cambridge exchange. Congratulations, YaoYao!

- Michelle Lustrino will graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Michelle is going to be staying at MIT for her Masters in course 2 next year. She is not sure what lab she will be working in yet, but is excited to stay in Boston next year. Michelle will be remembered for ALWAYS winning the “sweetest sister” award at Fiesta del Presidente. Congratulations, Michelle!
• **Libby Palmer** will graduate with a degree in Mechanical/Ocean Engineering. Libby will be working in Texas next year for Exxon-Mobil (you may remember in the March newsletter that Libby told you she would be ‘killing baby seals’ for her job. (AXO still does not condone the killing of baby seals). Libby was the chair of Senior Gift Committee, president of Order of Omega, and MVP of the Varsity Sailing Team this past year. AXO’s will always remember Libby for her skills as the House Manager extraordinaire, her love for Celine Dion, and for the time she came to chapter wearing a Gorilla Mask (which she left me in her Senior Will). Congratulations, Libby!

• **Emilienne Repak** will graduate with a degree in Biological Engineering. An inspirational quote that Emilienne enjoys is "Dance. Even if you have nowhere to do it but in your own living room." At MIT, Emilienne was very involved in foreign languages and cultures and took many classes outside of MIT to further her interest in other cultures. Congratulations, Emilienne!

• **Juliana Rotter** will graduate with a degree in Biological Engineering. Juliana was involved in Navy ROTC at MIT and amazed our sisters by running the Boston Marathon multiple times. Juliana will be the Repair Division Officer on the USS Fitzgerald in Yokosuka, Japan next year as a continuation of her involvement in the Navy. Juliana’s caring nature will be greatly missed by current sisters! Congratulations, Juliana!

• **Kashika Sharma** will graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and she will be working as a consultant next year in Boston. Kashika was involved in UROP at MIT. According to Kashika’s facebook, "The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart." This is a great idea for all of the seniors to take with them after graduation. Congratulations, Kashika!

• **Tina Srivastava** will graduate with a degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. This summer, Tina will be working for BMW in Germany. After that, she will be working in Dallas, Texas. For 4 years, Tina was social chair of class of 2009, and she was also involved in the Baker Foundation and SaveTFP. Tina recently became engaged to her boyfriend, Charles, who she met at one of AXO’s fall semi-formals! Congratulations, Tina!

• **Vicki Stolyar** will graduate with a degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. Vicki will be attending CalTech next year to continue her education in that field. At MIT, Vicki was involved in DanceTroupe and MTG. Congratulations, Vicki!

• **Melissa Tanner** will also graduate with a degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. Melissa will be staying at MIT as staff to work on an autonomous forklift project in CSAIL. At MIT, Melissa was part of the UAV team, Varsity Softball, and she was also very involved with her hall at East Campus. Congratulations, Melissa!

• **Kristin Uhmeyer** will also graduate with a degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics. She will be working for 12 weeks this summer as the operations and logistics manager of the NASA Glenn Academy for Space Exploration in Cleveland, OH. After that, she will be working at Raytheon in Sudbury, MA, doing systems architecture work for radar systems. Kristin was on the Varsity Swimming and Diving team throughout her 4 years at MIT, and was the lone diver captain of the team as a senior. Congratulations, Kristin!

• **Jodie Wu** will graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jodie’s next six months are packed with travel and work. **June 9-13**: heading to Maine for Indian Point for International Development and Appropriate Technology Conference **June 14-July 6**: backpacking through Europe **July 8-August 15**: Ghana for International Development Design Summit **August 15- November 4**: Working on my start-up in East Africa **November-December**: Writing grants for Global Cycle Solutions, meeting as many people as possible, getting ready for Berkeley **January 2010**: Start getting my M.Eng at Berkeley! Jodie was very involved in international development at MIT, and was a winner of the 100k competition her senior year. Congratulations, Jodie!

• **Xiao Xiao** will graduate with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Xiao Xiao will return to MIT next year to start working on her masters in MAS- Media Arts and Sciences. At MIT, Xiao Xiao was passionate about music and art and gave incredible piano performances. Congratulations, Xiao Xiao!
Ana Posada MIT ’07 Appears on Jeopardy!

If you watched Jeopardy! on June 2nd, you say an AXO alum competing on the show. Ana Catalina Posada, MIT ’07, AXO ’04 went out to LA back in March to tape her appearance.

What did you do out in LA?
Well, I got to stay Gwen Johnson AXO ’05 my first day there. We visited the Huntington out in Pasadena and she introduced me to Pink Berry, which I can't thank her enough for. She then drove to Culver City to my hotel. I had an early morning catching the shuttle to the studio. When I got back from the studio, I did some shopping and then the next day it was time to leave.

What was your experience like?
I guess my first part was meeting the contestants on the shuttle. Well, like in all walks of life their were some nice people, some shy people, and some arrogant people. It didn't take long for the current champion (7 days and $154,000) to share that information with everyone. Some people jumped at the chance to ask him questions and others, like me, just relaxed. Once we got to the Sony Picture Studios, we were greeted by the Contestant wranglers. They walked us back to the Green Room. They fed us, entertained us, and got all the paperwork out of the way. One by one we got our makeup done and went over the tidbits Alex could ask us about. As an MIT alum, I couldn't help but think the process was inefficient, but maybe I just thought that because I like sleep. Anyway, we then headed into the studio (3 hours after getting there) to practice and to film local commercials. Then, came the moment of truth, finding out who would play the 1st round. Players are chosen at random right before a round, supposedly, as none of us actually saw the process take place. I played the 2nd round of 5 filmed that day.

What’s Alex like?
That's probably my most asked question. He's really funny and quite animated. During commercial breaks, he interacts with the audience and takes their questions. He also takes a picture with each contestant. Unfortunately, in between rounds he leaves to change and get his make-up redone.

What was it like being on the show?
As long as you're there they let you watch the rounds. I saw the 7 day champion lose right off the bat. To be honest, I was relieved I didn't have to play against him. Then, I found out I was playing the next round. My make-up got retouched and I took my spot. I was really disappointed with the categories. My forte is science, but I'm not too shabby at literature and history. It was mostly pop culture, which was a bit of a struggle. Also, if you watched the show, there's a part where you can tell there was a cut. I answered "Death Penalty" to a question and was ruled incorrect. Sarah, the previous day's champion, answered "Executions" and was ruled correct. She then picked the very next clue I was going to choose and it was a daily double. At that point, game play stopped for 30 minutes. The judges came back and said I was right, which gave me control of the board again. The problem was that the pause disrupted the game play and it robbed me of a daily double. The show was pretty choppy because of the questions to begin with though. Going into Final Jeopardy! I was in the lead by ~$4000. The category came up "Geographical Literature" and I didn't know what to think. The previous rounds question was on killing Wyle E. Coyote and was extremely easy. They give you as long as you need to calculate your wager and I spent about 15 mins on that. The second place player had been neck-in-neck with me the entire round, but I was just faster, so I figured he'd have a good chance of getting the question right. We all missed "Islands in the Stream" by
Then what?
Then, I had to keep a secret for 4 months on how I did. Keeping it secret that I lost wasn’t all that hard. I may have even forgotten to remind people about the show because I was still sore about it. I had dreamt about going on Jeopardy! but I guess I wish it had been on my terms. The questions were kind of silly—"Tupac" "K-fed" and "Liger" were all answers my round. I lost because of bad luck. And Alex Trebek made fun of my age, rather than being impressed by someone young doing well. Oh well, I got to go to LA in March from NH, get a makeover, and see a fellow AXO. I guess it’s not all complaints.

Class of 2009 Get Together

For dead week (the week after finals before graduation), the AXO senior pledge class flew down to Texas. They stayed at Tina Srivastava’s home in Dallas, Texas. At the Fort Worth stockyards, they saw longhorns and tried on cowboy hats. Tina’s parents cooked Tex-Mex and BBQ to show the AXO’s the Texan experience. Then the seniors had a real fireside and roasted marshmallows.

Then everyone took a road trip to Austin, San Antonio, the Ranch of Charles Herder, Tina’s new fiancé. At the Ranch, Charles taught the AXO’s how to shoot rifles and chase cows on ATV’s! The next morning everyone visited the Alamo and the Texas State Capital. The Texas Police Rangers quizzed the AXO’s on their Texan knowledge, and they passed because they had learned about the Six Flags over Texas!

Finally everyone drove back to Tina’s house for some home cooked Indian food. It was a great bonding experience for the pledge class.

Juliana Rotter, Michelle Lustrino, Amirah Khan, Esther Hu, Kristin Uhmeyer, and Tina Srivastava joined a few other 09s for a pre-graduation get together.
As part of MIT Tech Reunions 2009, Alpha Chi Omega joined other fraternities and sororities in holding an open house for our alumnae. Approximately 50 AXO alums and their families stopped by on the afternoon of June 5 for nostalgic walks through the house and conversation with old friends. Active sisters and alums snacked on delicious fondue as they swapped stories of the past and present at AXO and MIT.

Random Chatter: A column dedicated to the ridiculous things said in AXO emails and chats

Libby: uh awkward story
i thought my relocation lady was named donnie
turns out that it's stony
so i've been calling her the wrong name for a
while ooops? :( (chat with Libby Palmer ’09)

YES. I just talked about hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy for the better part of a long group meeting. Gettin' paid to talk about nerdy pop culture, that's how we roll in course 6, son. (Megan Kercher ’11)

So true, and then we can all grow to have shrunken feet bones...
(Anne Shen ’11)

So every day I come to work and sit in the dark chemical storage room by myself. I still like my job though, so no worries
(Katie Thomas ’10)

http://awkwardfamilyphotos.com/
(Steph Shin ’10)

History lesson: kerry's favorite movie ever is ariel cuz she thought she was a mermaid when she was a kid. (Tayina Tardeau ’10 about Kerry Weinberg ’10)

Summer Adventures

~ Katelyn Snyder ’11 will work on historical preservation in the Old City of Acre (Akko), Israel.

~ Minh Hunyh-Le ’10 will be working at the UMCP School of Public Health studying epidemiology and biostats, working on a project that involves the weight gain that often happens when girls transition from middle school to high school.

~Amy Jacobi ’11 will be working in DC for the Metro doing ridership analysis, ie, studying which stops on the metro are most important and whether new stops should be created and old ones eliminated.