Letter from the President

Spring came a little late this year in Bloomington. With cold weather extending well into April, our chapter had to get creative as we continued our fundraising for the 23rd Annual Rubber Duck Regatta. But despite the snow, ice, and sleet, our brothers were hard at work every week to “can for a cause”.

Aside from all of the work that went into fundraising and preparing for the Rubber Duck Regatta, Mu participated in a multitude of different service projects and brotherhood activities. During our yearly Chapter Program Planning Conference (CPPC), brothers brainstormed numerous ways to better serve Bloomington while also improving the bonds of our brotherhood.

This spring semester, we have over 20 graduating seniors. While we are excited for all of our brothers to move from their time as undergraduates into the next step in their lives, we will greatly miss these members who have given so much to chapter over the years. On a positive note, we initiated yet another amazing pledge class. Two of our new initiates will be serving on the active executive board this coming fall and seem to have many new ideas to share with chapter.

As one of the 20+ graduating members, I’d like to take just a brief moment to thank all of the amazing people who help out our chapter every year. From our wonderful advisors, to alumni members, to community leaders, our chapter receives support from so many amazing people. Our chapter is shaped not only by our current members, but also by all of those past members who have helped us get to the place we are today. Furthermore, I’d like to thank the Spring 2013 active executive board for all of their incredibly hard work, and also all of our Mu chapter members for their support this past semester. As I move on to my graduate studies at IU, I look forward to watching Mu chapter continue to grow. APO has meant so much to me during my time here at IU and I am so grateful for all of the opportunities this chapter has given me.

Best of luck to the new executive board, and, as always...

In LFS,

Colleen Friedly
23rd Annual Rubber Duck Regatta

This year the Rubber Duck Regatta proceeds went to benefit WildCare Inc., a local wildlife rehabilitation center in Bloomington. When we initially decided to sponsor WildCare last semester, we decided to expand our relationship with them by having service opportunities available both on a weekly basis and as ‘one time’ service days. We lucked out this year with beautiful weather for the regatta, and we had a number of different families in attendance.

Because of the weather, our fundraising team feared that we hadn’t raised much money for WildCare. As we reached the end of our fundraising period, however, we realized that we had raised nearly $2500 to help with Wildlife rehabilitation!

One of the most exciting additions this year to our event was the use of the WildCare education team animals. We had snakes, geese, a wood duck, and a hawk (just to name a few) present for kids to interact with throughout the day. This allowed us to serve the community with both a fun and educational day on campus.

As we continue to seek new ways to improve our major philanthropic event of the year, we have discussed the idea of putting together a committee to help plan for Rubber Duck in the fall. By doing this, we hope to fundraise even more money for the organization we choose to sponsor while also reaching out to more children in the community.

Overall, the 23rd Annual Rubber Duck Regatta was a day full of fun and sun and we can’t wait for next year!

- Colleen Friedly

The Future of Leadership

We’ve had a lot of triumphs this semester but we’ve also had a lot of learning experiences. The Big/Little program took great strides by adding a social for the pledges and actives to get to know each other before Big selection. I think it really helped to make the overall Big/Little relationships better than they ever have been.

We continued team competition this semester, but due to feedback from brothers at CPPC are planning on rethinking that program in the hopes that we’ll find something that fosters brotherhood throughout the entire chapter a little better. Next semester, the position of VP of Leadership will hopefully undergo some changes in the role it serves to chapter. With all of the resources available to us like LEADS or LAUNCH that we hope to incorporate more into next year’s education, we’ll develop leadership skills as a chapter and truly embody our cardinal principles: Leadership, Friendship, and Service.

-Katie Schuler
SERVICE

This year for Rubber Duck we chose to benefit WildCare Inc., an organization in Bloomington that rehabilitates sick and injured wild animals. We were able to raise over $2000 this year mainly through canning, but also from Dine and Donates at both Red Mango and Noodles and Company. Obtaining sponsors this year was more difficult in years past, but we were able to get some good prizes and also received a bunch of leftover food from the pledge project. Thanks Pledges! After getting off to a late start in the semester, I became a bit discouraged about how the event would turn out. Much to my surprise we were able to pull off a very successful event on one of the most beautiful days of the semester. Without any Rubber Duck head chairs, the event was mainly planned by Exec Board members and our Rubber Duck Fundraising chair, Renee Albrecht, who stepped up beyond her duties. After the lack of organization and enthusiasm surrounding leadership for Rubber Duck, I wanted to put into motion the idea of a Fall Planning Committee for Rubber Duck, so that contacting sponsors and major planning can be done early. There was some interest for this at Joint Exec, so I am exciting to see what Rubber Duck will look like next year!

-Cori Jung

BROTHERHOOD

The events of this semester were enlightening as far as the state of brotherhood within chapter. There were several successful socials, such the “speed-friending” social near the beginning of the semester that was designed to breach the gap between the active and pledge bodies and make connections between Bigs and Littles.

At this semester’s CPPC, we discussed in small groups the opinions of active members on the lack of fraternity in our organization and received many good ideas that will be implemented in the fall semester. For instance, during National Service Week next semester, we would like to have a Brotherhood event with other chapters in our section so as to get to know other chapters better and bond within our own chapter as well. The hope of the executive board is to observe an increase in the strength of the relationships between all members of Mu chapter and to see the members of Mu branch out and appreciate the resources available to them in chapter.

-Dylan Richardson

Spring 2013 Pledge Class

This semester we initiated 30 new members into the Mu chapter. At the beginning of the semester, the pledges participated in Big/Little Speed Dating. All of the pledges got the chance to meet all of the active members who wanted to be a big. This event went extremely well and pledges really enjoyed the opportunity to meet all of the bigs before being paired up. The pledge project this semester was a field day for the kids at The RISE. There was a bounce house, bowling, kickball, corn hole, face painting, and lots of food. All of the kids had a great time and loved the field day. The pledge class really bonded after the project. During banquet, we gave out two awards to the pledge class. We gave out an award for the pledge with the most hours and with the most socials. We also installed two new initiates on the active exec board for fall 2013.

- Sarah Bloomrosen and Whitney Hufford
Rubber Duck Regatta 2013