

## ALPHA OMICRON PI

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

### Scholarship

- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> amongst sororities in the fall 2008 semester with a 3.400 GPA, which was above the All Sorority, All Women, and All Undergraduate averages. The chapter was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> amongst sororities in the spring 2009 semester with a 3.343 GPA, which was above the All Sorority, All Women and All Undergraduate averages.
- The chapter's new member class spring 2009 GPA was 3.16, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8 sororities.
- Alpha Omicron Pi had 40% of women on Dean's List in the fall 2008 semester and 35% of women on Dean's List in the spring 2009 semester.
- The chapter put an academic probation assistance plan this year for sisters struggling with academics. This was a recommendation from last year, which the chapter took seriously and established a program that they strongly believe in. The committee commends the chapter for their work in this area.
- The chapter held one academic workshop in the fall semester with the Center for Academic Success.
- The committee likes the 4 o'clock program. The chapter also does a myriad of other small recognition/reward methods to keep the sisters motivated, such as AOPi Refrigerator, the No Skippy Jar and Bulletin Board updates.
- The chapter hosted a quality faculty dinner with numerous faculty, staff, and International Headquarter leadership in attendance. The committee would like to commend the chapter for taking their faculty dinner beyond a traditional dinner by inviting so many different people and asking Mohamed El-Aasser to speak.
- The chapter communicated with parents of new members regarding academics. These letters consist of scholarship highlights and an invitation to the chapter's peek into AOPi brunch. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter continues to have a strong relationship with their faculty advisor Betty Fisher.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

### Leadership

- Alpha Omicron Pi's mid-year officer evaluation plan was very well thought out, comprehensive, and provided constructive feedback.
- The chapter did good work this year with their International Headquarters and local chapters in term of leadership programming.
- The chapter sent two members, Chrissy Panullo & Katie Tolerico, to Tennessee for the Alpha Omicron Pi Leadership Conference.
- In addition, the chapter sent 8 women to East Stroudsburg for AOPi Day, a regional leadership gathering.

- The committee was impressed to see the chapter had members who were in executive board roles of 20 different organizations, including the Panhellenic Council and Student Senate, and chapter members in over 50 different organizations. It is great to see so many women involved outside of the sorority.
- The chapter had a nice balance of organizational presence as well as chapter leadership.
- The chapter has a good relationship with the Office of Student Leadership Development and Jess Diehl through chapter participation in the GEM program and office intern Nicole Hunter. The committee would just like to remind the chapter that the Office of Student Leadership Development is a resource available for finding new avenues for growth.
- The committee views Alpha Omicron Pi to be a role model for other organizations for the way leadership is incorporated into their partnerships. The chapter's leadership plan is a departure from many of the chapters at Lehigh, and incorporates much more of a headquarters perspective. The committee recognizes the chapter's ability to use different resources effectively and would like to see them discuss this with chapters struggling to find a consistent plan for leadership.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

### **Citizenship**

- The chapter added new positions this year, such as Vice President of Standards and a Go Green committee.
- The chapter completely established and implemented a new standards plan to address issues within the chapter. The committee recommends the chapter continue to look for ways to use this in positive ways.
- The chapter should be highly commended for their community service efforts. The women continue to look for events that are in some way specific or meaningful to the sisterhood, such as Jessica's Race Against the Sun.
- The committee continues to be impressed with Alpha Omicron Pi's community service and philanthropy philosophy of partnering with events that are meaningful for the chapter. The women continue their partnership with Sigma Chi for their 50 Hour See-Saw Marathon and with Delta Tau Delta for the car wash. The chapter was also working with Chi Phi to organize care packages for the troops.
- The chapter took the recommendation from last year and began tracking community service hours from a chapter perspective, which pleased the committee. The women are also looking to track individual community service hours, which will only assist in planning and evaluating events.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

### **Partnership**

- The chapter joined the Environmental Coalition this year.
- As mentioned previously, the chapter partnered with local Alpha Omicron Pi chapters, especially East Stroudsburg and Wagner.
- The chapter celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was a great milestone for the chapter. The women invited Dr. Rita Jones, Director of the Women's Center, to speak

about women's empowerment. Many alumnae, including founding sisters, and International Headquarter representatives were present for the day's events.

- The chapter has worked extremely hard to broaden alumnae involvement and began to reach out to alumnae beyond those who are typically involved. The women partnered with a local alumnae chapter to raise money for Strike out Arthritis.
- Alpha Omicron Pi has a good chapter relations program. The committee commends the chapter for having a person specifically appointed to send in positive stories to their International magazine.
- The committee continues to enjoy 'bring a friend to lunch day', however the committee would like to see the chapter expand upon this idea and invite faculty and staff for a lunch.
- The chapter continued to do well in looking for partnerships with groups outside the Greek community. The women worked with the Black Student Union and other groups for Rock for Haiti.
- The chapter also still has a strong membership with the Global Union. The chapter participated in a dinner during International Week, a soccer tournament to support Soccer without Borders, and to host an educational session on the issue of breast ironing in Africa along with Gamma Phi Beta.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

#### **Stewardship**

- Facility damages and closing continue to be a non-issue for Alpha Omicron Pi.
- The chapter really spent some time focusing on ritual education for the members. The women began reaching out to alumnae for assistance in ritual proficiency and believe it has much improved.
- The chapter did a good job incorporating modules on hazing and alcohol awareness.
- The committee thinks the chapter has a solid crisis management plan.
- The chapter continued to host their annual Mr. Lehigh competition during Greek Week.

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

#### **Overall Rating**

**The committee assigns Alpha Omicron Pi an overall rating of Gold. The chapter has continued to innovate and look for new avenues to enhance chapter operations, which is not an easy feat for a chapter that has previously been ranked as a gold chapter. The organization has become a consistently excelling chapter and deserves recognition for that. The committee is especially pleased to see that Alpha Omicron Pi set up their accreditation packet in line with their Inter/national awards packet. This effort to be more streamlined and organized only improved the presentation and setup of the packet. The committee would like to see the chapter continue to discuss this decision with chapters not currently implementing their headquarters awards templates.**

**The committee has assigned Alpha Omicron Pi an overall rating of Gold Chapter, which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all**

**the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. The rewards/recognition will be discussed with the chapter's membership at the beginning of the new academic year. Congratulations!**

**Best Practices:**

- The chapter communicated with parents of new members regarding academics. These letters consist of scholarship highlights and an invitation to the chapter's peek into AOPi brunch. The committee considers this a best practice.

**Recommendations:**

- The committee views Alpha Omicron Pi to be a role model for other organizations for the way leadership is incorporated into their partnerships. The chapter's leadership plan is a departure from many of the chapters at Lehigh, and incorporates much more of a headquarters perspective. The committee recognizes the chapter's ability to use different resources effectively and would like to see them discuss this with chapters struggling to find a consistent plan for leadership.
- The chapter completely established and implemented a new standards plan to address issues within the chapter. The committee recommends the chapter continue to look for ways to use this in positive ways.
- The committee continues to enjoy 'bring a friend to lunch day', however the committee would like to see the chapter expand upon this idea and invite faculty and staff for a lunch.
- The committee recommends the chapter work with the Office of Student Leadership Development for awards such as Stellar Senior award.