

# AO NOW

Foundation Edition,

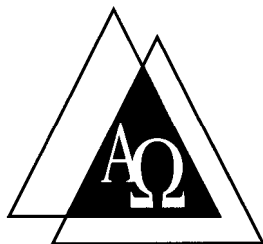
March 2010



**ALPHA OMEGA**

Special points of interest:

- Crisis in Haiti
- Students Deliver
- San Diego Bound
- Foundation Officers
- Sam Blum
- Jon Miller
- Charlene Berkman
- Trudi Birger Award
- So. Cal. Project
- Hami Tal, TAUSDM
- Adam Stabholz, HU
- Florida Meeting
- Foundation Gala



## ALPHA OMEGA RESPONDS TO DESTRUCTION IN HAITI

The Alpha Omega Foundation, responding to a call for help following the aftermath of the horrible earthquake in Haiti, has established a "Haiti Emergency Relief



Fund". The fund has been seeded with an immediate emergency grant of \$5000.00 which has since been augmented by generous contributions from members and member chapters. Several members who have responded have offered suggestions on how best to transfer the funds. There are of course dozens of legitimate organizations who have been at the forefront of giving, both in services and in money. All are

moved, especially by the speedy response of the Israeli disaster teams. A decision has recently been made to present an emergency grant to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), through its recently established Oral Health of Haiti (OHOH). The agency was introduced to Alpha Omega by AO honorary member, Dr. Lois Cohen. Lois is a consultant ambassador for Global Health Research at the National Institute of Health (NIH), who has been in contact with International President Charlene Berkman. The accompanying photo records the presentation of a check to Dr. Saskia Estupinen, regional advisor to PAHO. We have been assured that the funds will be used solely for oral health relief and that such use will be closely monitored and progress reported. It is obvious that there are many organizations...local, national, and international that are worthy "clearing



Ben & Ralph with PAHO officials

houses" for Haitian relief. The US Foundation is hopeful that our AO members and friends will continue to help this special fund to grow. Most important is that we respond...in any fashion, to this crisis. Unfortunately, aid will be needed for a long period ahead.

A donation may be made via the mail or a phone call to the Alpha Omega Foundation, US or through the Foundation or Trust of one's own country. The contact number for the US Foundation is: 1-877-368-6326. Credit card payment as well as checks are welcomed.

## STUDENTS GET THE MESSAGE...DELIVER THE GOODS

Coming back from our winter break, we were preparing for another fun filled academic semester here at Columbia's College of Dental Medicine. However, on Jan 12<sup>th</sup> a tragedy befell the nation of Haiti. As we watched the news and saw the images of massive destruction and chaos, we wondered how we could help the situation. Almost immediately, money boxes and requests for donations were passed around the school and our classes. However, we wanted to do something a little different. We endeavored to create a fundraising event that would not only raise

money for the Haitian relief fund, but would also provide a means for a diverse group of professional students to come together for a common cause. The "Haiti Relief FUNdrasier," was set for February 12<sup>th</sup>, exactly one month after the earthquake. We began pre-selling tickets two weeks in advance, in hope to gain a little buzz about the event. That is exactly what happened.

Within a couple days before the FUNdraiser, things were coming together. Our on-campus event got the okay from the school, and we were able to get a liquor li-

cense from the state of New York. Friday came and students from various schools such as medicine, physical therapy, nursing, public health, and obviously dental, came down to our rented space prepared for a fun night of games, music, and socializing. The music was turned up at 9 pm as people started to arrive. The event ran very smoothly and even though we only had the space until midnight, people wanted to stay even longer. Even after the music was turned off and drinks were done being served, they persisted and enjoyed each other's company. It was a heartwarming

## STUDENTS GET THE MESSAGE – Continued

display of community that was precisely what we were hoping for.

We are pleased to announce that our profits

exceeded \$400. This money has been sent to the AO foundation to be combined with the larger fund.

Eddie Shamieh  
Eta Chapter Philanthropy Chair  
Bobby Geiman  
Eta Chapter President

## ALPHA OMEGA DOCKS IN MIAMI...HEADS FOR SAN DIEGO SHIPBOARD EVENTS REVIEWED. AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

Following a Bon Voyage Gala, Alpha Omega members and their families embarked on the first ever Cruise Convention. In spite of certain constraints in regard to shipboard venues and schedules, Alpha Omega enjoyed the successes of events traditionally sponsored to benefit the Foundation.

Thanks to the efforts of Andy Lasky and his committee, the Foundation Club and Chai Club recorded the largest numbers of Club registrants in its convention history. The drawing for prizes was impacted by the difficulty in bringing items aboard prior to sailing, and many of the lucky winners await their prizes "after the fact". The live auction was, as always, professionally han-

dled by auctioneers Sidney Tourial and Steve Kahan. The proceeds compared favorably with those of prior years, and the bidding was lively as the entire Fraternity was treated to a reception lasting through the auction activities. Adding to the success was the presence of the shipboard art dealer who exhibited his art, agreeing to give a percentage of proceeds to the Foundation.

## FOUNDATION LOOKS TO FULL PLATE IN SAN DIEGO LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION PLANNED

San Diego beckons as the Foundation is busily planning for bigger and better functions. There is a world of special venues that awaits Alpha Omega, ripe for planning a special Foundation function. Richard Brody has been appointed as liaison for the annual gala and promises a "once-in-a-lifetime" affair. Chairman Ralph Rothstein, Lionell Greenberg, and Marshal Bob Simon are lending their knowledge and support. An announcement of plans

should be forthcoming within the month. Steven Spitz is the newly appointed chairman of the Foundation Club and with the help of past chairman, Andy Lasky, this year promises to surpass last year's record number of members.

Holding the convention in an 'onsite' hotel will allow for a silent as well as a live auction. All Alpha Omega Members are urged to present items for each type of auction.

Steve Kahan will head up the committee to secure attractive items for auction.



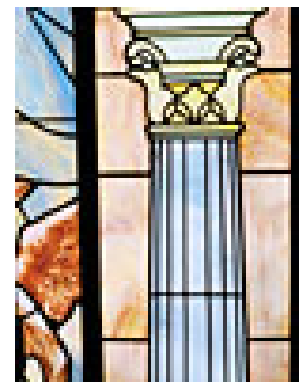
## EXCITING PLANS IN PLACE FOR FOUNDATION EVENING GALA

The foundation's annual fundraising gala will take us by bus from Mission Bay, through Balboa Park and to a magnificent venue...



The turn-of-the-century (1900) magnificent ABBEY HOUSE...."THE ABBEY" . Dinner in the midst of beautiful stained glass windows and artist-turned woodwork will follow a champagne greeting replete with music and dancing. Guests will return to dessert hospi-

tality at the Mission Bay Hyatt. See the last page for more definitive details!



## FOUNDATION OFFICERS INSTALLED SAM BLUM HEADS US FOUNDATION BOARD

Several new officers have taken their places on the US Foundation Board beginning in 2010. Sam Blum, a longtime Board member who has held several offices on the Board succeeds Sidney Tourial who was completing his second series of terms as Foundation Chairperson.

One of Sam's first acts was to appoint three Foundation Trustees: Bernard Kahn; Clifford Litvak; Howard Pranikoff. Trustees are selected at the discretion of the Foundation Chair for a one year renewable term. Other officers taking their places are:

Marc Rothman, Vice-Chair; Steve Kahan, Treasurer; Allen Ressler, Secretary; Sidney Tourial, Immediate Past Chair; Dan Uditsky, Fraternity Board Representative; Jon Miller, Student Foundation Representative. Also elected are the following

Members-at-Large: Andrew Lasky; Laurie Gordon-Shaw; Jordan Goldberg; Gail Schupak; Robert Simon; Steve Spitz. The Canadian Foundation President is Ted Schipper; London Trust Chair, Andrew Eder. The new Israeli Foundation Chair is David Ash.



Sam Blum has served the Fraternity and the Foundation in a number of capacities since his

graduation from the University of Maryland, where he received his BS as well as his DDS degrees. He has served Alpha Omega in a number of capacities and has been awarded a *Certificate of Merit* as well as its coveted *Meritorious Service Award*. The past several years he has served the Fraternity as its *Parliamentarian*. He has held a number of positions on the Foundation Board...*Member-at-Large, Secre-*

*tary, and Vice Chairman*. He has served his Fraternity, his community, and his profession in numerous positions...*President of Washington Alumni Chapter, the Maimonides Dental Society, Southern Maryland Dental Society, Washington DC Society of Dentistry for Children, and the Metropolitan DC Section of the American College of Dentists*. He is a 'fellow' of the *American College of Dentists, The International College of Dentists, The*

*Pierre Fouchard Academy, and the Academy of General Dentistry*. Sam has served in the US Army Dental Corps and has practiced Dentistry in Rockville, MD since 1962. Sam is married to Phyllis, who, herself, has served the Foundation for many years and has indeed been recognized with a special citation for her dedication and involvement. Many honors have come his way, none of which he pursued.

### MESSAGE FROM SAM

"In beginning this term of office as Chairperson of the Alpha Omega US Foundation, I thank the members of the Foundation for having elected me to this position. We have started this year on a sad and somber note as we respond to the tragedy that has

occurred in Haiti. The Foundation has joined the members and member chapters of the entire Fraternity in contributing significant support for the victims in that stricken country. On behalf of the Foundation, I thank all who are contributing funds, and...in some instances...services.

In a time of economic downturn in the global economy, the U.S. Foundation, like other not-for-profit organizations, has been affected. I therefore urge our members to continue to respond to campaigns, projects, programs, and functions that

help us to carry out our mission to promote oral health, education, research, and care... throughout the world. Please add support to such programs as our Tribute Cards, Foundation & Chai Clubs, the Annual Auction, and especially the Foundation Gala in San Diego."

## JON MILLER NEW STUDENT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE Students Expand Tee Shirts Sales



Jon Miller has assumed the position of Foundation Representative succeeding Whitney Mostafiz. The student programs in past years have been most successful and Jon promises to continue on the same course. Jon is a dental student at University of Michigan and is the son of Steve and

Joyce Miller. Steve is a long time member of the Detroit Alumni Chapter and a strong supporter of Alpha Omega, as is his spouse, Joyce.

The AO student "Chai" tee-shirt project was off to a great start preceding and during the Cruise Convention. A fresh supply of the shirts have arrived and will be sold during the year and especially promoted during the San Diego

Convention.

ORDER NOW...WEAR YOUR SHIRT AT MEETINGS, FUNCTIONS, AND PROGRAMS!

The cost of each shirt is \$18.00 and an order may be placed through the Foundation office (check, cash, or credit card) or by contacting Foundation Student Representative, Jon Miller, whose

e-mail address is: miller.jcm@gmail.com.



## MESSAGE FROM AO PRESIDENT CHARLENE BERKMAN



"We are all very proud that Alpha Omega bases its mission on the three sides of our triangle...

Professionalism, Fraternalism, and its base... Judaic Values. Many organiza-

tions may offer one of these but Alpha Omega is unique in its inclusion of all sides. We are proud of our accomplishments that have included founding of two dental schools in Israel, support for projects and programs in education, research and care throughout the world,

and our present focus on Global Oral Health Initiative (GOHI).

Central to the principles of Judaism are "tzedakah" (good deeds) and "tikun olam" (repairing the world). With that in mind, more than 40 years ago, the Fraternity's philanthropic arm, The

Alpha Omega Foundation was created. All Alpha Omegans are justifiably proud of the efforts of the various Foundations and Trusts, and of its members for their steadfast efforts in support of health related projects and programs around the world."

## TRUDI BIRGER AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE TO IRV SILVERSTEIN

Frater Irving Silverstein, an International Alumni member residing in Southern California, has been awarded the coveted Trudi Birger Award for Community Service. Trudi Birger, of blessed memory, founded the Jerusalem Dental Center for Children where she fulfilled a lifelong pledge that "no child shall go untreated". The dental care was (and still is) done by volunteers, and all children, regardless of nationality, religion, or ethnicity are afforded dental care, pro bono.

Irv Silverstein, a 1978 graduate of Northwestern University continued his post graduate

studies in Periodontology at the University of Southern California and received a MAEHDP from that institution. He is presently on the teaching staff at the University of California, San Diego (USCSD). During the recent Fraternity Administrative Board meeting in San Diego, the members were introduced to Frater Silverstein's unique GOHI program at USCSD. The program provides free oral healthcare to needy residents in the area. The undergraduate students are trained as dental assistants; they work in the clinics and have served on missions to Southeast Asia and

other places where help is needed. Irv is presently working with the Navy to provide much needed aid to victims of the Haiti disaster. Close to 300 students have gone on to graduate from dental school, motivated by his program.

For the past five years, he has assisted the US Navy in their humanitarian efforts by arranging for pre-dental students as well as other dentists and professionals on board Navy ships including the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship, the USNS Comfort Hospital Ship, the USS Pelelieu, Richard Byrd, and the

USNS Amelia Earhart. Their missions help to build bonds between the US and some of the world's poorest countries...Haiti, East Timor, Bangladesh, and others.



Dr. Silverstein has received numerous awards for his outstanding leadership and efforts including the "ADA Access to Dental Care" award.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FUNDS PEDIATRIC PROJECT IN ISRAEL

The Southern California AO chapters recently sponsored their annual **PHILANTHROPY SEMINAR** toward a commitment as a vehicle for Peace and Democracy in the Middle East through Public Education. The program was chaired by Regent Amir Motamed and featured Dr. Hessam Nowzari, Director of Advanced Periodontics at the University of Southern California. The subject of his presentation was

*"The Impact of Early-in-Life Oral Infection on the Smiles of Children: From Israel to China"*. The aim of his presentation was to raise the level of awareness so that those who have the power and knowledge can appropriately address the suffering of the younger members of societies.

Ten thousand dollars of the proceeds were earmarked for the D. Walter Cohen Dental Center for Mid-east studies at



Hessam Nowzari with seminar leaders

the Hadassah School of Dental Medicine at Hebrew University. Past Regent, Gene Manusov presented Dean Adam Stabholz

the funds at the recent Cruise Convention in December. Dr. Nawzari has been in constant communication with Dean Stabholz, designing the implementation of the program to be coordinated with the periodontic and pedodontic departments at the School. He further insisted that his normal honorarium be donated to this worthy cause.

AN URGENT CALL HAS GONE OUT TO ALL ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTERS ASKING THAT THEY FULFILL THE COMMITMENT MADE TO THE HADASSAH SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN 2007! IT IS THE FERVENT WISH THAT THE EVERY CHAPTER HAVE THEIR NAME INSCRIBED ON THE WALL OF THE BEAUTIFUL ALPHA OMEGA CONFERENCE ROOM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO BE DEDICATED THIS YEAR. PLEASE CALL THE FOUNDATION OFFICE FOR YOUR RECORD OF PLEDGES AND PAYMENTS.

## Report from Haim Tal Head Goldschleger of Dental Medicine TAUSDM Future Is Now Campaign Moves Forward

“Making waves in the Caribbean will long be remembered as a unique adventure. I have attended 14 annual meetings during my 25 years of service at TAUSDM, and this meeting with my family and Alpha Omega families was a suitable farewell for me in my last year as Head of the School.



are now finalizing our proposition to the Ministry of Health, describing our vision for the FUTURE...which is NOW.

Crucial decisions regarding The Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine, founded by Alpha Omega are being concluded by Israel’s highest authorities. We

Without prematurely going into great details presently being crystallized, we envision the following: 1) A 6-yr. Under-grad program with 36-47 stu-

dents per class.2) A Post-grad School, leading to specialty certificates in all 9 clinical specialties. 3)A Research Institute, dedicated to cutting-edge basic and applied research. It would be housed in the Alpha Omega Research Laboratories, after being refurbished, re-equipped, and up-graded. 4) Recruitment of new Faculty members to replace those who will retire in the next decade.

who will graduate in 2015. Finally, the 35-year old equipment (chairs, units, roentgen facilities, and phantom lab units) will be replaced, allowing us to enter this zestful century that has already begun.”



Three months ago 38 students were admitted to the first year,

### TAUSDM HONORS MINISTER OF EDUCATION

During a gala dinner hosted by the Israeli Dental Association (IDA), Gideon Sa’ar, Israeli Minister of Education was honored in view of his efforts to reopen TAUSDM. In his acceptance he emphasized the importance of oral health and education., pointing the role played by the Dental School. Pictured is the award presentation to Minister Sa’ar by the Head of the School, Haim Tal, and officials of the IDA.



### VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH PRESENTS CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTHCARE

Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, Israeli Vice-Minister of Health hosted a seminar in presence of a gathering of orthodox principals involved in health education from Kibbutz Nir Etzion (B’nai B’rak area). A keynote speaker was Prof. Benny Peretz, Head of the department of Pediatric Dentistry at TAUSDM. He spoke about mastering oral care during pregnancy. Rabbi Litzman presented a plan for treatment of children under the Israel’s National Health Service with both dental schools in Israel playing pivotal roles.

### Tel Aviv AO Chapter Hosts Gown Ceremony

The Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine Founded by the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity, and The Tel Aviv Chapter of Alpha Omega jointly held the annual AO Gown Ceremony to the 4<sup>th</sup> year students. AO Tel Aviv has turned this annual event into a tradition, and the AO Gown symbolizes the students entrance to the clinical years. This time we were honored by Mr. Meir Shitrit, presently a member of the parliament and former minister of Health, Internal affairs and Education.

Mr. Shitrit lectured about the recently approved Biometric Law, in Israel.



Newly Gowned Students

The TAUSDM Dental Advisory Board(DAB) will meet during the TAU Board of Governors’ meeting in May. Members of the DAB are: Ralph Rothstein, Ben Williamowsky, Harold Preiskel, Mervyn Druian, Gerald Niznick, Stan Bergman, Steve Kess, Andre Amiach, Howard Pranikoff, Norman Mohl, Avi Chesner, Elisha Ben-Zur

**Message to Chapter Presidents from Dean Adam Stabholz**

“Honoring the Past-Planning the Future” is a project that was launched by the Hadassah School of Dental Medicine at Hebrew University to establish a unique Conference Room at the dental school in Jerusalem, honoring all Alpha Omega Chapters. This beautiful conference room is situated on the recently built top floor next to the impressive Alpha Omega Museum. The view of the Judean Hills from this room is breathtaking. We are proud to have this conference room bear the names of the Alpha Omega Chapters, world-wide, engraved on a special recognition plaque. The



room provides a tranquil, comfortable, and beautifully designed setting for thorough discussions that will further dental science and cooperation with other colleagues and institutions. It was inaugurated in December, 2008 during the Alpha Omega Centennial Convention. It is our deep desire to honor all AO chapters that are a part

of this endeavor, and to properly recognize them. We very much thank the chapters that have already pledged to establish this room, and we wish to assure their proper listing on our recognition plaque, permanently linking them with the Conference Room. Please feel free to contact me at the Dental School for any questions you or your chapter members may have. Contributions should be addressed to: The Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine: Dean’s Office: POB 12272; 91120, Jerusalem, Israel. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for

your continuing support and commitment to dental education and research in Israel.”  
 Professor Adam Stabholz, Dean  
*We thank the following Alpha Omega Chapters for their generosity:*  
 Atlanta; Boston; Chicago; Detroit; Jerusalem; Lyon; London; Los Angeles; Marseille; Montreal; New York; Philadelphia; San Fernando Valley; Seattle; Strasbourg; Toronto; Vancouver; Washington, DC; Zurich.

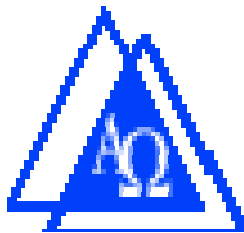
**US Foundation meets in Fort Lauderdale**

The US Foundation will hold its mid-year meeting at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Foundation meeting will follow the Fraternity Board meetings of July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Following in the spirit of the



symbiotic relationship between the Boards, Foundation Board members are invited to attend the Friday meeting of the Fraternity Board. The Foundation will in turn open its meeting to any Alpha Omega member regardless of their Board status. More

information will be forthcoming.



Alpha Omega Foundation  
 50 W. Edmonston Drive #404  
 Rockville, MD 20852

**ALPHA OMEGA FOUNDATION**

Phone: 301-738-6400  
 1-877-368-6326  
 Fax: 301-738-6403  
 e-mail: [Foundation@ao.org](mailto:Foundation@ao.org)  
 Website: [www.ao.org/foundation](http://www.ao.org/foundation)

The annual Foundation Directory and Call list has been published and mailed to Foundation Board members as well as to the “Foundation expanded list” which includes members serving on committees. The directory is available to anyone requesting it...through the Foundation Office. All committee chairs and members are listed.



**A HAPPY  
 PASSOVER  
 TO ALL**



# Foundation Gala San Diego December 2010

***DON'T MISS THE AO BUS!***

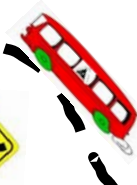
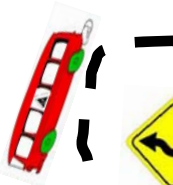
**TRAVEL WITH THE  
FOUNDATION TO THE HISTORIC ABBEY  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**



Start Here  
Hyatt



Balboa  
Park



The Abbey is here

**FEE FOR THIS GREAT EVENING: \$150.00 per person**

**HELP THE FOUNDATION CARRY OUT ITS MISSION.**

Please send your check or credit card information to **The Alpha Omega Foundation** :50 W. Edmonston Drive, Suite 404, Rockville, MD, Phone: 301-738-6400, Toll free: 1-877-368-6326, Fax: 301-738-6403. E-mail: [bawilly@verizon.net](mailto:bawilly@verizon.net).

***Reserve early...space is limited!***