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Outstanding Service Award Nomination

Ryan Seematter

“Overcoming the Dilbert in Us All”

Written by Andrew Lawson and James Wymore

Campus Involvement

It can be said that Ryan Seematter, commonly referred to as “Ryno,” is a well-rounded student as well as a mentor to the youth of the hall. Ryan has lived in Putnam Hall for four years and has never wasted a moment that could be spent hanging out with friends or being involved in the halls and in campus organizations.

A business major, Ryan began his campus involvement with Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity that strives to teach members about business as well as stressing involvement in the community. While networking with fellow members of the fraternity, he decided to find other ways on campus to be involved gain more professional skills. Ryan knew that taking the extra time to be involved in various organizations would be the key to building a successful career later.



Alpha Kappa Psi is devoted to making sure business graduates don't end up setting these kinds of goals.

In 2001, Ryan joined the Circle K Community Service Club and served as its treasurer. He kept track of all transactions and participated in service projects. Also, he worked for KSU Telefund for the first time, calling alumni to raise funds for the College of Business.



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At least Telefund doesn't promise any products in return for alumni donations...

In 2002, Ryan again participated in Telefund. He joined the Management Information Systems Club, which gave him an opportunity to help out with real world computer projects. He formed and led a team to participate in the Up 'Til Dawn charity, which raised funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He was named as part of the College of Business Dean's List. Finally, he was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, which gave him an opportunity to network with students from other majors on campus.

Ryan continued his involvement in the MIS Club, Telefund, and NSCS in 2003, while adding a few more feathers to his cap. For one, he became the Web Chair for Alpha Kappa Psi, which tasked him with the responsibility of maintaining the chapter's Web site. Also, he joined a team in Relay for Life, a 12-hour event in which he walked with others to raise money for cancer victims.

This year, Ryan has maintained his membership in the above organizations, but has scaled back his involvement somewhat in order to prepare for graduation.

Nevertheless, he is still an active member of the College of Business community and the larger campus community as well.

Jeremy Wooley, former Alpha Kappa Psi president, says:

“From the day that he joined Alpha Kappa Psi, Ryan was asking how he could be involved and whom he could network with, and I knew that he was really going to be a key to the success of this organization.”

Jeremy Messing, former Circle K president, says:

“Ryan never missed a meeting as a member of Circle K and when attendance was down at our meetings, he played an active role in promoting the club and boosting membership in the club itself.”



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Thankfully, this didn't happen when Ryan was Alpha Kappa Psi Web Chair.

Residence Hall Involvement

Before beginning his sophomore year, Ryan decided to stretch his involvement to a new level. Upon looking for places of residence, he came upon the idea of living in the residence halls on campus. He had heard many differing opinions of the residence halls,

but decided to go against what a lot of people said and give the halls a shot. What Ryan didn't know was that his initial decision would turn into four great years of memories within Putnam Hall.

Going in, Ryan knew that he might not know anyone in the halls and it might be a scary, new experience, but it would pay off. The first thing Ryan did upon moving in was to go around from room to room and introduce himself to residents of his floor and hall. Merely walking into a room and talking to people you have never seen before can be hard for many, but this did not faze Ryan. He wanted to make sure that if he needed someone to talk with in the future, he would have friends to rely upon.



Ryan does have good social skills, but thanks to his involvement in HGB, they didn't come at the expense of his common sense.

The second way that Ryan made himself comfortable in his surroundings was by finding ways to be involved within the halls and networking with the key people who knew how to get involved. It was at this time that he met floor president Scott Tystad, who looked over Ryan and helped him take the right steps in getting involved.

Scott recommended that Ryan check out the weekly hall governing board meetings that Putnam had in order to gain a better sense of how leadership is developed

in the halls and also to gain insight into the opportunities that residence halls offered. From this experience, Ryan made his way over the next few years by involving himself in key areas of the residence halls as a member of the Association of Residence Halls, the vice president of Putnam Hall, and a Housing and Dining ambassador.

He also attended a NACURH residence hall conference in North Carolina. This conference involved the premier leaders of the residence halls across the country and Ryan Seematter was an attendee, which says a lot about his character. Ryan not only wanted to be involved in the halls, but he was able to take it to the next level by meeting residence hall leaders from other states, which helped him broaden his leadership skills even more.



Ryan said NACURH taught him a lot about how to solve problems like this.

In 2001, Ryan got his start in hall government by joining the fourth floor government as vice president. In this capacity, he helped Scott Tystad, the floor president, in bringing the floor together and holding floor meetings. Also, he organized weekly floor dinners. Furthermore, he became more involved in the hall by participating in a number of intramural sports, including basketball, softball, and flag football.

In 2002, he ran for and was elected ARH Representative for Putnam Hall. As such, he communicated the voice of Putnam's residents at biweekly ARH meetings, and reported back to the Putnam HGB. As an HGB member, he worked with other members of the Putnam HGB to create hall events, as well. One of these was Putnam Hall's annual Floor Wars competition; Ryan planned several activities as part of this event. He also organized a Super Bowl watch party for the hall. He was involved in winning an OTM for the fourth floor. Finally, he continued to stay involved in intramural sports.

In 2003, Ryan moved up the totem pole by being elected Vice President of Putnam Hall. His new responsibilities included organizing events for Putnam Hall residents to attend and welcoming new residents to the hall at the beginning of the year. This was also the year that he attended various leadership events to improve his overall leadership skills at the NACURH conference as a K-State delegate. He was named the fourth floor student of the month.

As Vice President, Ryan was even more involved in hall activities than ever before. He participated in the Putnam Hall Philanthropy Department Easter Egg Hunt, stuffing eggs and leading children around the Strong Complex lawn to find them. He organized a Simpsons Personality Test program for residents. He volunteered at the registration booth for the residence hall blood drive. In the Strong Complex Date Auction, he participated in the actual auction and was "sold" for charity. Somehow, he still found time during all this to continue playing intramural sports.



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Ryan never wrote an e-mail like this, even though he was incredibly busy as Vice President of Putnam. In fact, you could say his *accomplishments* were self-inflicted.

In 2004, Ryan was ready to step down as an active HGB member, but as his term was wrapping up, he still found ways to contribute to the hall's well-being. He chaired the Putnam Hall Constitution Revision Committee, where he collaborated with Putnam residents to revise the hall's constitution through weekly meetings to gain optimal feedback from residents. He was also a member of the Elections Committee, which oversaw the election proceedings and processed the results of the election. For all his efforts, he was nominated for student of the year in the residence halls.

Even after stepping down from an official political life in the halls, Ryan has continued to attend HGB meetings and has freely offered advice to current members. While he is one of the "old men" of the hall, everyone knows Ryan is still a valuable and relevant resource for younger students seeking to follow in his footsteps.



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Unlike Wally, Ryan didn't check out early and avoid residents' questions.

Scott Tystad, former Putnam Hall president, says:

“When I met Ryan, he was a cheery, positive student who really wanted to get involved and definitely wanted to avoid the shortcuts to success. He always asked me for advice and I was able to give him testimony of how I became involved in the halls and I stressed how he could be a great leader if he wanted to work hard.”

Rebecca Coffindaffer, Putnam Hall vice president, says:

“Ryan was always a rock of logic and straightforwardness on HGB. It was one of his biggest strengths as a leader.”

Matt Warner, Putnam Hall fourth floor president, says:

“Ryan's one of those guys who, when he opens his mouth, always says something perfect for the occasion.”

Patrick Simpson, Putnam Hall resident assistant, says:

“Ryan leads with kindness and sincerity; his impact on K-State is undeniable.”



Ryan may take on too much work, but he has always done so cheerfully, energetically, and voluntarily.

Conclusion

The residents of Putnam Hall, and especially the current members of the Hall Governing Board, feel that Ryan Seematter is very deserving of an Outstanding Service Award. For five years, he has been an active member of the campus community, and for the last four, he has been a standout leader in the residence hall system.

Though he was not as active this year due to academic demands, the board felt strongly that he was deserving of being nominated for an award that encompassed the whole of his college career. The Outstanding Service Award is much like a lifetime achievement award. It would be a fitting recognition of the accomplishments, dedication, and sacrifices of Ryan Seematter.



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Having high expectations is a good thing, but when they are met, they deserve to be celebrated and applauded. Such is the case of Ryan Seematter.

Essay

Ryan Seematter above all has shown the residents and K-State what it means to be a leader and a K-State Student. He exemplifies the modern Renaissance-Man by being able to do everything he puts his mind to. He found a place he loves, K-State, and has given back to this school from the very beginning. Through his leadership positions, he has acquired a reputation which made him approachable and this allowed new residents to have a voice through him.

Ryan Seematter is very deserving of an Outstanding Service Award. His always cheerful nature brings a smile to the face of the residence and all his peers. The Putnam Hall Governing Board is proud of accomplishments of Ryan and believes the outstanding Service Award belongs to Ryan Seematter who exemplifies the service he has given the entire campus community.