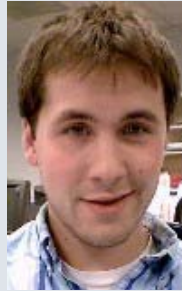


TRANSATLANTIC PROGRAM

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Motivation for TAP 2005 Alumni Network Co-Presidency

Matt Bigelow



This is **Matt Bigelow**, TA 2005. I would like to apply for **President of the Alumni Network**.

After my TA experience, I finished my undergraduate education at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, with majors in English and German and a minor in International Affairs. After graduating, I was awarded a fellowship to continue researching my Senior Thesis, a study of German immigration to Argentina pre-World War II. Over the summer of 2006, I traveled to Argentina and visited many small villages settled by Germans in the early 20th century. I am currently living in Chicago working on a Master's of Journalism at Northwestern University, focusing particularly in New Media. I will be living in Chicago until at least June, and possibly September of this year. Admittedly, I will be looking to move to Boston in the fall, but still feel that I can fulfill the role of president from there.

As a writer and journalist, compiling the alumni newsletter, as well as maintaining a list serv would be tasks I would enjoy and that would benefit me in my career. I have access to Adobe Illustrator, which I could use for layout, have an understanding of Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML and can generally post to the Web easily.

In terms of the list serv, I feel that it could provide a great opportunity to maintain a high level of communication among former participants. In addition to keeping a channel open and available for e-mails for everyone, I would like to use the list serv to send out updates, mini-newsletters and news on the Chamber's activities.

I have held multiple internships, including at Hi-Life through the TA program 2005, in the event planning industry. I am currently heading a committee to plan my high school reunion. I would enjoy planning events and reunions for the group.

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Motivation for TAP 2006 Alumni Network Co-Presidency

Eric Bartling



Throughout my high school and college careers, I have been fortunate enough to have taken part in a few programs similar to the Transatlantic Program. These programs have all been unique in their own sense, but also have had the similarity of bringing together a diverse group of young people with some sort of common interest to participate in a conference, exchange program, or goodwill organization.

The connections you build with these like-minded, albeit different, young people are generally great because of the unique experience that you all share. You learn about one another's lives, ideas, opinions, and dream about and plan your futures. Too often these programs end sooner than you would like and suddenly you're only left with a list of email addresses and phone numbers, which after a few months merely belong to some people you once knew and with whom you once had something in common.

The goal of the Transatlantic Program's Alumni Network is to perpetuate the common bond of German and the desire for success beyond the end of the internship program. The presidents of the Alumni Network will have to be the catalysts for conversation and event planning among the group, and keep up the momentum of our friendships and interests. Through an annual reunion, various events throughout the year, and email updates, the Alumni Network should be our answer in making sure the overriding goals of the Transatlantic Program don't get lost in the distance between its participants.

I think that I would be a good person for the position of co-president for the first TAP Alumni Network. During both high school and college I have taken organizational roles in different programs which have given me experience in managing groups of people and planning events. These skills, and the desire to gain the benefits of the Alumni Network, will be required to perpetuate the conversations and guidance with which the TAP participants both offer to one another as well as benefit from one another. I believe I possess both the skills and the desire, and would have a good time following through with them as co-president.