

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Friendship Runs Together

For most people running is a form of exercise and endurance, but for others it is camaraderie with fellow runners. This is true for the Panther Running Club in St. Louis, a group of Drury alumni that get together and—well—run.

The group started back in 2007 when several Drury alumni entered the River-to-River Relay in Illinois, an 80-mile run that went from the Mississippi River to the Ohio River. “We entered the relay and called ourselves the Panther Running Club (or the PRC as it’s known to the group), and it has stuck with us ever since,” says Gregg Mohrmann ’95.

All together the group has 11 members made up of both men and women who live in the St. Louis area. They meet monthly or sometimes more often if they can and run together.

“These are friendships that were formed beyond college,” Mohrmann says.

Mohrmann has always been a runner. “My mom has done 58 marathons, and I can’t let her outdo me.” Mohrmann and his mother are looking to compete in a marathon in every state. He has completed two marathons, one in Maui and one at Mount Rushmore. A half marathon is next on his agenda.

Running fits him both physically and emotionally. “I like the quiet time when I’m running,” Mohrmann explains. “It is a good time for me to think.”

The PRC is thinking about doing another relay called Hood-to-Coast. It runs from Mount Hood to the Pacific Ocean in Seaside, Ore., and is a 197-mile course. That makes it the longest relay in the World.

—Amanda Woods

Congratulations to the Class of 2009

More than 600 new alumni were inducted into the Alumni Association during the Spring commencement ceremony. We welcome our new alumni. Visit drury.edu/alumni or call (888) 353-7879.

Save the Date for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2009

Oct. 2-3

Honoring the Classes of:

Golden Circle - Classes of 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954

50th - Class of 1959

25th - Class of 1984

Watch your mailboxes for more complete information this summer.

Check the Alumni Web site for upcoming Fall 2009 events in your area:
www.drury.edu/alumni.

Trustee Honored

More than 200 Theta-Sigma brothers and guests attended the Centennial Gala June 12-13. The weekend kicked off with an old-fashioned “Ma Walker” party at the Shrine in Springfield.

The Lambda Chi house was open Saturday afternoon, and the brothers honored (and surprised!) Trustee Ron Neville ’69 with the Ronald A. Neville Outstanding Greek Service Scholarship at Saturday night’s Gala at Highland Springs Country Club.

More than \$75,000 was raised for the endowed scholarship. For more information regarding the Ronald A. Neville Outstanding Greek Service Scholarship, please contact Hannah Catlett at heatlett@drury.edu or call (417) 873-3690.

Born to Be a Doctor

Laura Waters ’05 attended Drury so she could become a physician.

It’s paid off.

Waters received her M.D. from St. Louis University in May 2009 and is now in residency in pediatrics at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center in St. Louis.

“Drury prepared me immensely for everything,” she says.

She recalls that many of her friends attending other universities had to apply to as many as 50 medical schools. Because of Drury’s intense education in pre-med and the sciences, St. Louis

University Medical School automatically accepts Drury pre-med majors after their sophomore year. “They know the caliber of students who graduate from Drury in pre-med,” she explains.

She also credits the personal attention from her Drury professors for her success in medical school. “Professors like Drs. Don Deeds, Barbara Wing and Wesley Rowley truly care about you and want you to succeed,” she says. “They invested in me. Some of us complained about our GP21 (Global Perspectives for the 21st Century) classes because we didn’t understand their relevance to our majors,” she adds. “But those classes opened me to the world, and I was broadly educated because of them.”

During a summer session at Drury, Waters studied abroad in Florence, Italy. That experience helped her appreciate other cultures.

“My Drury experiences helped me be a better physician and have helped me become a better person.”

Waters wanted to be a physician since childhood. Her mother is a nurse and inspired her to think about the health field. “I even shadowed physicians while in middle school and high school,” she recalls.

“This is absolutely what I’m meant to do,” she adds. “My Drury education helped me realize the impact a doctor has on people’s lives. I know I’ll be there for my patients emotionally as well as medically because of my Drury education.”

—Bill Noblitt



Todd and Betty Parnell attend Waters’ medical school graduation party.