Introducing SALC’s New Executive Board

Our newly elected executive board members are as follows:

(Pictured left to right) Adriana Miranda serves as President. Rafael Juarez serves as Vice President. Elizabeth Parker serves as Secretary. Anna Sendra serves as Public Relations Coordinator (Not Pictured).

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What’s New

This year we have made some great changes and improvements in Student Alumni Leadership Council. This semester we gained over 10 new members. They have already stepped up to become leaders within the organization. Many have been in charge of a variety of events. In January, we hosted the inaugural Alumni Breakfast and plan to continue this throughout each semester. These changes allow the organization to continue to grow and evolve the leadership abilities of all members.
Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day was on February 18th this year. Continuing the tradition of thanking the amazing alumni of Western Illinois University for their contributions, we sent out over 1,000 postcards. Each postcard had a hand written note expressing current students’ gratitude for their donations to the school. Student Alumni Leadership Council hosted tables at the Union during lunch time and the WIU Men’s Basketball game for students to stop and sign postcards to send to alumni. Next year we plan to team up with the athletic department again and have the game in recognition of SEP Day to spread the word.

**Member Spotlight!**

**Ilena Medina**
Illena volunteered to be an event chair for Grad Blast and Rocky Run. She also has been a model member by stepping up and giving a helping hand wherever it is needed. For this we thank her!

**Valencia Howery**
Valencia has really stepped up in Student Alumni Leadership Council. She has stepped out of her shell and jumped right in to being event chairs and volunteering to help others when needed. We appreciate you!

**Aya Malave**
Aya has really contributed to our organization and stepped up with helping in the alumni breakfast. She has been full of ideas to help us improve our events for next year. She had the idea to take leftover donuts and breakfast pizza and give them to students throughout campus in celebration of Purple and Gold Day. Thank you for all of your help.
Yummy Yummy Scratch Cupcakes!

New this semester, Student Alumni Leadership Council sold Scratch Cupcakes as a fundraiser. The money raised from this delicious event went to fund other events put on by SALC. We raised a lot of money and plan to continue this fundraiser throughout the years.

Keepin’ It C1as5y!

As a farewell from Student Alumni Leadership Council to the graduating seniors, we put on an event called Grad Blast. This year though, we changed the venue of the event from the Sports Corner to The Change of Pace. We set up our very own photo booth and let the seniors have fun taking goofy pictures with their friends. We had an amazing turn out and hope to do this event at the Change of Pace again next year. Our members have already been giving us tons of positive feedback from their senior friends and ideas to improve the event next year!

Thank You Guest Speakers!

This semester we had four amazing guest speakers come in to talk to our full council as well as a presentation by our Social Media Chair. All four are WIU alumni!

Our first guest speaker was Michelle Howe ’09 MS ’11 from the Career Development Center. She came and spoke to us about how to use Leatherneck Link and the benefits of having an account with it. Within Leatherneck Link, you are able to upload résumés and writing samples, view available jobs and internships with our employer contacts, sign up for on-campus interviews and sync your LinkedIn account with the system.

Next we had Laura Leezer ’84 MS-Ed ’98 who is an instructor in the Management and Marketing Department and works at Morton Community Bank. She gave us a wonderful presentation about mixing, mingling, and networking, which helped out many new members during our Alumni Breakfast.

We also had Jude Kiah MBA ’03 from the University Bookstore. He gave us a very motivational presentation on how while it is important to get involved, it is important to not get too involved. He also stressed that it is important to have commitment to your organization.

Our last guest speaker was Dustin Van Slotten MS ’01 from Campus Recreational. He gave us a very inspirational speech on how it is important to be your best self. It is important to try to drift away from ordinary and reach for extraordinary.

In addition, Anna Sendra, our SALC Public Relations Coordinator presented on what to not post on social media. While it is important to keep track of what you post on social media for your own future, it can also have an affect on the future of your organization.
Alumni Breakfast!

In January, the Student Alumni Leadership Council hosted the inaugural Alumni Breakfast at the Alumni House. Alumni were invited to join us for complimentary coffee and donuts. WIU President Jack Thomas was our guest in January. We hosted our second Alumni Breakfast in conjunction with Purple and Gold Day on April 24. To involve students in our Purple and Gold Day events, we invited all WIU students, along with alumni, to complimentary coffee, donuts and breakfast pizza with our special guest Mayor Mike Inman.

Purple and Gold Day Rocky Run!

Unfortunately, Rocky Run had to be cancelled in April due to bad weather conditions. Despite this we have really made a lot of changes to increase the participation in Purple and Gold Day. We have reached out to the fraternities and sororities on campus and have received much support! With this in mind, we cannot wait to see what next year’s event has in store for us!