

Alpha Phi Omega

Beta Theta Chapter

Spring 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 1
- MESSAGE FROM VP OF SERVICE 1
- MESSAGE FROM GIRL SCOUTS DIRECTOR 2
- BLACK TIE FUNDRAISER 2
- LEADERSHIP 3
- CONFERENCE 3-4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe that another school year for Beta Theta is coming to an end. This chapter continues to amaze me with its accomplishments every semester. Of the course of the year, we attended conferences in Iowa and Minnesota where we took home the award for most brothers both times, created a new vice president position to enhance our leadership program, and successfully hosted our 3rd annual "Fun and Fit Field Day" with the Neighborhood House Community Center. Together the pledges and brothers of Beta Theta completed over 3,500 hours of service within the Madison community. In the next semester we will continue to grow our presence on our campus by hosting two large-scale events. First, we are thrilled to welcome our brothers from around the re-

gion to Madison for Region Rally (Nov. 7-9); we know this conference will get the region wIX brothers excited for Nationals! We will also be sponsoring our first ever black tie fundraiser (Dec. 7). We are collaborating with Camp Kesem UW-Madison to raise money to help send children of parent's with cancer to summer camp. Our members are already hard at work to ensure the success of both of these events! Through two fun weeks of rush we recruited close to 70 new members this year, who even as pledges have already begun to make impacts on our chapter. I am truly honored to have watched this group grow in so many ways, and am so proud of every member who has contributed. Although I am sad to graduate, I am excited to enter the next stage of my APO membership as an alumnus. I cannot wait to come back and visit to see how our chapter continues to develop and thrive. Please feel free to contact our new president, Nicole Rhode (apo.bt.president@gmail.com), if you have any questions or wish to hear more about the chapter!

Forever and always in Leadership, Friendship, and Service,

-Molly Ryan

VP OF SERVICE

I joined APO because I wanted to make more friends and get a resume builder. What could look better on a resume than service right? However, as I grew to be a member, I realized this fraternity was so much more than that. It was a family, the family that you looked forward to see every week at meetings, at service events, or fellowships. When I became a member of the executive board, I was scared. I did not want to disappoint any member of this large family that I had grown to know. However, as the semester went on, I realized that rather than solely relying on me, they were my support as well. I was able to talk to brothers and work with them to make service events that VPs have been able to offer in the past as well as new events that I haven't tried even before. Everyone has been so incredibly flexible and willing to travel over an hour by bus to make the event a success. I couldn't be more proud to serve the campus, community, country, and chapter with the Beta Theta chapter. It has been such a privilege to be the VP of Service this semester and get to know the brothers so much better and to get an entirely different idea of what APO is about.

-Kristin Ksobiech



BLACK TIE FUNDRAISER

Alpha Phi Omega – Beta Theta is in the process of trying something new, big, and exciting. We are currently in the process of setting up a ‘Black Tie’ Fundraiser Gala which is set to occur Sunday, December 7th, 2014 at the Madison East Side Club. This fundraiser gala will consist of a plated dinner provided by Blue Plate, speakers, live music from potential a cappella groups for example Redefined, a silent auction and dancing. We’d like to target alumni, faculty, students, as well as try and get some some bigger names around campus (i.e. Lori Berquam, Rebecca Blank, Gary Anderson, Bo Ryan, Barry Alvarez, athletes, etc) to attend which would help make this fundraiser known around campus. Then we would also decide on a charity/organization in which the money would be donated.



This fundraiser will be a “Night Under the Stars” benefiting the University of Wisconsin branch of Camp Kesem, a nonprofit organization run solely on donations. Camp Kesem is a summer camp for kids whose parents have been affected by cancer. During their free stay, they get to forget the stress placed on their families and have the week devoted to them being regular kids. While this experience is completely free for each child, it costs the camp roughly \$500 per child to attend. Alpha Phi Omega – Beta Theta has partnered with the University of Wisconsin’s branch of Camp Kesem in efforts to raise money to continue to give this opportunity to these children.

-Julia Mosconi

MESSAGE FROM GIRL SCOUTS DIRECTOR



Having been an enthusiastic member of Girl Scouts during my middle school years, I was thrilled when I received the opportunity to work as a Director of Scouting for APO. I was given the privilege of interacting regularly with the leaders of the Girl Scouts of the Madison, and I hoped

to form a closer relationship between their organization and our APO chapter. Though the majority of my responsibility was to simply relay information to our chapter regarding their numerous programs, my newfound awareness of their various events and my deeper understanding of their organization gave me great insight regarding the truly outstanding effect that this group has on young girls. Their inventive and fun activities strive to integrate the importance of young girls fostering strong values and independent life skills that personally benefit them, as well as positively influence the world around them. This vision was apparent in their events this spring that ranged from days dedicated to living healthy lives, to afternoons focused on developing engineering skills.

In my personal experience volunteering with this organization, I had a really fun time interacting with all the young Girl Scouts. I also felt particularly proud to be

helping encourage what I believe is an imperative philosophy in the development of young females. The values of the Girl Scouts are very similar to that which we foster in Alpha Phi Omega. Leadership, service, and friendship are all main goals that the Girl Scouts also seek to develop within their members, and this parallel only reinforces the value behind our relationship with this group. I sincerely hope that we maintain a close and positive relationship with the Girls Scouts of the Madison area, and I strongly encourage all members to volunteer at some of their events to see their positive influence in action.

-Madelyn Murphy

A New Brother's View on Leadership Workshops



I really enjoyed the True Colors and Ethics workshop. I found it very interesting, especially the handout we received on what the different colors mean and how they compliment one another. I also thought the ethics part of the workshop was extremely important, especially working so often in the community. I feel I learned enough from this workshop to have a better understanding of how people are able to work together because no one is the same and each person has his or her own strengths and weaknesses. I think this is very important to APO and can definitely be applied because we work together so much planning activities, during fellowships, and during service work that it is necessary to understand that no one thinks exactly like you.

I think the ethics part was also crucial to APO because it is so important when working with each other or the community that we have respect for each other and know that everyone has different circumstances and beliefs, so by having an understanding of ethics and acting in a respectful way toward all in both are daily livens and things we do for APO, we will create a healthier atmosphere. I thought this leadership workshop was incredibly beneficial and interesting.

-Lily Comp

Sectional Updates



Sectional Updates



still. Siblings fight a bit, right?

Leadership was also a highlight of the weekend, with various members of the APO staff leading us to become better leaders. I attended a session by Kate Kroll, who my Beta Theta brothers know well due to her consistent presence and support of our chapter. Her ACHIEVE workshop brought us close to solve problems, resolve team conflicts, and, honestly, just have fun while practicing important leadership skills. Whether it is trying to throw 10 oddly shaped balls around a circle at the same time, learning to, begrudgingly, share and coordinate with other teams, or trying to get ourselves untied from a confounding knot, we had a great time getting to know each other better.

The rest of the weekend concluded with a ceremony celebrating the weekend, with gilded transformers being handed out for prizes. As a boy at heart, my excitement was uncontainable at this point as I raced around with the transformers and camera flashes highlighted our chapter.

Finally, I was sitting behind the wheel of a car, driving back into the sunrise to where we came. A sleepy brother nods off next to me, with an equally exhausted pledge being his mirror image behind me. While I am also exhausted, I can only smile and continue to accelerate into the cool morning sun, a small part of me being forever changed by the weekend's embrace still trying to hold me back.

-Michael Lampe ■

I attended several courses while at the conference weekend, but the one session that stood out to me was the identifying and eliminating barriers taught by Ding. She talked about many ways we could eliminate barriers in our chapter to make people feel more welcomed



or to make people more willing to help out within the chapter and I think it really benefitted me. This could benefit our entire chapter because if we take time out to recognize why some people are not compelled to be more involved in APO then we can have a better, more well rounded chapter. Listening to some of the barriers Ding mentioned was eye opening and I think talking about this within our own chapter would make the Beta

Theta chapter closer and willing to better serve our community. I plan on carrying out this leadership role as much as I can by being a better brother to everyone and trying to meet as many new people within APO as I can and trying to eliminate the "cliques" within the chapter. I think this will help the chapter in many ways!

-Shelby Polizzi ■

We arrived in the Twin Cities after a tumultuous car ride that involved multiple detours being traversed, sing alongs being belted out, and worried phone calls and text messages coordinating our small fleet of vehicles towards the section 23 and 27 conference hosted by our brothers at the University of Minnesota. While the storm raged on (and on), it was most certainly not representative of the rest of the weekend.

Brotherhood rose to the forefront over the weekend. An evening visit to a small yogurt shop with a chemistry theme titillating and an excursion to Noodles and Company, though honestly my brothers brought the company, they only provided the noodles, made for a wonderful evening after our long journey.

Visiting all of our section 23 and 27 brothers I found myself enraptured by how instantaneously and easily I found them to be old friends. The phrase "Brother from another mother" comes to mind, though our University of Wisconsin mother is way more awesome,

Contact Information

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|---|--|
| President, Molly Ryan | apo.bt.president@gmail.com |
| VP of Membership, Laura Newman | apo.bt.membership@gmail.com |
| VP of Service, Kristin Ksobiech | aposervice2@gmail.com |
| VP of Fellowship, Hannah Friedman | apo.bt.fellowship@gmail.com |
| VP of Finance, Jake Bertram | apo.bt.finance@gmail.com |
| VPs of Pledge Education, Shruti Rajan & Michael Lampe | apo.bt.pledgucator@gmail.com |
| VP of Communications, Chloe Yuqing Jiang | apo.bt.communications@gmail.com |

Alpha Phi Omega-Beta Theta
333 East Campus Mall
Box 39
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

Visit us at
www.alphaphiomega-betatheta.com

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 Find us on **Twitter** @APO_BetaTheta
 Follow us on **Instagram** @uwapo