

"Be worthy to serve the suffering" – William K. Root MD, Founder 1902

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) -- Maryland Gamma Chapter

<http://www.alphaomegalpha.org/>

<http://www.usuaoa.org/>

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
"America's Medical School"**

JUNE 2017

Mission Statement: dedicated to the belief that in the profession of medicine we will improve care for all. At USU, we:

- recognize high educational achievement
- honor talented teachers
- encourage leadership development
- support the ideals of humanism
- promote service to others

The Society is organized for educational purposes exclusively and not for profit; its aims shall be the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of a high standard of character and professionalism among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment and service in medical science, patient care, and related fields.

At least two meetings shall be held each academic year at times and places decided upon by the chapter officers in consultation with the Councilor. This Society since its inception has been an organization of medical students. Every effort should be made to stimulate and maintain student interest in the Society and its mission. Chapters are urged to generate activities in which medical student members as well as non-members may take part.

Structure -

The officers of each chapter shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Councilor. The President and Vice-President shall be student members. The offices of Secretary-Treasurer and Councilor may be held by the same person. When chapter officers are chosen, the Councilor shall ensure that their names, school addresses, and other pertinent information are sent promptly to the national office of Alpha Omega Alpha.

USU Faculty Staff:

Councilor
Past-Councilor
Treasurer

COL Patrick G. O'Malley MD, MPH
Robert Goldstein MD
LTC Joshua Hartzell MD, MHPE

Faculty Councilors:

Annual Banquet
Dist. Speaker/Vis. Prof

William Haffner MD
Mark Haigney MD

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Postgraduate Programs	Jerri Curtis MD, Carl Gunderson MD
Research Mentor	Martin Ottolini MD
	Robert Goldstein MD
Specialty Night	Joseph Lopreiato MD, MPH
Awards	TBD

Student Leadership:

President	Todd Heig
Vice President	Jason Adams
Spring Election Officers - Resident	Rachel Bridwell, Mike Porambo Agnes Sibilski
AOA Specialty Night	Danielle Cummings, Andrew Lopez
Awards/Research Committee	Mike Noller, Thomas Peterson, Kent Do, Kristin Wertin

Students: Pharos Poetry / Helen H. Glaser Student Essay / Student Service Leadership (Coordinate with Research Officer)

Residents/Faculty: Postgraduate / Volunteer Clinical Faculty / Professionalism / Fellowship in Leadership / Distinguished Teacher

Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship (Coordinate w/ Awards Officer)

Treasurer	Adam Fehring, Adam Dulberger
Visiting Professor	Paul Gonzalez
Newsletter	Afsoon Anvari, Robert Brooks
AOA Banquet Officer/Banquet	Alexis Aust
Webmaster	Thomas Gerhardt
Underclassmen Outreach Officers	Morgan Harvey, Holly Berkley
Alumni Outreach Officers	Mike Polmear

Community Members – USU AOA faculty and students, and AOA members at all military medical centers. Need to update list annually.

Budget – Need for foundation and development; source of money comes from Dean and local dues (since 2014). Process in place to expand resources through annual dues, and outreach to alumni and all AOA members at military medical centers and

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teaching facilities. Pilot project ongoing to build and expand AOA Associations at these facilities, with direct ties to the USU chapter. Use AOA national administrative services to help with development. Main expenditures include specialty night, banquet (self-funded), and regular meetings. Eventually, resources permitting, intend to develop sufficient funding for administrative resources and ultimately serve community needs (e.g., free clinic, mentorship events, and other AOA initiatives). Currently as national contact list is generated, funds will be solicited from members annually.

List-Serves: Need to be created, including whole group, student group, alumni/postgraduate group, executive leadership group. We will establish Facebook pages for current and alumni members to facilitate outreach, networking, and utilization of resources.

Webmaster – AOA Chapter section

Process –

- A. Voting scheme per AOA Constitution (<www.alphaomegaalpha.org>)
- Students: 4 values (scholarship, service, professionalism, leadership).
 - Post-graduates (alumni, residents, faculty): 5 values (same as students + teaching/mentoring).
 - Student eligibility will be determined through stratification based on the number of honors earned in the curriculum. Resident and faculty nominees can be either MD or DO. Need to be in a residency associated with the chapter's medical school (which includes all of our official USUHS training sites; must have completed 1yr) or have a faculty appointment at the chapter's medical school. Alumni nominees must be 10 years or more past USU graduation.

Responsibility to ensure 100% USU AOA student voter participation and (for sure) 100% contact of all eligible students (top quarter of each class). Use teleconference or remote audio hookup.

See AOA Passdown materials (Google Site) and Web-site for more detailed protocol for Spring Elections

Maximum Number Elected Annually (varies on class size)

Students: 1/6th of class (~27)

Residents: 7

Faculty: 5

Alumni: 4

B. Regular linkage with National Organization: contact numbers, annual meeting (attended by Councilor)

C. Schedule of Activities–

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1. Spring election
 - a. March/April: MS3s (~27), Faculty (5), Residents/Fellows (7); Alumni (4; have to be 10yrs out).
 - b. Communication needs to go out early for the Postgrads (alumni, residents, faculty) (Nov-Dec). Jerri Curtis (PDs, MedCen Chiefs), USU Alumni Association, USU AOA database.
 - c. Student Application Requirements: permission to review grades, provide CV, personal statement, and agree to pay first year dues.
 - d. Postgraduate Application Requirements: faculty, residents, and fellows – need a letter of recommendation; alumni will be recommended by the President of the Alumni Association and the Councilor. All applications must be received by the suspense date.
 - e. MS3s: need top 25% from USU, using pre-clerkship and core clerkship grades. Use of HONORS grades will not result in a precise 25%; each new election will require choosing an appropriate cutoff. Use the cutoff that is *more inclusive* (though there may be elections wherein a large difference exists between cutoffs such that the more exclusive cutoff is appropriate). In general, 4 or more grades of HONORS will be an appropriate cutoff. Request to OSA/Registrar should go out in January (expect list no earlier than 6 weeks after last clerkship (mid- to end-February) to incorporate all clerkship grades; notice to eligible students should go out beginning of March with 1 April suspense, with elections in mid-April. This cohort of electees will serve as the leadership following graduation of the current MS4 class until their subsequent graduation.
 - f. Faculty/Residents/Fellows: Notice goes out to the Medical Centers through the DMEs, Hospital Commanders, senior POCs, and Associations by late November/early December, with suspense of 1 February for nominations and 1 March for applications (CV and personal statement).
 - g. Alumni: Notice goes out to all alumni through the Alumni Association in late November/early December, with suspense by 1 February for nominations and 1 March for applications (CV and personal statement).

2. Fall election (CURRENTLY NOT APPLICABLE, WILL ONLY BE USED IF RETURN TO SPLIT ELECTIONS)
 - a. Same process as Spring; among 4th year students, AOA elects roughly 14-15 (1/6th of class = 28 or 29 total minus 14 elected as juniors)
 - b. Reach out to current AOA student members who serve as the voters; schedule election by last week of Sept (coordinate with residency application deadlines such that senior electees may include AOA on their applications)
 - c. Grades from OSA/Registrar by early Aug. Notice to eligible students by mid-Aug with suspense by 1 Sept.

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3. Specialty night (end November – Dr. Lopreiato) – planning begins in mid-September.
4. Banquet (begin planning during Fall); speaker is key – “Inspiring” is the principal desired characteristic; locations: Cosmo Club, Army/Navy Club, Frederick mil med history museum; Bethesda Hyatt, North Bethesda Marriott, Maggiano’s DC
5. Visiting Professor (VP) Selection– Consider pool of AOA professors available and willing to come visit. (Dr. Haigney)
6. Research (end Dec) – (Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Ottolini); AOA grant awards, potential for linking with Capstone
7. Capstone/Teaching opportunities – C/E track
8. Community Service Project Award
9. Postgraduate Award (Dr. Hartzell, Dr. Eickoff)
10. Fellow in Leadership Award (Dr. Hartzell, Dr. O’Malley) application due to Councilor on 1 Apr, and to AOA by 1 May) – if more than 1 application, need to devise a process for rank ordering

Calendar Timeline of Activities:

JANUARY— Peer-to-Peer Clerkship Transition Course, coordinated by AOA Underclassmen Outreach officers. Arrange judging for AOA Student Research Fellowship (ASRF) applicants; send off winning application to AOA National

FEBRUARY—Finalize plans for VP and Induction Banquet (send out advance notice and invitation to USU-ALL and USU-AOA). Get list from registrar or OSA for student nominees

MARCH—Good month for VP. Pathway to Residency sessions, coordinated by AOA Underclassmen Outreach officers. Send out Spring Student Application invitations (>4 Honors total in preclerkship and clerkship)

APRIL— Vote in Spring Election (late March OK too). Alternative time for VP. Orient new AOA officers from the junior class

MAY—Induction Banquet. VP can occur up to week of graduation

JUNE—Plan large goals and methods for coming academic year

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JULY—Devote energy to service activities, and programmed activities for year (awards, events, meetings, etc)

AUGUST— Orientation to new MS1s; recruit applicants for research award among MS-1s and 2s.

SEPTEMBER— Consider voting in 2-3 more students if some stand out

OCTOBER—Invite speaker and set up schedule for VP. VP lecture to occur during Bushmaster rotation. Expectation that current AOA student members will attend, lecture will be open to all classes

NOVEMBER—Detailed planning for Spring Election and for GMESB Specialty Night. Start planning for AOA Banquet

DECEMBER—Send out Postgraduate Application invitation. Collect and upgrade applications for ASRF

2017-2018 State of the Chapter (Office specific updates and recommendations)

- **Leadership** – superb initiative, delegation, and collaborative functioning to achieve main objectives and begin new initiatives
 - Due to nature of geographical separation of members, it is difficult to meet monthly, with attempt social gathering in Dining Hall Annex. Consideration for supplying pizza from funds if sufficient attendance. Will open to all members in community. Can consider giving updates and opening to forum for suggestions on future projects.
 - Next year: Create subcommittee for recruiting and submitting awards applications.
 - Schedule monthly meetings or communications for whole year and share calendar
- **Budget** – Funds at ~\$11000; support from Dean for Specialty night in Fall; annual dues process ongoing and adequate, though low % participation; established external account. Account managed by Dr. Hartzell (Treasurer).
 - Continue to solicit for more dues from alumni and ensure 100% compliance from current members. Utilize Facebook and email lists to contact alumni and advocate for support.
 - Ms. Cross serving role as administrator. Need to submit an award for her once she is in the position for 3yrs (2018).
 - Newsletter goes out quarterly to all at USU.

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- **Elections** – Elections officers have synchronized internally as well as with years prior in order to stay the course in regards to efficiency within elections. Turnover has occurred between the outgoing and oncoming officers in addition to an instructional video as to how to run the elections, in conjunction with the webmaster. We plan to run elections using the platform set forth from previous years with the hopes of expediting communication loops and feedback to applicants. Specific dates have not yet been set for notifying applicants but we hope to tap them via OSA during the early-mid portion of B3.
- **AOA Specialty Night** – Our goal is to plan and execute successful AOA-sponsored Specialty Night event. We will advertise the event at USUHS and through HPSP channels to ensure good turnout from both USUHS underclassmen and HPSP students. We hope to have most military residency programs represented at the event for medical students to meet and network.
- **AOA Banquet Night** – Initial goals are to establish a working committee comprised of the treasurer, webmaster, visiting professor officer, and other interested parties to facilitate an affordable and enjoyable event. The treasurer would be responsible for assessing chapter funds that could be set aside for the banquet and helping set an appropriate budget for the event. The priority is establishing the committee, then establishing a date and assessing funds.
- **Visiting Professor** – Coordinating with MEM to determine feasibility of having speaker during Bushmaster Academics. Regardless will plan on having a second speaker in May prior to graduation.
- **Underclass Outreach** – The primary goal of the AOA Underclass Outreach Officers is to promote engagement in scholarship, leadership, and community service throughout each student's time at USU by increasing the visibility of AOA from the start of medical school and facilitating increased interaction between all classes. We hope to accomplish this goal by establishing AOA Mentorship Rotations for senior USU students, where they will assist in facilitating small group underclass activities such as reflective practice, history and physical exam classes, and Introduction to Clinical Reasoning sessions. In addition, these senior USU mentors would be available as a resource for underclass students to utilize regarding advice on anything from study skills to extra-curricular opportunities. AOA Underclass Outreach Officers plan to introduce this opportunity to the incoming class this coming Fall with the goal of welcoming the first-year students to USU while providing them with an explanation of the pillars of AOA early on in their academic careers. Finally, in the Spring, we plan to reconnect with the first-year class as a whole in order to provide more concrete guidance on ways to get involved at USU beyond academics.
- **Alumni Outreach** – The Alumni Outreach program continues to expand our efforts both in the National Capital Region and other MTFs. Members from the graduating class of 2017 made remarkable progress in creating a database of recent alumni organized by specialty and current location. We are working to make this information available to members through the chapter's website for networking and mentorship opportunities. Alumni have also established Alumni Associations at Tripler Army Medical Center,

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San Antonio Military Medical Center, and Naval Medical Center San Diego. We encourage alumni to continue developing local associations and using the national AOA resources to stay connected. Please contact 2LT Michael Polmear (michael.polmear@usuhs.edu) if you would like to be involved in the alumni database for networking and mentorship.

- **Webmaster** – AOA Passdown site and new Homepage (via USU Google Sites) created by Class of 2014 and 2016, includes more detailed descriptions of all USU AOA activities, needs to be handed off year to year to incoming class. Share liberally with AOA members, and update monthly. Easy navigation, up-to-date links, relevant content, timely response to comments and questions, and a place that represents the face of an organization to a modern era that relies heavily upon the internet. The AOA webmaster will accomplish these goals, as well as coordinate with the other offices to ensure that their content is also highly visible and accurate. AOA positions that rely on gathering information from the website, such as elections, will hopefully find that their job is simplified. This year the webmaster will strive to continue improving the AOA website content to the benefit of AOA users and other audiences.
- **Awards** – We have established a committee to better determine nominees for awards and plan to submit for the awards that are listed and described in the attached spreadsheet: 11 national awards and 4 local awards mostly selected by our AOA committee, with the first deadline in August.
- Research Awards update:
 - ENS Ross Bodnar (2016) -- awarded
 - ENS Lucy Ma (2017) -- awarded
- Grant and Awards Applications (201-15): no applications submitted for a resident/fellow award
 - Fellowship in Leadership Award (LTC Josh Hartzell 2014)
 - Looking for applicant for next year
 - Student Service Award (Awarded, Mark Prats/Matt Ward; 2015)
 - Volunteer Clinical Faculty – CDR Todd Gleeson (2016)
 - Professionalism Award – CDR Adam Saperstein nominated
 - Distinguished Teacher – COL William Kelly nominated
 - Goal of 100% awards submissions next year
 - See attached spreadsheet for list of awards
- Other awards: (poetry, essay, etc)
 - Submitted many poems and essays, no awards