

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tracy Cooper - TAAC President

Greetings from **Toronto Area Alumnae Chapter!!**

Another year has rolled along. With the arrival of Fall, we look forward to upcoming sisterhood events just as our collegiate sisters have completed recruitment. What a fun filled year we've had since our last newsletter. It continues to impress me, the wonderful women I meet in our sorority. We bonded over outings for Winterlicious, the AGO, paint night and yoga for Arthritis.

Throughout the year we met at our members' homes as well as at the Chapter house here in Toronto. At our annual Garden Party, we welcomed four new alumnae as they transitioned from active status, while we enjoyed ice cream sundaes and lots of laughs.

Have a look at our calendar! Please come out and join us. We have lots of sisters from a variety of Chapters and all are welcome.

See you soon!



THE WORKING PANDA

Elizabeth Bang - Working Panda Editor

The Working Panda is a blog developed by the Toronto Area Alumnae Chapter that discusses topics such as setting career goals, transitioning out of school, and alumnae experiences.

Recent graduates have shared their experiences about finding jobs and pursuing further education. Others have also talked about the difficulties with transitioning careers. And others have shared stories of stumbling onto new careers or experiences they have never thought of before. The Working Panda aims to provide an online platform for AOII alumnae to share these experiences.

<https://theworkingpanda.wordpress.com/>



A PIECE OF HISTORY

Neda Iranmanesh - TAAC Historian

The Toronto Alumnae Chapter of AOII was originally chartered in 1935, but closed in the 1990's. Twenty years ago, on June 8, 1997, we re-chartered as the Toronto Area Alumnae Chapter.

As our TAAC Historian, I am currently digitizing old photographs and running our Instagram account "AOII_TAAC". Soon I will be creating our annual scrapbook, and I would very much appreciate it if anyone who has pictures of alumnae events could send me a digitized version via email at

atnedamiranmanesh@gmail.com

CONVENTION REPORT

Shannon Smith - TAAC Communications

945 AOII sisters from the United States and Canada gathered in the city of Stars and Stripes, Washington DC, to participate and celebrate AOII's biennium.



I was thrilled to have the privilege to represent TAAC at this year's convention and receive our Ruby award. It was an intense few days of business sessions, where we debated with passion and exchanged ideas. During our free time, we basked in the hot sun to watch the Cubs rally to beat Nationals at Nationals Park, and got up early to see our now official mascot, 'the Panda' – at the Smithsonian National Zoo. We listened to our sister Dr. Lori Hart give some fantastic advice about getting to the heart of the matter, and all with a great sense of humour.



The Convention ended on July 1st when all the Canadian AOIIs celebrated Canada's 150th by passing out Canadian flag pins to all our US sisters, who wore them with great pride at the Rose Banquet!

FOUNDERS' DAY

Arlene Roeder - TAAC Founders' Day Coordinator

For this year's Founders' Day we switched things up a bit, and as it turned out, with good success! We held a more casual event, at a new time slot and at a new venue.



On Sunday, January 8th, 2017 at 5pm, Beta Tau joined TAAC at Pizzeria Libretto. It was a great way to start the New Year, a fun event in our own private dining room. Tracy opened our evening program with a warm welcome, followed by a cool icebreaker exercise and then some interesting updates from the officers: it was good to get "up to date" on everyone. The menu began with appetizers, then artisan pizzas and finished off with specialty desserts. As usual, the Candle Ceremony at the end of the evening was quite beautiful. This ceremony always makes me glad to be a part of AOII. All, even our servers, enjoyed the event.



TAAP UPDATE

Linda Nichols - TAAP Philanthropy Chair

TAAP would like to invite AOII and all Panhellenic sisters to TAAP's annual Item Donation Day (IDD in sorority short form). This is TAAP's longstanding philanthropy event where we donate things, instead of time or money. IDD will take place on Saturday, January 20, 2018, from 1-3 at the AOII house at 24 Madison.

**Please RSVP to Linda Nichols at
taap.philanthropy@gmail.com
by January 13, 2018**

Early RSVPs are most appreciated

JESSIE'S CENTRE

We will be supporting the Swap Shop at Jessie's Centre. Please bring new or gently used clothing for young mothers; baby and toddler things, and small housewares. Past speakers have told us that clothes for boys, and clothes for mothers are often in short supply in the Swap Shop. We will be hearing about Jessie's programs and personal stories from participants. It is incredible to hear about the critical support Jessie's provides to vulnerable teenage mothers. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful organization in our city. More information about Jessie's and how you can donate if you can't attend IDD is on their website:

www.jessiescentre.org



LINDA

Linda Nichols - AOII's Delegate to TAAP

In October 2017, AOII's NPC Delegate, Carole Jones, will become Chairman of the National Panhellenic Council for the 2017-2019 Biennium.



Chairmanship rotates between the 26 member organizations, based on the date of entrance to the Conference. This is AOII's third time as Chairman since we joined NPC in 1905. Linda is delighted that her term as AOII's Delegate to TAAP, and as TAAP's Philanthropy Chair, coincides with this exciting time in our Panhellenic history.

Thank you for supporting the chapter in 2016. Please rejoin for 2017-2018.

(fiscal year runs with the Fraternity & school year)

**Tracy Cooper - Dana Friedrichsen - Jennifer Grassby
Heidi Harris - Kristina Hunt - Deborah James
Linda Nichols - Melanie Osmond - Juliana Prah
Sindi Sharma - Tatiana Siuchak - Shannon Smith
Vicenta Tavares - Reema Gowani - Arlene Roeder
Marilyn Mirabelli - McKenna Wild - Jingchan Hu
Neda Iranmanesh - Stefanie Menezes**

POWER OF MOVEMENT

Annual Philanthropy Activity

“This year, our Jacquemont Roses team raised \$1,115 for local arthritis research – a record amount for us, and the third highest team total in the city.

Marilyn Mirabelli was our top fundraiser, and winner of the top Power of Movement draw prize – a \$750 Via Rail Voucher!

Congratulations Marilyn – it was so much fun surprising you with the voucher at Sisterhood Soiree!”

Linda Nichol

AOII

GAMMA CHI REUNION

Kristina Hunt - TAAC Treasurer

On a snowy blowy November 21, 1992, Gamma Chi Colony finally became a chapter of AOII when Barbara Dausg Hunt initiated the 45 women at a ceremony held in Centre Block on Parliament Hill. That evening, sisters, friends & family celebrated this wonderful event with their first Rose Ball at the Chateau Laurier. This is a very exciting year for Gamma Chi Chapter as it marks this 25th Anniversary with a Rose Ball on Saturday, November 18!!

The official invite will be sent out in September/October.

If you have any questions about the event please contact Taylor Battah, Special Events for the chapter on Facebook or at

aoiigamachi.specialevents@gmail.com

or Kira Berger, AP for Ottawa at

ottawaaoiialum@gmail.com

Founders' Day 2018

Sunday, January 7
5:00pm-7:30pm

Pizzeria Libretto

550 Danforth Ave, Toronto



UPCOMING EVENTS

2017-2018 calendar

2017	
Saturday, Sept 9	Strike Out Arthritis with the Blue Jays at the Rogers Center
Sunday, Oct 15	BT Brunch & TAAC Meeting at 24 Madison Ave
Monday, Dec 4	Conference Call Meeting (Founders' Day planning)
2018	
Sunday, Jan 7	Founders' Day
Saturday, Jan 20	TAAP Item Donation Day, 1-3 pm @24 Madison Ave, benefits Jessie's Centre
Monday, March 5	AGM/Sisterhood Soiree
Tuesday, April. 10	TAAC Meeting at Tracy's house
Monday, June 11	Planning Meeting
Stay Tuned	
November 2017	BT Initiation
November 2017	"Turn Out" with AOII
December 2017	High Tea
February 2018	Winterlicious Event
March 2018	AO-Power of Movement
May 2018	Girls Night Out at the Madison Avenue Pub
June 2018	Graduation Celebration
September, 2018	Strike Out Arthritis with the Blue Jays at the Rogers Center
September, 2018	Terry Fox Run: Kristina Hunt team contact visit www.terryfoxrun.org to join.

GARDEN PARTY

Marina Georgieva - TAAC Event Planner

Back in June the sisters of TAAC came together to welcome four wonderful ladies into Alumnae status.



The sun was shining, the birds were singing! We had ice cream, candy, and some healthy treats too. We laughed and shared stories; we chatted with beloved sisters, and created new friendships. We were able to enjoy all of this thanks to Linda Nichols' hospitality, welcoming us into her lovely home yet again this year. **We look forward to meeting the new Alumnae in June 2018!**

STAY TUNED

TAAC members get email notification of our events. Also find us on Social Media:



@aoii_taac



aoiitaac.com



www.facebook.com/groups/2374896584/



EDITOR'S PICK

Ginger Banks - Pi Kappa - University of Texas, Austin - Past International President

Monday at the office

I've often said my AOII involvement as an alumna has benefitted me greatly both personally and professionally. That fact was graphically underscored during a particular day at my office.

I had spent a weekend in Nashville participating in a strategic planning session with AOII's Fraternity Management Committee. At work the following Monday morning during meetings with two department directors I supervised, I used several techniques and strategies I had learned during the weekend.

Just after lunch on that same day, another department director asked for suggestions for an upcoming strategic planning retreat. I described a process we had learned in Nashville two days earlier.

My experiences that day were examples of how I continuously used the many skills and competencies I developed through various AOII alumnae positions to help me in my career. Conversely, I shared with AOII what I had learned through my profession.

Perhaps more importantly, the values AOII espouses through our Ritual always have provided me a roadmap for making choices, developing and maintaining relationships, and guiding me professionally and personally.

Continued participation in AOII is mutually beneficial – to the Fraternity and each member. I hope my contributions during the Fraternity's strategic planning weekend were helpful to AOII. I know my experiences at the office the following Monday demonstrated, once again, that my AOII involvement always will be enormously beneficial to me.

Mondays at the office can be pretty challenging. That particular Monday was pretty great.



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - Tracy Cooper

Vice President - Michelle Angeletti

Treasurer & Terry Fox Run Coordinator - Kristina Hunt

Toronto Area Alumnae Panhellenic Representative - Linda Nichols

Newsletter Editor - Marina Georgieva

Communications - Shannon Smith

Recording Secretary - Arlene Roeder

Historian & Associate Communications - Neda Iranmanesh

Collegiate Relations - Karen Cook

Webmaster and Blogger - Liz Bang

New Member Chair & To Dragma Reporter - Marilyn Mirabelli

Associate New Member - Reema Gowani

AOTT

Inspire Ambition



SOUNDBITES

Marilyn Mirabelli - New Member Recruitment



DANA FRIEDRICHSEN Legacy – IX – University of Western – Graduation year 2016 – BA: Sociology– Continuing education in Early Childhood Education – IX advisor

NEDA IRANMANESH BT – University of Toronto – Graduation year 2015 – BA: Statistics, Economics & Business – Applying for Market Research - Fluent in four languages – studied in Hong Kong for a year

REEMA GOWANI BT – University of Toronto – Graduation year 2016 – Financial Services Representative at CIBC – Rotaract Club of Toronto, Secretary – BT advisor – TAAC Associate New Member Chair

SINDI SHARMA Legacy – BK – University of British Columbia – Graduation year 2016 – Commercial Banking Associate at RBC – Chairman at Gamma Sigma Alpha National Greek Academic Honor Society & Beta Financial Markets

“Being a part of AOII has enriched my life as a whole,” says Dana. She is grateful to have made the decision to join. “It’s such a wonderful organization that has given me some of my nearest and dearest friends,” says Dana.

In her spare time, Dana likes, “to spend a lazy weekend listening to good music while making an Instagram-worthy breakfast.” Also, weekends are time for tying up loose ends in her life. “I like to spend time getting things done that I don’t have time for during the week.”

Neda came from Switzerland to attend U of T. “I was lucky to find an incredible group of driven and friendly women, who welcomed me into their lives and sisterhood. I will never be grateful enough for the impact these women have had on me. They helped me grow into the person I am today and showed me that there is, in fact, a home away from home,” shares Neda.

As a travel aficionado, Neda has visited 40 countries and counting. Her goal is 50 countries visited before turning 30.

Her weekends are for friends. “Being the foodie that I am, I usually meet up with AOII actives and alumnae for brunch or for dinner. Other than that, I am a huge cinephile and an avid baker,” she says.

Reema has always been enthusiastic about being part of the AOII Sisterhood and loves the idea of having a connection almost everywhere she goes in the world, “You’re bound to know someone from either AOII or the Greek community!” She values the social connection and the mutual understandings that come with being an AOII sister. She is very excited to continue her membership with AOII in this next chapter of her life as alum and looks forward to meeting more local and international AOIIs.

For Reema, nothing complements a lazy weekend like reading a good book and drinking Earl Grey tea! Perhaps hanging around on Pinterest as well :)

Sindi’s older sister is also an AOII, “so as a legacy member, the AOII sisterhood carried a bigger meaning for me,” says Sindi. “I gained lifelong friends and I learned valuable skills that I couldn’t have gotten otherwise such as leadership abilities through the VP Finance position I held at my chapter. I do think joining a sorority is what you make out of it, if one puts in the effort, they can be sure to get more than what they asked for!”

When she’s not tending RBC’s affairs, Sindi enjoys cooking, working out, fashion modeling, trying out new things like aerial arts or pole dancing, or going exploring around Toronto. “It very much depends on my mood!”



PHILANTHROPIES

Kristina Hunt - Terry Fox Run Coordinator



September 17, 2017

Twins Jayme and Lily celebrated their 8th Birthday with their 8th run! Our long term race friend Heather was there too. Our team has been at UCC since 1997 - I even did it when I was 38 weeks pregnant with Abigail in 2007!! So far this year we've raised: \$1130 online, had \$385 given at the Run site and there is more to come!

Please contact Kristina Hunt for more information about the event next year. Join the team, support the cause.

kristinahunt@rogers.com



A WIN for AOIT Strike Out Arthritis and the Jays! A hand full of AOITs, friends & family were watching on Saturday, September 9th when the Blue Jays beat the Detroit Tigers 5-4!

It was a beautiful warm afternoon game, so we were glad to have our caps & sunglasses.

Roses to our sisters from Waterloo who came all the way to see the game. Make sure you watch for this annual event - wear your letters & your team gear.

MORE YOGA

Power of Movement 2018



Our beloved Linda Nichols will be organizing our team again for 2018.

Please join us for a fun yoga fundraiser, suitable for all abilities and experience levels. It is usually held on a Sunday morning in early March, at the Ryerson gym.

We expect the 2018 information to be on their website later this fall:

www.powerofmovement.ca



Registration Form 2017-2018

Name: _____ Chapter of Initiation: _____

Address: *(Please include postal code)* Year of Initiation: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please select your choice of the membership option:

- Alumna Membership \$63
- First Year on Us Membership \$25
(for recent graduates)
- Life Loyal Membership \$45
(for sisters who paid Life Loyal dues to HQ)

Please select your choice(s) of optional donation(s):

- Rose Donation *(collegiate chapter support)* \$10
- Gold Donation *(Canadian Arthritis Research Foundation)* \$10
- Pearl Donation *(Canadian AOII Foundation)* \$10

TOTAL ENCLOSED(dues+donation) \$ _____

TAAC now accepts e-transfers at kristinahunt@rogers.com

please use **alpha as the password**

Please make cheques payable to:

TORONTO AREA ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Mail this form and your cheque to:

TAAC c/o Kristina Hunt

41 Fairleigh Cres. Toronto, ON M6C 3S1

