



# THE TRIATHLON MAN

CARSON MONROE  
OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE AWARD  
2005

A TRIATHLON COMPETITOR MUST BE ABLE TO MASTER NOT JUST ONE ACTIVITY, BUT THREE. HE/SHE MUST HAVE ENDURANCE, DETERMINATION, AND STRENGTH IN ORDER TO SUCCEED. IN MANY WAYS, CARSON MONROE IS LIKE A TRIATHLON MAN. OVER HIS TIME AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, CARSON HAS PROVEN TO HAVE MANY TALENTS AND ABILITIES. HE IS NOT LIMITED TO JUST ONE ACTIVITY OR AREA. INSTEAD, HE HAS COME TO PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HAS LEFT HIS MARK ON THE CAMPUS.

### **WARM-UP**

CARSON CAME TO K-STATE TO STUDY MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS. HE HAS BEEN DILIGENT IN HIS STUDIES, HAVING A NEAR PERFECT G.P.A. HIS FIRST SEMESTER HE WAS SELECTED INTO THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONORS PROGRAM, WHERE HE STILL PARTICIPATES TODAY. HE HAS UTILIZED HIS KNOWLEDGE NOT ONLY IN THE CLASSROOM BUT IN EXTRACURRICULARS AS WELL.

CARSON HAS SERVED ON THE MIS CLUB SINCE 2003. THERE HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE DORM MOVE IN COMMITTEE. HE ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGING SUPPLYWORKS, INC., WHICH IS A WEB DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

CARSON IS DEVOTED TO HIS STUDIES AND WORKS TO BE A STUDENT FIRST. HOWEVER, HE HAS ALSO SOMEHOW MANAGED MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE JOB, TAKING ON HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY IN NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS, AND ALSO HAVING A NORMAL COLLEGE LIFE WITH FRIENDS AND FUN.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A DAY WHEN CARSON DID NOT DO SOMETHING TO GIVE BACK TO HIS SURROUNDINGS. HE HAS A FIERCE DETERMINATION TO GET THE JOB DONE AND TO HAVE IT DONE RIGHT. HE IS GENUINE AND DOES NOT CHANGE TO FIT IN WITH THE CROWD. HE DOES WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE RIGHT.

CARSON'S TRIATHLON CONSISTS OF THE THREE MAJOR AREAS THAT HE HAS GIVEN BACK TO HOUSING AND DINING. WHILE MANY WOULD DROP OUT OF THE RACE WHEN DEALING WITH JUST ONE AREA, CARSON HAS SHOWN GREAT SUCCESS IN ALL OF THESE THREE AREAS. THEY ARE PARTICIPATION IN THE HALLS, IN THE ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCE HALLS, AND IN THE NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY.

### **RACE #1: "RUNNING" THE HALLS**

THE WARM-UP EXERCISES OUTLINED CARSON AS AN EXCELLENT SCHOLAR WITH GREAT PROFESSIONAL PROMISE AND TREMENDOUS DRIVE. CARSON HAS EXCELLED IN MANY ARENAS AT K-STATE, AND IN NEARLY EVERY AVAILABLE STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITION WITHIN K-STATE HOUSING AND DINING. ALTHOUGH TRIATHLON ATHLETES INSPIRE THE THEME OF THIS BID, THOSE ATHLETES, WHO PRIDE THEMSELVES ON ADAPTABILITY AND PERSEVERANCE, COULD EASILY BE INSPIRED BY CARSON'S PERFORMANCE AT K-STATE. EVERY COMPETITOR REMEMBERS THE FIRST FIELD WHERE THEY TESTED THEIR SKILL; CARSON'S TESTING GROUND WAS FIRST HAYMAKER, AND THEN PUTNAM.

IN HIS FRESHMAN YEAR, CARSON ENTERED HAYMAKER MUCH AS ANY OTHER K-STATE STUDENT: COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT AWAITED HIM. ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T HOLD ANY POSITIONS IN HIS FRESHMAN YEAR, HE NONETHELESS EXCELLED IN ACADEMICS AND AS A YOUNG ROLE MODEL FOR HAYMAKER HALL. HOWEVER, CARSON KNEW THAT MORE WAS WAITING FOR HIM. PUTNAM'S RESPECT PROGRAM AND OLDER POPULATION APPEALED TO HIS DESIRE TO FIND HIS NICHE AND TRULY IMPACT HIS COMMUNITY.

CARSON DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME WHEN HE REACHED PUTNAM. DURING HIS FIRST WEEKS HE WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF HIS FLOOR, AND THUS ENTERED THE ARENA OF HALL GOVERNMENT. AMONG HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESIDENT WAS THE FACILITATION OF A WEEKLY DOUGHNUT NIGHT, A TRADITION THAT IS STILL BEING MAINTAINED. WHEN ASKED WHY HE WANTED TO ADD

EXTRACURRICULAR DUTIES ON TOP OF ALREADY DEMANDING ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES, CARSON SAID “I SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A CHANCE...AND BRANCH OUT...TO MAKE [PUTNAM] AN ENJOYABLE PLACE FOR OTHERS.”

AS FLOOR PRESIDENT, CARSON WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF PUTNAM’S HALL GOVERNING BOARD (HGB). MANY OF THE OFFICERS HAD BEEN K-STATE LEADERS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS, AND WERE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE CARSON’S POTENTIAL. AS CARSON CONTINUED TO PROVE HIS WORTH IN PUTNAM HALL, OTHER LEADERS ENCOURAGED HIM TO BRANCH OUT EVEN FURTHER AND WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING THE ENTIRE K-STATE COMMUNITY. CARSON HOLDS “RESPECT FOR GOOD FRIENDS” AS A PIVOTAL VALUE, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHER PUTNAM LEADERS CARSON BECAME NOT ONLY A HOUSING AND DINING AMBASSADOR IN THE FALL OF 2002, BUT WAS ALSO HIRED AS A COMMUNITY ASSISTANT (CA) AND DINING CENTER EMPLOYEE.

EXCELLENT ATHLETES OFTEN MAKE EXCELLENT COACHES, AND AS A HOUSING AND DINING AMBASSADOR FOR FIVE SEMESTERS, CARSON HAS EDUCATED AND GUIDED COUNTLESS PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AS THEY EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES AT K-STATE. IN AN ATMOSPHERE DOMINATED BY STUDENT LEADERSHIP, STRONG ROLE MODELS ARE ESSENTIAL, AND CARSON HAS COMMENDABLY REPRESENTED K-STATE AND THE RESIDENCE HALLS. BEING A ROLE MODEL AND REPRESENTATIVE CAME EASILY TO CARSON, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE RESIDENCE HALL LIFESTYLE, ACCORDING TO CARSON, “HAS BEEN MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.” IN FACT, CARSON WAS SO COMFORTABLE IN THE HALLS THAT HE SAW FIT TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS AS A SUMMER CONFERENCE EMPLOYEE (COOL CAT) IN THE SUMMERS OF BOTH 2003 AND 2004.

TRULY, CARSON HAS LIVED AND BREATHED THE K-STATE RESIDENCE HALLS FOR NEARLY FOUR YEARS. HE HAS BEEN BOTH AMBASSADOR AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANT SINCE HE WAS HIRED IN THE FALL OF 2002, AND CONTINUES TO PERFORM IN THE MINDSET THAT HE “CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE HERE.” THIS MINDSET EARNED HIM

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS MAILROOM CLERK FOR STRONG COMPLEX, AND NUMEROUS AWARDS OF RECOGNITION. CARSON WAS AWARDED THE MABEL STRONG SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2004-2005, AND WAS NAMED REGIONAL CA OF-THE-MONTH THROUGH AN OTM SUBMITTED BY HIS SUPERVISOR AMANDA MESIROW IN AUGUST 2004. AMANDA WROTE THAT CARSON HAD "AN EYE TOWARDS SERVING THE RESIDENTS," A SKILL THAT HAS GROWN THROUGH HIS CAREER AT K-STATE. AFTER HIS SOPHOMORE SUCCESS AS FLOOR PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR, AND EMPLOYEE IN TWO POSITIONS, CARSON USED HIS JUNIOR YEAR TO BROADEN HIS EXPERIENCE BY JOINING OTHER LEADERSHIP GROUPS OUTSIDE OF PUTNAM HALL. AS ONE OF THE PUTNAM'S ARH REPRESENTATIVES CARSON BROUGHT THE GOALS AND VALUES OF PUTNAM'S RESIDENTS TO THE LARGER GOVERNING BODY OF THE HALLS. HIS TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE WITHIN PUTNAM'S LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE PREPARED HIM WELL FOR THE NEXT SECTION OF A RACE WHERE HE WAS ALREADY MOVING TO THE FRONT.

### **RACE #2: "SWIMMING" WITH OVER 3,500 RESIDENTS**

IN AUGUST OF 2003, CARSON BEGAN "SWIMMING" WITH A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN HE HAD ENCOUNTERED IN HAYMAKER OR PUTNAM. THAT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS ELECTED INTO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THE K-STATE ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCE HALLS. AS A MEMBER OF ARH, CARSON REPRESENTS ALL OF THE STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS. HIS POSITION ON THE BOARD WAS AS INFORMATION COORDINATOR.

AS INFORMATION COORDINATOR, CARSON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF K-STATE ARH. BECAUSE OF CARSON'S AMAZING EFFORTS, A BRAND NEW ARH WEBSITE WAS DESIGNED. THE WEBSITE WAS CREATED TO FIT THE NEEDS OF THE BODY AND THE ON-CAMPUS STUDENT POPULATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE LINKS TO MEETING MINUTES, MESSAGE BOARDS WHERE PEOPLE CAN DISCUSS CURRENT TOPICS, AND A PLACE TO VIEW CURRENT PHOTOS. ANOTHER GREAT PART OF THE WEBSITE IS THAT RESIDENTS CAN ACTUALLY CREATE

A USER NAME AND LOG IN TO THE WEBSITE. IT HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE TOOL AND UTILIZED BY MANY.

ANOTHER RESPONSIBILITY OF CARSON'S AS THE INFORMATION COORDINATOR WAS THE DRAFTING OF A NEW PET POLICY. THE PET POLICY IS A BIG ISSUE IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS, WITH PEOPLE HAVING STRONG FEELINGS IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. CARSON WAS IN CHARGE OF RESEARCHING THE ISSUE AND COMING UP WITH A NEW DRAFT FOR THE PROPOSAL. WHILE IT WAS A COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT TASK, CARSON COMPLETED IT SUCCESSFULLY AND TRIED HIS BEST TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

THIS YEAR, CARSON HAS CONTINUED HIS ROLE AS THE INFORMATION COORDINATOR FOR ARH. HE NEVER MISSES A BEAT AND CONTINUES TO IMPROVE HIS POSITION EACH DAY. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN UNIQUE BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME EMERGENCY CHANGES IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, LEAVING A VACANCY IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT POSITION. WHEN NO ONE WENT FOR THE POSITION, CARSON STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE, STATING THAT HE WOULD FILL IN. BUT NOT ONLY HAS CARSON FILLED IN AS VICE-PRESIDENT, HE IS ALSO CONTINUING HIS DUTIES AS INFORMATION COORDINATOR.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD REFUSE TO TAKE ON SUCH A HEAVY LOAD, BUT CARSON WAS HAPPY TO HELP AND ALSO HAPPY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. CARSON HAS HAD TO TAKE ON SOME MAJOR ISSUES, SUCH AS THE ARH CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW, BUT HE HAS COMPLETED EVERYTHING PERFECTLY, GETTING THINGS DONE ON TIME AND IN THE RIGHT MANNER. WITHOUT CARSON'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP AND HIS ABILITY TO JUGGLE SO MANY TASKS, ARH WOULD HAVE BEEN AT A LOSS.

### **RACE #3: "CYCLING" TOWARDS RECOGNITION**

THE THIRD RACE THAT CARSON HAS PARTICIPATED IN AND MASTERED IS THAT OF THE NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY. CARSON WAS INDUCTED INTO NRHH IN DECEMBER OF 2002. FROM HIS VERY FIRST MEETING, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS GOING TO IMPACT THE ENTIRE GROUP. CARSON IS ALWAYS VERY VOCAL IN MEETINGS, SHARING HIS IDEAS AND COMMENTS, AND HELPING THE MEETING TO KEEP A STRONG FLOW.

FROM MAY OF 2003 TO FEBRUARY OF 2004, CARSON SERVED THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF NRHH BY WORKING AS THE INFORMATION COORDINATOR. THIS POSITION IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT AND HE FULFILLED HIS DUTIES PERFECTLY, PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE INFORMATION COORDINATORS. CARSON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE GROUPS EMAIL LISTSERV AS WELL AS SENDING OUT ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MEMBERS. HE ALSO KEPT THE NRHH WEBSITE UP TO DATE AND POSTED IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OTHERS TO SEE.

CARSON HAS SERVED ON VARIOUS NRHH COMMITTEES SINCE BEING INDUCTED, BUT THIS YEAR, HE TOOK ON AN EXTRA ROLE. CARSON WAS ELECTED TO BE THE OF THE MONTH COMMITTEE CHAIR. THIS PERSON ADVISES AN ENTIRE COMMITTEE OF PEOPLE WHO DECIDES WHAT OTM NOMINEES ARE MOST DESERVING OF AN AWARD. OTMS ARE A MAJOR PART OF NRHH AND IT IS VITAL THAT THEY STAY ON TASK AND ARE GRADED PROPERLY. THE ORGANIZATION OBVIOUSLY TRUSTS CARSON TO BE AN ORGANIZED AND UNBIASED LEADER FOR THE COMMITTEE. AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HE HAS DONE.

CARSON EXEMPLIFIES THE QUALITIES THAT NRHH STANDS FOR. HE DEMONSTRATES LEADERSHIP IN ALL THAT HE DOES. HE GLADLY SERVES THE COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS AROUND HIM AS WELL. AND CARSON RECOGNIZES PEOPLE FOR ALL THAT THEY DO. HE IS A KEY MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION AND HAS DONE A GREAT JOB.

## QUOTES:

“CARSON HAS BEEN A VERY INSTRUMENTAL PERSON WITHIN NRHH AND AS A STUDENT LEADER ON CAMPUS. I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO WATCH CARSON GROW ON MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS AND HE IS ALWAYS EXTREMELY DEDICATED TO WHAT HE PARTICIPATES IN. SOMETIMES IT’S HARD TO FIND A STUDENT THAT CAN MAKE AN IMPACT ACROSS CAMPUS AS A STUDENT LEADER HIS WHOLE TIME IN COLLEGE. CARSON HAS ACCOMPLISHED THAT AND MADE ON CAMPUS LIVING AT K-STATE BETTER FOR ALL FUTURE RESIDENTS.”

-CRAIG WANKLYN (NRHH AWARDS & BANQUETS CHAIR)

“ONE WORD THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN I THINK OF CARSON MONROE – FOCUSED. I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH CARSON IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES FROM CA STAFF, TO SUMMER CONFERENCE STAFF TO ARH TO NRHH. CURRENTLY, I AM A MEMBER OF THE OTM GRADING COMMITTEE IN WHICH CARSON IS THE CHAIR OF. HE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO THIS LEADERSHIP POSITION SINCE DAY ONE. NOT ONLY DOES HE COORDINATE OUR MEETINGS, BUT HAS MADE A GREAT EFFORT IN MAKING OUR COMMITTEE MORE PROACTIVE IN IMPROVING OUR FUNCTIONS. FROM IMPLEMENTING A NEW WAY TO RECOGNIZE THOSE THAT SUBMIT AN OTM, TO THE WAYS IN WHICH WE PICK WINNERS, TO MAKING IT EASIER FOR THE FUTURE COMMITTEES TO SERVE IN THIS ROLE – OUR COMMITTEE HAS BENEFITED A TREMENDOUS FROM CARSON’S LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION.”

-CAROLYN DENNEY (NRHH-ARH LIAISON)

“CARSON IS AN INCREDIBLY DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL WHO I REALLY ADMIRE. HE IS NOT AFRAID TO VOICE HIS OPINION AND HE HAS SO MUCH PASSION FOR THE THINGS HE DOES. HE HAS OFFERED SO MUCH TO THIS CAMPUS AND HAS AFFECTED AREAS OF HOUSING AND DINING THAT WILL KEEP THE CHANGES HE MADE FOR YEAR TO COME. HE IS A TRULY DYNAMIC LEADER WHO HAS GIVEN MUCH TO THOSE AROUND HIM.”

-ASHLEY BOLDT (NRHH BIDDING COMMITTEE CHAIR)

“I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE CARSON AS HE HAS WORKED IN BOTH ARH AND NRHH. I HAVE CONTINUALLY BEEN IMPRESSED BY HIS STRONG WORK ETHIC AND ABILITY TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE. VERY FEW PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO TAKE THINGS AS SERIOUSLY AS CARSON CAN. IF HE DEDICATED HIMSELF TO DOING SOMETHING, IT WILL DEFINITELY GET DONE. HE IS A GREAT LEADER WHO HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH.”

-SHEA OLSEN (NRHH VICE-PRESIDENT)

OSA Committee,

The motivation to continuously work to improve, and always look for the next challenge, is highly prized by any competitor. Carson came to K-State four years ago and has been challenging himself ever since. In the academic arena he has excelled to near perfection with a 3.97 GPA in Management Information Systems, and has found professional groups and scholarship opportunities to heighten his success. Within his own hall community he has led the government of his floor as a floor president, represented his hall to ARH, and served as a role model to numerous residents who benefit from his wisdom. He has gone far past the call of duty in his CA position: co-leading the Fall 2004 training, providing invaluable feedback to his supervisors, and being the first to assume the responsibilities of mail clerk.

Outside his hall Carson has represented the whole of Housing and Dining and K-State as an ambassador for the past three years, and as a Cool Cat during two summer semesters. As a member of ARH Carson adamantly empowered K-State leaders with knowledge as the Information Coordinator, and again went beyond his duties when he assumed the responsibilities of Vice President. NRHH proudly inducted Carson as one of its members in Fall 2002, and his efforts as OTM committee chair (in my opinion as a committee member) reshaped the OTM program at K-State. His academics clearly show that he understands what it means to be a student leader, but he has always stepped up to the plate when an organization or community really needed him.

Whether on his floor, at an ARH meeting, or even at regional conferences like “No Frills” and MACURH, Carson has strived to improve K-State and its residence hall communities, as well as his own leadership style. When others would have thrown their hands up in disgust, Carson persevered and found new ways to serve his community. With dedication, idealism, and acknowledged support from friends, Carson has truly impacted K-State these past 4 years, and is truly deserving of recognition.

Sincerely,

Patrick Simpson  
Resident Assistant  
Co-Author