



# WONDERINGS.....

WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP SEMINARS INC.

Fall 2004  
Volume 1, Issue 5

## Sign up for the WILS Winter Reunion!

It's time to start making your plans for Christmas vacation! The most fun thing you can do, of course, is go to the WILS Winter Reunion, held this year in the hometown of a LOT of cool alumni and an awesome football team -Green Bay! Here's what you need to know:

Dates - Monday-Wednesday, December 27-29

Times - Check-in: 4-6 p.m. Monday. Check-out: 1 p.m. Wednesday (tentatively).

Location - Howard Johnson Inn & Conference Center (2580 S. Ashland Ave), Green Bay

Events - Lambeau Field Tour, Packers Hall of Fame, Neville Public Museum, dance (DJ'ed by our own Dan Kender), community service and more!

Cost - \$60 per person

**We hope to see you all there!**

How you can sign up:

Send your name, birthdate/age, address, phone number(s), email address and a

\$30 deposit to:

Samantha Toigo

Re: WILS Winter Reunion

1253 Benjamin Court

Green Bay, WI 54311

Please try to get your registration in by Friday, December 10. We'll be sending out reminder emails periodically to make sure everyone who wants to come knows about it, but please send your deposit ASAP! When we have a good number of registrations (or around December 10) we'll send out an itinerary, directions and other forms needed to those who signed up.

Contact info:

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## WILS Represents at Badger Girls State

Wisconsin Leadership Seminars was well-represented among the crowd of more than 700 girls on the UW Oshkosh campus for the sixty-first session of the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, held June 20th to the 25th. What began as an experiment by a few 2003 ambassadors to see how many WILSers were in attendance turned out to be a memorable experience. Approximately 30 girls were contacted during the conference. WILSers shared multiple reunions and fun memories, resulting in a "dexterity check" at breakfast.

A special congratulations goes out to Amanda Koerper, as she was elected to the office of State Superintendent of Public Affairs.

-Shannon Clark

**Congratulations Girls!**

Melissa Kastenschmidt- Brazil,,Julie Storck- France, Emily Bouwkamp- India ,Sara Grossle- Jamaica ,Kaitlin Turnell- Mexico, Beth Ludwig- Canada, Kia Block- Canada, Amy Wiersma- China, Shannon Clark- China, Nicole Bostic- Columbia, Erica Hagen- Ethiopia, Claire De Forcrand- Ethiopia, Alyssa Silvia- Greece, Tessa Chill- Greece, Ashley Houts- Russia, Sandy Vue- Russia, Claire Anglim- South Africa, Amanda Koerper- South Africa, Elyce Donolly- Ukraine, Brittany Gerovac- Ukraine, Beth Johnson- Japan, Samantha Toigo- Japan, Randi Smalley- Japan, Elizabeth Schauf- Germany, Adrian Bloom- Germany, Claire W. - Germany, Jessica Tischendorph- Sweden.

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## **WILS' Words of Wisdom from the Alumni Association President**

On the campus of the University of Wisconsin- Madison, there was a large debate about the recent presidential election. Whether or not you agreed with the outcome of the election, there is a good chance you and a friend of yours got in an argument about it. Well, what does this have to do with WILS??? It is election time for the next session of the Wisconsin Leadership Seminars Alumni Association Executive Board. All positions, minus the First-Year Liaison will be elected. Since you are a member of the Alumni Association and you attended Seminar as an Ambassador, you are eligible to run for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member At-Large. Later in this newsletter, you will find descriptions of all these positions.

As for this past session, we did a lot in aspect of transition. Since we became a stronger independent entity by severing ties with Hugh O'Brian Youth, we had to make some changes to our group's infrastructure. These changes included a revamping of our bylaws as well as moving general elections to the Winter Reunion. In addition, we had some great reunions in Milwaukee, Steven's Point, and the Board is looking forward to the fantastic reunion coming up in Green Bay.

I do have some words of encouragement as I leave my responsibilities as President into the hands of another Alumnus. Continue to move forward as an organization. Involve all these new Alumni in the organization. We had a record turn out of people sign up for the Alumni Association from this past Seminar. Just about two thirds of the ambassadors signed up to join....That is simply amazing!!! I give credit to all those who contributed to the Seminar whether it was the Planning Committee, the Facilitators, or the Junior Staff who showed the Ambassadors how to have an 'Outstanding' experience at WILS.

Also, continue to flow with creative juices. If you have had an experience at another camp, or you have a great idea, bring it to the Board. They are there to help out Alumni. Furthermore, the Alumni Advisors, Chris Lisser and Sarah Perkins, are there to help you out as well. If you have an idea how to make an event better or you have an entirely new event, they are there to bring your ideas to the Corporate Board. Never has it been a more important time to bring the Alumni Association and Corporate Board together. Through the cooperation we know can happen, we can make this Alumni Association the best that it has ever been!

I love you all and will see you at other WILS functions such as reunions and Seminar, but it is time that I step back and do other things in life. It is time for this great Association to step up as a team and develop as leaders together. It is time for the Alumni Association to grow from the foundation we laid down for them in this session and become the Association we know that it has the potential to be. You all have greatness in you. All you need is a time to acknowledge this greatness and develop it to the fullest. Now is the time!



**Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.  
- Peter F. Drucker**

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 reunion information, alumni association gatherings, volunteer events, or anything else pertaining to WILS....The place to find all of the information you need is:

**[Http://WILS.us](http://WILS.us)**

# Leadership Reflections

Although leadership is the second word in the acronym WILS, it has always come first in my life. To me, leadership means setting a good example by my words and actions rather than always being at the head of the group. I believe it's more important to show others that they are always welcome in our group and that their contributions are valuable to all of us rather than deciding the direction that the group will take. I also think that kindness and honesty in all of one's dealings are among the most important characteristics in all people, not just those who are special and are labeled "leaders." My first WILS seminar was 2000 Scotland, and I've continued to grow as a leader since then. One's capacity for motivation and encouragement is limitless, and I encourage all of you that, when you set out to lead a group, you first take a look at the personal example you set for others, and then you will be able to lead the group more effectively because they will know that you personally stand for what you are saying.

-James Doerner

## Leadership at It's Best: Seminar 2004

The speakers at the seminar this year were amazing. I've heard many motivational speakers through organizations at school, but speakers such as Paul Wesselman and Juan Ortiz are unforgettable. I cannot explain in words the message that I got from them. The vari-

ous "panels" that we had were also very interesting. I especially liked the politics and criminal investigation panels. I thought that it was interesting to meet some of our political leaders and hear them speak about their causes. One of my favorite parts of the seminar was the group time. I really enjoyed getting to know the people in my group and do "ice breakers" with them. Everything was always positive. The dance and the talent show were also good ways to meet people outside of our groups and get to know them.



The 2004 WILS seminar really

changed my life. I met some remarkable people that I will never forget. The facilitators and junior staff were all really friendly and made me feel like I belonged there. It really taught me how to get to know dif-

ferent people and just be myself. When I came home, everyone could tell that I felt more comfortable around people I didn't know. I think that WILS really taught me how to be a leader in my community and stand up for what I believe. Also, I think that I learned how to achieve my goals and what my strong qualities that I possess are. It took awhile for me to realize this, and WILS helped me with that. For me, WILS was a huge success and I hope to return next year.

-Ashley Mertle

# WILS Summer Reunion: A Crazy Get Together

The WILS Summer Reunion 2004 was a fast-moving event. It seemed that three days went by like 5 minutes, but when all was said and done, a fun filled weekend was what all of us came for, and that goal was definitely fulfilled. We were lucky enough to partake in events such as a tour of Miller Park, a Divine Savior Holy Angels H.S. production all about Charlie Brown, cleaning up the Bradford Beach, earning money by doing a very enthusiastic car wash, and learning interesting things about the Muslim religion that we may not have known before. In between cleaning up trash and seeing an excellent summer play, we had some big laughs and touching moments during reflection times, along with an excellent cook out and game time. Summing up an exciting weekend like this is close to impossible, but quotes are always fun to help one joggle their memory. Here are some funny sayings that were collected throughout the event, check these out if you were at this crazy weekend at Marquette University in July of 2004:



- Heim Haim Heim Haim....and they tie for first place!
- Hey, Charlie Brown looks a lot like Tina Matic.
- Hats aren't appropriate for the theatre, but hey, ya know that nun has one on.
- How do you become a sausage? -Well, first you have to find someone to put you through a meat grinder...
- Kampke, you'll be late to your own death.
- C is for 'Cowboy' and for 'cookie'.
- I'm not going to show up here wearing a t-shirt and a speedo...
- Catchphrase: people skating around....Iceland!
- 
- It's a brazier grill! We're cookin' on the bra...
- Yeah right, Cowboy doesn't know where an all girl school is!
- If I had only 24 hours to live...I'd get my shotgun and pick up my buddy...
- I bet those guys don't realize most of those girls are only 16.
- Um. I think McCormick kinda looks like a can of nuts.
- Lance! You're hot!
- All birds, including ducks.
- And if you play your cards right...maybe.
- Charlie Brown: It's amazing what a few smooth words and some fast action can do!
- You can take away the trash but you can't take away the smell.
- You're a good man Josh Koon.
- You still waitin' for your rocket to come?

**There is no such thing as a perfect leader either in the past or present, in China or elsewhere. If there is one, he is only pretending, like a pig inserting scallions into its nose in an effort to look like an elephant.**

**- Liu Shao-ch'i**

# Wanted: Enthusiastic Board Members

It's that exciting time again, time to vote for new alumni board members! The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large are waiting for eager candidates to fill their role and make magic happen this coming year in WILS. Elections are coming up at the Winter Reunion this December 27th– 29th, and now is a great time to think about taking on a leadership role within a great leadership organization! If you cannot attend the Winter Reunion, but still want to run for the Board, please submit a short summary on why you want to run, and why you would be good at that particular position to Chris Natynski at [crnatynski@wisc.edu](mailto:crnatynski@wisc.edu). Here is a brief explanation of the current Board members' positions, to help give you a better understanding of what each of these roles entails:

## **President**

This position entails a leadership skill that surpasses all others. The President serves as chief executive of the organization and is tasked with overseeing the entire board and ensuring all officers perform their duties. As CEO the President must be a strong communicator as he/she is responsible for all aspects of the association and must coordinate the actions of others to ensure events are planned properly. Having Email is a must. The Alumni Association Board must have meetings at least quarterly. The President must schedule, announce, and prepare agendas for the business to be transacted at each meeting. The President also works closely with the Alumni Advisor(s) to ensure strong communication with the WILS Board of Directors. Finally the President is responsible for submitting quarterly reports and reunion proposals for the WILS Board of Directors.

## **Vice President**

The Vice President's main responsibility is to serve as the Alumni Chair on the Seminar Planning Committee and to organize, plan, and take charge of the Alumni contribution to Seminar, including leading the Junior Staff at Seminar. The position requires a considerable amount of time devoted to communicating with the Junior Staff and the Seminar Planning Committee, the bulk of which occurs in the months of February-June. Once the Seminar has passed, the Vice President's job is fairly relaxed, with the main job being helping the President or other board members with whatever needs to be done. The Vice President is a fun position to hold, especially since you have the chance to meet a lot of Alumni and to play a bigger role in the Seminar. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amy Beres ([ajberes@wisc.edu](mailto:ajberes@wisc.edu)).

## **Secretary**

Hi, my name is Beth Wolfenden and I am the current Secretary of the WILS Alumni Association. One of my main jobs is taking minutes at board meetings in order to keep a record of what is said and done. Then, I read these minutes at the

beginning of the next board meeting, which helps keep track of what issues we have addressed and what ones we need to look at. I also maintain the records of the Alumni Association. I also do everything I can to assist the President and other officers to assure that everyday activities run smoothly. The Secretary also helps out with special activities, like the Winter Reunion, which I hope to see all of you at!

## **Treasurer**

My name is Andy Nuthals and I have been the Treasurer for a little over 2 years. I enjoy long walks on the beach and beautiful sunsets. I am currently single, but I am always looking to broaden my horizons :). The treasurer's main job is keeping track of the money (obviously). You do most of your work three times a year and that is right after summer and winter reunion, and the seminar. Other than that you put out a quarterly report, and balance the checkbook every month.

## **Member At Large**

Hello, my name is Josh Koon and my position as member-at-large on the WILS AA board is relatively simple. I go to meetings and have another voice in voting matters. I also help the other officers in their roles and duties wherever I can. As the board and the alumni begin to reorganize things, this position will probably take on new roles, but it's a great way to be involved and voice your opinion, but not take on a whole lot of duties if you are unsure of how you want to be involved. I knew that I wanted to be on the board, but I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do, so I tried for this spot. So if you find yourself in that very same boat, give it a shot at winter reunion! You can always call/email me to ask me more questions.

## **P.R. Director** (Appointed by Board of Directors)

My name is Stefanie Weber, and my main duty as P.R. Director is to make the WILS alumni newsletter. It is a lot of work, but it is only three times a year, and it is a good way to learn a lot about computer programs and what all goes into making a newsletter. I also attend all board meetings, as a non-voting member, but voicing my opinion on what goes on in our organization. If you have any other questions, feel free to e-mail me at [Stefeina@aol.com](mailto:Stefeina@aol.com).

## **First Year Liaison** (Elected at Summer Reunion)

This role is an excellent opportunity to have a leadership role in the Alumni Association early on. It is important for this member to be able to relate to the newest members of our organization, and make sure that these newest members get just as much of an opportunity to participate in events as the more experienced members of WILS. You do have to be a first year member of the WILSAA to have this role in the Alumni Board of Directors.

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on. . . . The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully.

# A Word from the Board of Directors

## **Hello Alumni!**

At the September WILS Board of Directors meeting Chris Lisser and I (Sarah Perkins) were elected to serve as your new alumni Co-Advisors. We are very excited to take on this role and want to take this time to welcome all of the 2004 ambassadors to the Alumni Association. We also want to give everyone a little background information about ourselves and our past involvement with WILS.

## **Chris Lisser**

I am currently employed with Accurate Information Management in Brookfield as a Network Engineer. I attended college at Milwaukee Area Technical College where I graduated with honors earning a degree in CIS-Networking. I am also a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA).

I attended the 1992 WILS seminar as an Ambassador from Pecatonica High School. I joined the alumni after the seminar and attended the first ever WILS overnight reunion in the winter of 1993. In 1995 I was elected as Vice President of the Wisconsin South Alumni (back then Wisconsin was split into North and South with seminars in Eau Claire and Milwaukee each June). I went on to serve as the Alumni President and coordinated the Junior Staff at the 1995 Seminar. I also planned the first WILS free reunion which was held in Spring Green in July of 1995.

Recently I have been very active with the WILS Board of Directors serving as Seminar Co-Chair in 2003, Seminar Chair in 2004, and as Vice President of the Board during that same time period. As well as currently serving as the Alumni Co-Advisor, I am the

Director of Student Recruitment on this year's Seminar Planning Committee and have recently joined the TRAIL Board of Directors. All told I have served as a Junior Staff, Facilitator or Staff member at 12 WILS Seminars and have attended countless Alumni reunions.

## **Sarah Perkins**

Most of you might remember me by my most recent stint as a toga-clad emcee at the 2004 seminar. The 2004 seminar was the tenth seminar I have attended since representing Horace Mann High School in North Fond du Lac at the 1994 seminar. I was very active with the alumni throughout high school and college serving as Vice President and planning and attending many, many reunions.

Since 2002 I have served as a member of the WILS Board of Directors and over the past several years I have been a member of the Seminar Planning Committee. This year will mark my third year as the Director of Programs for our outstanding seminar. I earned my degree in Biology at Eastern New Mexico University and am employed as a Fertility Laboratory Technologist at the Advanced Institute of Fertility in Milwaukee.

I also enjoy long walks on the beach and romantic candlelight dinners.....

The two of us are really looking forward to another great year with the Alumni. We are very passionate about our amazing organization and will work together with the Alumni to accomplish great things!

**If one is lucky, a solitary  
fantasy can totally  
transform one million realities.  
- Maya Angelou**



# WONDERINGS.....

WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP SEMINARS INC.

A real leader faces the music, even when  
he does not like the tune.

-Anon



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

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