

# the BIG room

- UAB Alumni Newsletter -

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Dear UAB Alumnus and Fellow Spartans!

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm UAB greeting from East Lansing. This is the first installment of a new Alumni Newsletter that UAB will be publishing on an annual basis to keep you up-to-date with all the latest events and happenings in our 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 nine 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 join our Facebook group (*University Activities Board Alumni (MSU)*) 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 of the MSU Union Room 322. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



Go Green!

Jake Lestan

Director of Spirit and Traditions  
University Activities Board  
Michigan State University

**UAB**  
MICHIGAN STATE  
university activities board

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## Monday, September 29, 2008

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 SAF members. They informed students and families from the East Lansing-area about 150 years of fascinating MSU history. UAB members served refreshments including apple cider and donuts, and handed out cowbells and wristbands to help raise Spartan Spirit. Sparty even showed up for a few minutes to play around and hold up traffic.



## Tuesday, September 30, 2008

The "Sounds of Homecoming" concert took place in the MSU Union Main Lounge at 8:00 p.m. MSU's premiere accappella groups – Spartan Dischords, Accafellas, Ladies First and Capital Green – performed a variety of songs for students. Your Mom Improv, MSU's Improv Comedy troupe, served as Masters of Ceremony for the event with humorous tidbits throughout the evening.

## Wednesday, October 1, 2008

"Spartan Spirit Craft Night" was in the Union Food Court. The spirited, but relaxed, two hours gave students an opportunity to create a variety of crafts, all in a Green and White theme. Students were able to take advantage of free supplies, and prepare themselves for the Homecoming football game and all the spirit that it would entail.

# HOMECOMING 2008

*"Go For the Green"*

## Thursday, October 2, 2008

The first annual "Spartan Iditarod" took place on the field behind the Rock, leading down to the Red Cedar. Although it was a cold and very rainy night, teams of students gathered to create a sled built out of nothing more than cardboard and duct tape. They had two hours to construct their sleds, and then they raced them across lengths of tarp covered in soap bubbles. Teams raced sled-dog-style with one person in the sled while the rest of the team pulling it along like sled dogs. Prizes in the form of personalized snow shovels were awarded for several categories including; Best Time, Best Fall, Best Sled Name, Most Spirited and Most Creative.

**Spartan™  
Iditarod**  
EST. 2008  
MSU's First Cardboard Sled Race



## Friday, October 3, 2008

The day kicked off with "Ice Cream at the Rock," an always-popular event where UAB members handed out bowls of ice cream from MSU's very own Dairy Store to any person who happened to be passing by the Rock at that time. Tables were set up in front of the Dairy Store truck, as volunteers kept up a constant stream of demand by shouting flavors, handing out ice cream, and throwing the empty boxes into a growing pile.

Around noon began "Dairy Store Double Dare," a series of relay races and timed competitions involving water balloons, butterscotch pudding and a whole lot of mess. Students competed individually in numerous rounds until a single student was left. There were just as many spectators as participants for this spectacularly gooey event.

That night was "Homecoming Folk Fest" in the Union Ballroom – a free concert for students featuring artistis Frontier Ruckus, Chris Bathgate and Southeast Engine.



# Alumni Re-Connect with Melissa Keen

Graduated December 2002, majored in Human Resources Management. Involved with UAB for 3.5 years.



## What were your UAB leadership positions?

"Well, this is an interesting question for me...I started working with "UAB" when it was two separate entities, the Campus Center, and the Union Activities Board. Within the Campus Center, I held various positions, including handing out highlighters during 'traffic hours' at the International Center (IC)! Those were the days!! I was fortunate enough to be at MSU when the Campus Center and the Union Activities Board merged into the University Activities Board. As part of that group, I held the positions of the Educational Chair, and then Chairperson of the UAB for my final 1.5 years with UAB."

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

"I would have to say the Drag Show...that started as one of my special events, and was called the Sass and Snow Drag Show. We had a blast. However, I also was around for the conceptions of Dice on Ice, and Sparty Spring Party, which were also so much fun!! I can honestly say, however, that I looked forward to every single weekend to the different events. I often look at the UAB web site to see what types of events and fun is in store for the students each weekend! I also really enjoyed craft nights, I still have random UAB crafts hanging around my shelves!"

## What is your fondest memory of UAB?

"By far, the friendships I developed and all of the memories associated are my fondest memories. When I graduated from MSU, UAB was such an important part of my college life, that I can remember being so sad, but happy at the same time that I spent my 4.5 years being involved, and really making the most of my time. UAB has so much to do with that! Some of the fun memories that I will never forget are Root Beer Float Parties, driving around in the van hanging up flyers, Tami wearing a Velcro suit, the popcorn smell in Wells, Free Food nights (crazy), the DJs, eating Subway for dinner every Friday/Saturday, Campus Center Highlighters, awesome t-shirts (I still have them all), recruiting volunteers, the early shift for Arts and Craft Show and so many more!!!"

## How has UAB helped prepare you for life after college?

"Involvement in UAB is an experience that has really shaped who I am and how my career has progressed. It was a very valuable experience to have planned major events for all students at a Big Ten University. This type of experience not only goes far with recruiters, but it also helps shape who you will be as a leader. The leadership skills and the self confidence built while planning and implementing major events has helped set the foundation for me with my career. The opportunities to work with volunteers and teammates, and understanding how work evolves and gets done, as well as experiencing different leadership styles, encouraged me in my career (and now professional) choice of Human Resource Management."

## Any thing else you would like to say?

"UAB was such an important part of my life, for students involved now, you may not realize it now, but if you truly take advantage of what UAB has to offer, it will impact your life for a long time. You really have the opportunity to mold your experience into being something that is truly impactful. It will help you achieve self confidence, leadership skills, teamwork skills, creativity and innovation, budget management, it will help you acquire friendships.... maybe a job, and who knows you may even meet your future spouse!"



### **UAB Fast Fact:**

*128,282 people attended the 225 events held in the 2007-2008 school year.*

## **MSU Union**

***"Open 'til 2, Just for you!"***

The MSU Union, once a central point of this campus, may be a little different than it was when it opened 84 years ago. Today, the Union is a hot spot for students to meet up with friends and study or to get their everyday needs taken care of at the bank, post office, or even grabbing a quick sandwich at McAlister's Deli. Most importantly, all of UAB's bright ideas are created on the third floor in the UAB headquarters. Events that take place at the Union include our Noontime Concert series which is held on the main floor and Open Mic Nights arranged by our Special Events Committee. The Arts Committee hosts bi-weekly crafts nights held in the Union Square Food Court. Thursdays, there is Bowling and Billiards in the basement at Spartan Lanes, free to MSU students. With all the concerts and different activities going on, it is hard to be there and not grab a coffee from Biggby's, some new MSU apparel at the Spartan Spirit Shop, or most people's favorite, some Sesquicentennial Ice Cream from the MSU Dairy Store. It may have changed a little bit since 1925, or even in the past few years, but the MSU Union is still a favorite place to many and an essential asset to the University.



## **The Price is Right**

On November 22, 2008, the Films and the Spirit and Traditions committees collaborated to bring the game show "The Price Is Right" to MSU. With Spirit and Traditions Director Jake Lestan as our very own Bob Barker, UAB turned the the large lecture hall in the Business College Complex into a replica of the game studio complete with a spinning wheel and well-known games. Students came out for the event from all over campus, some even bringing posters and their homemade t-shirts. The night was full of fun, laughs and tons of free prizes. Contestants won everything from a spring break trip to Ramen Noodles.



## Hip-Hop Meets Classical Meets 80's

During the second weekend of February, UAB hosted two new events on campus. "Totally Awesome 80's" was put on by the Multicultural Committee while the Leadership and Education and Special Events Committees brought Black Violin to campus. Both events featured live music which made the evenings a total success. The Square Pegs played flashback 80's music including hits from Madonna, the B-52's and Duran Duran. Attendees of "Totally Awesome 80's" were able to date their dos with colored hairspray and side ponytails and increase their 80's wardrobe with snap bracelets and bright colored sunglasses. Saturday's event featured TK, Kev and Wil of Black Violin. They took control of the Erickson Kiva stage, playing violin and viola, highlighting covers of Kayne West, Lauryn Hill and on the opposite end of music with Bach. Both events brought out a variety of students, who were able to dance the night away.

### **UAB Fast Fact:**

*Awards won at the National Association of Campus Activities Regional Conference include; Outstanding Multicultural Program Award (Drag Show), Graphics Award-Themed Campaign (U-Fest and Lil Sibs Weekend), Program of the Year Award (Dice & Ice and Sparty's Spring Party)*

### **UAB Fast Fact:**

*Four \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to student volunteers who demonstrated a commitment to UAB throughout the year.*

### **UAB Fast Fact:**

*UAB partnered with 35 different organizations and departments including the City of East Lansing, RHA and SADA*



**Don't forget to check us out on the Web at:  
[www.uabevents.com](http://www.uabevents.com)**