

# Alpha Phi Omega

BETA THETA CHAPTER

FALL 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Region IX Rally 2014 2

Big/Little Program 3

Saint Vincent de Paul 3

Beta Theta Leadership 4

Newsletter Committee 4

## Message from an Advisor: Kate Kroll

As an advisor, I've had the opportunity to see Beta Theta chapter grow and evolve over the years, and it's always exciting to me to see how the chapter expresses our cardinal principles. Often, the focus is mainly on service, but this semester the chapter balanced leadership, friendship, and service quite well. Leadership got a huge bump this semester. There were many opportunities to take APO LEADS courses, and all the pledges were required to take Launch. The chapter also attended an outdoor ALPs workshop, and several career workshops were available.

Friendship also got a facelift this semester, with a renewed focus on families and improving the bonds of brotherhood. Beta Theta also hosted the Region Rally conference, which gave Brothers the chance to socialize with APO members from across the Midwest. Service, of course, was as strong as ever. As of the end of November, Brothers and pledges spent over 1200 hours giving unselfishly of their time and energy to serve the campus and community. We continued our partnerships with the River Food Pantry, Van Hise Elementary, and others. We

also held a few big projects, such as the Teach for America 5k and the Dine for the Dreamers Fundraising Dinner. The Brothers of Beta Theta are a group of confident and capable individuals, and I am very happy to see what they can do in semesters to come.

-Kate Kroll



## Message from the President: Nicole Rohde

Fall 2014 has been a very exciting and successful semester for Beta Theta. Our executive board has worked very hard, and it really paid off! There were an abundance of Leadership, Fellowship, and Service opportunities for the brothers and pledges to participate in. A major highlight of this semester was hosting the 2014 Region 9 Conference. We were lucky enough to have Mark Stratton,

the current APO National President, in attendance, as well as Maggie Katz as our keynote speaker for the evening. Another exciting event that we are really looking forward to is our black tie formal fundraiser, "Dine for the Dreamers" on Sunday, December 7 to benefit Camp Kesem, a camp for children whose families have been impacted by cancer.

I am very proud of the work that Beta Theta has done, and it has been an honor to be their president. I am really looking forward to seeing what our brothers accomplish under Kyle Beth's presidential direction in 2015!

In LFS,

-Nicole Rohde

## Region IX Rally 2014 Madison, WI

“Here’s to Alpha Phi Omega, loyal brothers we,...”, every brother ,current and past, knows this song by heart. Not only is it our toast song, it is a song that celebrates our three cardinal principles of leadership, friendship, and service and it is a song that brings us together to celebrate the gift of brotherhood. Usually it is sung to conclude our general meetings, but on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> it was sung to celebrate an amazing weekend with brothers from Region IX.

About 110 brothers from six different chapters took over the crazy city of Madison, WI for the weekend of November 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The Region Rally festivities began on Friday night with check-in and a fellowship at Union South to welcome our brothers from other chapters. Brothers enjoyed getting to know each other better by participating in bowling, rock climbing, billiards, and air hockey. A brother from Omicron chapter (University of Iowa) expressed his gratitude for Beta Theta’s hospitality, “It was really nice to see how welcoming Beta Theta was to our chapter during the fellowship in Union South. Madison is a great atmosphere and I’m looking forward to what the weekend has in store for us!”.

The second day was the core part of Region Rally. The day began bright and early with the opening ceremony. Kyle Beth, the VP of Finance for Beta Theta, said he really enjoyed the opening ceremony, “Even though it was pretty early, it was a great way to start off the day”. After the ceremony concluded everyone headed over to Engineering Hall to start their day of workshops. Some of the workshops that were offered included: explaining APO to others, budgets and fundraising, risk management, big/little programs, service and fellowship ideas, and roundtables. Danielle Kainz, VP of Fellowship for Beta Theta attended various workshops throughout the day, but said her favorite was service and fellowship ideas, “As the VP of Fellowship, it was a great opportunity to hear what events other chapters are planning”. In fact, after hearing that another chapter had successful craft night fellowships she planned the first “craft night” the week after region rally, “It was really successful and I hope to do it again”.

After putting in a day’s work at Engineering Hall, brothers returned to their homes/hotels to dress up for the banquet at the Double Tree Hotel. The banquet gave chapters the opportunity to chat on a more informal note while enjoying a delicious meal together. After dinner Region IX had the pleasure of listening to the keynote speaker, Maggie Katz. She spoke about her accomplishments and experiences with Alpha Phi Omega on a personal level as well as on the national level. Brennan Sedivy, a brother of Beta Theta, especially enjoyed what she had to say about brotherhood, “Listening to Maggie Katz speak made me realize how great of an organization APO is. Being at the banquet with brothers from other chapters made me feel apart of something big instead of something just here”.

Finishing up the last verse hand in hand, “Men of Alpha Phi Omega, may we always be,” our weekend with our brothers from other chapters had ended way too fast. Brothers packed up and left Madison, WI with more friends than before and new ideas to share with their chapter. As a brother was leaving the hotel she smiled and said to her friend, “This weekend was just what I needed”.

-Molly Goking



Beta Theta pictured  
with Mark Stratton  
and Maggie Katz

# Beta Theta's New Big/Little Program

This semester the chapter decided to expand the big/little program. While we always had a working program we really wanted to try something new. We wanted the program to be more meaningful for both the brothers and pledges. We are furthering the program with a new tradition by having current bigs being the next pledge classes grand bigs and so on. This will create a continuous family, letting new pledges get to know more brothers when they enter the chapter and give them more opportunities to make friends and feel like a part of the APO family. In order to make this program successful we needed a creative and outgoing brother to step in, there was no better person than

Kristin. First, she made a fellowship in order for pledges and brothers to get to know each other. After that she had the pledges and brothers make suggestions on which brother they would want to be paired with. It was really important to give them a voice in who they thought they would match well with because it added to giving them a better experience. In order for the big and little pair to meet each other Kristin organized a game for them to be revealed. They were each assigned one of two famous pairs and they had to find their other pair. For example a big would get Spongebob and their little would have Patrick or the big would have Lilo and the little would have Stitch.

Kristin was excited to do this game because they are able to start new traditions and try new things. Kristin said that by doing these different activities it also gives the pledges a way to socialize and get to know their fellow pledges and soon to be brothers as they look for their correct pair. This can make them feel more comfortable as they come into the chapter and start making friends early on. The new program will help to create stronger and lasting relationships between brothers throughout APO and we are excited to see where this new program takes us!

-Jenn Karger



Laura Newman (left) enjoying coffee with her little, Emma Conklin (right).

# Service Partner Spotlight: Saint Vincent de Paul

As the holiday season approaches, many of us will take a step back and reflect upon everything we have to be thankful for - our families, possessions, and quality of life. However, for some this list might consist of much simpler blessings, such as having food to put on the table. The task of providing food for a family can seem daunting at times, especially for those who struggle to find a well-paying job. Fortunately, the St. Vincent de Paul Society reaches out to these families in order to help them in their time of need.

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry of Dane County provides over \$1,300,00 worth of food each year to about 22,000 households. The pantry relies on donations from community supermarkets, food distributors, and several private organizations. Donations range from canned goods to

lunchmeat to diapers and toiletries. This diversity allows the pantry to offer something unique – a customer-choice style pantry. Unlike other food pantries that provide a premade bag of food to recipients, this food pantry allows customers to choose their own foods, as if it were a grocery store. This choice based model is designed to respect the dignity and diversity of the recipients.

Volunteers from around the community staff the pantry 3 days each week in the hope that this provides enough flexibility to allow any family who wishes to take advantage of the pantry the ability to do so. APO provides 5 volunteers on a weekly basis. These spots fill up fast, as this is a truly enjoyable and valuable opportunity to meet and help members of our community. As college



students, we can sometimes be sheltered and only be exposed to other students on campus. Volunteering at St. Vinny's food pantry is a great way to break out of this mold. Every recipient has a unique story. Having the opportunity to be the ones to listen to these stories and help these people is something we should be thankful for and never take for granted.

-Luke Addesso

# Be a Leader: Leadership Development in Beta Theta

This semester in Beta Theta we are focusing heavily on the leadership development of our brothers. We believe that in order to have a successful service and fellowship program, we have to invest time into developing our personal strengths and honing in on our weaknesses by increasing leadership involvement. In semesters past, our service and fellowship programs have always far exceeded that of our leadership program. However, with the new leadership program developments we fostered within the chapter, brothers know that leadership is a priority in Beta Theta.

For our executive team, we are pushing for greater collaboration amongst VPs by using officer transition as a foreground for combined goal setting and semester planning. Not only is it important to manifest

leadership qualities in our executive board but also in our general members as well. This semester we have encouraged brothers to get together and work on completing the campus leadership certificate which is offered as a highly regarded recognition from the University. It is amazing to see so many of our brothers complete such a high achievement with the support of one another.

Additionally, throughout the semester we have strengthened our leadership program by offering a multitude of career development opportunities such as resume workshops and networking with Badger Alumni through the University's career services department. Through our leadership endeavors we have also strived to make brothers aware of the countless options they have to strengthen their leadership, goal setting, and

professional skills across campus. We even worked with the Adventure Learning Program group to facilitate a community building and trust workshop on their low ropes course.

Another initiative we instituted was to get pledges involved in APO LEADS courses in their pledging semester. All pledges were required to complete Launch as one of their requirements. We hope that this will lend itself to higher participation from Beta Theta in future LEADS courses. Overall, we could not be more excited for what the future of our leadership program holds here at UW Madison. Leadership is not just going through the motions; it is being a role model and learning how live up to your best personal potential while working with others.

-Maria Giannopoulos & Jon Smet

## Newsletter Committee Fall 2014



**Molly Goking-Junior**

VP of Communications

What's so cool about her?

"I eat Honey Nut Cheerios for breakfast every morning and I ran my first marathon this fall!"



**Jenn Karger-Junior**

What's so cool about her?

"I'm obsessed with mini candy canes, One Direction, and I am the master at Friends trivia because I've seen every episode countless times!"



**Luke Adesso-Senior**

What's so cool about him?

According to Jon, "Luke is widely known for his vocals on the hit 2013 single, 'Pay Your Dues', Luke hung up the microphone in 2014 to train in Europe in preparation for his role on the APO Newsletter Committee."



**Jon Smet- Senior**

What's so cool about him?

According to Luke, "Jon is a multitasking wizard famous for his youtube dance video to the tune of Miley Cyrus's "Nobody's Perfect" (9 million views!)"

Visit us at our website: [www.alphaphiomega-betetheta.com](http://www.alphaphiomega-betetheta.com)

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