



Alumni Network Newsletter

Student Support Services
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

TRIO

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New Positions and Duties to Promote SSS Alumni Network

The SSS Alumni Network has instituted several changes, detailed in this newsletter. Listed below are some new names, positions and duties.

President: Brittany (Borofka) Zold

The primary responsibilities of this position include developing agendas for leadership meetings, coordinating board member activities, and promoting the Alumni Network to current students as well as alumni. This position is also responsible for collaborating with the SSS Staff Liaison and attending Student Support Services events such as the Night at Dulany, TRIO Day, social events, and SSS Advisory Board Meetings.

Online Community Coordinator: James Little

Responsible for writing a blog to be posted on the Alumni Network website and recruiting other SSS Alumni from a variety of industries to blog as well. Eventually, we hope to create a Facebook group for the SSS Alumni Network and connect with other SSS programs.

Publicity and Newsletter Coordinator: PaHoua Lee

Responsible for contributing to the SSS Alumni Network Newsletter, as well as the SSS newsletter for currently enrolled students. She will also prepare content for the SSS Alumni Network website.

Career Network Program Coordinator: Chong Yang

The SSS Career Network Program Coordinator will help to develop the Ask an Alumni Program where current SSS students can receive online mentoring/coaching, obtain job shadow experiences, internship information, and job search advice.

Social Event Coordinator: Lisa Johnson

Responsible for organizing and implementing social events throughout the year, such as the SSS Recognition Celebrations held each fall and spring and, this fall, our new SSS Sophomore Seminar. Such events allow alumni and current SSS students to mingle and practice professional networking and job search skills

Greetings from your SSS Alumni Network President!

By Brittany Zold

SSS Alumni Network President

Hopefully, everyone has had both a wonderful and eventful summer vacation. My summer has been very busy with Army Band performances every weekend. I am currently in the 451st Army Band stationed at Fort Snelling, MN. This summer we have performed in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois with the highlight being our concert at the Taste of Chicago on July 3, before the fireworks!

On July 14, the SSS Alumni Network held a very successful meeting during which we discussed the progress of the Alumni Network over the past few years and also our goals for this year to include the future direction of the SSS Alumni Network. Goals for this year include: SSS Alumni involvement in the Professionalism 101 Seminar this fall to include a possible "Cocktail and Dessert" event to follow the seminar, another possible social event after the Fall SSS Recognition Banquet, and finally, establishing a scholarship through the SSS Alumni Network.

As President of the SSS Alumni Network, my main roles are to coordinate board member activities and to

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Tips for Recent Graduates

- 1. Intern:** Even if the pay isn't great, internships offer valuable on-the-job training. Work experience adds considerable value to your resume. Ninety-five percent of employers prefer to hire new graduates who have some work experience.
- 2. Have a plan:** If you don't have one, start now. Send feelers out early and often, and develop a realistic sense of what you want to do.
- 3. Network: 80 percent of jobs are landed through networking.** Adopt an aggressive networking approach that includes advertising your job search among former bosses, internship supervisors, professors, and social network. Join professional organizations related to your field of interest, as well as an on-line social networking site called LinkedIn.
- 4. Go (back) to school:** Getting a graduate degree can improve your long-term job prospects and starting salary.
- 5. Lead the way:** Being a leader—whether it's for a sports team or other student organization—can look good to employers, and impart valuable lessons.
- 6. Be open:** Flexibility is key and can open more doors, if you're willing to relocate or try something new.
- 7. Work the fairs:** Attend UW-Eau Claire and community career fairs to talk to a lot of potential employers in a short time.
- 8. Follow your heart:** While you're young, don't hesitate to take chances—including doing something because you like it, not just for the biggest paycheck.
- 9. Proper paperwork:** A resume and cover letter serve as your "first impression" to many would-be employers. Work on getting both in tip-top shape.



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Comments/Questions about this newsletter?

Contact Earl A. Shoemaker at: shoemaea@uwec.edu

Simplified Enrollment Procedure

In the past, students who wanted to join the SSS Alumni Network were required to fill out a special application form and submit it to the SSS office. However, we received feedback from students that although they wanted to join the organization, they were too busy as graduation approached to have time to complete yet another form. As a result, we have streamlined the procedure for joining the Alumni Network.

Now, all SSS students upon graduation will be placed on a temporary membership list. Those who decide that they no longer wish to receive information from the Alumni Network can simply send an e-mail to SSS and have their names removed from the mailing list. We hope that this streamlined procedure will make it easier for everyone to benefit from the services offered through the SSS Alumni Network.

Bruce Ouderkirk
Student Support Services Director
UW-Eau Claire

How to Find Your First Professional Job

By *Laura Rubenzer*

Student Support Services Career Coordinator

Start Now! Call on UW-Eau Claire Campus Experts for Help

Here is some failsafe advice: Start today! Visit the SSS Alumni Network Website at www.uwec.edu/sssan/careerinfo.htm to gain information on how to conduct a job search. The SSS Alumni Network website provides valuable resources, and links to Career Services website at www.uwec.edu/career. In addition to searching online resources, schedule an individual appointment with Laura Rubenzer, SSS Career Coordinator, at 715-836-4542 or contact Career Services at 715-836-5358 to discuss your specific job search needs or concerns. Trained, professional staff members are available to guide you through the job-search process.

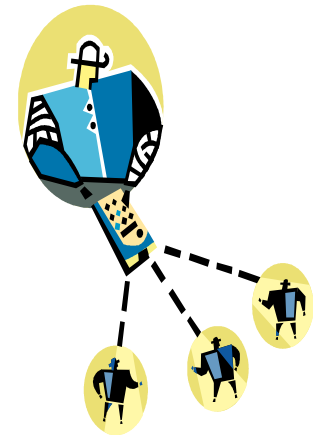
These experts will critique your resume; help you put together an award-winning cover letter; practice interviewing with you; teach you the etiquette necessary to make it through a luncheon interview; show you how to dress professionally for face-to-face conversations with employers; and give you ideas for how to demonstrate your strengths, skills and assets.

Don't be fooled. Career counselors won't find you a job or "place" you in a position. They are on campus to teach you something more important: the knowledge to successfully find a job today, as well as in the future when you're looking for your second, third, or even 10th position!

Go Where Employers are Looking

If you know where employers will be looking for new hires (and interns), then you can be there for them to find. When employers rate the effectiveness of recruiting methods, they rank the following in their Top 10:

- ♦ On-campus recruiting (UW-Eau Claire Blugold CareerLink Database)
- ♦ Organization's internship program
- ♦ Employee referrals
- ♦ Organization's co-op program
- ♦ Career/job fairs
- ♦ Faculty contacts
- ♦ Job postings on the company web site
- ♦ Job postings on the campus web site
- ♦ Student organizations/clubs
- ♦ Job postings on commercial web sites



As an alumnus, you are invited to participate in all on-campus networking and career events sponsored by Career Services on the UW-Eau Claire campus. For details on upcoming events, visit the Career Services website at www.uwec.edu/career or call them at 715-836-5358. Be certain to attend activities such as information sessions, on-campus interviews, career fairs, and professional organizations—especially those related to your field. Get experience by taking an internship (or two) or getting involved professionally in your field. In addition to attending UW-Eau Claire's networking programs and events, alumni are now offered lifetime access to Blugold CareerLink.

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promote the Alumni Network to both current students and alumni. Throughout the year you will see me at various SSS and TRIO events.

I am always open to suggestions or ideas so please feel free to email me with any questions, concerns, suggestions or ideas at: borofkbb@uwec.edu. When sending any correspondence please include SSS or TRIO in the title. I look forward to growing the Alumni Network and expanding our possibilities and involvement over the next two years. Enjoy the rest of the summer and good luck with all future endeavors!

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