

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

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) -- Maryland Gamma Chapter

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

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

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

Mission Statement: We, USU AOA, strive to honor the profession of medicine by pursuing the betterment of both ourselves and our larger community. We do this in order to provide the best possible care to members of the military and their families.

We accomplish this by:

- Recognizing high educational achievement
- Honoring talented teachers
- Encouraging leadership development
- Supporting the ideals of humanism
- Promoting 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.

Organizational Structure:

AOA National Requirements: 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.

Current USU Leadership:

USU Faculty Councilors/Advisors:

Councilor

Past-Councilor

COL Patrick G. O'Malley MD, MPH

Robert Goldstein MD

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Treasurer	Lt Col Matthew Eberly MD
Annual Banquet Advisor	William Haffner MD
Dist. Speaker/Vis. Prof Advisor	Mark Haigney, MD, FAHA
Postgraduate Programs Advisor	Jerri Curtis MD, Carl Gunderson MD
Research Advisor	Martin Ottolini MD
	Robert Goldstein MD
Specialty Night Advisor	Joseph Lopreiato MD, MPH
Awards Advisor	TBD

Student Leadership:

President	Ama Winland
Vice President	Lauren Heyda
Spring Election Officers - Student	Charles Mears Sarah Mongold Phillip Scheanon John Sommerfeldt
Spring Election Officers - Resident	Leonie Campbell Gregory Schmidt Michael Tshudy
AOA Specialty Night	Morgan Lundstrom Katey Osborne Sarah Wright
Awards/Research Committee	Cody Ashcroft Eli Raneses Lucy Yuan
Treasurer	Zachary Haynes
Visiting Professor	Chandler Bennett
Newsletter	Eleanor Derouin
AOA Banquet Officer/Banquet	Russell Newkirk Lydia Truong
Webmaster	Alexander Li

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Underclassmen Outreach
Officers

Vivek Abraham
Sydney Giblin
Marc Gutierrez
Shena Kravitz

Alumni Outreach Officer

Morgan Lundstrom

Volunteer Coordinator

David Lieb

Student Medical Education
Elective Course Director

Jacob Wyse

Community Members – USU AOA faculty and students, and active AOA members at all military medical centers. A current list populated from AOA National Database to track all current members and alumni.

	Maximum Number Elected Annually
Current USU MS3s	~27 (varies slightly on class size)
Residents	25
Faculty	9
Alumni	7

Current Election/Induction Process:

Voting scheme (More information can be found at: www.alphaomegaalpha.org):

Medical Students:

- Evaluated on 4 values: scholarship, service, professionalism, and leadership.
 - o Student eligibility for nomination will be determined based on the number of honors earned in both the pre-clerkship and clerkship curriculum. The top 25% of the class will be invited to apply in February of their MS3 year during Bench, Bedside and Beyond.
 - The use of HONORS grades will not result in a precise 25%; therefore, each new election will require choosing an appropriate cutoff. The cutoff that is *more inclusive* (though there may be elections wherein a large difference exists

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- between cutoffs such that the more exclusive cutoff is appropriate) will be used.
- In general, **4 or more grades of HONORS** will be an appropriate cutoff.
- o Request to OSA/Registrar for a list of eligible students (accomplished by transcript review) is sent in January.
 - Complete list from OSA will be provided no earlier than 6 weeks after last clerkship (mid- to end-February) in order to incorporate all clerkship grades.
- o Eligible students will be notified late February during BBB and will have until the middle of March to complete the application.
 - Student Application Requirements: permission to review grades, provide CV, personal statement, and agree to pay first year dues.
- o New members will be announced by the end of March.
- o This cohort of electees will serve as the leadership following graduation of the current MS4 class until their subsequent graduation.

Post-graduates:

- Alumni, residents, faculty are evaluated on 5 values: scholarship, service, professionalism, leadership, and teaching/mentoring.
 - o Resident and faculty nominees can be either MD or DO. All nominees 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 at least 1yr) or have a faculty appointment at the chapter's medical school. Alumni nominees must be 10 years or more past USU graduation.
 - o Nov/Dec: Communication requesting nominations for the Postgrads (alumni, residents, faculty) are sent out via the Postgraduate Programs Advisor (who contacts PDs, MedCen Chiefs), USU Alumni Association, and USU AOA database.
 - o Eligible post-graduates will be notified late February and will have until the middle of March to complete the application.
 - Post-graduate Application Requirements: CV, personal statement.
 - Alumni will be recommended by the President of the Alumni Association and the Councilor.
 - o New members will be announced by the end of March.

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The chapter has a responsibility to ensure 100% USU AOA student voter participation in annual elections and 100% contact of all eligible students (top quarter of each class) and resident/alumni/faculty nominees.

Timeline of Chapter 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.
- Send out final request for Postgraduate nominations

FEBRUARY:

- Finalize plans for Visiting Professor and Induction Banquet (send out advance notice and invitation to USU-ALL and USU-AOA).
- Student Elections Officers to get list of eligible students from registrar/OSA for AOA student nominees.
- Send out Spring Student Application invitations (>4 Honors total in pre-clerkship and clerkship)

MARCH:

- Pathway to Residency sessions, coordinated by AOA Underclassmen Outreach officers.
- Applications for new members due.
- Spring Elections held.
- New members announced towards the end of the month.

APRIL:

- Turnover from graduating AOA officers to newly elected members occurs.

MAY:

- Induction Banquet.
- Visiting Professor lecture at USU, usually on the same day as the induction banquet (speaks both at school and at the banquet).
 - Expectation that current AOA student members will attend, lecture will be open to all classes

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JUNE:

- Plan large goals and methods for coming academic year

JULY:

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

AUGUST:

- Underclass Outreach Officers to attend Student Interest Group Fair for MS1s and run a booth for AOA
- Recruit applicants for research award among MS-1s and 2s.

SEPTEMBER:

- Initial planning for AOA Specialty Night begins. Initial invitations to be sent out.

OCTOBER:

- Detailed planning for Spring Election and for GMESB Specialty Night.

NOVEMBER:

- Invite speaker and start to set up schedule for Visiting Professor.
- Start planning for AOA Banquet.
- Send out requests for Postgraduate nominations.

DECEMBER:

- Collect and upgrade applications for AOA Student Research Fellowship (ASRF)
- Send out reminder for Postgraduate nominations

2019-2020 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 at location in downtown

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Bethesda. 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.

- Schedule monthly meetings or communications for whole year and share calendar
- **Budget** – Funds at ~\$15,000; support from Dean for Specialty night in Fall; annual dues process ongoing and adequate, though low % participation; established external account. Account managed by Dr. Eberly (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.

Budget – Need for foundation and development; source of money comes from Dean and local dues (since 2014). Lifetime dues begun in 2017 for new members. Alumni also contacted in 2018 to request lifetime dues payments. 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 for the local chapter include specialty night, AOA induction banquet (self-funded), visiting professor, and regular meetings. Eventually, resources permitting, we intend to develop sufficient funding fro help serve community needs (e.g., free clinic, mentorship events, and other AOA initiatives). Funds will be solicited from members annually via email, excluding those that have already paid lifetime dues.

- **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

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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.

1. 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
- **Visiting Professor** – Will plan on having a second speaker in May prior to graduation. Will seek out other opportunities to partner with other groups at USU to bring in speakers.
 - **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, 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 ENS Sophia Schermerhorn 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.

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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.

List-Serves: In the process of creating whole group, student group, alumni/postgraduate group list-servs. Facebook page established for current and alumni members to facilitate outreach, networking, and utilization of resources.

Webmaster – In charge of maintaining current USU AOA website (<http://www.usuaoa.org/>) as well as working in conjunction with the treasurer to track dues payments. Currently working in conjunction with the Underclass Outreach officers to add a mentorship section to the current website, where members of the USU community will be able to access resources related to our new mentorship initiative.

- **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