

Mile-High AOTT

HOME OF THE DENVER ALUMNAE CHAPTER

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Letter from the President

Dear Sisters—

I am delighted to serve as your President of the Mile High AOII alumnae chapter.

Please join me in thanking Lisa Poché for her 8 years of service as President of our amazing chapter. Lisa has done an incredible job of fostering belonging, connection and FUN over the past 8 years. I'm thrilled she will serve as VP of Membership for our chapter to reach our membership goals in the coming years.

That sense of belonging is important to me. When I was 6, I marched into Mrs. Adams first grade class at Washington grade school in Bloomington, IL. With my parents' divorce, my Mom, Suan, moved us back to her hometown, and we lived down the block from my grandmother, Bee.

So, when I walked into class, I didn't know one person. I took the open seat next to Dana Tucci. I wore a yellow piece of yarn around my neck with a house key on it. I would be walking myself to and from school, a development I wasn't happy about. I remember looking around the classroom, and I noticed that I was the only kid with a house key around her neck. I felt like an outsider from the get-go.

When I went off to college at Miami of OH, I joined AOII in August of 1988 and I was initiated in January of 1989. I remember standing in a group with each member placing her finger on her badge. And I was struck by the sense that our badges were sort of like yellow yarn necklaces with house keys on them. We all belonged to AOII and to one another. I look forward to fostering that same sense of belonging that Lisa has inspired over the last 8 years.

Oh, and Dana Tucci who I sat next to in first grade? She also joined AOII when she went off to school at University of Arizona. Don't you love a good small world story?

Roses—

Rissa



2024 - 2026 Board Members

President - Rissa Reddan

Secretary - Julie Eck

Treasurer - Clara Tomsula

VP Programming - Emily Zajac

1st Panhellenic Delegate - Holly Vogel

2nd Panhellenic Delegate - Lauren Curley

VP Membership - Lisa Poche

Philanthropy Chair - Ginger Swift

Founders' Day Chair - Amelia Thomas

Public Relations / Archivist Chair - Micayla Bellamy Adams

Chapter Goals

- 🌸 Have 100 Dues-Paying members by our 100th anniversary in 2027
- 🌸 Fill a table at the 2025 Panhellenic Scholarship Luncheon
- 🌸 Raise \$1,000 at Strike Out Arthritis
- 🌸 Increase connectedness with Epsilon Gamma chapter through networking, mentorship, and coordinated philanthropy events.

*Make a submission for
our newsletters!*



Inspiring Ambition 2024

Alumnae Awards Won:

Collegiate Chapter Engagement
Communications
Community and Panhellenic Involvement



Epsilon Gamma at Univ. of Northern Colorado just completed formal recruitment!

They received an honorable mention for their fundraising efforts last school year.
Congratulations!

Are you keeping up with Headquarters' and collegiate chapters' news? Check out the digital release of August's issue!



[Digital To Drama](#)

The Year of The Badge

*By Allison Allgier, Epsilon Omega (Eastern Kentucky U),
Rituals, Traditions and Jewelry Committee Chair*

AOII's four Founders were very intentional with all decisions as they established their young organization based on the values that drove them to start a new women's fraternity. They first determined AOII's Motto as the most important ideal or guide for AOII members. They then established the name for AOII based on that Motto. Once named, it was decided that the badge would simply be the superimposed letters A, O, and II. The Motto ties to the name which ties to the badge and were all adopted in 1897. The Founders' dedication to the values of truth and simplicity have always been highlighted in AOII's badge. Stella wrote, "We did not want a design that showed some little object and resembled a breast pin or a broach or lace pin, and we did not want one that looked like a school pin or could be mistaken, if not scrutinized, for the badge of many other societies."

Stella continued, "Theodore B. Starr was the "Cartier" of that period, and the Starr designer of insignia was the foremost artist of his kind. We engaged Starr and his designer to arrange the proportions for our badge. We went to see them about it on our bicycles. Fancy girls going down Broadway and Fifth Avenue on bicycles!" AOII's first initiated member, Anne Richardson Hall, rode her bike to pick-up the first completed badges just in time for the new chapter's first social event.

The Founders were so committed to maintaining their original concept of the badge that they personally made decisions regarding jewelry until 1923 when the Committee on Jewelry was formed to make those decisions. Two years later, the Committee was combined with the Rituals and Traditions Committee. The resulting Rituals, Traditions, and Jewelry Committee (RT&J) today continues to recommend policy regarding official jewelry.

The first badge was plain yellow gold with a ruby in the apex of the "A." Later, the letters were sometimes etched, and other jewels were added – half pearls, crown pearls, rubies, and diamonds. Prior to 1965, members could design the jewel patterns for their badge. Over time, the option of creating individual badge designs became significantly more expensive thereby requiring a standardization of the official badges members could order.

It is easy to focus on the beauty and detail of many AOII badges while missing or forgetting about the important tie our badge has both to AOII's name and Motto. For this reason, the RT&J Committee would like to declare 2024-2025 the "Year of the Badge" as we encourage a stronger connection to the badge and its meaning. Each member's badge is a sign to others that they are a member of Alpha Omicron Pi and is a reminder of our mutual promises and the ideals which we hold in common. We hope you will wear it proudly and with respect for its true meaning!

Membership

Our chapter's 100-Year Anniversary is in 2027! Become a dues-paying member this year, and each year following, for discounted entry to our celebration event!

Our membership packages are tiered. All include international and chapter dues and To Dragma subscription.

For new alumnae, we offer a This Year's On Us membership, where the chapter covers your dues for the year!

Join the DAC at <https://www.milehighaoii.com/plans-pricing>

Get involved with the Denver Alumnae Chapter

- 🌸 Make sure your dues are paid
- 🌸 Reach out to a few sisters you haven't heard from in a while and invite them to a DAC event!
- 🌸 Follow our Instagram [@milehighaoii](#) and join our Facebook Group [Alpha Omicron Pi, Denver Alumnae Chapter](#)
- 🌸 Sign-up for emails through our website www.milehighaoii.com or join our text chain by texting [@stella1897](#) to 81010
- 🌸 Attend events like Bookies and Jingle Bell Run!
- 🌸 Volunteer to host a Lunch Bunch or Thirsty Thursday in your area
- 🌸 Write a Sister Shout-Out!

FALL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Make sure to check the events page for updates!

<https://www.milehighaoii.com/programming>

Sept 14th - Back to AOII

Oct 4th - Bunco

Oct 12th - Bookies: Miss Benson's Beetle

Oct 16th - Newborns in Need

Oct 22nd - Rose Vine Event: AOII Author Speaks: Kerry Lonsdale

Oct 24th - TBD Happy Hour

Oct 26th - TBD Brown Palace Tour

Nov 3rd - Acreage by Stem Ciders

Nov 7th - Author Speaks: Shelby Van Pelt

Nov 16th - Junior League Holiday Mart

Dec 8th - Jingle Bell Run & IIOA Holiday Party

Dec 13th - Bunco



Founders' Day
January 25th, 2025