A Visit to the Capitol: Educational Access Day

By: Terra Dailey

In February, three students from UW Student Success Services attended Educational Access Day at the State Capitol in Cheyenne, WY. The participating representatives from SSS were Maria Simental, Amanda Simpson, and Terra Dailey. TRiO students from around the state visited the Capitol and witnessed the legislative process in action.

During the visit, the SSS students met Senator Mike Enzi in the lobby and posed for a picture. Then, they met with Governor Dave Freudenthal and witnessed his signing of the proclamation that pronounced February 21, 2008 as Wyoming Educational Access Day. Finally, the students had the opportunity to be introduced by a member of the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate during their sessions. The students concluded the day by having lunch with fellow TRiO students and colleagues.

Astounding SSS Alumni

By: Danielle Valencia

Sergio Lemus graduated in May, 2007 from the University of Wyoming, where he received his bachelor’s degree in Political Science. He worked as an intern for Senator Enzi in Washington, D.C. during his junior year of college, which helped him to decide to pursue a career in government.

Lemus stated that participating in Student Success Services was very helpful in his graduation from college and contributed to his professional success. Ken Zajac, his SSS advisor, assisted him in becoming familiar with the campus and in adjusting to school. SSS offered him resources that he would not have had available otherwise, such as free tutoring and one-on-one advising.

To Sergio, SSS was and continues to be a very valuable program for students who need help getting used to the college environment and who want to become successful in their academic careers. His advice to new students is get to know your faculty, staff, and peers because everyone is more than willing to lend a helping hand in order to contribute to your achievements. In reflection, Lemus said that it is invaluable to have resources available and it is wise to take advantage of them as a student. Sergio Lemus is an example of the many outstanding SSS alumni!
By: Alyssa Murphy
Sarah Axelson is the UW Vice President for Student Affairs. She attended UW from 1975-1979 as an undergraduate and then returned in 1999 as the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. Her education includes a B.A. in Communication, a Master’s Degree in Public Administration, and a Doctorate in Adult Learning. Sarah spent the last 29 years in public service with nine years in local government and 20 years in higher education.
Sara enjoys her job and says her favorite part about it is the people interaction, especially with students, and accomplishing plans that best serve the students. An average day for her consists of meetings with many colleagues from across the campus, reading and responding to e-mails, and attending events. Sara is very busy and says, “Occasionally I complete work at my desk.” Outside of her career at the University, Sara loves spending time with her family, playing piano, reading, listening to music, and watching movies. In ten years, she plans on being in the same position and still learning.

By: Athena Kennedy
Stacy Gupton is a senior Art student at the University of Wyoming and is an active SSS participant. She enjoys oil painting and painting and drawing in other mediums. At age 21, Stacy suffered a massive stroke while sleeping. Her neurosurgeon was sure Stacy would die, but he was wrong. Stacy is a survivor. She has triumphed over tragedy; after five years of surgery and intense therapy, Stacy is back in college and is close to completing her degree.
Stacy continues to paint beautiful works and is an inspiration to others. The Health Sciences Department at UW purchased a series of paintings from Stacy that is displayed in the building portraying the occurrence of a stroke through the eyes of the victim. According to Stacy, her paintings are more abstract and interesting now than they were prior to her stroke. Her most recent painting includes a portrait of two greyhounds (see photo) that she painted for her SSS advisor, Athena Kennedy. Stacy is a vibrant young person who aspires to be a renowned artist. She will most certainly continue painting throughout her life and inspiring those around her.

By: Maria Simental
Sarah Carle is a Spanish Academic Professional Lecturer at the University of Wyoming. She has been teaching as a graduate assistant and as a lecturer for the past three and a half years. Currently she works in the Spanish Department. Sarah said that the best thing about her position is working with the students.
Sarah studied Spanish as an undergraduate at Chadron State College in Nebraska and then received her Master’s Degree in Spanish from the University of Wyoming. She then taught as a temporary lecturer and was later promoted to Academic Professional Lecturer.
Sarah’s words of wisdom for students on how to be successful are, “In order to be a successful student, one must work hard, be open-minded and engaged. Hard work always pays off! The more you learn the more likely your career will take care of itself.”

By: Fidensio Simental
Stacy Powell, a first-generation college student from Laramie, is determined to get her Bachelor’s Degree in Speech and Hearing Science and will continue her education to get her Master’s Degree. Stacy has been on the Vice President’s honor roll at Laramie County Community College’s Albany County Campus every semester and has also been awarded two EPSCoR Research Fellowships at UW. Stacy’s family is her backbone to her success and she would not be able to function without them. With her experiences both from LCCC and UW, she feels she is prepared for any challenges life has to offer.

By: Kris Burns
Kris Burns is a junior at the University of Wyoming. He plans on graduating in the fall of 2009 with a B.A. in Business Administration and a minor in Entrepreneurship. Student Success Services has been the largest propone

By: Fidensio Simental
Christopher Deaderick, a sophomore majoring in Environment and Natural Resources, and Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management, is mapping his future to work locally and internationally in natural resources/biodiversity conservation. During his Academic Field Study Program in Portugal, Panama and New Zealand, he traveled around local areas learning about problems and responses from changes in the land with an emphasis on how to better create sustainable development. Chris is working to better the planet and to better himself. He is succeeding in his mission and he thanks Student Success Services for the support.
Let’s Get “Culturized!”

By: Megan Mercer

Students who are involved in SSS have the opportunity to attend many cultural events on campus with the Cultural Events Voucher Program initiated by Bill Anderson, an SSS Advisor. Students are able to redeem vouchers for tickets to cultural events of their choice throughout the semester. Additionally, SSS provides students with an opportunity to network with other SSS students and advisors, and to discuss selected events by hosting pre-show gatherings.

This year students attended Almost Maine, Piotr Anderzewski (pianist pictured in the center above), Imani Winds (quartet), Camerata Ireland (orchestra) with pianist Barry Douglas, and the production, A Chorus Line. The February theatre event, Almost Maine, had a great turnout with 16 SSS students and two advisors in attendance. Also in February, the Pianist, Piotr Anderzewski, drew a crowd of 12 from SSS. Following the concert, students attended a reception at the UW President’s House where they enjoyed the company of Mr. Anderzewski, the President of UW, and Mrs. Buchanan. Groups of SSS students attended Imani Winds and Camerata Ireland in March. Lastly, immediately following the Personal Best Etiquette Dinner hosted by the President’s Office and SSS in late April, students attended A Chorus Line.

knock! knock!

By: Lisa Abeyta

Horizons Events were the new “rage” in SSS this Spring! These events were designed to broaden students’ “horizons” by giving them the opportunity to explore things outside the classroom. The first Horizons Event was “Opportunity Knocks: Open the Door!” hosted by Athena Kennedy, SSS Advisor. This event gave students a chance to learn how to get involved on campus and what organizations are available at UW.

Several presenters from around campus shared information. Student Leadership and Civic Engagement was represented by Matt Stech who presented information on leadership activities. Associated Students of UW, also known as ASUW, was represented by David Kiren, who informed students about college student government. Katie Kleinheeselink and Suzannah Carr from the Center for Volunteer Service announced many opportunities for students to volunteer locally and globally. Alternative Spring Break was discussed. Two adventurous students who studied abroad, Shaleena Moy and Leah Ramsey, showed pictures of their semesters in other countries. Lastly, from Greek Life Lauren Caroll, Britany Epler, and Bryan Watt shared information about sororities and fraternities at UW.

According to Danielle Valencia, SSS student, “The first Horizons Event helped me better understand what college life can be like when you’re involved.”

Professional and Personal

By: Athena Kennedy

The University of Wyoming Office of the President and Student Success Services hosted the second SSS Horizons Event, “Your Personal Best Etiquette Dinner” on Saturday, April 26 at 5 p.m. in the Foundation House. Horizons events were designed to allow students to explore opportunities outside the classroom. The purpose of the Dinner was to provide students with an opportunity to learn how to interact in social and professional settings before, during, and after dinner. Additionally, the students attended the UW Theatre and Arts production “A Chorus Line” with the hosts immediately following dinner.

Hosts Jacque Buchanan, Bill Anderson, and Athena Kennedy welcomed the students as they entered the Foundation House, and instructed the students on how to introduce themselves and shake hands properly. Then, the students were ushered to the opening “mocktail” reception in the lounge of the Foundation House. Here, students networked and mingled with their peers, the hosts, Pilar Flores, Director of Student Educational Opportunity, and Sandy Straley, Project Director of Student Success Services.

The students sat with the hosts, who addressed different tables throughout the dinner so the students could gain a variety of perspectives on etiquette. Each course of the meal was introduced by Becky Brown, a renowned chef who currently caters for the state governor and other professionals. The first course of the meal was a spinach salad with blueberries, feta cheese and a vinaigrette dressing. The second course included tender beef, fresh green beans and tomatoes, and a seven layer potato cake. Lastly, a decadent strawberry tiramisu was served.

Throughout the meal, the hosts described different etiquette techniques such as where to place the napkin when leaving the table, appropriate utensil use, and how to order from the menu also, cell phone etiquette and some interview techniques, such as good communication skills, were discussed.

Students said they enjoyed the event and learned many etiquette tips.

A Great Accomplishment!

By: Ken Zajac

Kristen Erickson, (pictured left), an animal and veterinary science major from Moorhead, Minn., and a member of the University of Wyoming equestrian club, qualified to compete in the advanced walk-trot-canter class at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Championships April 5-6 in Baton Rouge, La. The IHSA includes more than 300 member institutions and 6,500 riders across the United States and Canada. The UW equestrian club achieved the high honor of the best regular season in program history this year! SSS is proud of Kristen!

Listen Up!

Advice from Advocates for Achievement

AFA is the newly founded student organization of Student Success Services. For more information contact President Terra Dailey at terrad@uwyo.edu

Get involved! There are so many opportunities right here on campus. It’s a great way to meet people who are passionate about the same things you are.

-Alyssa Murphy, Freshman

Take advantage of all the available resources on campus.

-Fidensio Simental, Junior

Get to know your professors by name, they are more willing to help if they know you are really trying in class.

-Kris Burns, Junior

When times get rough, embrace it and take the initiative to pass through it.

-Lisa Abeyta, Freshman
“Powder River, let ‘er buck:” What does it mean?

By: Terra Dailey

Readers may be curious about the origin of this newsletter’s name, “Letter Buck.” It stems from the phrase “Powder River Let ‘er Buck.” This phrase has two meanings. The first meaning, according to UW Professor Phil Roberts, in his article in Wyoming’s Self Image, was an expression used during cattle drives along the Powder River to Casper. While these cowboys were unsure of how to get across the Powder River, they decided to find some swimming horses. Then, when they were on their way across, they realized the river was only a couple of inches deep, so they could use any horse to get across. Once the cattle drive reached Casper and the cowboys had a few drinks, one made a toast, “Well here’s to Powder River, let ‘er buck!”

The second meaning, and probably the most popular, came from soldiers of the 361st Regiment of the 91st Division of the United States Army, all of whom were from Wyoming. This phrase is a war cry they made popular.

By: Kirstin Mitzel and Athena Kennedy

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help limited income, first generation and disadvantaged Americans enter college, graduate from college and become positive contributors to society. These programs are referred to as TRiO Programs.

At UW, TRiO Programs include Student Success Services, the McNair Scholars Program, Educational Opportunity Centers, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math/Science Initiative Project. Together these programs assist thousands of students in attending and graduating from college; some programs have been at UW for almost 30 years.

TRiO Programs have been level-funded for the last few years and each year some of these programs are at risk of not being funded. It is because of TRiO supporters, such as alumni, legislators, and the community, that these programs persist. Please contact your legislators today to urge them to support TRiO programs. For more information please visit http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html.

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Trio Works!

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Pictured above: Advocates for Achievement.