



SIGMA SIGMA PHI
EPSILON CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

Midwestern University
Chicago College Osteopathic Medicine

ΣΣΦ National Convention
October 26, 2008

Victor Chan
President 2008-2009

Suzanne Saindon
Vice President 2008-2009

Introduction

The Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi at Midwestern University has commenced this year very enthusiastically. Last year the club made efforts to increase activity and awareness on campus and the new executive committee has kept up this pace. Within the first month of school, we have already executed a membership drive for the MSII, III, and IVs, completed two fundraisers, and participated in a variety of community service events. We hope to use this energy as a springboard for even more events throughout the year.

The club has set a few goals for this year which focus around increasing osteopathic awareness in the community and raising interest in SSP on campus. To aid us in achieving these goals, we have formed a publicity committee. This is a very valuable addition to the club because the committee acts to publicize events that members are running to increase involvement of fellow SSP members and to enhance the outcome of the event. Another important role of this new committee is to explain to the MSI about SSP. With our membership requirements, it is helpful for first year students to understand the evaluation criteria for SSP induction early in their first year. This allows potential members to strive for the GPA requirement and to also keep community service as vital part of their academics.

We are happy to announce that the Epsilon Chapter has two new faculty advisors: Dr. John Graneto and Dr. John Hohner. Dr. Hohner is a member of Sigma Sigma Phi and Dr. Graneto will be inducted as an honorary member this fall. As practicing physicians, they offer valuable clinical insight which will greatly assist the club in planning events in the community and on campus. The chapter is excited to have them as part of our board and we look forward to their leadership.

Executive Board for 2007-2008:

- a. President: Victor Chan
- b. Vice President: Suzanne Saindon
- c. Treasurer: Peter DeHaai
- d. Secretary: Heidi Goeppinger

Financial Report

Our current balance as of October 20, 2008 is 1,927.05

Membership

We currently have 74 active members:

- a. 22 MS-IV
- b. 28 MS-III
- c. 24 MS-II

The fall application cycle began on August 11th, 2008. The spring applications will be available after completion of the winter quarter in March 2009.

The executive board serves to oversee all application cycles. The application process has been standardized. Applications who meet the academic requirement of a 3.3 GPA go through a review process that involves 3 separate assessments by 3 reviewers. The names for each application are removed from the application previously to eliminate any possibility for bias nor chance that past application attempts have any effect on the review. The application is ranked in 3 categories based on interest in CCOM and SSP, interest in community service, and quality of the essay. The scores are summed and averaged and an interview is offered dependant on the score. Applicants that satisfy a predetermined score are offered interviews. Other applications are re-reviewed and discussed to determine if an interview will be offered. Interviews consist of 3 SSP members who ask standardized questions. Interviewers are scored in categories

of professional appearance, interest in SSP, delivery of responses, originality of responses, and understanding the purpose and objectives of SSP.

Each member is required to participate on committees. The committees we created are Volunteer, Campus Awareness/Publicity, and PADS Steering Committee. Each committee has a chair that communicates directly with the executive board.

PADS Steering Committee: The PADS steering committee is responsible for scheduling students to volunteer at the PADS clinic. At least one of the committee members is present at the clinic every week. The chairperson for the PADS clinic is Anna McCormick and Lynn Sokolnicki.

Volunteer Committee: The volunteer committee works to organize philanthropy events on campus. Their goal this year to is hold an event in the fall and spring. The chairperson for the volunteer committee is Edwin Youngstrom and Beth Marshall.

Campus Awareness/Publicity: The campus awareness committee serves to increase Sigma Sigma Phi's presence on campus through participating in campus sponsored community events and promotion to new MS-I students as well as eligible MS-II's and III's. The chair for 2007-2008 is Rene Trela.

Service Projects

Our goal for this year is to continue with the projects that we participated with last year while expanding the scope of our activities in order to involve more members. The response so far from the members has been overwhelming in regards to involvement as well as expression of support and increased promotion Sigma Sigma Phi around campus

PADS Clinic

PADS stands for Public Action to Deliver Shelter. South Suburban PADS is an inter-faith program providing shelter and supportive services to homeless persons. Compassion, hospitality and dignity are key characteristics of the PADS program. We have teamed up with the PADS program to host a free health clinic for patients who are unable to obtain healthcare elsewhere. We staff the clinic every Thursday throughout the academic year as well as the summer. We provide basic health care needs for our patients and also provide medication and referrals as necessary. This is our largest service project, through which both members and non-members can volunteer in conjunction with Sigma Sigma Phi.

Medical supplies/toiletries Drive:

As free health care clinic, PADS is in need of medications, medical supplies, and basic medical equipment. In addition we will be asking for toiletries such as soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, etc.

Clothing Drive:

We have coordinated with the radiology club to hold an on campus clothing drive from September 19th to November 20th. Another clothing drive will be held at the end of the spring.

Food Supply Drive:

At the end of the school year, we will be asking students moving out of the dormitories to donate their non-perishable foods to benefit others.

National Primary Care Week:

Coordinating with American Medical Student Association (AMSA) to bring in a speaker from PADS to talk about serving the homeless community in the greater Chicago area.

Organizational Fair:

Although the MS-I students cannot apply until our spring application, through our multi-tiered efforts this year to expand our presence on campus, we hope to raise awareness and enthusiasm amongst the current MS-I students. The Organizational Fair is hosted by CCOM Student Council. We created brochures and promoted our events for this year.

Health Fair:

This is an annual community event hosted at Midwestern. Health information on blood pressures, diabetes care, free flu shots, anti-smoking education, and other such presentations are given to the public. We are presenting on the effects of caffeine.

Halloween Fest:

Halloween Fest is community event targeted to give children in the area an event to attend with indoor trick-or-treating and games. About 200 community members came to the overall event. At this event last year, we hosted the Musical Chairs table and handed out candy to kids from the community. This year's event is on October 24th, and we will be hosting a "fish for candies" game.

World AIDS Day:

A poster was created regarding HIV/AIDS clinics in the Chicago-land area, focusing on the organization Vital Bridges. We also solicited donations during the fair to donate to the clinic.

Ronald McDonald House:

The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. In coordination with the Pediatrics club, we committed to serving dinner for the families staying at the house at least once a quarter.

The Ronald McDonald House is located in Hines, IL located near Loyola University Medical Center. The rooms in the house are available for a small fee to families of inpatients at Loyola University Medical Center, Shriners Hospital, Rush Children's Hospital, and UIC Children's Hospital.

The house opened in July of 1995 and it has served over 6,500 families. The House is 39,000 sq. feet, with 18 bedrooms, and 14 bathrooms. The House provides many common areas; on the first floor, there is a kitchen with 4 complete workstations, a great room, dining room, living room, and playroom. Throughout the rest of the House, there are 3 TV areas, a gazebo, 2 laundry facilities, a chapel, library, game and exercise room, secret tree house, and a secret garden to go with the House theme, The Secret Garden.

As volunteers, we were allowed complete access to the kitchen and all available utensils and appliances. We spent approximately 2hrs preparing/ cooking dinner for the residents to enjoy when they returned from long hours at the hospital. After the dinner was set up we were given a tour of the house.

Yorkville Community Center

Members organized a volunteer opportunity at the Yorkville Community Center. We helped the kids with their homework, although this was not need that much since they were on their spring break. We also played games with the kids like Chutes and Ladders and various video games. We also got to practice Spanish with some of the kids.

Project Health

A presentation was given on "Transition to Adult Care" at La Rabida Hospital. This event was coordinated through Project Health of University of Chicago.

Autism Society of Illinois

We re-organized the current filing system and researched for more information in areas that were lacking. The Autism Society of Illinois provides a great opportunity for volunteering that we hope that future SSP members will give their time.

Easter Festival: Campus Awareness Committee:

Easter Festival is an annual event hosted at Midwestern aimed towards providing fun games and activities for community children. We will be hosting a booth and sponsoring the egg hunt.

Autism Society of Illinois

We helped re-organized current filing system. The Autism Society of Illinois provides a great opportunity for volunteering that we hope that future SSP members will give their time.

Wheelchairs for Iraq

Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids was an organization created in 2005 to meet the needs of disabled children in Northern Iraq. We held a fundraising event at a local pub and had about 40 participants. With the match that the restaurant gave us (\$225), we made a total of \$480 which should help sponsor one and a half wheelchairs.

Osteopathic Awareness T-Shirt Sale

To further promote osteopathic medicine on campus and in the community, we designed T-shirts that endorse the principles of Sigma Sigma Phi and osteopathic medicine. On the front, we have the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine emblem. On the back, we have the motto, "It is about SERVICE. It is about LEADERSHIP. It is about COMMUNITY. It is about D.O.ing."

Other Proposed Service Projects

-Campus Penny Wars: We are planning to hold a "Penny War" fundraiser between the colleges on campus. Proceeds will go to benefit the PADS Clinic.

-Holiday Celebration with the Midwestern Choir: With members of the Midwestern Choir, we hope to visit a local assisted living community to share the holiday spirit by preparing dinner and singing songs.

-Daffodil Days: Daffodil Days is one of the American Cancer Society's oldest and most beloved fundraising programs. As the first flower of spring, the daffodil represents hope and renewal. To the American Cancer Society, the daffodil symbolizes the hope we all share for a future where cancer no longer threatens those we love. We hope to participate in this program during the spring.

Submitted by Sigma Sigma Phi Executive Board, 2008-2009

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