



Annual Report:

Sigma Sigma Phi Alpha Chapter

2007 – 2008

A.T. Still University



October 26, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada

The Past Year

Since last year's national meeting, the Alpha Chapter at A.T. Still University – KCOM has been fairly active on campus and in our community. Some of the projects carried out by the class of 2010 included volunteering a day to paint the gym in our Rec Center and also sponsored a campus-wide magazine drive to collect old periodicals that were then donated to our local hospital for the waiting rooms. Members also volunteered as tutors twice a month at the Bruce Normille Center, an afterschool program for local middle school students. Additionally, members volunteered once or twice a quarter at "Hopes Kitchen" – a weekend church sponsored program that prepares and provides food for underprivileged people in Kirksville. With these successes, the outgoing class also faced some challenges in the spring especially pertaining to recruitment and attainment of new members. However, the new executive board has identified the areas requiring improvement and has since made important strides in an effort to generate greater interest this year as well as ensure a more consistent application and interview process.

The Year at Hand

This year began with the transfer of power to the class of 2011 in May. Our class of most recent inductees are extremely ambitious and devoted to service and academics. Almost all of the members are student leaders of other organizations; yielding a fantastic conglomerate of leadership experience and creative ideas for our chapter. It is our goal for the upcoming in the months to come to increase our overall activity and find unique ways for the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi to excel as a service and honor fraternity amongst our peers. In addition to the goals already stated above, we are also hoping to find opportunities to join forces with other organizations in camaraderie on various projects in order to more effectively serve the surrounding community.

Service Projects

Activities Fair

Each August a student activities fair is held on campus to help familiarize the new 1st year students with the various organizations and opportunities available. Sigma Sigma Phi was represented this year by three of our four executive officers who were able to spark the interest of many of the table visitors. Thus, the privileges of membership, as well as the academic and service requirements of our chapter were distributed to a large portion of the 1st year class and many of the second year students in attendance as well. We hope that this effort will help contribute to the generation of a larger application pool during our membership drive this coming fall and next spring.

The Doctor's Bag Program

Thanks to the hard work of our current officers we are proud to announce the revival of this once popular program at KCOM! We have already made visits to eight classrooms at Kirksville Elementary School this month alone with four additional visits in November also confirmed. The reinstated program has been welcomed with huge popularity and increasing demand from other primary and pre-school teachers in the area as well, laying the foundation for even more service visits this coming spring.

The program is an opportunity for first and second year medical students to interact with young children and hopefully help alleviate some of their fears associated with doctors. In our sessions we have several stations – one in which the story *It's Check-up Time Elmo* is read, another where the children can color pictures of medical equipment or personnel, a third station where the children get to play “Simon Says” anatomy-style, and at the last station we have some equipment like disposable stethoscopes, flashlights, and reflex hammers for them to experiment with. So far the program has been a big hit with the children and chapter members alike and we look forward to our future visits to come!

Twin Pines Nursing Facility

Next quarter, members of Alpha Chapter will be helping with Bingo Nights at the local Twin Pines Nursing Home. These events will occur one night a month and will provide a great opportunity for our members to spend some quality time with older citizens of the Kirksville community.

High School Mentoring Program

This is a project that is still in the development stages that we hope to initiate in the spring quarters. Basically, we are working with the counselor at the local high school to arrange for one to two afternoon or evening meetings a month on their campus in which Sigma Sigma Phi members will be available for students to ask questions about academics, the college application process, have members read and edit their essays and similar services. Our members have shown a lot of interest in the potential program and are eagerly awaiting its realization in 2009.

Treat the Faculty

This is another one of our events that we are planning for the spring quarter(s) in which students will volunteer time to provide soft tissue and manipulation treatments to faculty members. This project will be a combined effort with our school's chapter of the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy (UAAO) and will provide an opportunity to foster stronger ties with our professors as well as our peers in a fellow organization.

Chapter Meetings & Events

Due to the quantity of organizations on campus, it is not possible for each of us to have a lunch meeting every month. Consequently, KCOM has a rotating meeting schedule.

Our meeting schedule to date is as follows:

- October 15th *“Board Prep: Tips and Tricks”* This meeting was a huge success, with a large proportion of the 2nd year class in attendance as well as a good number of 1st years as well.
- October 29th *Q&A Session and Ice Cream Social* for 2nd year potential new members
- December 10th *USMLE vs. COMLEX Resident Panel discussion*
- February 13th *“Intro to Sigma Sigma Phi”* for 1st year potential new members
- May 12th *Induction Meeting, New Officer Instillation and “What Preceptors Expect” presentation*

Application and Selection Process of the Alpha Chapter

Students must possess a GPA of at least 85% after completing at least two quarters of medical school in order to apply. Members must maintain 80% to maintain membership. Failing to do so will result in academic probation for two quarters.

An annual application process is held for 2nd year students in the fall and for 1st year students in the following spring. This year we are incorporating an event the week before the disbursement of applications in each cycle to spark interest and provide an opportunity for all potential new members to ask questions about the chapter, membership requirements and the selection process.

The application process begins with an initial, anonymous paper application. These applications are assessed on a point system based on service and leadership experience and of course, academic eligibility.

Qualified applicants will continue on in the process for an interview to assess their interpersonal skills as well as their service/membership potential. Following the interview and selection, applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance or denial.

In addition to maintaining good academic standing, accepted members are required to attend all meetings and participate in at least one community project per quarter.

Financial Report

The chapter currently holds a balance of \$1,250.00. We are brainstorming several fundraising ideas for the spring term; including holding a Medical Spelling Bee in February or March for the campus community in which competitors pay an entrance fee and the audience pays admission. Another idea that is in the works is to sell ‘care packages’ to be delivered during the week of final exams in January.

Chapter Membership

Class of 2009	32
Class of 2010	44
Class of 2011	23
Total	99

Chapter Officers

President:	Sarah Spriet
Vice President:	Kristen Anderlite
Secretary:	Chris Finley
Treasurer:	Andrew Behunin
Advisor:	Curtis Roof, M.D.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve our members as well as our esteemed fraternity thus far and we are looking forward to the remaining months of our tenure. Thank you for your time and support of our chapter at ATSU – KCOM.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the officers
of the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi,

Sarah Spriet
Chapter President