



# THE ROSEVINE

Toronto Area Alumnae Chapter (TAAC)

Fall Issue - 2015

## TAAC News

Welcome to our 2015 Rosevine! We have had a year of fun activities, philanthropy and support of our collegiate sisters. We have enjoyed small and not so small gatherings of women for friendship.

Our Founders were insightful, progressive young students when they ventured to establish a group of like-minded, friendship oriented women. Thanks to the work of these four young women over 100 years ago, we AOII sisters have a readymade organization to get involved, form new and lasting bonds, support young women as they transition into their working careers and beyond and support each other in our professional and personal lives.

In the last year we hosted a warm Founders' Day brunch where our Past International President, Joan McCallum shared AOII stories; we spent time sprucing up the Beta Tau Chapter house inside and out; we lunched and dined together catching up with friends and forming new friendships; we yoga-ed together raising funds for Arthritis research, ran for Cancer research and enjoyed each other's company. Our Working Panda blog (<https://theworkingpanda.wordpress.com>) highlighted our accomplished alum, sharing their experiences and what they've learned in their lives so far.

It has been great spending time with alum of various ages and Chapters. Personally I'm always surprised to be reminded how much I receive from my involvement with our alumnae Chapter. I encourage you to join us at any of our upcoming events scheduled for the next academic year. We'd love to have you join us. If you're not already a member, please consider a membership in TAAC. The membership form is on page 8 and our website. We are here for all AOII alum. Hope to see you!

.....Tracy Cooper, TAAC President



## *Founders' Day*

Founders' Day is the day we come together to celebrate the birthday of Alpha Omicron Pi. For the past few years we have organized special events for all sisters to enjoy. Together we shared stories, built traditions, celebrated our rituals and enjoyed some delicious food.

We are celebrating **Founders' Day** with our TAAC sisters on **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**. **Mary Esnor and Barbara Otton**, our very own Beta Tau alumnae will be our guest speakers sharing their AOII experiences. Did you know that they had the pleasure of meeting three of our Founders at the 1949 convention? What a wonderful opportunity to hear about our history firsthand.

All alumnae are encouraged to attend. We are also inviting Collegiate Chapter Presidents and Alum Relations from the 3 Toronto Area chapters. Be sure to spread the word as we want to have another successful event that includes you! To get details on Founders' Day, please include your Founders' Day payment when you return your dues form by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## *Upcoming TAAC Events*

*Everyone is welcome!*

**Sunday September 13, 2015** 1-3pm  
Beta Tau Alumnae and Parent Tea (at the BT house)  
TAAC meeting to follow

**Sunday September 20, 2015** 9am until noon  
Terry Fox Run – Upper Canada College Toronto

**Thursday October 8, 2015** 8pm  
TAAC Meeting (conference call)

**Saturday October 24, 2015**  
**Founders' Day (Registration at 11:30am)**  
**Guest Speakers: Mary Esnor and Barbara Otton**  
Downtown location - \$45.00

**Monday November 16, 2015** 8pm  
TAAC Meeting (conference call)

**Tuesday December 8, 2015** 8pm  
TAAC Meeting (conference call)

**Saturday January 16, 2016** 11am  
Brunch with Beta Tau at the Beta Tau house

**Thursday February 4, 2016** 7:30 pm  
AOII Pottery Session at All Fired Up  
(near Royal York and Bloor)

**March (date TBC)**  
Power of Movement Yoga - Arthritis Fundraising Event

**Monday March 7, 2016** 8pm  
Sisterhood Soiree, Annual General Meeting and  
International Badge Day (at Tracy's house)

**Tuesday April 12, 2016** 8pm  
TAAC Meeting (conference call)

**Thursday April 28, 2016** 7:30 pm  
Girls' Night Out at The Madison Pub

**Sunday May 29, 2016** 2pm  
Annual Garden Party - Celebrating new AOII Alumnae  
(at Leslie's)

**Wednesday June 15, 2016** 7:30 pm  
TAAC Meeting (at Linda's)

*Here is the 2015/16 TAAC Team.*

**President**

Tracy Cooper  
toronto.alumnae@gmail.com 416-485-1596

**Vice President**

Leslie Behnke Hall  
lbh424@aol.com

**Treasurer, Terry Fox Run Coordinator  
& To Dagma Reporter**

Kristina Hunt  
kristinahunt@rogers.com

**Founders' Day Coordinators**

Marina Georgieva and Shannon Smith  
toronto.alumnae@gmail.com

**Toronto Area Alumnae Panhellenic Representative**

Linda Nichols  
toronto.alumnae@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Arlene Roeder  
arlene.roeder@gmail.com 416-239-0937

**Communications**

Shannon Smith  
toronto.alumnae@gmail.com

**Recording Secretary**

McKenna Wild  
mckennawild@gmail.com

**Collegiate Relations**

Open

**Website Editor and Blog-master**

Liz Bang  
workingpanda@gmail.com

**Historian and New Member Chair**

Open

***TAAC Garden Party***

On Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Leslie Hall (Sigma) hosted the TAAC Garden Party at her home. AOII alums and collegiates from across the GTA attended. They enjoyed a special social event indoors with tea sandwiches, fresh fruit, desserts and sparkling juices. (Who cares that it was cold and rainy outside?) After the social hour and refreshments, TAAC President Tracy Cooper (BT) welcomed Dana Friedrichsen (IX), Shantana Thompson (IX) and Vanessa Selman (BT) to alumnae status with a ritual ceremony.



The TAAC members then held a planning meeting in which they outlined the calendar of events for 2015-2016. Members from Beta Tau Chapter attended to co-ordinate key events with TAAC for the coming year.

A good time was had by one and all!

.....*Leslie Behnke Hall, TAAC Vice President*

***Fashion at Freda’s Update:***

I have been the designated shopper to use the proceeds of the 2014 Fashion at Freda’s fundraiser, for the Beta Tau AOII Chapter house. Here is how I put this money to good use:

Our new front hall table is an upcycled painted Victorian table - perfect for our 1892 house. The excellent consignment stores of Toronto supplied dressers, bookcases and a desk for some bedrooms. The chapter received folding tables for special events, and I restocked the dining room with serving dishes and tablecloths to complement them. The powder room has a new freestanding towel rack.

The most visible project is the refresh of the front garden. I focused on this part of the project as the AOII house is a listed historical property. It is one of the featured houses on Heritage Toronto’s Madison Avenue walk on **October 3rd**. <http://heritagetoronto.org/event/madison-avenue/> The Royal Ontario Museum’s Annex walk also goes by our house: <http://www.rom.on.ca/en/activities-programs/walks-travel-bus-events/walks>.

Consultation with House Director, Courtney Holmes, confirmed that the weeds continue to be the biggest problem in maintaining the garden. Toronto has experienced two exceptionally cold winters, so we needed some new plants. The solution was to install “Stomp Stones” in the middle section of the front yard. They look like slate, but are recycled plastic tiles. New planting added to what was already there - Yews and Euonymus planted by a former Housing Corp., Hostas from Morleen Bousfield’s garden, and Daylilies and a Cedar tree from my garden. We added another Euonymus bush and Cedar shrubs to the Euonymus rows; and cherry red Rose bushes under the front windows. We put in some colour with cherry red Geraniums, variegated Nasturtiums in containers and garden beds. We also fertilized, mulched, and replaced the hose nozzle. My favourite part of the garden is the beautiful variety of foliage. Check it out next time you are at the house!



Many roses and thanks to all who contributed to the Fashion at Freda’s fundraiser, and especially to the gardeners: Liz Bang, Tracy Cooper, Kristina Hunt, Courtney Holmes (and Ryan), Arlene Roeder (and Dave), Neda Iranmanish, Michelle Angeletti, Shannon Smith and Andrea Ng.



.....Linda Nichols, Designated Shopper

***Trending International Convention 2015***

It was my privilege to represent TAAC at AOII’s Convention in L.A. this June. Over 1,000 AOII collegiate and alum gathered for 4 days to celebrate all things AOII: to learn, to grow, to bond.

In a very packed schedule, we held long business sessions electing new HQ boards and officers,

reviewed constitutional and bylaw amendments and participated in meaningful rituals.

Opening night started with a beautiful Candle Lighting Service in which I had the honour of participating. The dim room glowed with 130+ candles as all attendees sang and recited our pledge. The Opening and Closing rituals were meaningful as AOII's from young collegiate to senior sisters took part.



At the Panhellenic Luncheon, the National Panhellenic Conference Chair delivered a fabulous, inspiring speech about the Greek community as a whole, and its powerful support of women. Quoting from Sheryl Sandberg's Lean In:

'The more women help one another, the more we help ourselves. Acting like a coalition really does benefit all women.'

The speech was particularly interesting as it dovetails in so well with what TAAC is working towards in supporting young alum and seniors as they transition into their careers.

The AOII Foundation presented their fund-raising results for the past two years. The financial support this American based foundation has provided for sisters struggling with school costs and difficulties of a more personal nature is phenomenal. It really struck home to me how important it is for Canadian AOII's to support our Canadian sisters. They are starting up a Canadian Foundation that can issue Canadian charitable tax receipts. Our Canadian collegiate sisters could benefit greatly from this initiative. For more information please contact Jin Hu [aoii.jin@gmail.com](mailto:aoii.jin@gmail.com).

AOII International Convention 2015 in L.A. proved to be a great experience. It allowed me to get to know many of our local collegiate sisters and those who support them through the network, along with sisters from across Canada and the U.S.

.....Tracy Cooper, TAAC President

#### **TAAC Jewelry Book:**

We have a scrapbook for our deceased member honour badges and AOII jewelry given to the TAAC. Each item has a page with a picture, information about the sister it belonged to and how the TAAC assigned it, and a log for the sisters who wear it to sign. Pictured is the badge of Alice Grant, a charter member and the first treasurer of Beta Tau Chapter. The TAAC Treasurer, Kristina Hunt, now wears this badge during her term of office.



.....Linda Nichols, [toronto.alumnae@gmail.com](mailto:toronto.alumnae@gmail.com)

#### **A-O-Power of Movement:**

Power of Movement is a big, fun Yoga class for all levels of ability and experience. It is a fundraiser benefitting the Arthritis Research Foundation, which is one of the four Foundations of the University Health Network in Toronto. Events are held across the country in early March. Here is the website: [www.powerofmovement.ca](http://www.powerofmovement.ca). I will be organizing our AOII group "Jacqueminot Roses" again for 2016, please let me know if you'd like to participate.

.....Linda Nichols, [toronto.alumnae@gmail.com](mailto:toronto.alumnae@gmail.com)

### **Terry Fox Run - 2015**

This Sep. 20th we have our own AOII Alumnae team in the Terry Fox Run under our team captain, Kristina Hunt. Whether you want to take part in the run or sponsor our team, please follow this link:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/aoiialumnae>  
[I'm supporting the Terry Fox Run , I invite you to do the same!](#)



.....*Kristina Hunt, Terry Fox Run Coordinator*

### **The Working Panda**

We've interviewed a wide range of women from different industries since starting the blog - from the health and wellness industry to finance. Efforts to reach out to more alumnae and spreading the word about The Working Panda will be ramping up in the next few months. Should anyone like to contribute to The Working Panda either through an interview or as a guest writer please email us at [workingpandaaoi@gmail.com](mailto:workingpandaaoi@gmail.com).

.....*Liz Bang, Website Editor*

### **TAAP**

The Toronto Area Alumnae Panhellenic has a new Philanthropy Chair - our recent AOII Iota Chi graduate Shantana Thompson! I am excited to be working with her on the TAAP Council, as well as the other enthusiastic new and returning officers and delegates. All of our offices are filled and plans are underway for social and philanthropic events, as well as a revamped membership program that will make it easier for TAAP members to connect with others in their profession. We have a new email

[taap.contact@gmail.com](mailto:taap.contact@gmail.com), which will be used to ensure all members are getting notified of events. We are also setting up a distribution list for people who occasionally attend TAAP events. If you are unable to join at this time, but would like to receive our newsletters and Scholarship Luncheon invitation, please send your email address and ask to be put on the newsletter distribution list. Of course I do encourage you to join this interesting and friendly group of alumnae Panhellenic women. Annual Dues are \$20 and there is a first year free program for new grads.

Item Donation Day (IDD) will be held at Alpha Gamma Delta this year, and we will be supporting Jessie's Centre again. Alumnae and Collegians are welcome. IDD is one of my favorite TAAP events - a casual afternoon tea at a U of T sorority house, where we collect new and gently used clothing and household goods for the chosen charity.

Our summer social events were Shakespeare in the Park, a ROM Walk and TIFF in the Park. We look forward to going to the Design Exchange's Pan Am Games Exhibit on October 1, the Cavalcade of Lights on November 28, Christmas Party on December 10, Chinese New Year Dim Sum on February 7, TAAP Tuesday night out on March 22, and the Spring Scholarship Luncheon on April 30. Watch the TAAC Facebook group for details and invitations. I'll post info about TAAP Scholarships, our Philanthropy events and the U of T Panhellenic's fall event with TAAP when details are available.

.....*Linda Nichols (AOII's Delegate to TAAP)*

Keep connected with TAAC ....



TAAC - Alpha Omicron Pi - Toronto Area Alumnae Chapter - AOII

<http://www.aoiitaac.com>

**The Working Panda blog:**

<https://theworkingpanda.wordpress.com>



AOII\_TAAC

**Friday September 18, 2015**

Formal Recruitment Round 1 (12pm-10pm)

**Saturday September 19, 2015**

Formal Recruitment Round 2 (11am-9pm)

**Sunday September 20, 2015**

Formal Recruitment Preference (10am-2:30pm)

Check out our on our new website!

<http://utoronto.alphaomicronpi.org/index>

**Monday November 2, 2015**

AOII Apple Pie Day (Alumnae Hour 8pm start)

**Saturday November 21, 2015**

Initiation at 12pm followed by Afternoon Tea

Yours Truly,

The Beta Tau Sisters

### ***Lambda Epsilon Chapter (Waterloo)***

With the fall term approaching, the ladies of Lambda Epsilon are looking forward to this year's recruitment, which will be held from **September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Our theme this year is "Alphas in Wonderland" which will have a storybook feel by touching on some of our favorite tales, such as the *Lion King* and *Frozen*. It will be playful and fun but also highlight our values, and focus on the principle of 'L.E.S.S. is more' by explaining AOII's commitment to leadership, education, service, and sisterhood.

Our VPMR, Melanie Osmond, has been sending out recruitment reminder newsletters all summer long to prepare the chapter to succeed, and we're also having a recruitment and sisterhood retreat our first weekend back in Waterloo to strengthen our bonds after a summer apart and fine-tune our recruitment skills.

A **Founders' Day** is currently in the works for **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will be sure to post details. We would love to have alumnae experience this special day with us.

Our Winter 2015 term was filled with plenty of excitement, with an ELC visit from Haley Mruz in January, and sisters attending Leadership Academy in Nashville, Tennessee in February. In March, we initiated four new members to add to our Lambda Epsilon family,

## **Active Chapter News**

### ***Beta Tau Chapter (Toronto)***

As another school year ended, the Beta Tau Chapter had to say goodbye to three of their sisters. Congratulations to Hiraq Tariq, Taylor Khan, and Chantal Fung for graduating from the University of Toronto!

With summer came the AOII Convention in Los Angeles, and the Chapter President, Arianne Bilas and the Vice President of Chapter Development and Alumnae Relations, Rosalind Chang, were in attendance with the Chapter Advisor, Michelle Angeletti and the TAAC President, Tracy Cooper. The women learned so much about the bylaws, rituals, and what it truly means to be a sister of AOII and they're very excited to implement positive changes this school year.

Below is a photo from spring Pinning! Welcome to the new sisters of AOII Beta Tau.



Last year, the girls hosted two philanthropy events: Apple Pie Day, and AOPizza Night! Both events were hugely successful. All alumnae are welcome to attend the events coming up this year.

**Sunday, September 13th at 1pm**

Parent and Alumnae Tea.

### **Beta Tau Formal Recruitment Dates**

Check Kate Wuschke's Guide on the TAAC Facebook group.

and had several sisters graduate as well. To those of you who have transitioned into being alumnae, we will miss you and please remember that you can always call LE home.



In June, four members of Lambda Epsilon had the opportunity to attend AOII's Biennial International Convention "Trending" in Los Angeles, California at the J.W. Marriott LA Live. It was an honour to represent our chapter internationally by participating in the Candle Lighting

Ceremony and the elections of our new Executive and Foundation Boards. Congratulations to our new International President, Gayle Fitzpatrick!

We were excited to meet many members of the Executive Board throughout the weekend. We were especially honoured to meet International Vice President Susan Danko. She was the International President who installed Lambda Epsilon on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. Susan is pictured here with Teghan, Jasmine, and Fiona before the Rose Banquet.

**Alumnae participation in Lambda Epsilon's events is always welcome and appreciated!** If you would like to get involved with the chapter, either as an advisor, or simply by attending events or stopping by for a visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at president.le184@gmail.com and I'd be happy to connect with you to fill you in on any opportunities.

Alpha love,

**Teghan Dodds**

*Chapter President*

Lambda Epsilon, University of Waterloo

www.uwaoii.com

## *Iota Chi Chapter (London)*

The IX sisters hope everyone enjoyed the warm weather and longer days this summer. Our chapter sure did! Summer was off to a great start as some Iota Chi sisters living in Toronto have been connecting with the sisters of Beta Tau. IX would also like to extend a big thank you to Leslie Behnke Hall for hosting the Annual TAAC Garden Party.

As for the IX alumnae, some of our sisters have been getting involved with amazing careers! Kristin Kowal, our former Recruitment Officer, has been holding an internship with Inventa, where she worked with the exciting Pan Am Games. Paige Exell is working for Fashion Magazine, and Sarah Morrey, our former VP Administration, is holding an internship with Leo Burnett/IKEA. The Iota Chi sisters only wish the best for our alumnae with their future endeavours.

Fall recruitment at Iota Chi will be happening the weekend of September 18th-21st and bid day will follow on September 22nd. The chapter is really looking forward to welcoming new sisters in the upcoming fall; IX invites any alum interested in joining us for this highly anticipated weekend, and ask you to please either email myself at crlyhn@gmail.com or Melissa Korman, VP Recruitment, at melk\_94@hotmail.com.

IX has positions available for the AAC and would love for any alum to join! Please contact either our chapter advisor Caroline Goulding ([aoii.cgoulding@gmail.com](mailto:aoii.cgoulding@gmail.com)) or our chapter president Raquel Malchiondo ([raquel\\_n\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:raquel_n_m@hotmail.com)) for further details.

We also have a new website, thanks to our Communications Officer, Ariella Eydelman! <http://aoiiwesternu.wix.com/website>.

Roses,

Carly Han (IX alumnae relations)

