



Contact: Lindy Noel
Cell: 217-820-5489
Email: Lnoel@siue.edu

Nov. 30, 2010

Creating a student organization: a student's determination.

Edwardsville, Ill. Senior Psychology major, Samantha Schafer wants a career at a leadership center in higher education. She was inspired to pursue the career because of her experience creating a student organization. You may know it as CAC, but its real name is American Cancer Society-Colleges Against Cancer.

In August 2009, Schafer attended a National Relay for Life summit. There she learned that 362 universities held relays on campus. Of those universities, 92 percent had a student organization called Colleges Against Cancer. The organization is through the American Cancer Society and focuses on four main points: cancer education, advocacy, survivorship and Relay For Life.

After the summit, Schafer immediately contacted a member of the American Cancer Society to find out how to start one on the SIUE campus. The process of creating the student organization was a long and difficult one.

“SIUE has a set constitution and so does Colleges Against Cancer. Trying to combine the two of them was a pain,” Schafer said. “I ended up going to the Student Organization Advisory Board two or three times because they had to keep revising it.”

Since the American Cancer Society is a third party, the Student Organization Advisory Board made Schafer change the name from Colleges Against Cancer to American Cancer Society-Colleges Against Cancer. The next step for Schafer was to go to Student Government to get the organization approved.

-More-

“We did not get approved to be a student organization until late October 2009. We didn’t do much in the fall, but we recruited people and had about 45 members,” Schafer said.

In its first year, Schafer was president of the organization, and it hosted its first Relay for Life. All together, there were 46 teams and roughly 650 people who participated in the event.

On April 8, 2011, American Cancer Society- Colleges Against Cancer will be hosting its 2nd Relay For Life. The theme will be Marga-relay-ville complete with entertainment and games. A big change Schafer is looking forward to is the new location. Relay for Life will be located at the SIUE Korte Stadium. It is a much bigger venue than what they used in the previous year.

“I am very excited that it will be at Korte Stadium. It’s a soccer field!” said Shafer.

The organization has grown in its second year to over 130 members, and it will be seeing a change. Schafer will be graduating in December; she has stepped down from the president position and is now the vice-president Speech Pathology major, Sarah Morgan, is the current president and is worried about losing Schafer.

“Honestly, I really don’t know what I’m going to do without her after December, and it makes me sad to think about it,” said Morgan.

Even though Relay for Life is not until April, the organization’s committee has already started the planning process.

“I’m looking forward to working with the new committee members. I’m also looking forward to being in my new positions as chair of fundraising and team recruitment,” said Morgan. “I’m always excited for Relay and I think Marga-relay-ville is going to be awesome!”

###