Service Opportunities Abound

Mu looking to reach 5000 hour service goal for the semester

By: Christen Gallagher

We have high expectations for service this semester. Not only are we gearing up for our 2nd year of Battle of the Bands, but we have a great variety of new and returning projects as well. Our actives have responded so strongly to some projects that we actually have to cap how many can attend each time we go.

We volunteer at Pages to Prisoners twice a week. Pages continues to be our most popular project. We are especially excited about returning to volunteer at The RISE this semester. Actives really enjoy volunteering with the children. We have added Boys and Girls club as another option for actives to engage with kids. Kids have kind of been a theme so far this semester.

We spent an entire Saturday volunteering at the Boy Scouts Joining Day at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. From running an obstacle course and the water bottle rockets to playing with the parachute, it is tough to say who enjoyed it more, the actives or the kids.

Thanks to strong participation in chapter service projects as well as individual volunteering, we are well on our way to reaching our semester service goal of 4750. This is good news and bad news, for me anyway as should chapter meet that goal, they get to make me do something ridiculous during finals. Even more exciting, I have challenged chapter to beat my goal and achieve 5000 hours. If they do that, our President Andrew Schwenker has agreed to do something ridiculous as well. At the rate chapter is going, I think that Andrew and I will both face a funny end to our semesters!

Interested in learning more about the projects?

Visit www.indiana.com/~apo

To the left: Hilary Stinson launches a water bottle rocket at the Indianapolis Speedway during Boy Scout Joining Day.

To the right: Members of Mu are all smiles after a long day at the Boy Scout Joining Day.

Below: Kerri Richardson wraps books to be sent to prisoners.
Chapter Hopes to End Semester with a Bang

By: Ashley Tsuruda and Liz Hunt
Alpha Phi Omega presents our second annual Battle of the Bands for this fall semester of 2008. Planning for the event is underway. The event is scheduled to be held on November 20 in the Hoosier Den from 7 to 10 pm. We are really excited about this because this year we’re holding the event on campus which will increase awareness of APO and allow more college students to attend. The Hoosier Den has been nice enough to co-sponsor our event this year which allows us free access to the space and additional advertising for the event. In addition, this will also raise more awareness of the name of Alpha Phi Omega to the IU community.

As of the beginning of October, we already have interest from around 10 bands. Some of these bands are really well-known and have even opened for Kenny Chesney! The final count of bands actually performing at the Battle of the Bands will be six. Therefore we have some decisions to make as to who will be participating. We are also talking to IU Sound Recording to set up a prize for the winning band.

This year we are hoping to raise over $1000 to benefit Wonderlab’s Connecting to the Community Fund. The committees have already been doing a great job. Along with proceeds from the event itself, we are also looking for more fundraising initiatives to raise as much money as we can for Wonderlab. However, donations are always welcome.

Pledge Class Update

Hi, my name is Nicole Berne and I’m one of the pledge trainers this semester. I’m working with Jes Greeff and we’re both really excited about the pledge class this year. We had 32 people inducted and they’ve been a great group so far.

At our first pledge meeting, we got right down to business, reviewing the history of APO, going over the symbols, and opening nominations for the pledge exec board. At the end of the meeting, there was at least one candidate for each position. Elections took place at our second meeting and by our third meeting, the pledge class, under the leadership of the class president, had decided on a pledge project. The pledges decided to put on a senior prom at Bell Trace, a local retirement community. The theme is Winter Wonderland. The various committees have been meeting each week and working hard to pull their project together by November 21st!

Among their other decisions, the pledges are going to have t-shirts made and have arranged to have snacks at each meeting on a rotating system. A pledge has won the competition the past two weeks for the person who has done the most service. Their enthusiasm and energy has made them a joy to work with and we can’t wait until they join the active body!

Membership Update

By Karen Krogman- I am very enthusiastic about planning socials and gatherings to improve brotherhood within Mu chapter. Thus far, chapter has had socials to local restaurants, movies, a nearby apple orchard, Bloomington farmer’s market, and potluck dinners. Karen’s goal is to create more unique and exciting socials for brothers to attend, in hopes that more actives and pledges get to know each other.

Our most recent social has been a euchre card night with the residents at Bell Trace assisted living home. We had several members of chapter present, and the assisted living home had the biggest turnout of residents for a planned event. We will be heading back to play euchre every month with the residents.

We have approximately 70 actives this semester. There are 9 associates and 5 people studying abroad this semester. Through the work of the sunshine chair and associate liaison, chapter is keeping close ties with everyone that is away from Mu chapter this semester.

Letter from the President

Over the past year, Mu Chapter has made great strides in achieving excellence in both our pledge program and chapter as a whole.

This past Bi-Sectionals Conference at DePauw University, Mu Chapter was honored with awards for Chapter of the Year and the H. Roe Bartle award.

The Chapter of the Year award is presented each year by the sectionals committee to the chapter that best exemplifies the three cardinal principles. The H. Roe Bartle award is presented to a chapter that meets and maintains high standards of effectiveness in their programs and operations.

In addition, this winter at the National Convention in Boston, Mu Chapter will also be one of the first recipients of the highest level (Diamond) of the Chapter of Excellence and Pledge Program of Excellence awards!

Our chapter and its 80 members have worked tirelessly to improve our leadership in the community, friendship amongst ourselves and other chapters, and service to humanity to meet the requirements for these awards. The Diamond Levels of these awards not only include the basic levels of reporting in the national bylaws, but also require additional optional activities, such as service in each of the four areas and providing prospective pledges the opportunity to participate in service projects and socials prior to pledging.

The Excellence awards encompass many different aspects of importance to the fraternity and are the highest honors a chapter can receive. Mu Chapter is excited to have attained this level of excellence and looks forward to repeating it this next year!

LFS,
Andrew Schwenker
Dear Alumni,

My name is Andrew Barber, I am the Vice President of Finance this semester. Alpha Phi Omega’s National Convention is held every two years at a different venue. The purpose of Convention is to enact legislation for fraternal expansion and to promote friendship, leadership, and service with brothers from all over the country through workshops, socials, and a general exchange of ideas. The location they have selected this year is exciting Boston, MA and will take place December 27-30. Deemed the “ultimate” APO experience, National Convention offers the opportunity to present your chapter’s opinions, elect national officers, and, of course, to sing the toast song with 2,000 brothers from across the United States. Exciting programs this year include a new “digital” roll call, leadership workshops like “APO in your resume”, “Habits of very successful chapters”, and “Financing your chapter and its events”, and fun events like learning conga and swing dancing, learning the toast song in ASL, and introductions to massage techniques and Boston phonetics. Mu has looked forward to Convention for a long time and is gearing up for the fun Nationals is sure to offer. Unfortunately, with registration fees of $75, $35 and $40 fees per banquet, and $104 for the Sheraton hotel room, National Conventions can be pricey. Mu is helping to offset the costs by performing additional football parking for extra money, as well as other fundraising endeavors. Exploring cheap travel options and having brothers in Boston “put up” some of the Mu chapter are other options that are currently being looked into. This year’s delegates, Karen Krogman and Alex Luboff, are urging as many current and new actives to attend as possible with great result. Watch for more news on the upcoming Nationals and check out http://www.apo.org/pages/show/Conferences_and_Events/National_Convention/Registration for more information.

Help us make more Mu memories...

Do you have fond memories of your time in MU? Are you interested in helping us fund service projects, chapter socials, or our trip to Nationals?

Your tax-deductible donation helps us put on events like Battle of the Bands, Banquet and Fall Retreat where members make memories and friends they will have long after graduation. If you would like to donate please send a check made out to Alpha Phi Omega to:

900 East 7th Street. Indiana Memorial Union. Room #471. Bloomington, IN 47405

Fundraising Update

Dear Alumni,

My name is Andrew Barber, I am the Vice President of Finance this semester. This is truly an exciting semester for Alpha Phi Omega Mu chapter at Indiana University. This semester we are presented with the opportunity to send members of the Mu chapter to the APO National Convention which is held in Boston this winter. Along with this great opportunity we are faced with the challenge of raising money so that we can help sponsor our 2 voting delegates as well as members who need financial aid. To help combat these costs we are pushing volunteering at the Indiana football parking which pays APO $8 an hour per employee. This program so far has shown success with us raising over $500 in one month of parking. Personally I have committed myself to work a majority of the football games which will create an additional $250 to go towards national fundraising. With the combination of my personal efforts as well as the active body we will be able to raise a substantial amount of money but we will still struggle to support our members attending nationals. A majority of funds we raise will go towards paying other APO costs in our budget. This semester the budget is balanced with only a $200 allocation of funds (not including funds I personally raise) to go towards nationals. Our budget is tight this semester because of AAMDs which make up over 50% of our budget with $2400 in dues. We would truly appreciate any contributions towards nationals so that we can reach our goal of sending 10% of chapter to APO nationals as well as our voting delegates. We truly want to have a voice in APO as whole to help APO as a national fraternity reach it’s full potential of serving our community.

Send me my Chapter T-Shirt right away!!

I have enclosed a check made out to Alpha Phi Omega in order to receive my chapter t-shirt and show my support as an Alumni!

Shirts are only $10 each PLUS $3 S&H per shirt!

Number of Shirts: _____

Sizes: _________

Shirt Cost: _______ ($10 each)

With S&H: _________ (+$3.00 each)

Total: _________

*Please write in the MEMO section of your check Chapter Shirt*

Mail to: Alpha Phi Omega, Mu Chapter. IMU Room #471. Indiana University. 900 East 7th Street. Bloomington, IN 47405