

Alumni Link



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Cougs Give Back

Service opportunities are a driving force in the mission and spirit of the WSUAA

Launched in 1896 with eight alumni, the WSU Alumni Association is proud of its long history of keeping alumni connected to WSU and offering a wide array of opportunities to serve our alma mater.



WSUAA Executive Director Tim Pavish takes the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

With 150,000 alumni worldwide, the WSUAA serves as an important link between the university and its alumni. Today, more than ever before, the WSUAA is focused on enhancing opportunities for alumni to serve WSU as well as their local communities.

"We've expanded our efforts to engage alumni, students, and friends of WSU," said Executive Director Tim Pavish.

"The WSUAA is making a significant difference for WSU and helping alumni to make an impact at home. When a bunch of alumni wearing Cougar gear gather to support a local food bank, they are living examples of the impact WSU makes around the world."

Whether it's participating in high-profile service opportunities like the recent ALS Ice Bucket Challenge or helping with local blood drives, community cleanups, and disaster relief efforts, WSUAA volunteers strive to serve others.

"I really believe in philanthropy," said WSUAA President Sally van Boheemen. "Of course, I always encourage Cougs to support WSU's important work. This year, I also challenged every chapter to host at least one event that gives back to the local community. It really is amazing how little effort it takes and how much you get back."

In her prior role as King County Chapter president, van Boheemen learned about the need for personal-care items among homeless children in Seattle Public Schools and organized a drive prior to a Cougar football game at Century Link Field in Seattle.

"We were blown away by the Cougar response," van Boheemen said. "Seattle Public Schools was so appreciative. It was awesome to be able to support this at-risk population that so badly wanted to be able to attend school." You can get involved by contacting your local chapter or club or connecting with the WSUAA at 1-800-ALUM-WSU or wsualum@wsu.edu.



WSUAA volunteer leaders and staff members assembling food packages during a leadership conference.



King County Chapter members participating in a recent charity run.



Student Alumni Ambassadors serve WSU birthday cake ensuring campus traditions are kept alive.



San Diego Chapter members, alongside Pac-12 institution colleagues, participating in a local beach cleanup.



Meet WSUAA President Sally van Boheemen

With the year of her presidency already flying by, we caught up with WSUAA President Sally van Boheemen and learned about her passion for WSU and why she is so proud to lead the WSU Alumni Association this year.

Q. How did you first become involved with WSU?

A. My son was attending WSU. I was impressed with the Cougar family. He started in 2004, and by early 2005 I knew I wanted to be more involved with WSU.

Q. How did you first connect with the WSUAA?

A. I called the Alumni Association and asked them whether I could become a member and volunteer even though I didn't graduate from WSU. I joined and was referred to my local chapter president. I was impressed at how fast everything happened. In less than a day, the chapter president contacted me. Three days later we met in person and talked about all the volunteer opportunities the Alumni Association offers. I was amazed at the variety of activities.

Q. Why did you want to volunteer with the WSU Alumni Association?

A. The community feel. I had season football tickets, and while on campus I was really impressed with the campus atmosphere. I wanted to take that same feeling and bring it to my own community.

Q. You didn't graduate from WSU, but are clearly a very passionate Cougar. What inspired you to pursue the WSU Alumni Association presidency?

A. After volunteering a number of years, I think it was obvious I wasn't a fly-by-night volunteer. I was available for any activity—athletics, philanthropy, community service—I had a very broad spectrum of interests. I loved talking about WSU. I was in a unique situation to discuss supporting the university. When someone would tell me they had a son or daughter that graduated from WSU but weren't alumni themselves, I would tell them I didn't graduate from WSU either, but I am a member and support the university. If you love WSU, you're a Cougar at heart. During my second term as King County president, the staff talked to me about doing more. I never missed a chapter meeting, I loved attending leadership conferences. The possibility of becoming president seemed incredible to me—the chance to lead such an amazing group. Previous presidents were so inspiring; they gave me the confidence to believe I could do this job. I believe everyone has something to offer.

Q. What advice would you give someone considering volunteering with the Alumni Association?

A. Go online to find the contact information for your local chapter or the Alumni Association staff and reach out to them. Meet personally with chapter leaders. You will find out it isn't as intimidating as you might think. There are dozens of opportunities. A chapter leader can help connect you to something you find interesting. Of course I tell people to join the Alumni Association if they aren't already a member. If you haven't gone to an event, go! Observe what happens. Attend a chapter meeting. Who knows what you might find?

Does Sally's story inspire you to volunteer for the Alumni Association? Check out alumni.wsu.edu/chaptersclubs to find a chapter or club near you.

WSUAA Leadership Scholarship Programs Support WSU Students

The WSUAA is proud to support current student leaders—WSU's future alumni leaders—through the WSUAA Leadership Scholarship Program. The WSUAA substantially increased the award amount this year. Forty scholarship awards of \$5,000 each will be given to deserving students. The award supports students who have strong leadership experience and solid academic performance.

In addition to the \$200,000 in Leadership Scholarships, the WSUAA is entrusted by donors to award another \$144,800 through awards like the Phillip and June Lighty Leadership Awards, Cougars of the Desert, WSU Retirees Association, and Wine-By-Cougars.

The program is designed to help more students—from a greater variety of backgrounds—receive a world-class education at WSU. Students can apply for a number of different scholarships provided by the WSUAA. There are scholarships for incoming and current students, and the recipients are considered based on a variety of factors which may include leadership, academic performance, campus involvement, and financial need.

Ashley Vu, a junior studying mechanical engineering and pre-medicine from San Jose, California, said the Phillip and June Lighty Leadership Award greatly impacted her decision to attend WSU.

"As far as I'm concerned, the Lighty family and scholarship brought me to WSU," Vu said. "I wouldn't have gone to college at all if it wasn't for the Lighty family and other generous donors. Now, I want to give back to WSU and the community so I try to be as involved as possible."

Vu is doing just that as a member of the Lightweight Women's Crew team, in various leadership roles in the Honors College, as a student director on the Students Book Corporation Board, as a mentor in the Team Mentoring Program, as the president of the Student Alumni Ambassadors, and as an intern for the WSUAA.



Ashley Vu and Meleah Nordquist

Meleah Nordquist, a junior working toward a degree in psychology with a minor in human development, was awarded a Leadership Scholarship Award for the 2014-15 academic year. Nordquist is currently vice president of WSU's Psychology Club and has an internship with the WSUAA. She's also actively involved in her church—serving, leading, and hosting small groups and participating in several trips across the United States and abroad designed to serve others.

"I was born in Pullman and raised a Cougar and absolutely love getting involved in the community," Nordquist said. "My experiences have given me the opportunity to practice leadership skills and positively influence all those around me. I am so grateful for the WSU alumni and friends who have given to the WSUAA, making it possible for me to receive a scholarship. It has motivated me to achieve great things."

WSUAA membership and support provides vital funds for student scholarships. You can visit alumni.wsu.edu/scholarships for more information.

Ask a Friend to Join

The WSUAA has continued its record-breaking growth with a new all-time high of more than 30,000 members (nearly equivalent to the population of Pullman!). The best way to continue this growth is for you, our loyal and supportive members, to keep spreading the word about why you joined the WSUAA.



WSUAA Events

For detailed information visit alumni.wsu.edu/events.

October 29
Recruit Seattle—Alumni-Only Career Expo, Seattle
 Whether you're hiring, looking to network, or looking for a new career in finance, investment banking, marketing, technology, media, nonprofit, consulting, and more, you will find all the best talent, employers, and career opportunities at this event.

November 8
Cougar Kickoff at Oregon State, Corvallis, Oregon
 Enjoy guest speakers, Butch and the Cheer Squad, door prizes and giveaways, Cougar gear from The Bookie, festive music, and fun with fellow Cougs at this pregame rally!

November 22
Cougar Kickoff at Arizona State, Tempe, Arizona
 Join your fellow Cougs in Arizona for a pregame rally! The rally will include guest speakers, prizes, Cougar gear, and a locally inspired tailgate meal.

December 4
Holiday Celebration at the Lewis Alumni Centre, Pullman
 Join the Student Alumni Ambassadors at the Lewis Alumni Centre for the annual Holiday Celebration. Attendees are invited to get their pictures taken with Santa Claus and Santa Butch, as well as partake in holiday craft making, music, and refreshments.

Interested in planning events in your area? Send us an email at alumnievents@wsu.edu.

Alumni Reunion Weekend Recap



Golden Grads enjoy Butch's company during a reception at the Lewis Alumni Centre.

The WSUAA invited both recent and longtime WSU graduates to take part in Alumni Reunion Weekend activities in Pullman. The 50-year Golden and 60-year Diamond Graduates reunion and Recent Grad Football weekend activities served as a great way for graduates to connect with one another while showing their Cougar Pride September 10–13.

A little more than 100 Golden and Diamond Graduates from the classes of 1964 and 1954 were in attendance, and one Platinum Graduate from the class of 1944 also made the trek back to Pullman. Since the spring of 1949, the WSUAA has honored graduates with this special event that showcases the achievements of these great students while bringing alumni together to celebrate with both old and new acquaintances.

Over the course of three days, Golden and Diamond graduates took part in an array of festivities including a welcome reception held at the Lewis Alumni Centre, campus tours, luncheons, exciting workshops, and a special dinner in honor of their accomplishments. The attendees took the opportunity to visit the WSU Pullman campus, reminisce on their favorite memories, renew old friendships, and see the changes at our alma mater.

Recent WSU graduates also came together as part of the Alumni Reunion Weekend. The Recent Grad Football Weekend attendees enjoyed an exclusive pregame tent party on Roger's Field with food and drinks, discounted football tickets, a commemorative t-shirt, and discounted membership to the WSUAA. They kicked off the start of the WSU home football season with their fellow recent grads in style, cheering the Cougs to a 59-21 win against Portland State.

For more information on WSUAA events please visit alumni.wsu.edu/events.

Looking for the Perfect Holiday Gift for a Special Cougar in Your Life?

Look no further than a WSUAA Gift Membership. It's the perfect gift for any Cougar in your family and a great way to share your Cougar Pride! Please visit alumni.wsu.edu/gift or contact us at 1-800-ALUM-WSU (258-6978) for more information and start checking off your holiday gift list today.



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Alumni Link

Alumni Link is the official publication for WSU Alumni Association members. All active members of the WSUAA receive quarterly issues of this members-only publication. WSUAA Annual memberships begin at \$50 with a special rate for those who graduated over 50 years ago at \$35 or within 10 years ago at \$30 per year. Life and Platinum Life Membership information is available online at alumni.wsu.edu. If you have any questions or comments about *Alumni Link*, email them to wsualum@wsu.edu, call 1-800-ALUM-WSU (258-6978), or mail them to *Alumni Link*, Lewis Alumni Centre, PO Box 646150, Pullman, WA 99164-6150.

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Meet WSUAA President Sally van Boheemen

WSUAA Events



Scholarship Support