Big Changes Ahead for SSS Alumni Network!

Greetings Alumnus!

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Support Services Alumni Network's main goals are to keep you connected to the University, the SSS Program, and fellow SSS Alumni. SSS staff members are very encouraged by the support SSS Alumni show for our program. In turn, the SSS staff and the SSS Alumni Leadership Board, are committed to offering programs and services that keep our extended family of alumni connected. The newly formed SSS Alumni Network Leadership Board met over the summer to discuss the programs that the Alumni Network will provide, and plan upcoming events.

What are the benefits of being an SSS Alumni Network member?

- Develop a professional network with fellow SSS Alumni
- Receive career counseling and job search assistance through the SSS staff
- Pursue professional development and graduate school application assistance
- Gain personal fulfillment from mentoring an SSS student or fellow SSS Alumni

What does the SSS Alumni Network seek to accomplish this year?

- Social Events
- Professional Mentoring Program
- Graduate School Tips/Advice
- Recognition Events
- SSS Alumni Network Webpage
- Discussion Board

Please send us an e-mail (Earl Shoemaker: shoemaea@uwec.edu; Laura Rubenzer: rubenzlm@uwec.edu) or call the SSS office at 715-836-4542 if you would like to get involved, have suggestions for new events, or questions about our programs. We are always open to new ideas and would love to hear from you.

Alumni Network Leadership Board Members

Rhonda Olson (cheribuns@aol.com), Alumni Network Chair, graduated from UW-Eau Claire with her Bachelor of Social Work in December 2005. She lives in Eau Claire and works at Sacred Heart Hospital as a discharge planning social worker.

Brittany (Borofka) Zold (borofkbk@uwec.edu) graduated from UW-EC in 2006 with a double major in Music and Biology. Brittany is a member of the Army Reserve and was recently married.

Lisa Johnson (johnsola@chipfalls.k12.wi.us) graduated from UW-EC in 2006 with a major in Elementary/Middle School Education; she has also completed Master of Education in Professional Development this past August. Lisa teaches at Chippewa Falls Middle School as well as UW-Eau Claire. She is currently pursuing her PhD from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

Cathryn McCoy (camccoy7@hotmail.com) graduated from UW-EC in 2006 with a major in Elementary/Middle School Education. Cathryn is a teacher at St. Patrick's School in Mauston, WI.

Kang Yang (yangkang@uwec.edu) graduated from UW-EC in 2007 as a Nursing major. Kang is now a nurse at Sacred Heart Hospital.
Notes from the Director . . .

I hope you have been doing well in pursuing your goals after graduating from UW-Eau Claire. I am excited about the prospects for the SSS Alumni Network. When I attended the meeting of the Leadership Board in late July, I was impressed by the ideas that were generated for the future directions of this organization.

Our objective is for the SSS Alumni Network to be beneficial both for our current program participants and for the alumni involved. For current students, we hope that the alumni will serve as role models and resource persons who can provide insights into how to succeed in their bachelor’s degree program and how to secure professional employment or admission into graduate school. For the alumni, we hope that the organization will provide you with a network of professional peers who can share employment information and ideas for career advancement. Your involvement in this organization will also keep you connected to the SSS program so that our staff members can assist you with information and advice.

I am glad that you have chosen to be involved in the SSS Alumni Network, and I’ll look forward to seeing this organization grow and prosper.

--Bruce Ouderkirk, SSS Director at UW-Eau Claire

Are you listed on ‘Ask an Alum?’

The Ask An Alum and Friends Program serves as a bridge between UW-Eau Claire students and alumni, parents, and partners of the university. Ask An Alum allows current students to contact professionals working in a variety of careers and geographic locations in order to better understand informational interviewing skills, different work environments and locations, and become comfortable with networking.

For additional information, please see the website: http://www.uwec.edu/career/Ask_An_Alum/index.ht

SSS Achievement Scholarship fund growing steadily

We established the Student Support Services Achievement Scholarship in 2003 to acknowledge and reward a junior or senior participating in SSS who has, among other eligibility criteria, documented how they have benefited by their participation in the SSS program and provide evidence of community or university involvement.

The amount awarded each January varies, depending upon how much money we have in the fund, but it will always be at least $150. Currently the scholarship is funded through the contributions of the SSS staff, but if you would like to help us build the fund, please refer to it specifically (Account No. 1495) when the Foundation office calls you.

Student Support Services
Old Library 2136
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire WI 54702-4004
Phone: 715/836-4542

Need to update your contact information?
Comments/Questions about this newsletter?
**Homecoming Pre-Game Tailgate Party**

10:30 A.M., SATURDAY, OCT. 6 @ BLUGOLD FEVER FEST IN CARSON PARK

SSS Alumni, Students and Staff will be tailgating together at Blugold Fever Fest, 10:30 a.m. at Carson Park, immediately following the 10 a.m. Homecoming parade on Oct. 6. **Look for the SSS banner at the Blugold Fever Fest.** We will be enjoying some great football fare, including brats, hot dogs, and beverages. Enjoy some rousing pre-game music performed by the Blugold Marching Band. Sing along with the Fight Song to rev up your Blugold spirit!

After the tailgate party at Blugold Fever Fest, we will be going to the **game against UW-La Crosse**, 11:30 a.m., Carson Park: Halftime entertainment will be provided by the Blugold Marching Band. We plan to purchase **tickets for the game together at the gate**. **Cost is $6 for Adults, $3 for children 5-17 years of age, and free for children under age five.**

After the game, **enjoy The Fifth Quarter** at Carson Park. Follow the Blugold Marching Band to The Fifth Quarter postgame party in the park! Enjoy great music by the band Home-Grown Tomatoes (whose members include several Blugold alumni), win prizes, eat your fill of tempting snacks, enjoy beverages and revel in Blugold fun and camaraderie.

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**Planning to attend the SSS Tailgate Party?**
**Please RSVP to Student Support Services at 836-4542**

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**Recent Notable Accomplishments of Continuing SSS Students**

**Bryan Harrenstein** (senior, Criminal Justice) completed a summer internship with the sheriff’s department in Stephenson County, Illinois.

**Justin Huegel** (senior, Marketing) served as a Marketing Communications Intern for 27 Miracle-Ear Hearing Centers throughout the upper Midwest.

**Pahoua Lee** (senior, Biology) spent part of the summer in Colorado, working on a faculty-student research project on stream ecology.

**Kristoffer Martin** (sophomore, English) is serving as web master for The Flip Side.

**Tammy Michels** (sophomore, Communications) had a summer internship in human resources with the state government.

**Shannon Niemi** (senior, Nursing) received the Partners with St Joe’s Scholarship.

**Sheila Runge** (senior, Special Education) was awarded the Jodi Mae Mantel Scholarship and the Diversity Fund Scholarship.

**Zachary Stensen**, who participated in the McNair program, completed his bachelor’s degree in art in May and was accepted into graduate school at the University of Iowa.

**Aaron Whalen** (senior, Nursing) was one of six UW-Eau Claire students who received the 2007 Student Leadership Award. Aaron also won the Jeffrey K. Walker Humanitarian in Nursing Scholarship and the Pfizer Nursing Scholarship.

**Julie Wright** (junior, Geography) is spending the fall semester on the Scholar Ship, an academic program that will take her to numerous countries, starting in Athens, Greece, and ending in Hong Kong.