



WONDERINGS....

WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP SEMINARS INC.

Fall 2005

The WILS Winter Reunion is Finally Here!

WILS is taking the Capitol by Storm...a Snow Storm that is!

Christmas is just around the corner...and so is the WILS Winter Reunion!! Join all of your favorite WILS friends in Madison, for a fun-filled reunion!! Here is what you need to know:

Who: Your Favorite WILS Alumni

What: WILS Winter Reunion

When: December 27-29th, 2005

Where: Madison, WI

Events: Tour the State Capitol, community service, Alumni Board Elections, Formal Dance, a great speaker, food, and fun!!!

Cost: \$60 for the weekend....\$30 deposit due now, \$30 when you get there!

To Sign-Up:

Please mail the following information to Beth Wolfenden by December 16th with your \$30 deposit to reserve your spot!!

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

DOB:

Can you drive? How many?

Are you a vegetarian?

Mail to:

Beth Wolfenden

27 N. Randall Ave. #6

Madison, WI 53715

More info will be e-mailed out soon, so watch your inboxes and junk mail folders!!

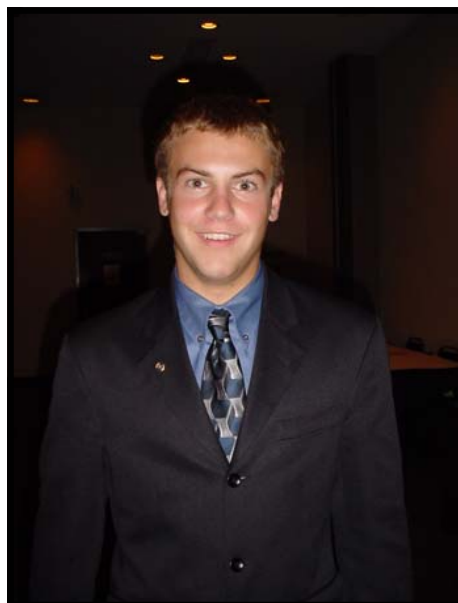
Questions can be directed to Beth Wolfenden

(wolfenden@wisc.edu) or Amy Beres (ajberes@wisc.edu)

(414)248-0406

Our New First Year Liaison: Justin

We are very excited to have voted in Justin Hoffman as our new First Year Liaison for the WILS 2005-2006 year. The First Year Liaison serves as a voting member on the Alumni Board and has varied responsibilities including encouraging first year alumni to speak to service organizations, attending monthly meetings, and helping to keep the new alumni informed and involved in the organization. Justin will surely be an important contributor to our alumni board and a great person for alumni to contact about speaking out about WILS to local communities.



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WILS' Words of Wisdom from the Alumni Association President

Well, its like they always say, time flies when you're having fun! It seems like only last week I was hanging out at the Howard Johnson in Green Bay with the WILS gang....I can't believe that was almost a year ago already! The past year has been a great one for WILS, and I am so proud to have been the President of such an amazing Alumni Board! From an outstanding seminar, to a fabulous summer reunion in Milwaukee, and the upcoming winter reunion in Madison, the Alumni has had a very successful year! Thanks to all of you who for helping make it happen!

But, now its time for a new year and I challenge you all to make some goals. (I don't like calling them New Year's Resolutions because I feel then they are doomed to fail). As you reach for the stars, remember that it takes small steps to get there. Set reasonable goals so that you don't get discouraged, but at the same time, set goals that are challenging and exciting. I encourage you all to make not just one goal this year, but two: one for your own benefit, and one that benefits others. I'm sure you'll all come up with some great ideas, and as the new year gets going, those goals will fall down the drain, but don't quit!! Things might get rough, but pick them back up and keep going! Great leaders don't quit when things get hard; they stick with it and make changes as needed. I have faith that all of you can do the same!!

The new year also means a new WILS Alumni Board! Elections will be held at the winter reunion, and I'm sure we'll see some new and enthusiastic leaders step up to the challenge! Good luck to the new board!! Keep bringing new ideas and insights on how to keep the WILS Spirit alive!! Have a great New Year everyone!! - Amy Beres

"As you reach for the stars, remember that it takes small steps to get there."



"Begin each day as if it were on purpose." -Hitch, submitted by Megan Hall

WILS Newsletter

Check Out the WILS Website!

With newsletters only filling your in boxes 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

Leadership Under Stress

Have you ever been in this situation before? I was sitting in my room, looking out the window on a dreary, rainy day. I had piles of books surrounding me, countless homework assignments and papers in front of me begging for my attention, and the clock told me that I had to leave for work in an hour. Stressed didn't even begin to cover it.

Most likely, you've experienced some of the same things I just described—tons of challenging classes, basketball games and band competitions, volunteer projects, and all of the pressures that accompany being a good student, a role model, and a leader. We leaders tend to put too much on our plates—torn apart between all of our own expectations and those of our friends, parents, and teachers. This is an almost inevitable consequence of being a leader—but trust me, it's worth it!

When I begin to feel overwhelmed, I seek inspiration from other leaders around me, whether they be a coach, a teacher, a professor, a parent, a great friend, or a famous leader. I am reminded of a quote from President Ronald Reagan: "[There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect.](#)" This is my challenge to you (as if we leaders need another challenge in our lives!) is to stop, take a deep breath, and try to determine who is the source of our constraints: which of our limits are we placing upon ourselves? What is preventing you from reaching your dreams on a day-to-day basis? Then, once you figure out the sources of these things which can hinder your success, you are able to overcome these challenges and become a stronger leader on a day-to-day basis.

WILS Hugs,
Beth Wolfenden,
Secretary



Seminar Planning 2005

By Josh Koon

Well, the season of WILS has officially begun! Planning for the 2006 seminar is underway, albeit in the initial stages. The Planning Committee meets about once a month, and has many functions, which include: scheduling the events of the program, notifying schools of nomination deadlines, recruiting students, and coordinating the seminar from beginning to end. It's quite a lot of work, and if you feel the need to help out, you are more than welcome to attend. Also, if you have ideas for the seminar, you can email them to jkoon@uwm.edu. By the way, clear your calendars for seminar, which will be June 16th thru the 18th, back at Carroll College. If you are interested in being a Junior Staff member for the 2006 seminar, be sure to keep an eye on your email after the new year rolls in. Also, it will help your chances of being selected as a junior staff member if you talk to your school to nominate a student, or to local service orgs to help raise money for seminar. More information about this will come along later. So, if you love WILS, and want to keep involved, just watch for emails about all the different opportunities to pitch in!

If you're not getting the emails, send your name and seminar year to Chris Lisser lzr65@yahoo.com.



WILS Summer Reunion: A Crazy Get Together

This year's summer reunion in Milwaukee was a big success. It started out with a fun-filled night at Comedy Sportz, which was a blast. It was a great time, because we got to participate so much in the show. We were also able to do various volunteer activities in the community including helping out at Goodwill, working outside picking weeds, and painting at a daycare. The traditional dinner at the Safe-House was cancelled, but the dinner at Long Wong's provided us with a great opportunity to try some Chinese food.

The dinner was great and it gave us a chance to play a variety of games and listen to music. The night ended with a tae kwon do lesson from Shannon Clark and her instructor. It was an amazing experience to be taught by such skilled instructors, and everyone learned a lot from it and had a lot of fun. The weather was perfect for the car wash during the day on Saturday. Everyone had a great time helping out, and it was an excellent way to make some money to help sponsor some extra students at the WILS seminar next year. The weekend ended with a



Brewer's game. It was hot, but it was a great time. It gave everyone a chance to relax from the busy weekend, and to hang out and talk. The reunion was very well planned, and we were busy with activities the whole time. It was a great time to hang out with friends and see people that we don't get to see every day. With winter in full swing, the winter reunion is the next WILS event to look forward to.

- Steph Felton

Thanks Beth W., James D., Cowboy, Kate K. Stef W., Kamke and Rhonda W. for all of your hard work at the Badger games this year. Your volunteer efforts have helped raise \$900 for WILS 2006.
-Justin

Shout Outs!!

Hi, I'm Cody Ninmann, and I would just like to shout out to everyone from Germany at the '05 seminar. I miss all of you. Have a great holiday everyone!

Thanks a lot to all of the alumni board members for their help with the newsletter articles and also for their continuous support and organization of this upcoming WILS Winter Reunion. The WILS alumni association really could not go on without all of your help and support and you all deserve a pat on the back. Also I would like to give a big shout out to the Board of Directors for making the seminar happen each year. You guys amaze me.
-Stef Weber

Time for Alumni Board Elections

Do you want to be more involved with WILS and on a more regular basis?? Now is your chance!! The Alumni Board elections will take place at the Winter Reunion, December 27th-29th in Madison! The Alumni Board holds quarterly meetings, as well as a board retreat and many other meetings throughout the year. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large will be up for election. If you are interested in a position but cannot make the Winter Reunion, please contact Amy Beres (ajberes@wisc.edu) with the position you would like to run for and a short statement of why you would like to run/why you think you make a good candidate. Here is a brief explanation of each of the positions:

Treasurer

. 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. It is a great way to be a part of the board but not feel overwhelmed by responsibility.

Secretary

Hi! My name is Beth Wolfenden, and I've been the Secretary of the WILS Alumni Association for the past two years. It's been a great honor to be a member of the WILS board for this long and to watch everyone grow as leaders. My main duties as secretary include attending meetings, compiling and distributing the meeting minutes, and I am responsible for a lot of the organization's records and the roll of members. I encourage everyone to consider becoming more involved in WILS by running for a position on the Alumni Board!

Member At Large

The position as member-at-large on the WILS AA board is relatively simple. The duties include going to meetings and having a voice in voting matters. The Member At Large also helps the other officers in their roles and duties whenever they 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.

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 Josh Koon at jkkoon@uwm.edu

President

The President's main job is to act as the head of the alumni board and report back to the Alumni Advisors. The President is in charge of announcing, planning, and running all Alumni Board meetings. The President works closely with the Alumni Advisors to oversee all actions of the Alumni Board, and interacts with all board members to ensure that they are performing their duties. If you have any questions about this position, what it entails, or what it is like to be the President, please feel free to contact Amy Beres (ajberes@wisc.edu).

P.R. Director

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, not voting, 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.

**"If you need something from someone,
always give that person a way to hand it
to you."**

Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*, submitted by Megan Hall



WILS

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**"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice;
it is not a thing to be wanted for; it is a thing to be
achieved."**

~ William Jennings Bryan, submitted by Megan Hall



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

Wisconsin Leadership
Seminars, Inc.

Newsletter done by:
Stefanie Weber
423 W, Mifflin #1 Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 262-844-4733
Email: Stefeina@aol.com

Contact Information:

Advisors

Chris Lisser
lzc65@yahoo.com

Sarah Perkins
lilperks@yahoo.com

President

Amy Beres
ajberes@wisc.edu

Vice President

Josh Koon
jkkoon@uwm.edu

Secretary

Beth Wolfenden
wolfenden@wisc.edu

Treasurer

Samantha Toigo
silverstar0272@yahoo.com

PR Director

Stef Weber
Stefeina@aol.com

Member at-Large

Christopher Westphal
cjwestphal@wisc.edu

First Year Liason

Justin Hoffman
Superfast07@new.rr.com

Past-President

Chris Natynski
crnatynski@wisc.edu