This year we are proud to be the chairs of the 19th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta here at Indiana University-Mu Chapter. This year the event is sponsoring the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where we will be raising money for Austin, a three-year old from Bloomington who has leukemia. The event will be on Sunday, April 19 from 12-4 PM. One of our goals this year is to pay for a large portion of Austin’s wish, a trip to Disney World. According to Make-A-Wish, the trip will cost around $6000 dollars to send Austin and his family on this trip. Austin has two sisters and he enjoys watching Sponge Bob Squarepants. We are trying to raise around $4000, to help Austin live out his wish.

Our second goal is to involve as many groups involved, not only on campus, but also in the community. We are trying to reach out to more than just students. We would love to have the entire IU and Bloomington community involved because Austin is a member of the community. Part of the IU community is the alumni from Mu chapter. We ask you to show your support for Austin and his cause. As alumni you are invited and encouraged to attend the event on April 19. While many of our alumni will not be able to make the trip to Bloomington, we still hope they will want to become involved.

As many of you know from running past Rubber Duck events, it takes a lot to put on a successful event. We are looking for any type of corporate donations to help with prizes for the event as well as monetary donations to go directly to Austin’s cause. If you or your company are willing to donate prizes to go to the actual race we would be so grateful.

Laurie and I look forward to hearing from our alumni and hope to see many of you at the actual event. We are incredibly excited and honored to be able to plan and run such an important event. We hope that our alumni will look back on the great times that they had in APO here at Indiana University and will help us in this year’s Rubber Duck Regatta.

Thank you for your support,

Alex Narang and Laurie Burns
Mu Chapter to Celebrate 80 Years

All Alumni Encouraged to Make the Trek Back to Btown

By: Melanie Woodworth--Next fall Mu Chapter will celebrate 80 years of brotherhood. The anniversary celebration plans are underway. Erica Honeywell and Melanie Woodworth are the chairs for this project and have already started working on the banquet and other activities.

The 80th Anniversary Banquet will take place Saturday, November 14th at 7pm in the Indiana Memorial Union-Alumni Hall. Erica and Melanie are in the process of setting up other fellowship and service activities for Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Save the dates will be sent out as soon as possible, but make sure you start planning now! Eighty Years is a big milestone and Mu Chapter wants as many alumni as possible to join us for the celebration.

For updates check the website at: http://www.indiana.edu/~apo/80th/anniversary.html

Meet The Rubberduck Chairs!

Alex Narang

Major: International Studies and Spanish
Year: Junior

Best Part of APO: Being able to help people directly and also have a fun time doing it. I like to play tennis and soccer. I like meeting new people.

Laurie Burns

Majors: Nonprofit Management and Legal Studies
Year: Sophomore

Best part of APO: I love volunteering and giving back to the community.

Letter from the President

Since I pledged in the fall of 2005, Mu chapter has grown tremendously. Not only have our active membership numbers doubled, we are also completing more service hours for the campus, community, and nation. As a graduating senior that has been active in Alpha Phi Omega since my first semester at Indiana University, I am thrilled to be ending my APO career as President.

The recent downturn of the economy has definitely had effects on our chapter. I’ve seen in increase in the amount of people that are interested in becoming members of our chapter. With a need for community service now more than ever, more undergraduates are taking on the responsibility to give back to the community and pledging with Alpha Phi Omega. There has also been a greater need for service in the Bloomington area in the past months. Many jobs have been lost in our local economy, which has created more need for volunteers at soup kitchens, after school care for kids, and the like.

Our members are flooded with more opportunities to do service on a weekly basis than I have ever seen in my time in Alpha Phi Omega.

As you may be well aware, Mu chapter’s 80th anniversary is quickly approaching. I would encourage every alumnus to save the date now, and join our chapter in celebrating the success of this fraternity.

I’ve witnessed all the progress our chapter has made in the past four years, and I believe that you will be very proud of the name Mu chapter has created throughout Indiana University and the Bloomington community.

In closing, thank you for your continued service to Mu chapter. No service goes unnoticed, and it is fair to say that your impact on APO has helped to create the strong and diverse chapter that we have now.

Have concerns for chapter? We now have a new email account to help address Alumni concerns.

Email apo.mu.alumni@gmail.com
Service Update

By: Kim Biberstein--The abundance of spring service has made this first month of the semester go by quickly. We started the semester with Martin Luther King Jr. Day participating in the Hoosier Hills Food Bank’s Block Walk. Walking in neighborhoods near campus, we raised enough food to come in 3rd place overall.

Weekly, we attend Pages for Prisoners which we are now capping because of the popularity within APO and the community. We are also attending The Rise on Thursdays and bringing more male role models for the children to look up to. We are working with the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Community Kitchen, and Habitat for Humanity ReStore every month and playing euchre with the retirement community of Bell Trace every other week. As you can see we are quite busy, but with so many new pledges we are adding more service opportunities everyday.

This past weekend we traveled to Indianapolis where we helped the IUPUI chapter out with The Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge. Unfortunately, we had no Mu members plunging, but there were still enough people in that frigid water to cheer for. We also plan to go back up to Indianapolis during April to help with the Boy Scout’s Pinewood Derby. More locally, we have our semester Highway Cleanup, Relay for Life, and our now nationally recognized Rubber Duck Regatta.

Last semester we completed a ground breaking 5000 service hours and plan on following in that pattern, if not exceeding it, this semester with the help of our 59 new pledges.

Mu Returns from Boston
Nationals Great Success

By: Alex Luboff--Nationals were an incredible success, with Mu Chapter taking home both the National Chapter of Excellence Award (Diamond) and the newly created Pledge Program of Excellence Award (Diamond). With top awards in both of those categories, Mu joined an elite group of only 15 of 366 total Active chapters to reach such levels of performance. Additionally, our National Delegates, current President Karen Krogman and current VP of Membership Alex Luboff, were active on the Legislative floor to advance the mission of the National organization and Mu chapter. While Alex worked on the Rules and Credentials Committee, the rest of the Mu delegation attended very informative workshops on various topics (including hosting an Anniversary!), worked towards LEADS certification, and got out and enjoyed the great city of Boston. Two notable events added exclamation points to this experience. The first was that Mu’s Rubber Duck Regatta was one of the 10 featured service events at Nationals, bringing great pride to our chapter and notoriety to one of APO’s classic events. The second were the great friendships and networks created with other chapters within Region VI and beyond, resulting in shared best practices and extended Fellowship Activities. For any questions on new National Legislation, please contact Alex at aluboff@indiana.edu.

Pledge Update

By: Kerri Richardson -- Amy Rouzer and Andrea Kroeger have their hands full this semester, not only do they have schoolwork and social lives they have taken on new leadership positions. Rouzer and Kroeger are the new pledge trainers of one of the largest pledge classes Mu Chapter has seen in awhile. On February 8, 2009, Mu inducted 59 new pledges.

Out of those 59 pledges, Rouzer and Kroeger hope to initiate at least 85 percent of them, and they are well on their way. Large numbers of pledges are turning up at socials and service projects, sometimes even out numbering the active in attendance.

Kroeger said she is really happy with the large number of pledges and is excited to see them go through this historic process.

“I cannot wait to see them take on leadership roles and develop a great pledge project this semester,” Kroeger said.

Pledge Chris Dhanaraj said that the opportunity to take on leadership positions is one of the many great things about Alpha Phi Omega and being a pledge.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity,” Dhanaraj said. “You wouldn’t get it in another organization.”
Fundraising Update

By: Angela Wuerth-- This semester, Mu is taking an innovative and inventive approach to fund-raising. In the past, APO members only had two ways to raise money: canning, which involves standing at a local grocery store and asking customers to donate spare change to Alpha Phi Omega; and sports parking, where members raised $7 an hour by parking cars at football and basketball games.

This semester, however, actives and associates have a diverse selection of fundraising opportunities. APO is hosting two dine and donates, a date and services auction, a bake sale at Tenth and Fee, and a car wash at Walmart. The dine and donates are hosted by Qdoba and Buffalouie’s. At each dine-and-donate, the restaurants provide APO with flyers. Chapter members then pass out these flyers to their friends and family. For each person who comes into the restaurant with an APO flyer, a portion of their purchase goes to Alpha Phi Omega. At the date and services auction, consenting APO members and their friends will be auctioned off. Some of the members are going to auction off services they can offer, like cooking a meal or helping with homework, but others will auction themselves off as dates. The money members make from the event will go directly to Alpha Phi Omega.

APO members have already raised money by sending Valentine’s Day candygrams. Actives, pledges, and associates gave candygrams to friends, significant others, and family members. Depending on the preference of the senders, recipients received the candygrams on either Valentine’s Day or at the chapter meeting on the day after Valentine’s Day. Some especially ambitious actives even passed out candygram order forms to their friends, who in turn bought candygrams for friends of their own. Fundraising has been very successful for Mu this semester and has potential to head in a very postive direction.

Membership Update

By Alex Luboff-- This is a great time to be in Membership because of both exciting and challenging aspects. We now have just under 100 Actives, but with the addition of our 59 person pledge class, we fully expect to crush 100 by the end of the semester. This is a great thing because of our preparations for the 80th Anniversary of Mu that we will be having this November. It’s also been a challenge because with new numbers, come new problems, especially when it comes to the recording of socials. To avoid mass confusion and reporting delay, we’ve revamped the membership section of the website to make it much easier for members to get their requirements approved. In addition, we’ve had to step-up a lot of the efforts when it came to our Social strategy, because with an increase in size comes an increased strain on the nights available. The last major update has been in the Big/Little program that was the brainchild of a beginning of the semester Round Table. The early reviews have said that the changes have made it a more engaging and enjoyable experience, which is a credit to the efforts of the entire Membership Committee. Overall, we’ve managed the growth well and expect to make Fellowship a more integral part of each member’s core.

Bylaws

Mu is up to its Bylaws review this semester. The latest news will be posted on our Facebook page, “APO Mu Bylaws Spring 09,” and we would love to keep our alumni informed! For any questions or the latest goings-on of the Committee, please contact Bylaws Chair Alex Luboff at aluboff@indiana.edu.

Save the Date!

80th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, November 13th-Saturday, November 14th

Do you have a favorite service project that you participated with during your time in Mu? Email or mail us and let us know so that we can include it in our 80th Anniversary celebration.

Mail to: Alpha Phi Omega, 900 East 7th St., Indiana Memorial Union, Room #471, Bloomington, IN 47405
or Email: apo.mu.alumni@gmail.com