Soonerthon

My freshman year, I was chosen to be on the Executive Team of OU’s Dance Marathon, specifically the PR committee. I spent nearly every Friday morning at the OKC Children’s Hospital doing arts and crafts with precious kids waiting for treatment or a checkup, and I knew this was an amazing event. We raised around $32,000, and I couldn’t wait to continue with OUDM.

The next year, I was chosen to be Programming Director, and was honored to attend the Dance Marathon Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. DMLC opened my eyes to the opportunities and the possibilities our Dance Marathon had to grow and improve. After a long and busy year, we raised approximately $74,000, a 130% increase from the previous year, and the bar was set for 2012!

My junior year, I was selected as Administration Director, and was thrilled to see our event change from 6 to 12 hours. I remember the feeling of a philanthropic wildfire spreading as the director group watched the registrant numbers and donations climb. The day of the event, my heart was overflowing with passion and admiration of the hard work and success of our event. At the end of 12 hours, we revealed a fundraising total of $105,000, breaking six figures for the first time.

This year, I was blessed and thankful to serve as Vice Chair of Soonerthon, overseeing the committees and acting as a resource to all the Directors. We implemented so many new ideas this year, and I couldn’t be more proud of what our team accomplished. Choosing to be selfless, to do things for others, to be part of a philanthropic event was an easy choice for me, but being able to encourage, inspire, and empower others to find their passion and their ability to make a difference was the most rewarding thing for me. Soonerthon 2013 raised $196,000, an 87% and $91K increase, and it is all FOR THE KIDS.

All of these numbers are remarkable, but the memory that sticks with me was Austin, a 15-year-old miracle child who had battled a brain tumor, diabetes, a stroke, and partial blindness.

Austin was just as tall as me and stayed with his father and his adopt-a-family most of the day. I was the person who welcomed him to OUDM 2012 and walked him out. As he and his father were leaving, Austin grabbed my hands in his, tried to focus on my face and said, “I had a great time today, and I’m so thankful for what you all do. God Bless you for making miracles happen. God Bless you.” I hugged him and his father goodbye and immediately began crying as I walked away.

“For the kids” seems like a simple phrase, but it’s so powerful when you have a face or a passionate heart like Austin’s to attach it to. No one asks for disease, struggle, heartbreak, or pain. Our Miracle Families didn’t ask for it, and they don’t ask for anything from OU students, but we give and we dance and we do everything we can to make a difference. We can add more birthdays, we can make more smiles, and best of all, we can help to find cures. Four years ago, I didn’t think I would grow so attached to something, but I also didn’t know how much I could give. Whether it’s making someone smile, or saving a life, I am thankful that CAC Soonerthon has inspired me to be selfless for the kids, and for anyone who needs it. Forever For The Kids.

Miranda Konowitz
Soonerthon Vice-Chair

Chair Spotlight: Zac Mabry, Sooner Scandals Chair

Hometown: Broken Arrow, OK
Year: Senior, Class of 2013
Major: Accounting and Finance

Favorite Quote: “Do it right, make it big, give it class”. - P.T. Barnum

Favorite Memory: The Sooner Scandals Dress Rehearsal this year. This is the first time any of us got to see the entire show start to finish with all of the acts, cast and the finale. All of the act participants were so encouraging to each other and the energy in the room was amazing. It was such a rewarding moment to watch almost 300 exec members, cast, act directors, and act participants see all of their hard work come together.”
Shine a Light: 
Caroline Petty

Major: Advertising  
Year: Senior, Class of 2013  
Hometown: Southlake, TX

Tell us about your experience on Mom’s Day:  
It was incredible. We picked an amazing exec and the best part of being a Vice Chair was watching them work and succeed. Since Mom’s Day is already a well-established event, I had very high expectations and I am proud to say we exceeded them.

How has being on Mom’s Day most benefited your personal development?  
The biggest thing I learned from Mom’s Day was how to delegate. This was my third time on a CAC event publicity team, but my first time as a Vice Chair. It’s insane how different it is being in charge. I’m the kind of person that likes to do things myself instead of asking for help, but if you try to do that for a huge event like Mom’s Day, you will probably drop dead from stress. Finding out that everyone on my team was capable of so much almost made it harder to decide who should do what, but we figured it out.

What is your favorite memory from being on Mom’s Day exec?  
College Bowl conflicted with one of our meetings so we decided to move publicity there. The first time they rotated me in to play I answered the question correctly and very loud, but it was the other team’s turn. I felt like the embarrassing mom but they gave me another chance and I redeemed myself in the next round with my excessive knowledge of Beyonce. It was really fun to hang out with my team and do something besides talk about Mom’s Day.

What is Speakers Bureau?  
Walking into a Speakers Bureau meeting, you might not believe that you were looking at an entire CAC Exec, much less a group that has previously brought Elizabeth Smart, Dan Savage, and MTV stars to OU’s campus. Although Speakers Bureau is small, we work as hard as we can to serve OU students in the biggest and best way possible. Instead of just programming one event, Speakers Bureau is responsible for planning multiple speaking events throughout the year and allocating money to smaller student groups that want to bring in speakers themselves. Our members are divided into two teams: Allocations and Events. The Allocations Team is responsible for making sure that allocation information gets out to student groups and the application and actual allocation process itself goes smoothly. The Events team does all of the work necessary to put on a successful event: negotiating fees with speakers’ agents, booking a venue, choosing food for the event, and reaching out to groups that might want to attend in the Norman and Oklahoma City area. Together, both teams work on publicizing our events on campus and interviewing student groups that have applied for funding. Speakers Bureau may be small, but the speakers that we bring to campus have a big impact. As a committee, we believe that our role is to bring speakers to campus that will educate, enlighten, inform, and entertain OU students. As the new Speakers Bureau committee is elected next year, be looking for other new and exciting events from one of the smallest but most passionate CAC Execs!

Maggie White  
Speaker’s Bureau

TORCH GAMES

What: Torch Games is an end of the year get together for all of CAC. You will compete against other CAC event executive committees in fun games. It’s an amazing chance for us to come together as a group and have a great time!

When: Wednesday, April 24 @ 5:00 PM.

Where: Reeves Park.

Theme: Hunger Games.

Dress: Comfy clothes or dress to the theme.

May the odds be ever in your favor!