Hello Everyone! My name is Michael Madans, and I am this semester’s president. I am from New York City, and I study biology with a minor in computer science. I pledged APO in Fall 2013, and before my presidency I had served as Animal Projects Chair, Relay for Life Chair, Awards and Recognition Chair, Brotherhood Chair, and Vice President of Fellowship.

Recently, our chapter has gone through a few different significant changes in our bylaws, which have affected our leadership structure, hours requirements, and membership statuses. Along with all of those changes, our chapter has grown to over 250 members when counting our current pledge class. One of my goals is to lead the chapter in a semester long reflection and analysis of all of these changes. These changes were large and rapid, so it is important to make sure that the leadership and membership of the chapter adjusts appropriately.

Even as we get accustomed to these new changes, our chapter is as strong as ever. We continue to put thousands of hours into service and fellowship each semester, and have members who are active in a diverse set of campus groups outside of APO.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me any time at apo@su.wustl.edu.

Yours in Leadership, Friendship, and Service,

Michael Madans
We are Matt Deutsch and Gracie Gallagher, this semester's Pledge Advisors. We are super excited about this semester's pledge class! They are a large group that is already showing a lot of enthusiasm for all things APO. We have 61 pledges this semester, and they have already gotten involved and started working on their requirements. This is one of the bigger pledge classes our chapter has had recently, so we were excited to see the interest in APO on campus remains high.

Our main goal is to initiate as many engaged pledges as possible. We want them to not just join Alpha Phi Omega, but to be active, enthusiastic participants within the chapter. We hope they will grow to be leaders in the chapter and set a good example for everyone around them. As Pledge Advisors, we have already re-vamped the matching process between Parents and Pledges to get as many pledges with involved, passionate parents as possible. Doing so will allow the pledges to feel a stronger connection with their families and foster more family events as a whole.

The pledge class will be electing their Pledge Exec next week, and we hope to generate even more APO spirit through pledge-led events. We are consistently impressed with the amount of work the pledges have put in thus far, and we think their enthusiasm will only continue to grow with upcoming events like Big Brother Reveal, Semi-Formal, Pledge Exec, and others coming up.

Additionally, another goal we have is inspired by the nation-wide challenge given by the Fall 2015 Pledge Class Namesake, Brother Phil Pfeffer. He is encouraging pledges to focus on promoting service projects to help assist people with disabilities. We hope to begin brainstorming ideas with the pledges about the best way to accomplish this within our own chapter and community, and this could help inspire our pledge-led service project in November.

Overall, we're optimistic about the upcoming semester and we look forward to watching the pledges as they become active brothers.
On Saturday October 3rd, Alpha Phi Omega at Washington University put on its inaugural Signature Fundraising Event on the South 40. The goal of this annual event was to raise additional funds for the chapter to use throughout the year on a scale equivalent to the chapter’s Formal Dance. This year, it was named “Festi-Fall”, as the event featured signature foods of St. Louis, as well as several premiere student performance groups. Food included Ted Drewe’s Frozen Custard, Fitz’s root beer (bottled and from a keg), Gooey Louie’s Gooey Butter Cake, and John’s Donuts; the performers were The Amateurs, Mosaic Whispers, KARL Improv, PL4Y, and WU-Sauce. In addition, the event hosted card-making with the cards being sent to children at a local hospital.

The chapter is happy to report that Festi-Fall was a great success as over $600 worth of food was sold, there was a large chapter presence, the performing groups were outstanding, and hundreds of cards were made. There was a nice profit made which will greatly help the chapter in its activities this upcoming year. Lastly, the chapter found the event to be a fantastic PR mechanism that exposed us to many underclassmen on campus. We look forward to next year’s Signature Fundraising Event with great excitement and hope to see some alumni attend too!

By Josh Rusheen, Fundraising Chair
 Statements from our Advisors:

Rachel Bessonny:

Hello Alpha Phi Alumni!

My name is Rachel Bessonny and I am one of the newest advisors to the chapter. I am a (very) recent alumna of the University of Illinois and the Alpha Alpha chapter. I moved to St. Louis after graduation to start my career in procurement at Anheuser-Busch. Moving to a new city and state was daunting prospect, but I knew that if I relied on my APO roots I would find a welcoming community.

During my time in Alpha Alpha, which happens to be the largest chapter in the nation, I focused mainly on activities relating to traditionally membership related topics like: retention, pledging, active engagement, and data management. With this background I hope to help Alpha Phi as it continues to mature and grow. Being that my experience is very current I’m hoping to share my experience and (limited) wisdom with the executive board and chapter in general. It’s been very exciting to experience a new chapter and its unique personality.

I look forward to a great semester, and a great year of service! Please feel free to reach out to me at rmbessonny@gmail.com with any ideas, questions, or interest in joining the advisory board!

Paul Henderson:

Paul Henderson is entering his first year with Washington University, serving as the Assistant Director for Student Engagement and Service with the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. Paul is responsible for coordination and strategic development of Gephardt Institute initiatives that pertain to all students, including co-curricular, curricular and internship programs.

Prior to arriving at Washington University in St. Louis, Paul worked and lived abroad in Doha, Qatar. Living abroad, Paul benefited from working with and learning from diverse and international communities. Paul has held leadership roles in higher education for more than 15 years. Over the course of his career, he has been responsible for most aspects of student affairs, including orientation, student programming, residential life, multicultural affairs, and intercollegiate athletics.

Paul earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, a Master of Sport Science degree from the United States Sports Academy and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. In his free time, Paul enjoys international travel and has visited more than 15 countries.

YiLFS,

Kelsey Magnuson, Alumni Membership Chair. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Alumnirelations.apo@gmail.com.