Sigma Kappa Member Continues Passion for Terp Thon

By Alex Stoller, ΣΚ

Growing up outside of Philadelphia, all of Katie Vogel’s friends went to Pennsylvania State University. In choosing not to follow their lead and come to Maryland instead, she knew she was missing out on THON, the college’s IFC/Panhellenic 46-hour dance marathon.

Luckily for Vogel, she found Terp Thon, Maryland’s 12-hour dance marathon. This year, she served her second year as one of 100 internal members and a fundraising committee captain.

“It’s made me feel like I’m actually doing something with my time and I am part of a worthy cause on campus,” she said. “It’s making a difference in many children’s lives and I’ve realized this is what I want to do with my life.”

Vogel is one of many internal members in the Greek community. On March 7, she joined over 2,000 students in fulfilling a pledge to stand from noon to midnight. The end result was $604,318.24 for the kids of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Members of the Greek community raised over 70 percent of the money.

“It makes me proud to be a member of a Greek organization,” Vogel said. “I have enjoyed watching everyone else participate. It is something that I share with not only my friends, but my sisters.”

This year, Vogel is a junior psychology major and the vice president of programming for Sigma Kappa’s Beta Zeta chapter here on campus. Next year, she plans to continue her time with Terp Thon as an internal member, again making miracles and raising as much money for the kids as she can.

“I really look forward to being a member for another year and hope to be a morale dancer,” she said. “I know if I'm as energetic now about Terp Thon in the off season, I can push people to keep dancing in the future.

Kappa Alpha Theta Collects 200 Prom Dresses for CASA and DSS

By Rebecca Sachs, ΔΦΕ

Kappa Alpha Theta has been working hard to support their national philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services. CASA is an organization of volunteers that aims to support children dealing with abuse and neglect while going through the justice system to ensure that they are taken care of properly and placed in safe foster homes. According to their website, CASA helped 238,000 abused children find permanent homes just last year. In their efforts to support CASA and Prince George’s County Department of Social Services, Kappa Alpha Theta has conducted a prom dress drive to donate to the young girls in these organizations. These girls are or once were in foster homes and may not be able to afford a prom dress, so the dress drive is the perfect way to give these young ladies the opportunity to find a dress they love and build them up with confidence. Giving girls the chance to feel beautiful is a valuable experience and it embodies our goal as sorority women-- to inspire and encourage other women to have confidence. Kappa Alpha Theta has received donations from many individuals, but over 40 of the dresses came from Kelsey’s Kloset Boutique in Laurel. When all of the dresses have been collected, the women of Kappa Alpha Theta will be personally donating the dresses at the two organizations they are supporting.

This is an inspiring and eye-opening project in our community that we should all be proud of.
By Ariana Braia, AΩΠ

Human trafficking is a widely overlooked issue that the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi bravely chose to shed light on. More than 20 brothers have undergone the necessary training to help identify and assist victims of human trafficking in the Maryland area. As a result, the Epsilon Delta chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi recently became the first nationally recognized fraternity to be a “Safe Haven” against human trafficking. The Safe Haven Campaign raises awareness about human trafficking and educates the public about its prevalence in the U.S. The study series that the brothers completed to be deemed a safe haven included four training sessions that describe the signs of human trafficking, and demonstrate how to be an effective “upstander.”

“Human trafficking is not a Greek Life issue, it’s a human issue,” says senior Zack Anstett. “The men of Alpha Sig are taking grassroots efforts in changing the ‘us versus them’ mentality to an ‘us and them’ mentality.”

Anstett points out how underrated the concern of human trafficking is, and why the fraternity is working to promote both the equality and protection of these victims.

Junior Kodiak Carb became involved with the campaign after discussing potential community service pursuits with Anstett. “We thought that by pushing to establish a fraternity as a Safe Haven, not only would we be educating the fraternity, but also might encourage involvement by anyone else in the community who happened to hear,” Carb explains. He hopes to increase awareness around campus, and spark compassion among those who care about this issue.

The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi have proven their integrity, as well as their dedication to the greater Maryland community by investing their time and efforts into such a large and meaningful cause. If you or someone you know wants to get involved with the safe haven campaign, contact Kodiak Carb at kcarb@umd.edu.

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