

SIGMA SIGMA PHI

GAMMA CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
1858 West Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16509

Compiled by: Sid Al-Hashimi, President 2008-2009

AOA NATIONAL
CONVENTION
LAS VEGAS, NV
OCTOBER 26, 2008

Executive Board

Chapter Advisor

Siddhartha Al-Hashimi, President (sid.alhashimi@lecom.edu)
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Melissa Loveranes, Secretary
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Class of 2011- 27 Members

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Lauren Frye Kaighin	Bahram Namdari	Duy Tran
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Class of 2010- 45 Members

Phillip Adams	Sylvia Hanna	Christopher Morgan
Daniel Anderson	Karyn Hughes	Elizabeth Nocera
Gretchen Allison	Kathryn Imberg	Erica Peart
Mark Bedard	Megan Jerrell	Malgorzata Poznalska
Joshua Brice	Anna Kopeliovich	Ali Rizvi
Derek Brown	Eleni Kotsis	Gene Michael Roffers
Daniel Bryden	Jessie Kunkel	Alla Roitman
David Buck	Scott Kunkel	Frank Savage
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Tyler Christman	Brian Lewis	Lindsay Stephens
Daniel Cranford	Jenna Lewis	Donald vonBorstel
Aaron Danison	Allison Long	Jeffrey Watts
Stephanie Genareo	Aimee Malesky	Joseph Zachariah
Margaret Hallahan	Jessica Mondani	Haipeng Zhang

Class of 2009- 57 Members

Josh Allen

Michael Archer

Jordan Baker

Ryan Barnes
Jamie Baumgart
Matt Benenatti
Angela Bosjolie
Nicole Carroll
David Colella
Krystle Crittenden
Jessie Dick
Stephanie Do
Smanda Durand
Jeff Fowler
Pravin George
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Jennifer Giordano
Scott Glick
Gens Goodman
Kevin Graham
Marla Hassink

Tim Holahan
Ian Humphreys
Jason Ignatius
Mark Ignatius
Katherine Kasper
Amy Kim
Ashley Kittridge
Holly Kline
Kevin Kotar
Chrissy Kulish
Wendy Lam
Kathleen Mangunay
Richard Massaro
Christopher Micallef
Mark Michael
Amy Midgley
Dan Neumeyer
Nadine Palermo

John Panzone
Graciela Perez
Patrice Poulucci
Samadh Ravangard
Crystal Rivell
David Seastone
Parvish Shah
Imran Shakir
Sarunas Silesoraitis
Emily Smith
Suzanne Spranklin
Mike Sumko
Ian Wendel
Jared White
Christina Williams
Julie Wojtaszczyk
Jacqueline Yancey
Desiree Yetter

*Meetings occur during the fourth Monday of every month.

INTRODUCTION

The Gamma Chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has truly an exciting and rewarding year. Last spring saw the turnover of the Class of 2010 Executive board members to the current board of the Class of 2011, and the induction of 27 new members. Unified and committed to the promotion of Osteopathy and serving as good citizens in our community, the Gamma Chapter of SSP continues to reach its goals and objectives. From outreach in the local Erie community, to fundraising and social events fostering awareness of Osteopathy, SSP has continued to grow thanks to the hard work and dedication of its chosen members. It is with great enthusiasm that we remain steadfast in these efforts as we continually grow and evolve to meet the perpetually changing needs of our student colleagues and the community at large.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Gamma Chapter of SSP extends invitations to apply for membership in both the fall and spring semesters. While all candidates must have at least a 3.0 GPA, we consider grades secondary to the candidate's level of involvement with the school and the community when making our selections. We have devised a point system with one scale that awards points for student organization membership, student leadership, community service, and balance that with a scale for GPA. As SSP is a service fraternity, we strongly value candidates that we feel will continue to serve the community.

In order to further promote involvement with SSP, the 2007 executive board was the first to implement requirements for continued membership. Members are required to participate in a minimum of one SSP-sponsored event for every year of membership. While these requirements are not very demanding, we felt that it was the fairest way to ease the transition into requiring involvement. We hope that future executive boards will gradually increase the service commitment.

EVENTS

I. Blood Drive

Critical blood shortages are a continual concern in the local Erie community. In response, the Gamma chapter of SSP has continued to support and work with the Community Blood Bank, a local non-profit organization in charge of recruiting donors and collecting blood. It has been the tradition of the Gamma chapter to hold two blood drives each year. However, due to excellent turnout, we are currently trying to organize two blood drives per semester (toward the beginning and end of each semester). The second blood drive in the spring semester; LECOM students donated a record 29 units of blood in one day. At the blood drive on September 3, we collected 19 units. We are planning another blood drive, tentatively set for December 3, and hope to set another record in donations. Although our efforts have been successful the need is still great and much more needs to be done. To this end we are re-evaluating our efforts with Community Blood Bank to make the drive even more successful; leaving a greater impact on the community and filling an important niche that is so desperately needed.

II. LECOM Live Benefit Concert

The inaugural LECOM Live benefit concert was held in the spring of 2006 and was met with overwhelming success. Since then, the Gamma chapter has continued the tradition of holding LECOM Live each semester. At LECOM Live, talented student and staff musicians perform for an audience of fellow classmates, faculty, staff, and members of the Erie community. Local businesses generously donate gift certificates and merchandise that are raffled off to attendees along with a 50/50 raffle.

The fall concert was held on September 15, 2008 at Molly Brannigan's Irish Pub. Musicians included members of the first year and second year classes. The event was attended by over 100 people and raised over \$200 for the House of Healing.

III. House of Healing

In the fall of 2005, the members of SSP adopted the House of Healing Organization. The House of Healing provides a stable home for women convicted of nonviolent crimes and their young children. The residential program offers a nurturing, loving environment for six to twelve months while the women learn vocational, life and parenting skills. As part of the rehabilitation process the women at the House of Healing also take part in counseling programs for chemical addictions and emotional problems. This program is very rewarding for the women and children involved and we are extremely enthusiastic to be working with this very worthy organization. SSP's involvement with the House of Healing is two-fold. We raise money for the organization through our LECOM Live concerts, and we spend time at the facility, interacting with the children and helping to provide them with positive role models. During the spring semester, we joined the organization for an Easter dinner. We brought eggs for the children to dye and also spent time playing games and doing crafts with them. In celebration of halloween, we are participating in the annual House of Healing Halloween party on October 29, 2008. There will be dinner and games for the children to play. This fall we have events planned including a Thanksgiving dinner, arts and crafts, and movie nights. We look forward to these events and more to come in the future.

IV. Fit for Life

In the spring semester, SOMA and the LECOM SGA received grant money to promote health and wellness in the community. To achieve this goal, they held Camp D.O. at a local elementary school. Along with many of the student organizations, SSP spent an afternoon with approximately one hundred third graders, teaching them about their bodies and how to make healthy choices. At the SSP station, the kids formed 2 teams, and did a relay race in which they had to correctly place a fabric organ onto a Velcro apron worn by a volunteer from their team. Once both teams had finished, we awarded prizes to the team that had the most organs in the correct location. We then explained the correct location and the function of each of the organs. At the end of the day, all of the kids received a bag with a T-shirt, jump rope, healthy snacks, and a bottle of water. This event was very educational and fun for the participants, and we at the Gamma chapter plan to be an active and integral part of activities like this one.

CONCLUSION

It has been quite an exciting and productive year for the Gamma Chapter of Sigma Sigma Phi. Various new ideas and activities were implemented this year and we were very proud of the success that each one brought. Our activities reflect the mission of Sigma Sigma Phi as a whole. We work for the community at large, for the student body that we serve and for the members, encouraging everyone to do their part. The overall benefits and rewards were far greater than the planning and work put into these events. Our greatest hope is that LECOM's future generations of SSP will only continue

to grow in consistency, creativity, and a true desire to complete the mission of SSP. Moreover, as long as our overall goals reflect this mission, then we are one step closer to this achievement.

Respectfully submitted,

Siddhartha Al-Hashimi, OMSII, class of 2011
President, Sigma Sigma Phi, Gamma Chapter