Dear Alumni,

I am honored to be serving as the President of the Student Alumni Leadership Council (SALC) this year. The Student Alumni Leadership Council has had a busy semester with this year’s Homecoming. Our Paint the Paws event had the most teams registered that we have ever seen. We also participated in other various Homecoming events such as the All-Alumni Social and Town and Gown. SALC has a lot of exciting events to look forward to next semester, such as the Inaugural Quarterly Alumni Breakfast, Scratch Cupcakery Cupcake Sale, and the 2nd Annual Purple and Gold Day Rocky Run 5k. This semester membership has remained steady at about 30 dedicated student leaders.

As I said before, we are planning our Inaugural Quarterly Alumni Breakfast, which will be on Friday, January 30. We would love it if you were able to attend and share your experiences at Western with our current council members! I would like to thank you for being supportive of the Student Alumni Leadership Council and keeping Western’s traditions alive!

Sincerely,

Charles Smith
Student Alumni Leadership Council President
Ca-smith4@wiu.edu

P.S. As a Student Alumni Leadership Council, formerly Student Alumni Council, and Student Alumni Association alumnus, we hope you’ll consider a contribution to support our organization. We thank you in advance for any support you are able to provide, whether it be financial, or even by volunteering to speak at a meeting or at an event. Please feel free to email me or if you’d like to make a gift, visit www.wiu.edu/giving or to make your gift via your mobile device, simply text “GIVEPURPLE” to the number 41444.

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What’s New

This year we have made some great changes and improvements in SALC. We have gained 11 new members who are super enthusiastic and great leaders to the organization. We have changed from committees that oversee multiple events to students volunteering to chair each individual event SALC organizes. With this change, SALC members can take on a leadership role to plan their own events and have other members sign up to help, with Executive Board oversight. This change has allowed the organization to better focus on its mission, while offering opportunities for leadership and personal growth. We are excited about this positive change and look forward to watching SALC continue to evolve with the leadership of all members.
Paint the Paws

Keeping the traditions alive has kept the Student Alumni Leadership Council busy in organizing the annual Paint the Paws. For the 26th anniversary of Paint the Paws we had 32 groups of students, faculty, staff, and alumni come out to help repaint more than 200 gold paw prints along Western Avenue, University Drive and a new edition of paws into Q-Lot. We repaint these paws every year to help beautify the campus, demonstrate leatherneck pride, and keep a time honored tradition alive. These paws also allow us to welcome alumni back to the campus and lead them, along with current students, visitors, faculty, staff, and the WIU community to the Homecoming Football game.

Full Council Guest Speakers

This semester it has been a goal of SALC Executive Board to make Full Council meetings not only business oriented, but also have a component of professional development. To do this, SALC has invited guests to speak on a number of topics.

Stacey Macchi
A communications professor at WIU came to speak to SALC members about professional writing skills. She also spoke about promoting one’s self in an interview and offered her insight about writing a resume.

Cathy Onion ‘85 ‘90
Former Associate Director of Alumni Programs, former advisor of Student Alumni Council, and a current Assistant Professor for Business Communication spoke with SALC members about what it means to be a leader. She helped members identify someone whom they look up to and the qualities it takes to be a great leader.

Halloween Bake Sale

This fall, SALC members decided to try their hands at baking. They devised a plan to put on the first SALC Halloween Bake Sale in which they sold a number of ghoulish treats including “Owl Be Watching You” cupcakes (pictured to the left) and “Dracula’s Dentures” (chocolate chip cookies).
Flutter Flags

Last fall, SALC was approached by Vice President for Administrative and Public Services Brad Bainter ‘79 ‘83 to assist in making President Thomas’ goal of flutter flags during special campus events a reality. This fall we continue to keep this goal and tradition alive. SALC members are committed to fill the atmosphere with the pride and spirit that the flutter flags create and continued to put the flutter flags up along University Drive at Homecoming, all football games, and Discover Western days.

Community Service

Haunted Hill Run

SALC members volunteered to help with the McDonough County YMCA Haunted Hill Run. Members served as crossing guards and passed out food and drinks to runners.

Cards for Vets

During a Full Council meeting, SALC members wrote letters to Veterans to be sent out for Veteran’s Day.

CUPP

SALC continues to serve on the Community University Partnership Program (CUPP) committee. We helped to host their annual Welcome Back Picnic.

Upcoming Events

Inaugural Quarterly Alumni Breakfast
Friday, January 30
7:30-9 a.m. at the Alumni House

Scratch Cupcakery Cupcake Sale
Order your cupcakes online January 5th – January 30th (Click on Cupcake Sale link on the SAA page www.wiu.edu/alumni/saa.php)
Pickup at the Alumni House Friday, February 13th at 1:30 p.m.

2nd Annual Rocky Run
5k run to celebrate Western in honor of Purple and Gold Day
Saturday, April 25
Time and Location: TBA

Be on the lookout for emails about these upcoming events. More information about these events can be found on the SAA Webpage www.wiu.edu/alumni/saa.php.
Member Spotlight

This semester SALC implemented a Membership Spotlight program to honor and thank SALC members who actively participate in this organization and bring a great attitude. This semester’s honorees included Ellen Bowen, Morgan Crater, Rafael Juarez, and Wendy Martinez Javier.

SALC Members enjoying the S’mores bar after volunteering at Town and Gown

SALC members ready to serve as crossing guards for the YMCA Haunted Hill Run