



SIGMA SIGMA PHI
EPSILON CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT

Midwestern University
Chicago College Osteopathic Medicine

ΣΣΦ National Convention
October 30, 2011

Daniel Coomes
President 2011-2012

Brad Smith
Vice President 2011-2012

Introduction

This year the Epsilon chapter has taken a running start to this year. Last year the executive board as well as the members of SSP looked to increase the visibility of SSP both on our campus as well as in the community. We have been trying to build on this, and continue to participate in a wide variety of service events within the community, including a bake sale for melanoma research; as well as various events on campus for the community arthritis walk & Chicago marathon. Already, within the first several months of school we have completed our Fall application process and have welcomed nine new members into SSP. We continue to strive to increase our visibility not only to the community & campus, but also our visibility for our classmates.

The club continues to strive toward the goals set last year, which focus around increasing osteopathic awareness in the community and raising interest in SSP on campus. We have collaborated with several different organizations both on and off campus to this end, including the Student Osteopathic Medical Association. Also, a presentation to the first and second year classes about Epsilon Chapter's actions on campus and goals was recently given, sponsored by the Executive Student Council of CCOM. Epsilon Chapter's faculty advisors, Dr. John Graneto and Dr. John Hohner continue to collaborate with our executive board and contribute to our work throughout the year.

Executive Board for 2010-2011:

- a. President: Daniel Coomes
- b. Vice President: Brad Smith
- c. Treasurer: Robert Korsch
- d. Secretary: Jamie Ellis

Financial Report

Our current balance as of October 21, 2010 is \$597.32, not accounting for fall membership drive dues

Membership

We currently have 97 active members, the break down is as follows:

- 43 OMS-IV
- 29 OMS-III
- 28 OMS-II

The fall application cycle began on September 16, 2011 and ran through September 26, 2011. We received 13 new applications and accepted 9 new members into Sigma Sigma Phi during the fall admissions drive. The spring applications will be available after completion of the winter quarter in March 2010.

The executive board serves to oversee all application cycles. The application process has been streamlined, and is now available entirely online. 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 neither 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 2-3 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. Finally, this year we have added a third level of assessment to the applications. Following the interview process, each application is reviewed and the scores on each individual question are determined. As before, if an application exceeds the pre-determined score, an invitation for membership into SSP is offered. However, for the applications that were below the pre-determined score, there are four questions that are reviewed by the final admissions committee to determine if the applicant is desirable for SSP membership. These questions focus on the role of the

applicant in SSP, how the applicant understands the mission of SSP, and how the applicant perceives that he/she can benefit from membership in SSP. These questions were chosen because the executive board believes these to most directly affect the understanding & willingness of the applicant to join SSP. The average of these 4 questions is determined and if the average is below the overall total for these questions in all applications, the applicant is not offered an invitation for membership. We feel that this extra stage controls for any bias that may arise between the interviewer & interviewee, as well as controlling for excessively high interview scores on questions that have no direct bearing on SSP qualities (such as appearance of the interviewee)

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 chairpersons for the PADS clinic are Jessica North and Abigail Goodman.

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. This year we have made a concerted effort to continue to increase our presence on the Midwestern University campus through participation in their annual health clinic & Halloween Fest. We have additional plans for involvement in upcoming events such as the SeaSpar Dance & Easter Fest.

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. 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.

MS-I Informational Session:

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. During the winter quarter, the executive board plans on hosting a lunch & informational meeting for the current MS-I students to increase their interest in the organization. We opted not to participate in the fall organizational fair this year because we did not want to inform MS-I students too early so that they forget about SSP. Instead we have decided to hold the lunch just prior to the opening of the spring application cycle so that MS-I students do not forget about the opportunity that they have to apply to SSP. During this presentation we plan to not only explain the mission & goals of SSP, but also to stress the importance of osteopathic awareness as well as academic importance for all MS-I students.

Health Fair:

The Midwestern community health fair is an event open for the community to attend and learn about health related issues as well as do things such as blood accuchecks to learn about diabettes risk, blood pressure checks and also OMM exams. Members of SSP help run various booths and interact with community members regarding their personal health.

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. This is event is occurring in the coming week and we have many members participating.

Easter Festival: Campus Awareness Committee:

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

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."

First Year Mentoring:

In an effort to increase visibility on campus, and to make first year students aware of Epsilon Chapter's actions on campus, we coordinated with the CCOM Dean's Office to plug one Sigma Sigma Phi member into faculty mentoring groups formed during freshman orientation. This gives the first year students someone they can ask questions of without fear of offending a professor, and gives Epsilon Chapter the ability to stay involved with these students, since these mentoring groups continue to meet throughout their first year.

This year the first year student-mentoring program was discontinued by the CCOM Dean's office. In an effort to maintain this important part of adjusting to medical school, SSP plans to offer a separate mentoring program that is optional for students following the conclusion of their winter quarter. We believe that it is important to provide first year students with guidance prior to their first final exam week in medical school, as well as providing direction on what would be the best way to get involved in projects such as medical research during their first summer break.

Rotation Speed Dating:

To serve the second year members of CCOM, the executive board of our chapter planned a co-chaired event which brought in third and fourth year Sigma Sigma Phi members to come back to campus and talk about rotation sites with us. Food and beverages were provided, and a "speed dating" style event took place with students rotating around to tables with a older student there for them to talk about their opinions on rotation sites. One third or fourth year will be sitting at one of several tables, where five to six first and second year students will be able to ask questions concerning rotation sites, boards, etc. After a designated period of time, the first and second years rotated, getting a chance to get the "scoop" on rotations from another knowledgeable source. We feel that this better serves the second years prior to their designation of rotation "tracks" than a panel, since the ratio of upperclassmen to underclassmen will be greatly reduced, facilitating easy communication. The advantages to this event are to increase third and fourth year involvement with Epsilon Chapter, while increasing exposure and interest among underclassmen. It was extremely successful and is planned to be an annual event within our chapter.

Submitted by Sigma Sigma Phi Executive Board, 2011-2012

Daniel Coomes
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
ΣΣΦ President 2011-2012