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 a lot of exciting events to look forward to in the month of April such as the Inaugural Purple and Gold Day Rocky Run. This semester’s membership has remained steady at about 25 dedicated student leaders. In February, Student Alumni Leadership Council hosted the 2nd Annual CASE ASAP Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day! At the event, we set up a table in the Union on campus and students wrote Thank-You cards to over 1,700 WIU alumni. As I said before, we are planning our Inaugural Purple and Gold Day Rocky Run, which will be on Saturday, April 26 and we would love it if you are able to run and celebrate Western’s 1st Purple and Gold Day with us! 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

P.S. As a Student Alumni Council or 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.

What’s New

Last year SALC underwent many changes, one of which is organizational restructure. In the past, committees were typically created for each event, fundraiser, or program, and a Chair was nominated to head the project. Last year SALC created five committees, each of which is led by a Director to promote efficiency and collaboration between members. The committees include: Event Planning, Finance, School Spirit, Ambassadors, and Membership. This change has allowed the organization to better focus on its mission while offering opportunities for leadership and personal growth. We are excited about the positive impact it has had already and look forward to watching SALC continue to evolve.
Paint the Paws

Students, faculty, staff and alumni celebrated their WIU pride by kicking off the 2013 Homecoming with the 25th anniversary of Paint the Paws! The Student Alumni Leadership Council takes pride in planning and organizing this nationally recognized and awarded event. Twenty-six groups of students, faculty, staff and alumni came out to help repaint more than 200 gold paw prints along Western Avenue and University Drive. 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 game.

Rocky Run

There is a cause for celebration! This spring, the Student Alumni Leadership Council plans on holding their first annual Purple and Gold Day Rocky Run. Rocky Run is a 5K run that celebrates Western and all the pride its students and community have for it. The run will be held April 26, 2014 and is in conjunction with Purple and Gold day, which is April 24. The route will lead its runners from the Alumni House on Adams St. around campus and through the quad. What better way to celebrate Western than with a beautiful run through campus during spring? Participants in the run will be encouraged to dress with as much Leatherneck pride as possible to win the most spirited award. This exciting event is open to students and all those who wish to celebrate their Leatherneck Pride!

Philanthropy Day

The Student Alumni Leadership Council hosted Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day last February. We invited all WIU students to help out by signing Thank You cards for our amazing and supportive alumni and donors around the Macomb area! We signed over 1,700 Thank You cards for their generosity.
Flutter Flags

This fall SALC was approached to assist in making President Thomas’ goal of flutter flags during special campus events a reality. SALC members committed to putting up 200 flutter flags at Homecoming, all home football games, and Saturday Discover Western events along University Drive! We are so excited with the atmosphere of pride and spirit the flags help create, and we look forward to continuing this new tradition at Western of rising early in the mornings to take that breath of fresh air and display the purple and gold!

Membership Initiatives

Over the past semester there have been great discussions about how SALC can better connect students to alumni. One idea SALC came up with and has implemented is structuring our programs to better resemble the Alumni Association and Alumni Council so that students will be familiar with how they can be involved first as students and eventually as alumni upon graduation. In an effort to do so, SALC expanded membership in the Student Alumni Association to all current WIU students the day they set foot on campus just as they automatically become members of the Alumni Association when they graduate. As part of this effort we sent out a postcard to all students living on campus letting them know they are part of the organization and inviting them to get further involved with SALC. We are excited with this change and its help in our recruiting efforts and look forward to the continued expansion.

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CASE ASAP Award

SALC won a national award at the annual Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Affiliated Student Advancement Programs (ASAP) conference in August.

CASE is the professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement professionals who work on their behalf in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas.

SALC won the CASE national award in August 2013.
I've really enjoyed my time as a member of SALC. I have gained great communication and networking skills. I have also met some awesome people who I hope to keep in touch with after I graduate! —Rachel Slama ‘14

I have been a member of SALC for a little over a year now, and I feel that I have learned more about my leadership skills through giving tours and doing events such as Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day or SEP. By being a part of this organization, I have met some really great people who have showed me what it really means to be a leader and I believe I have developed more as a leader myself too. —Alexis Kathalynas ‘16

I have gained experience with communicating with alumni and other faculty at Western Illinois University. I am truly grateful for being apart of this organization. —James Downey ‘14

My favorite part about being involved in SALC is the chance to promote school pride and all the great things WIU has to offer. It gives me a chance to share opportunities with fellow students, whether it be simply for fun, or for enhancing their futures. —Amanda Rizzuti ‘15

I have gained friendships that will last me through the rest of my life. I have also gained the skills that have made me a better leader. —Zach Clark ‘16

I became a part of this organization in the Spring of 2010. I joined because of the opportunities to meet new students entering WIU with tours. I also enjoy meeting alumni at various events and listening to their awesome stories of when they attended WIU. —Timathi Szemplinski ‘15

Being a part of Student Alumni Leadership Council I’ve encountered different people that have made me come out of my shell, be comfortable, and learn to voice my opinion and ideas. SALC has definitely made me gain friends, learn more about Western, and has made me get more involved. —Salena Love ‘14