



WONDERINGS.....

Spring 2004
Volume 2, Issue 1

WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP SEMINARS INC.

The WILS Seminar is Finally Here!

Ready for some fun and an awesome opportunity to show how much WILS means to you? Then join us for the second annual WILS Seminar, held at Carroll College on June 18th to the 20th. Wisconsin Leadership Seminars offers its nominees the opportunity to attend our high-energy seminar, which consists of team-building activities, motivational speakers (we've built relationships with several *spectacular* speakers), community service, a talent show, a college fair, panels of key leaders from various industries, small group discussions, and more. Students are given a chance to interact with a variety of leaders in our communities as well as other students from diverse backgrounds in a low pressure, positive environment. Being a Junior Staff member helps you to become part of the fun for these sophomores. If you have been a Junior Staff member before, then you know the inspirational benefits of leading a group of enthusiastic sophomores through a weekend that will open their eyes to the differences they can make in their school or community. The influence that this leadership seminar has on these outstanding sophomores however, all depends on you. We are all leaders and love to make a difference, so why pass up such a cool opportunity to not only influence a group of future WILS members, but also to hang out with the WILS gang? Apply now, the application can be found at our website: www.wileadershipseminars.org, and send to Amy Beres, at ajberes@wisc.edu. The application deadline is May 14th!



Team Poland 2003

The Winter Reunion: Snowflakes and Stevens Point

The winter reunion was a blast this year, headed and planned by Josh Koon, it gave us all a chance to use our leadership skills and be



(Top) Matt (Bottom L-R) Shea, Cowboy, and Shannon

enthusiastic with people of our own kind! The usual check-in and ice breakers put us all in a good mood, and we spent a lot of time catching up with other members. Birds of a feather flock together, and we definitely worked together to do community service at a nursing home, and at a clothing store for the needy. *(continued on page 3)*

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WILS' Words of Wisdom from the Alumni Association President

Throughout the past academic year, I have taken on quite a role at work. I was a newcomer to a staff who were a majority of returnees. As a supervisor of my own peers and other students who were older than me, I was under much criticism. Though I was well-trained by my supervisors, every move of mine was questioned because it was not "how it has always been done" by this staff. Furthermore, some staff persons felt that they deserved my position. After conferring with some of my staff, I realized something...of course I deserved this position. My supervisors saw my potential, all I had to do was realize it myself. After having this new-found confidence, I needed to take charge. But how would I do this? I needed to be able to win the respect of my staff and silence any critics. Flexibility was the answer. By showing my staff that I was willing to meet them halfway, they would be willing to do the same.

But what does this have to do with leadership? Even though you are set to lead your group in one direction from the start, variables beyond your control will be encountered. Thus, you must be willing to change to lead your group in the right direction. Though you may not see it, you are all leaders. Whether it is on the field, in the classroom, or in the office you all have the drive to become better, you just need to realize it. That is the mark of a great leader. Keep you spirits up, the semester is almost to a close. Keep your ambition flowing, the summer is near. But most if all, keep dreaming for Seminar is almost here! See you all in June! -Chris Natynski, WILSAA President

The potential of the average person is like a huge ocean unsailed, a new continent unexplored, a world of possibilities waiting to be released and channeled toward some great good. -Brian Tracy

Shout Outs

- Congrats to Tyler Mertes for getting into law school!!!

- Congrats to Angie Wellsmith for getting into law school!!!

- Linda Deyarmin, from Hillsboro (my school!) and a 2003 WILS, just got prom queen!

~ Beth W.

- And a shout out to all WILSers who are at UW-Madison, because I'm gonna be there this fall!

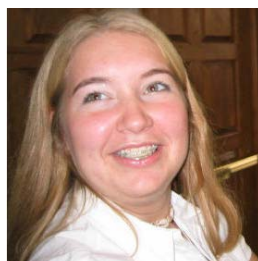
~Beth W

WILS Newsletter

Check Out the WILS Website!

With newsletters only filling your inboxes three times per year, WILS has decided that we want to keep everyone involved in this outstanding organization updated on everything that is going on throughout the state! Whether it be re-union information, Alumni Association gatherings, volunteer events, or anything else pertaining to WILS....The place to find all of the information you need is:

[Http://www.WILeadershipSeminars.org](http://www.WILeadershipSeminars.org)



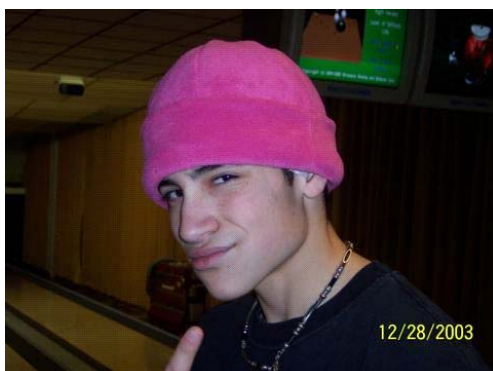
Do not forget to turn your Junior Staff Applications to me by no later than May 14th. If you have any questions, email me at ajberes@wisc.edu - Alumni Association Vice President Amy Beres

Leadership Reflections

Opportunities to become involved are constantly surrounding us, and with those opportunities, there is always the chance to become a leader. Being a leader doesn't necessarily mean that you have to be the captain of your team, or the president of an organization. Leadership means so much more than simply being in charge of people. Last year, I had an experience that taught me the true meaning of leadership, as well as a great deal about myself. In October of my senior year of high school, I received a job offer that I could not refuse, coaching the middle school pom pom squads! I had danced since I was 3 years old and was head captain of my dance team for 4 years in high school. Dancing was my favorite thing to do, so when I was asked to coach the teams at my old middle school, I was thrilled. At first the experience was very intimidating; I was in charge of 40 girls, two squads of 20 each. The first few practices went fairly well, the coach they had had up until that point quit, so I was taking over and doing things differently. They were very opposed to some of the "new ways" of doing things, and if you know anything about girls that age, they do not adapt well to change. I knew that my job was to be their coach, not their friend, yet I also knew that if these girls did not respect me, I would get nowhere with them. The respect part wasn't too hard, I was older than them and had much more dance experience, it was pretty obvious that I was "the boss." The challenge came when I realized that these girls needed more than just someone to teach them dance technique and help them put routines together. Middle school girls are boy crazy and gossipy, yet they are all struggling to find a sense of self, to be accepted, and to be comfortable with who they are and who they want to be. I soon began to have to suspend girls from performances because they were caught smoking outside, using inappropriate language towards teachers, etc. I overheard girls talking about their boyfriends and realized that a lot of middle school girls are very promiscuous, even more so than most high school girls I knew at the time. That was the point where I realized that I needed to stop just being a dance teacher, and really being a leader for these girls. They needed someone closer to their age than their teachers and parents to talk to, and most of all, they needed a role model. At that point, I started setting aside 15 minutes at the end of practice to have talks to them about issues that they face everyday, and would continue to face in high school. I gave them all my home and cell phone numbers as well as my e-mail address, and they would call me if they needed to talk or were in a bad situation. As I was teaching these girls to dance and how to be good role models for the other kids at school, their younger siblings, etc., I knew that I, too, needed to be a role model for them. I quickly learned that leadership is not only about being in charge of people and getting them to do what you want, but being a good example, and teaching people how they can set a good example as well. It means taking on more than what you might think your job entails if it will improve the work situation or benefit the people you are working for or with. Leadership means doing the right thing, being fair and honest, but at the same time, being compassionate and helping others get what they need in life. Leaders should not just lead people, but take the time to get to know the people that they are leading. If you keep your eyes open to what is happening around you, you just might learn something. -Amy Beres

(Winter continued)

The nursing home guests were delighted to play bingo with us, and hear us sing Christmas carols, while the clothing store thanked us for being such enthusiastic workers. The highlight of this reunion had to be the dance, according to many members, who danced their hearts out to our very own D.J., Dan Kender. If you missed it, there will be plenty of reunions to come, and those that made it, use those memories for motivation the next time you have a bad day. WILS never ceases to put a smile on one's face.



Teo loved his pink hat at Winter Reunion!

Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.

-Dwight Eisenhower



WILS

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Motivation is when your dreams put on work clothes.

-Parkes Robinson



**Where there's a WILS,
there's a way!**

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