

the BIG room

- UAB Alumni Newsletter -

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Dear UAB Alumnus and Fellow Spartans!

It brings me great joy to extend another warm greeting from East Lansing. This issue of the BIG room is the second installment of many to come throughout the following years. This newsletter is to keep you updated on all of this year's accomplishments and to update you on events and what is happening within the UAB office.

Whether you have been away from the Big Room for one year or 10 years, you would be happy to know that we continue to bring excellent programming to the campus of Michigan State University every weekend during the fall and spring semesters. Our board of eight directors, four advisors and our countless general board members work tirelessly to cultivate an "Outstanding Spartan Experience" to the students, faculty and staff who attend our events.

Our hope is that this newsletter sparks some great memories that you had from your time at MSU and UAB. We invite you to "like" our Facebook page (*University Activities Board at Michigan State University*) and reconnect with other alumni. If you are ever in East Lansing, please feel free to stop by the office, located on the third floor Union. We are MOVING to a bigger Big room as we speak and would love for you to stop by and see the changes!



Go Green!

Stephanie Donelko

Director of Spirit and Traditions
University Activities Board
Michigan State University

UAB
MICHIGAN STATE
university activities board

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Monday, October 12, 2009

We started off Homecoming week with Hayrides and History as UAB partnered with the Studnet Alumni Foundation for "Hayrides and History." These historical tours of MSU's campus took place on tractor-pulled trailers full of hay. The tour guides were Student Alumni Foundation members. They informed students and families from the East Lansing-area about 150 years of fascinating MSU history. UAB members served donuts and hot chocolate as students hopped on a tractor for a wonderful night of fun. The turnout was phenomenal and proved to be an excellent start to Homecoming week 2009.



Sunday, October 11, 2009

After many years of trying to conquer the famous MSU rock, we did it! General board members and directors staked our claim at the rock throughout the day so that as dusk fell upon East Lansing, we could break out our spray paint and paint The Rock. After clouds of spray paint filled the air, our masterpiece was complete. It was an amazing start to a busy week for all of UAB.



Wednesday, October 14, 2009

MSU students were given the opportunity to show how "green" they could possibly be at the annual Spartan Spirit Craft Night. Students began lining up early in the food court of the Union to creatively decorate 100% recyclable bags. Tons of rhinestones, puffy paint, glitter, foam figures and other crafty supplies were provided to personalize their "Go Green" reusable bag. Within the first hour every table was occupied by students decorating their bags, tables were even competing to see which bag could out do the other one. Overall, the turnout for craft night was largely successful.

Homecoming 2009

"We've Always Been Green"

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Sounds of Homecoming switched to a different night this year to accommodate the early Accapalooza that occurred. Over 500 people filled the MSU Union Main Lounge to listen to 5 accapella groups perform including: The Spartan Dischords, The Accafellas, Ladies First, Capital Green and State of Fifths. Many of the groups combined singing and hilarious antics. The inclusion of a newly formed accapella group, State of Fifths, added to the entertainment that usually accompanies this event. Stars were born and music filled the air as another great night of singing and laughter filled the Union.



Friday, October 16, 2009

Wrapping up Homecoming week 2009 the UAB paired up with the MSU Dairy Store to present Ice Cream at the Rock and Dairy Store Double Dare. Kicking it off at noon on Friday, thousands of students stopped by in between class to grab a delicious serving of ice cream. Flavors included Chocolate, Vanilla, Chocolate Sundae, Vanilla Sundae, Strawberry and Sesquential Swirl.

Students then had the opportunity to enter their names into the Dairy Store Double Dare competition with the chance of winning an 8G ipod touch. Students selected competed in four rounds of competition with eliminations happening in the end of each round. It got messier and messier and more intense as the students fixed their eyes on the prize. The winner went home happy and covered in an icky mix of Butterscotch pudding shaving cream, cheese puffs and more.

The week finished up with the annual Homecoming Parade and a night of music and Midnight Madness.



Alumni Re-Connect with Cheryl Brodowski

Graduated 2007, majored in Communication and Business.



What were your UAB leadership positions?

"I began volunteering with the UAB general board my sophomore year at Michigan State. I think I may have participated in almost every committee! That spring I became the Director of Business. The fall of my junior year I was the Director of Human Resources. Finally, in the spring of my junior year and throughout my senior year I had the honor to serve as the Chairperson of UAB."

What was your favorite event that UAB put on while you were here?

"It is so difficult to choose just one event to call my favorite during my three year tenure with the University Activities Board! Some of the highlights that come to mind are: working on Spartan Idol, Casino Night with insane amounts of Jones Soda prizes, free ice skating at Munn packed to capacity on St. Patrick's Day (with televisions on the concourse to show the tournament basketball games, of course), the annual Battle of the Bands, and a beautiful spring day when 7,000 more people than expected arrived for Sparty's Spring Party."

What is your fondest memory of UAB?

"While the events were exciting, my fondest memories of UAB surround the people who became my best friends. It was those late nights working on events and homework in the Big Room and daily trips to Wendy's (or the Heritage Café on mac & cheese day) with my fellow UAB'ers that were essential to my experience at Michigan State. My list of goofy memories shared with the group who served in UAB with me could go on for pages. I love them all dearly, even though we have since been separated by hundreds of miles. I would not be the person I am today without the UAB advisors as well. Not only will I never forget Cathy's notes and peanut M&M supply or Tami's love for the "A swoosh" logo and Jimmy Buffet, (or Janelle, Josh, and Mike, who all work elsewhere now), but more importantly their ability to find the time to keep us all sane in our UAB, academic, and personal lives. I hope to always have them in my life, as they believed in me at times when I might have had my doubts, which proves what invaluable friendships they are."

How has UAB helped prepare you for life after college?

"I currently work as an Assistant Director in the Wesleyan Fund at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. I cannot even begin to express how vital UAB's role was in preparing me for life after Michigan State. The vast array of interactions had and relationships formed directly impacted my skill set. I was able to learn intangibles such as time management, project coordination, and how to prioritize long to-do lists in addition to how different departments within the University structure operate and collaborate with one another.

Serving on advisory boards, attending national conferences, partnering with other student organizations, operating under the Housing & Food Service Department and working on projects with Marketing & Communications taught me just as much as my classes did. I use the knowledge gained from both professors and my time in UAB on an everyday basis."

Any thing else you would like to say?

"I have such Spartan pride and am forever grateful for my UAB experience! I love to hear about the amazing things members are doing today. If any UAB'ers are ever out in or near Connecticut, I hope you'll stop by and see me! Much love from the East Coast."



UAB Fast Fact:
Our attendance during fall semester totaled 64,062!

Rap Battle

"This isn't 8 mile"

After a three year hiatus from the battlefields of rapping, UAB's Spirit and Traditions committee came together to put on a Rap Battle on April 17th, 2010. The event came a day after the Official MSU Drag Show and the committee wanted to reach out to a different crowd of students in the MSU student population. Nineteen rappers put their names and lyrics into the competition. The entry round was a thirty second free style in which audience decibel level decided the top sixteen rappers that would face off against one another. There were some interesting characters and amazing lyricism but in the end only one could take the title. Steven Jonna stole the Championship round with his second battle against Greg Chase. He not only won over the crowd but won the respect of all the other rappers. Christina Carbone noted, "I loved how at the end of each round, no matter how much the rappers bashed each other, they shook hands or gave each other a hug. It's like there is a common ground of respect between them." Overall the night was a huge success with over 250 people in attendance. Next year we will see who will bring their rap game to MSU and steal the title at the Rap Battle.



UAB Graduates the First Leadership Academy Class

On April 15th, the University Activities Board graduated its first ever Leadership Academy class. Made up of 25 emerging leaders, the students participating in the Leadership Academy devoted themselves to five weeks of leadership development, team-building, and personal growth. Leadership Academy session topics ranged anywhere from ethical and servant leadership to learning one's personality type and how to work effectively with individuals of different types to resume-building. The goal of the program was to assist students involved to critically think about leadership and what it means to them, along with helping them develop their own personal leadership style and philosophy. Those involved (the coordinators, guest speakers, and participants) were all challenged in different ways, and came out having a much greater sense of leadership, all while having a wonderful time and meeting new people!



4th Annual Lil Sibs Weekend

Friday night of Lil Sibs weekend drew in over 1000 students and siblings to the MSU Union. Students and their brothers and sisters competed in Life Size Trouble, Life Size Battleship, Inflatable Twister and Laser Tag. There were several crafts for everyone to make including spin art frisbees, MSU street signs and sandy candy. Potter Park Zoo gave a presentation in the Main Lounge and brought a variety of animals for the kids to take pictures with and pet. The theme for the night was the Game of Life, so once participants made their way through the Union, they were able to "retire" to the board game and shuffle board rooms. Overall, the first night of Lil Sibs was a great success.

Saturday the 4th annual outdoor scavenger hunt took place. This year we implemented a photo component into the race. After the race Saturday afternoon, sibs were able to get tours of the Breslin Center locker rooms. It was a pretty cool experience for both students and their siblings. Not many people can say they have gotten to see the locker room of the 2009 and 2010 Big Ten Champions. Go Green!

The weekend ended with a fabulous night of "Are You Smarter Than Your Sib?" Over 250 students and their sibs came out to compete against one another in a game of smarts. This event was our most successful Saturday of Sibs to date.

UAB Fast Fact: Social Media

We have 643 fans on facebook, 589 followers on Twitter and 60% of our fans are female.

UAB Fast Fact: Green Certified

UAB became Green certified by the Office of Campus Sustainability this year.

UAB Fast Fact:

www.uabevents.com gets 8,500 visits each month.



**Don't forget to check us out on the Web at:
www.uabevents.com**