April 16, 2008
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By: Rita Burleson
Student Success Services first year students have the opportunity to hit the ground running when they enroll in the UWYO1205 First Year Experience course in the fall semester. Not only does the course offer SSS students strategies to improve their study skills, it also teaches students how to become active, responsible learners who succeed in college. Students complete a self assessment at the beginning of the course to measure their motivation for college learning. This information helps them get ready to step up and play for the A in their college classes. Those who take the course learn that they are creators of their experiences, for good or bad, and that life is about making wise choices for success. But that's not all! UWYO1205 is a double hitter! The course fulfills I (Intellectual Community) and L (Information Literacy) attributes of the University Studies Program. Not bad for a one credit course that meets for two 50 minute periods a week.

Spring 2010 will be the first time SSS offers a second course, UWYO1210, to students who successfully complete UWYO1205. With the 1210 offering, SSS can now provide a true first year experience for its students. UWYO1210 will focus on career exploration and career goal setting. The course will give students opportunities to familiarize themselves with the nitty-gritty of their career choice and plan their college years to optimize their career preparation. Students will create, design, and write their resumes and hold mock interviews with career professionals. In UWYO 1210 students will hone their interpersonal and social skills for success in their academic and professional lives, in two 50 minute periods a week.

January, 2009

By: Sandy Straley
Over 100 people attended the SSS Fall Connection held on September 18 at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. Honored guests included President and Mrs. Tom Buchanan; Sara Axel- son, Vice President for Student Affairs; Klaus Hanson, Mayor of Laramie; and Jamie Collins, representing Senator John Barrasso. Three SSS participants gave entertaining and informative presentations about their study abroad experiences. Ann Johnson studied Arabic in Egypt last summer as a result of receiving a Critical Language Scholarship through the U. S. State Department. Chris Deaderick participated in the Scholar Ship program which is an academic voyage around the world. Jaime McTee, a Spanish Secondary Education major with an ESL endorsement, presented on her spring semester in Guanajuato, Mexico.

Another highlight of the evening was the announcement that the UW Foundation was providing $5000 to support SSS participants’ study abroad in the future. See the article “Oh, The Places We’ll Go” (p. 3) for more details.

The following winners of SSS Scholarships for fall semester were announced: Lisa Abeyta, Danielle Allred, Timothy Baumel, Nicholas Borrego, Karen Bowman, Marissa Chamberlain, Chris Deaderick, Emily Gargaro, Kendra Haas, Jacob Hartman, Erika Helgeson, Michael Henry, Ann Johnson, Kirstin Mitzel, Alyssa Murphy, Megan Ober, Jennifer O’Day, Joshua Oppong, Casey Russell, Lauren Schlotthauer, Ashley Sears, Denise Sims, Holly Sonnesyn, Henry Sorensen, Jonathan Stockhouse, Danielle Valencia, Melissa Valtierra, Spencer Wisdom, Tim Witz, Brienne Wold, and Mariana Zarragoza.

Door prizes were donated by the Center for Advising and Career Services, First Interstate Bank, Residence Life and Dining Services, Robin’s Treats, UW Cultural Events, Wyoming Public Radio, and the Wyoming Union.

SSS students at the Fall Connection.

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SSS Advisor Athena Kennedy’s section of UWYO 1205 (formerly AS 1205), fall 2008.
A.J. began college as a computer science major, but currently is undeclared because, “Being undeclared is a good thing for me for now; it expands my horizons.”

In high school, I was involved in football, wrestling, track and was a captain in all three for two years. I was also in National Honor Society, and I was Pine Bluffs High School 2005 Senior Class President. My biggest achievement was in Future Farmers of America when I was awarded the Wyoming State Farmer in Agri-Placement in 2005. In college, I have joined the Sigma Chi Fraternity which has been a great way to give back to my community and continue my leadership role as the House Manager.

After graduating this spring 2009 in Agricultural Business, I plan to return to my family farm and ranch in Pine Bluffs where I already have bought my own house and plan to expand the farm to over 10,000 acres, and support 1,000 head of cow/calf pairs. Every student has to make the decision sooner or later to either stay in school or dropout. It is all a matter of just stepping up to the plate and realizing that four years of college grants you a lifetime of happiness knowing you have something to fall back on. A person with a degree can get a job anywhere.

Four fingers and a bony cone-shaped spike on each hand is not descriptive of Amanda Miller, freshman SSS participant from Canon City, Colorado, but of her favorite dinosaur the Iguanodon that lived 155 to 125 million years ago in the early Cretaceous period. At the age of 19, Amanda has already been studying dinosaurs for nine years. She is a member of the Paleontological Society and has amassed an impressive amount of knowledge about the extinct creatures. Amanda also is participating in a work-study position at the UW Geological Museum. Volunteering for eight years at the paleontology museum in her hometown has given Amanda the opportunity to work with professional paleontologists and lead guided tours. Amanda’s career aspirations include earning a Doctorate in geology/paleontology and traveling to France and England for international study. Her other interests include playing the flute and violin; she plans to earn a minor in music at UW.

Amand Miller explains the features and functions of a Triceratops skull at the UW Geological Museum to fellow classmates in the AS1205 course.

By: Ty Anderson

As the fifth generation of the Andersons still farming, I am currently attending UW to further my knowledge of agricultural practices. Our 6,000 acre farm and certified seed business is located 20 miles northwest of Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. This location has been home to my family since 1887. I am the only child of my generation, and I hope to continue the great tradition that will one day be passed down to me. I have always enjoyed the farming life since I began helping my father and grandfather at the age of five.

In high school, I was involved in football, wrestling, track and was a captain in all three for two years. I was also in National Honor Society, and I was Pine Bluffs High School 2005 Senior Class President. My biggest achievement was in Future Farmers of America when I was awarded the Wyoming State Farmer in Agri-Placement in 2005. In college, I have joined the Sigma Chi Fraternity which has been a great way to give back to my community and continue my leadership role as the House Manager.

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Traveling had always had a significant appeal to me growing up, so I began searching for opportunities to study abroad as a freshman in college. One day, my SSS advisor told me about a Critical Language Scholarship offered through the U.S. Department of State and encouraged me to apply. I was notified a few months later that I was selected to study Arabic in Egypt for two months! That summer, I boarded a plane for the first time in my life and began my Egyptian adventure!

Studying in Egypt not only proved to be the most wonderful academic experience of my life, but it gave me significant direction in choosing a career and taught me things about myself that I deeply needed to discover. During my short stay in Egypt, I learned about several major issues facing the people of that country and some of the hardships that they have had to endure. I spoke often with natives, heard their perspectives, and participated in conversations that went beyond the lectures of a classroom. I made long lasting friendships in Egypt and grew to truly love learning about the Middle East. The more I learned about the political, educational, environmental, and economic issues facing the region, the more determined I became to aim for a vocational path that would enable me to help people like those in Egypt. My experiences in Egypt were so positive that it has compelled me to continue my study of the Arabic language. I will be studying abroad once again in Egypt in spring 2009.

By: Ann Johnson

Ty Anderson: Ty Anderson

Amanda Miller: Amanda Miller

A.J. Lamb: A.J. Lamb

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By: Ann Johnson
WHAT'S HAPPENING

Etiquette Enthusiasm: UW President’s Office Sponsored Etiquette Dinner

By: Bill Anderson

The second Etiquette Dinner, sponsored by the University of Wyoming Office of the President and hosted by Jacque Buchanan for Student Success Services students, was held November 11, 2008, in the Foundation House. The purpose of the event was to help students feel comfortable interacting in a social and professional setting. Jacque Buchanan created an atmosphere for students in which they could network during the “mocktail” hour, have conversations with new people, and enjoy unique food. An etiquette guidelines sheet was sent to the students prior to the event; it contained information on business attire and general etiquette guidelines.

To begin the event, Jacque addressed the group during the “mocktail” hour and expressed her thoughts about the high quality of the Student Success Services program. Jacque mentioned that if funding were available, it would be great to provide all UW students the kind of support that is given through the SSS program. Students were then encouraged to mingle with Sara Axelson, VP of Student Affairs; Susan Bury and Nathan Capron from UNI Wyoming Federal Credit Union; as well as other students and UW staff.

The first course was sweet potato bisque followed by nicoise salad. Raspberry sorbet was served to cleanse the palate before the main course, stuffed salmon fillet with wild rice and candied beets. The grand finale was the dessert, flan with blood red orange sauce.

Students who attended enjoyed the dinner. Jeremy Guzman, a student majoring in psychology, stated, “I was foremost impressed with the food. WOW! I haven’t had salmon that was prepared that well in a very long time. We enjoyed a five course meal and between each course the chef described how each plate followed the fall theme.”

Lisa Abeysa, also a student majoring in psychology, said, “The dinner was so much fun. It started off with drinks and everyone mingling. It was nice to meet other students, faculty, and staff. The setup was amazing, I was able to learn about the different silverware and what it was used for. I loved how we were assigned to a seat because it made everyone interact with new people. The food was different than what I am used to, but I did have an open mind and I tried everything. It was a great experience.”

Host Jacque Buchanan said, “I certainly learn more from the students than they do from me. The students in Student Success Services are a remarkable group of people. I really enjoyed the evening.”

SEO/SSS students and staff extend a warm thank you to the President and Jacque Buchanan for providing us with an extraordinary experience.

AFA Adventures

By: Athena Kennedy

Advocates for Achievement (AFA), the newly formed UW SSS recognized student organization, had an award winning fall semester! AFA kicked off the year by enjoying a barbecue where students painted a one-of-a-kind masterpiece entitled “Futuristic Connections.” Each student shared a personal goal with fellow students, and then painted a line on a board to other students with similar goals; these lines represent the common goals among the students. The painting will be on display on the third floor of Knight Hall in the SSS hallway.

AFA conducted its first fundraiser this fall as well. The students raffled prizes to UW staff, faculty, administrators, students, and residents of Laramie. AFA used the funds to design and build a UW Homecoming Parade float, a 11-foot tall Pistol Pete rendition, adorned with pink attire, jewels, balloons, and streamers.

Hispanic Heritage Month allowed AFA to celebrate Hispanic culture with another student organization, Movimiento Estudiantil de Chicanos de Atzlan (MECHA), through a sugar skull painting activity that commemorated El Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Also, AFA celebrated Halloween by serving the Laramie community through the Wyoming Union’s Safe Trick or Treat adventure. Students and staff dressed in costumes, donated candy and prizes, and hosted a large game of Tic Tac Toe for local children.

In November, AFA students attended a belly dance workshop hosted by Aylin Marquez. She taught AFA members about the history, music, and dress of Egyptian Belly Dance. She then taught the students basic belly dance steps while they enjoyed homemade Turkish Baklava. AFA also sponsored a canned food drive to participate in Kans of Kindness. They built a can structure in the Wyoming Union to be entered in a competition to win a gift certificate.

In December, AFA hosted their holiday party at the Laramie Ice Arena where they enjoyed ice skating and a cultural holiday gift exchange. To get involved, contact Terra Dailey, President, at tterra@uwyo.edu. AFA meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Wyoming Union.

The Places We’ll Go!

By: Sandy Straley

After the wonderful presentations by three SSS participants on their study abroad experiences at the Fall Connection, it was announced that the UW Foundation would designate $5000 to assist SSS participants in studying abroad in the future.

Applications for the SSS Study Abroad Scholarships will be due on March 31; minimum awards will be for $700. See your SSS Advisor for application information.

Jaime McTee, an SSS student, studied abroad in Mexico in spring 2008.
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 and 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 Center, 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 over 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. For more information please visit http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html.

College Goal Sunday
Sunday, February 8, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Wyoming Student Union, Basement Computer Lab
Get help filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Bring your parents' latest tax documents or a final pay stub for 2008. Enter to win scholarships! On site tax preparation is available!
For more information visit: http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org/

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