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Neighbors

Linking Seton Hall University and the Community

Greek Service & Leadership: Improving Communities

Seton Hall's fraternities and sororities make a positive impact through community service

The University's mission statement reads, "Seton Hall students are prepared to be leaders in their professional and community lives in a global society and are challenged by outstanding faculty, an evolving technology, advanced settings and values-centered curricula." The words "service" and "leadership" are taken very seriously at Seton Hall and this is evident in the character and actions of the sororities and fraternities who focus their concerns and time on the community throughout the year.

Part of being a member of a sorority or fraternity is embodying four ideals: leadership, scholarship, community service and brotherhood/sisterhood. Whether it be coordinating fundraising events with Columbia High School, participating in the Rahway River Clean-Up or organizing philanthropic events to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the Greek chapters at Seton Hall exemplify these four pillars. Last year, the majority of Seton Hall's contribution to Relay for Life came from money raised by Greek organizations.

Mariel Pagan, director of Greek Life, explains that the 14 sororities and 12 fraternities are not limited to these types of community

service, but are required to do at least one project per semester. Once a chapter decides on a particular community service project, the chapter submits their plans to the Division of Volunteer Efforts (D.O.V.E.) for review.



Seton Hall Greek organizations are governed by a recently adopted "point system" which awards points in four categories: academics, chapter management, membership development and community development. The point system was adopted by the Greek Municipal Assembly to keep a better record of the amount of service the chapters participated in throughout the year. James Ward, a brother of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, says, "The main goal that we aim for when determining a community service program or

activity is whether or not we are helping those who truly need it the most."

Through their service and leadership, members of Greek chapters have become great role models, both inside and outside of the Seton Hall Community. Not only are students becoming servant leaders— South Orange, Maplewood, and the surrounding communities are getting a helping hand.



Seton Hall University Welcomes Neighbors to Relay for Life

On Friday, April 16, Seton Hall students will once again host the overnight relay to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember lost loved ones and fight back against the disease. The Relay for Life event takes place in the University's Field House and will begin at 6 p.m. and end 6 a.m. the next morning. Students are encouraging residents of South Orange and Maplewood to form teams and join in this life-changing fundraiser. Last year alone, the University was able to raise over \$50,000 for the American Cancer Society. This year's goal is \$60,000. For more information on Relay for Life, please visit www.relayforlife.org. To participate in this year's event at Seton Hall, please contact Melissa Boege, community coordinator, at melissa.boege@student.shu.edu.

Notable Neighbors



Petroccia Family

*A Maplewood Family of
Community Volunteers*

“We have all been involved in community activities whether it be at schools, recreation, church or local government throughout Maplewood and South Orange,” says Liz Petroccia. The Petroccia family has lived in Maplewood for about 25 years. Despite having a busy schedule that revolves around family events, children’s recreation sports and other day-to-day activities, Vince, Liz, Catherine and Grace Petroccia always manage to find time to volunteer and help others.

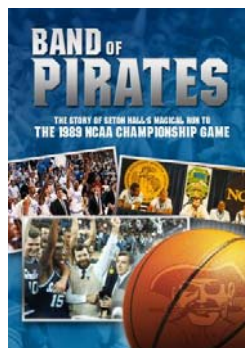
They are active parishioners at St. Joseph’s Parish, help out the CYO girls’ basketball team, and host dinners for Seton Hall students at their home through the “Home Away from Home” program sponsored by the office of Community Relations.

The family has enjoyed participating this program so much that they not only meet with students over dinner, but invite them down to the Jersey shore, take shopping trips to Montclair, get together over coffee and visit the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland together. They treat every student like family. This past Thanksgiving, the family opened their homes to Qi, a Seton Hall Chinese foreign exchange student. As Liz states, “Seton Hall has been a good neighbor to our community.”

CAMPUS SNAPSHOT



In June 2009, Seton Hall University President Monsignor Robert Sheeran announced he would step down from the presidency the following year. Monsignor’s announcement marked the beginning of the presidential transition and our search for a new president. Joseph LaSala, J.D. ’72 has been selected as the chair of the Presidential Search and Screening Committee. This 12-person search committee includes members representing all constituencies of the University. The committee prepared the Presidential Position Profile and will meet on a regular basis to review resumes and interview candidates. Meanwhile, from now until May 2010, Monsignor Sheeran will travel the country to meet with alumni and friends of Seton Hall. For more information on the Presidential Transition, please visit <http://www.shu.edu/presidentialsearch>.



Seton Hall Basketball Documentary Airs on ESPN

The 2008-09 season marked the 20th anniversary of the Seton Hall men’s basketball team’s memorable run to the 1988-89 NCAA championship game. The season remains the most successful in school history and catapulted Seton Hall into the national athletic consciousness. To commemorate the season, Seton Hall created *Band of Pirates*, a documentary that traces the evolution of that season. Additionally, the documentary brought home the award for ‘Best Short Documentary’ at the 2009 Down Beach Film Festival. The film has been aired on the ESPN family of networks. For more information, or to order a copy, please visit

Student Group Nationally Certified to Select Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipients

Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a community service co-ed fraternity at Seton Hall, was recently approved as a Certifying Organization for the President’s Volunteer Service Award. This national award recognizes individuals who complete upwards of 100 hours of community service in a calendar year. APO will be responsible for recording and approving hours, selecting those students who qualify and presenting the awards. The group plans on hosting an awards ceremony in February. For more information on the President’s Volunteer Service Award, please visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov or contact Melissa Boege, president of Seton Hall’s Alpha Phi Omega chapter, at



IRS Coming to Seton Hall to Lead Workshop for Small and Mid-Sized Tax-Exempt Organizations

On March 11, Seton Hall will host a one-day workshop presented by the Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The workshop will explain what 501(c) (3) organizations must do to keep their tax-exempt status and comply with tax obligations. Workshop topics will include “Employment Issues,” “The 990 Form,” “Required Disclosures” and more. If you would like more information on the workshop, or to register, please Joyce Smith at joyce.smith@shu.edu or call (973) 761-9501.

Service Abound at Seton Hall

Students Volunteer Tens of Thousands of Hours a Year in Surrounding Areas

On the Seton Hall Web site, it states, "A key part of our Catholic mission is community service. We believe that getting involved in the community teaches lessons that can't be taught in any classroom." The importance of service is stressed to students the minute they step onto the campus, when they walk across the stage to receive their diplomas at graduation and beyond their academic career as active and engaged alumni. Along with being deeply embedded in the mission of Seton Hall, the actions of the student body bring the dedication of service to life.

The Division of Volunteer Efforts (D.O.V.E.) is responsible for encouraging all students at Seton Hall to get involved. As their mission notes, "Our aim is to raise awareness of the Seton Hall University community to social injustice through direct involvement in serving others." It is through the efforts of D.O.V.E. and numerous student organizations that the University is continuously recognized for its commitment to others.

All students complete 10 hours of community service during their first semester, yet this number is small in comparison to the overall hours tracked during an academic year. In the 2008-09 academic year, the programs of D.O.V.E. and student organizations resulted in the completion of 27,000 hours of service. To put this number into perspective, according to a 2007 Independent Sector research study, New Jersey estimated the value of volunteer time to be \$24.48 an hour. As a result, Seton Hall students contributed \$660,960 worth of community service time in just one academic year.

The University does not mandate where students complete their service, but many students choose to volunteer in local

communities. The D.O.V.E. office has a number of weekly programs in the South Orange/Maplewood/Orange area. These programs include time at The Salesians of Don Bosco, where students are a positive presence in the lives of local youth. Volunteers spend time playing basketball and other sports, cooking and taking part in a variety of other fun activities. Other programs include Seton Stories (a reading program at the South Orange Library where volunteers provide local children with an interactive literacy environment), English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring and volunteering at the Jersey Animal Coalition. Past projects have also included working with the South Orange Environmental Commission and the South Mountain Conservancy.

Another exciting initiative at the University is known as Service on Saturdays (SOS). SOS replaced the former SHU 500+, a day of service where over 500 students volunteered for a variety of community service projects. SOS is a monthly program where students spend a Saturday working on philanthropic projects in a variety of local neighborhoods. To explore more ways students volunteer, please visit the D.O.V.E. website at <http://www.shu.edu/catholic-mission/dove-index.cfm>.

Seton Hall students are passionate about serving others. Given the opportunity, students are not only willing, but excited to lend a hand. The Division of Volunteer Efforts encourages community organizations to contact the office if they are interested in partnering with the University for student volunteers. Please e-mail divisionofvolunteerefforts@shu.edu or call (973) 761-9702 for more information.



Above: Students and residents build can castles during this year's University Day. 1200 cans were collected by the two groups to benefit the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Top Right: Students sort food during a recent Service on Saturdays (SOS) program. Bottom Right: A student reads to a child during Seton Stories at South Orange Public Library.



Seton Hall Calendar of Events

For more information, check our Web site at www.shu.edu/go/communityrelations or call the Office of Community Relations at (973) 378-9816

January

- 02 W Basketball vs. Connecticut
- 05 W Basketball vs. Syracuse
- 09 M Basketball vs. Cincinnati
- 19 **Classes Begin**
- W Basketball vs. De Paul
- 21 M Basketball vs. Louisville
Art Exhibit: Pictures of Bosnia
Pianist Jeremy Denk
- 23 W Basketball vs. Cincinnati
- 24 M Basketball vs. Pittsburgh
- 28 Neighbor's Meeting

February

- 03 Film: When We Were Kings
- 07 W Basketball vs. St. Johns
- 10 Film: Cadillac Records
- 11 M Basketball vs. Notre Dame
- 13 W Basketball vs. USF
- 17 Film: The Murder of Emmett Till
- 19-21 Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing
- 23 M Basketball vs. Rutgers
- 25 W Basketball vs. Louisville
- 26-28 Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing

- 27 W Basketball vs. Notre Dame
- 28 M Basketball vs. Marquette

March

- 08-13 Spring Break
- 10 Film: Frozen River
- 12 Baseball vs. NJIT : Strike Out Cancer Tournament
- 13 Baseball vs. Iona
- 14 Baseball vs. Lafayette College
- 15-04/10 Art Exhibit: Three Aspects of Japanese Contemporary Art
- 16 Baseball vs. Stony Brook
- 17 Baseball vs. Manhattan
- 19 Baseball vs. Stony Brook
- 20 Baseball vs. Central CT State
- 24 Baseball vs. Monmouth
Film: The Hours
- 26-28 Baseball vs. West Virginia
- 26 Women's Conference
- 28 Neighbor's Meeting – Seton Hall in Bloom

April

- 06 Baseball vs. Fordham
Japan Week: Film: Zen

- 07 Baseball vs. FDU
Film: Honokaa Boy
- 08 Los Angeles Guitar Quartet
- 9-10 Baseball vs. Cincinnati
- 12 Baseball vs. Wagner
- 16-18 Baseball vs. Notre Dame
- 16-18 Theatre: The Foreigner
- 19-23 The Academic Expo
- 20 Baseball vs. NYIT
- 23-25 Theatre: The Foreigner

May

- 04 Baseball vs. St. Peter's
- 07-08 Baseball vs. Pittsburgh
- 11 Commencement
- 14-16 Baseball vs. Rutgers
- 27 Neighbor's Meeting

Color Code

Sports

Arts

SHU Schedule

Community Meeting



OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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