

Revolution:  
Speaker's  
Bureau

# Spring Newsletter

May 2010



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## Abbie Road

It's Graduation Time!! I was just sitting here at my desk thinking about those of you who will graduate: Taylor Baumgart, Morgan Gilson, Kelsey Jochum, Anna Steiner, and Catie Wiese. When I started with Revolution, it was the summer of 2008, and most of you were just beginning, too. I feel so fortunate to have taken this journey along with you! My favorite memories are of Taylor

laying on the floor of the bowling alley to bowl, Kelsey trying to teach me how to use a computer, Anna and her amazing bowling skills, and Catie asking the lady at the Crime Victim's Conference that really funny question (you know what I'm talking about, Catie!) Such fun we have had! While I will miss all of you, and so will the rest of Revolution, I hope you take a little of what you've

learned into your new lives. I know that you will all try to make safe decisions for yourselves and be there to help others who may be affected by violence. Thank you for all your hard work and your dedication. I am so proud of each and every one of you and the phenomenal individuals you've turned out to be. Come back and visit me!



## Kelsey's Korner

Well, here we are. The last newsletter of the 2009-2010 year and my last as Student Coordinator of Revolution. For the past few weeks, I have been working with Revolution member Katie Rodriguez, who will be the new Student Coordinator for the 2010-2011 year. While this is a sad time for me, it is also a very exciting one.

First of all, I have just graduated from high school and am starting a new summer job at the Pawnee Plunge. There I will be working close to full-time, earning money for college and rent next year. I will be attending UNO and majoring in

Journalism.

Secondly, I am excited to pass my position off to Katie. I have worked with her in Revolution for two years and more closely in the theatre group for this past year. She is a very dedicated member of the group and will be a great leader to both new and returning members.

In my last month with Revolution and the Center for Survivors, I have come to realize what exactly these people have given me. I am much more aware of the dangers of dating violence and sexual assault. However, I will no longer

be able to use the excuse "I work at the Center for Survivors" when I try to prove to people that I know what I'm talking about.

Even so, I will take what I have learned with me into this next year and continue to teach and look out for others. Though I won't be an "official" member of Revolution, the group can always count me as one of their number. And if anyone ever tries to tell me that I don't know about dating violence, I can say, "Hey, I will ALWAYS work for the Center for Survivors!"

## Erin's Exchange

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Revolution was asked to perform at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Victims' Rights Training Conference. This conference was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha and was sponsored by the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime (NCVC), the U.S. Attorney's Office (District of Nebraska), and the FBI. This was a different audience than we are used to with mostly professionals in attendance rather than students. The participants were law enforcement and corrections personnel, attorneys, judges, mental health professionals, educators, victim advocates and many others. We were all nervous about the magnitude of this conference and the extremely educated audience. We just weren't sure how it would go over...

The reason I wanted to tell you all about this is that this was one of the few presentations I have been able to attend this semester and I was BLOWN AWAY by Revolution's performance, knowledge and professionalism. The students answered questions in character

(from a educated audience) with ease, emotion and sometimes humor. They also spoke to many attendees after the conference about our program and how and why they got involved. I could not have been more proud of them!

We have received many compliments from these professionals through program evaluations, e-mails and phone calls. I just wanted to share a few with you... "Since attending the training, I have not stopped talking about it. Your group is amazing and needs to be commended..." "I just had to tell



The Revolution Theatre Group after their presentation in Omaha. From left back: Erin Nahorny, Taylor Bock, Bryanna Hammons, Katie Rodriguez, Levi McPhillips, Abbie Tessoroff. From left front: Omar Rodriguez, Catie Wiese, Kelsey Jochum, Miguel Gomez.

you that this was the best performance for teens I have ever seen. What an awesome group of kids..." "You guys are awesome! Very good job!"... "The video was awesome!"... "Thank you for putting yourselves out there. You will never know how many people you have touched."

## Spring Into Action!

Throughout this past spring, the Revolution theatre group has had several performances for high school and youth group audiences.

They started off the spring with a Columbus performance for Saint Isidore's Youth Group on March 3rd. The performance was given to high school students who were a part of the youth group.

Their second presentation was also to a home town audience at Scotus Central Catholic High School on March 8th. This was the first time that the new theatre group had presented at one of their own schools, and the student body was impressed by how involved their own classmates were in the community.

To wrap up March, the group traveled to Stromsberg, NE, to perform at Cross County High School on the 23rd. This performance was the group's first with new member, Mike Mecsek, who played the role of "Ty" usually played by Miguel Gomez.

To start off the month of April, the group once again performed to a youth group. They performed to St. Mary's Youth Group in Leigh, NE, on April 7th.

On a different note, group members Aaron Adams and Lauren Wright performed at the Sexual Assault Vigil on April 12th. This was held at Central Community College in Columbus.

On April 20th, the theatre group traveled to Omaha to perform for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Victims' Rights Training Conference. After seeing all the positive feedback the group received for this performance, they all agreed that it was the best performance of the year.

To wrap up the year, the group presented for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska on May 10th. It was the second performance the Ponca Tribe had seen, but the group thought it made just as big of an impact as the first.

Congratulations to the theatre group for making such a difference in the lives of kids this spring!

## Where Are They Now?

### James Hash

I am a Business Technology Secondary education teacher at Clarinda High School in Clarinda, Iowa. This is my second year here, and I am also the head JV volleyball coach as well as the head Varsity baseball coach. I have a 20 month old son named Hayden and an 8 month old son named Baylor. I will be getting married in July of 2011. I was part of Speaker's Bureau from 2003-2005.

### Steve Ingemansen

I am currently living the good life in Omaha. For the past two years I have been working in radio at Omaha's Classical 90.7 KVNO as On-Air Host, which was one of my dream jobs as a child. I have done a lot of traveling in the past year including trips to Disney World, Disney Land, Hawaii, and Mexico. I have recently made my professional cello debut at Omaha's Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, as well as my Omaha acting debut. I also enjoy watching "Family Matters" re-runs with my wonderful fiancé.

### Anna Brunt

I have just graduated from UNO with a degree in International Studies. I'm looking to possibly go abroad for a while. I spent last summer in Palestine living with a family there, volunteering and taking Arabic classes, so I may try and go somewhere in the Middle East again. I was in Speaker's Bureau from 2002-2005, and I was also the Student Coordinator during my last year in Speaker's Bureau.

Steve also informed us of a Martina McBride concert he attended. At the concert, he was reminded of Revolution when this video was played. Check it out!  
<http://www.loveisrespect.org/resource-center/martina-mcbride-teams-up-with-loveisrespect-national-teen-dating-abuse-helpline-for-healthy-teen-dating-relationships/video/>

## Training: Where New & Old Start to Unfold

Training for the 2010-2011 school year is just around the corner! Training will be held on June 7th and 8th at Abbie Tessendorf's house, from 9:00 to 3:30 in the afternoon.

Training has many aspects to it where new and old members learn about the importance of sexual assault and domestic violence. First, Abbie teaches the members about the basics. Staff members from the Center for Survivors then teach about specific issues in this area. Last year the group was fortunate enough to hear pieces on dating violence in the media and the legal side of assault. This also gives new

members a chance to familiarize themselves with the staff.

In addition to the learning portion of the day, the group takes time to play games and do activities that allow everyone to get to know each other. Last year the group split up into two teams and had an intense game of capture the flag, which will definitely be repeated this year!

Overall, training is the highlight of Revolution's year, where new members learn what the group is about and old members are reminded of why they do what they do. Hope to see everyone there!



Revolution Training 2009-2010

Join the REVOLUTION!