

Mount Saint Mary College C451 Sigma Tau Chapter

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History and Heritage

What accomplishment is your chapter most proud of?

The accomplishment we are most proud of is our ability to bring joy to our community. We involve ourselves in the community in several ways, most notably the Adopt a Family event we host during the holidays. Each year, the Sigma Tau Chapter adopts a few families in the Newburgh, New York area; the members graciously donate gifts, wrapping supplies etc. to provide these families with a warm and happy holiday. It is amazing how our chapter comes

together to give these families a chance to have gifts for their children. During fall finals time, our members get together for a social wrapping night where the gifts are prepared for delivery. We provide hot chocolate and snacks. It gives our members a place to relax during a stressful time as well as gives our members a sense of charity. We also bond as a chapter.

Since your chapter was started, how has it made an impact on the education department at your college/university?

Since our founding in 1992, our chapter has supported a reciprocal relationship between our education department and its students. The professors in the education department are always willing to participate in our events as well as offer ideas, suggestions, and positive feedback. They announce upcoming events in each of their classes and encourage education students to become members of our chapter. Our chapter loves to give back to our professors as well. When they do research and host events of their own, we also support them and offer incentives to get members to go. Furthermore we induct our professors as honorary members of our society. These professors are chosen based on their outstanding contributions to the chapter. Lastly, our education students have also greatly benefited from our events that we host. They learn a lot about teaching and earn professional development.

Leadership and Membership

Who has been integral in the success of your chapter?

Dr Smirnova, our counselor is an asset to the Sigma Tau Chapter. She begins to help us over the summer by opening her home to us for leadership training. On this day, Dr. Smirnova assists present and future officers connect to form one solid leadership team. She not only prepares a great meal for us, but she also defines our chapter's ideal and outlines our goals. Throughout the semester, Dr. Smirnova offers great advice and assistance with each event. For instance, she is our head instructor in our SMARTboard tutorial that we host twice a semester. She always encourages new ideas. Since becoming our counselor, the attendance at our events has multiplied tremendously.

What sorts of things does your chapter do to develop members professionally?

Our chapter has many professional development events that we host throughout our school year. Our most popular event is the Principal Panel. We have acting principals and administrators come to review resumes and host mock interviews with teacher candidates. Afterward, the panel provides feedback and advice to our future teachers about how to be successful in their upcoming careers. We also host two SMARTboard tutorials each semester where students as well as teachers from the community are invited to earn professional development as well as learn how to incorporate SMARTboard activities into their teaching. In 2010 we also hosted EXCITE a Northeastern Conference where several schools attended and hosted professional development events ranging from behavior management to SMARTboard to Universal Design for Learning classes.

Programming

How has your chapter contributed to the community?

The Mount Saint Mary College chapter LOVES to involve our local community. We host several drives throughout the year including a yearlong book drive and two food drives: one for Thanksgiving and one for Easter. We donate the books to local schools and hospitals. The food is donated to Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. Our chapter also hosts events to get the community involved. Local teachers are invited to take part in our SMARTboard tutorials to help enhance their students' learning experience. Once a year, we also do the annual Literacy Alive where we invite local schools, Head Start, and family and friends to come have fun with literacy. Children are immersed in books of a particular theme and are transported to the wild world of literacy!

What is a tradition your chapter carries on?

The Sigma Tau Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi has a long running success with training our future officers. Over the summer we always have a leadership training day at our counselor, Dr. Smirnova's house. It is a day for present and future officers to bond with each other as well as start planning our fabulous events for the upcoming school year. At this time, each individual office meets, mentor and co-officer, to discuss the duties and responsibilities of their position as well as the events they will have to plan. This is a great day for us because it is the day we become a team and our successful year begins.