

April/May 2009

The Cyber Cougar



Special points of interest:

- Criminal Justice Honor Society
- 2009 Cougar Gridiron Classic
- Calendar Photo Contest
- DDP Online Newsletter

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Editors:

Felix Moran
Heidi Hiatt

Election Results!

Congratulations to the incoming ASWSU-DDP student leaders for 2009-2010!



President:

Debby Poris

Senators:

Larry Lawrence

Crystal Darling

Amy Bray

Felix Moran

Alexandra Hutchinson

Gail Langseth

Sarah Barth

My Trip to Boston - UCEA's Non-Traditional Student of the Year

By Debby Poris, ASWSU-DDP President

I never realized how long a flight can be when the 5 year old behind you is kicking your seat for five hours! Planes are not what they use to be... besides little people kicking seats, the people in front are laying their seat back as far as they can. Those little tray tables and small one by one area you sit in is not conducive of studying or using a laptop. Do not get me started with the food on planes... THERE IS NONE!

Boston is a beautiful town. From the brownstones to the old cathedrals, there is so much to see and do. Make sure you pack good shoes be-

cause walking is the best way to get around town or the taxi. My trip was a whirlwind of events that included studying, preparing for a test, attending a student government meeting, and a group meeting for a homework project. This all culminated with the ultimate event...getting an award.

This trip was an experience of a lifetime. I still have to pinch myself because of all the things that have happened during the last six years that I have been working toward my degree. Just the fact that I am getting my degree is amazing but adding my involvement in student government, and now this award. Chrisi Kincaid, my advisor, nominated me for this and I truly thank her for the

experience and the honor. I also had the pleasure of having Muriel Oaks (Dean of CDPE), Janet Kendall (Director of CDPE), Colleen Cook (Director Administrative Services) and Valeria Pietz (Instructional Designer/Project Manager) there as well as my husband Carl. It was an incredible feeling, something I will never forget. Thank you DDP!





Criminal Justice Honor Society

Criminal Justice majors! Did you know that there is a national criminal justice honor society? Alpha Phi Sigma was founded in 1942 at Washington State University, and now has chapters all over the nation. Alpha Phi Sigma has an information-packed quarterly newsletter, the *Docket*, and a national conference every year that is a great opportunity for networking and professional development. Their website is <http://www.alphaphisigma.org/>. For more information, contact advisor Dr. Zach Hays, zhays@wsu.edu, or advisor Pete Collins, pacollins@wsu.edu.



Debby Poris
ASWSU-DDP President

ASWSU-DDP Outstanding Person Award

Do you know of a professor or instructor that deserves recognition for their efforts in making your DDP experience memorable? Did the professor's involvement make your distance class an exceptional experience? Here is your chance to recognize him or her.

We are asking everyone to submit their favorite instructor or professor for recognition at the Cougar Campus Experience, 2009. Please submit a short paragraph why your nominee should receive the award. State their name, class taught (or position), and why you feel they deserve this recognition. This is your opportunity to help us recognize those who make a difference in our online learning environment and to say thank you. Please send your recommendations by August 15, 2009.

Send your e-mail to the Public Relations Chair: Debby Poris at dporis@wsu.edu

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Say Goodbye to Blackboard

Because of ongoing problems with the Blackboard e-education platform, the CDPE administration has been evaluating other course management systems. Their goal has been to find software that will provide a more stable learning environment and is less costly than Blackboard.

What they found is an angel: Angel e-learning software. Janet Kendall, the CDPE Director, says that many community colleges have converted to Angel and it comes with enthusiastic recommendations. Angel has useful attributes that students haven't had since Web CT, such as knowing how many

new posts or emails they have.

The staff and instructors are busy learning the system and making sure the conversion happens in time for summer semester. Angel should be operational by May 11th.

President's Corner By Debby Poris, ASWSU-DDP President

This has been an incredible year, not only nationally but here at ASWSU-DDP. Your student government has worked hard this year in providing events and opportunities to all DDP students. We have publishing opportunities for DDP students to become involved in WSU boards (Bookie Board and Student Regent). We have established a relationship with the Bookie Board and, hopefully, we are able to share in the Bookie dividend allocation. We are getting more recognition from WSU organizations.

ciously donated WSU football jerseys to help with our campaign. The PR Committee has developed a new newsletter, The Cyber Cougar, to get information to you and provide another avenue to students to see their name in print! Putting out a newsletter every six weeks will be challenging so I encourage all of you to submit articles or announcements, or even poetry to the PR committee. The aim of this is to make it your newsletter with your input and suggestions.

I am excited for the next year. As your president, I want to represent you and your needs. Please feel free to contact me at

dporis@wsu.edu.

As the semester comes to a close, I want to encourage you to not lose sight of your goal. I know that with possible tuition hikes and other economic events occurring, this can impact your ability focus on your job, school, and family. Remember where your treasures are stored... in your family and friends. Keep setting goals and dreams. These are important and no one can take them from you. Good luck with your finals and congratulations to all of you who are graduating this May. Your ASWSU-DDP leaders are proud of all of you!

Cougs' Rendezvous 2009 in Tacoma!

Distance Degree Programs students, family, friends and staff gathered in Tacoma last month for a day of learning and socializing. The 2009 Tacoma Cougs' Rendezvous featured keynote speaker Caroline Suissa-Edmiston, a Seattle attorney and DDP alumna who described her educational journey.

Suissa-Edmiston told the crowd of 90 plus that she had planned on becoming a librarian. A DDP course assignment led her to a

courtroom, which inspired her to become an attorney. "You never know when your life will change," she said.

Sometimes that change is sudden, sometimes incremental, but it always comes from learning. The March 7 event offered plenty of educational opportunities, including academic seminars, museum trips, sessions with academic advisors, and time to chat with fellow students. Attendees also helped

improve other people's lives. A raffle of two WSU football jerseys raised money to go toward the Northwest Harvest food drive.



Keynote Speaker Caroline Suissa-Edmiston

What is a Virtual Mentor? By Heather Tom & Rose Ndungu

As DDP students, we have come across class that have Virtual Mentors (VM), and often asked ourselves, who they are and what their role is in my class. Rose has taken the time to research the role of a VM and this is where I come in, my name is Heather Tom. Many of you may know me as a student, or as an ASWSU-DDP Senator, while others of you have had me as a VM in your classes. Rose has given me the privilege to share what my role is as a VM.

My role as a VM is to help students with non-instructional aspects of your course. I am here to guide and support students during their online learning process. I will do this by providing students with encouragement while I facilitate in class discussions. I believe the use of encouragement will help students to use their critical thinking skills which will build a positive online community. My hope is that students will learn to become confident in their abilities and be responsible for

their own education.

Now that you know a little bit about the VM role, Rose would like to share the Virtual Mentor mission statement: *The mission of the Virtual Mentor is to promote learning in the online community and offer support for student success.*



2009 Cougar Gridiron Classic

This September 12th, Hawaii will try to match their skills to the Cougar Football team. Can the Cougs do it? Join us in Seattle, have a "tailgate" meal before you head to Qwest Stadium to cheer on the Cougs. Bring family and friends, make a day of it! Meet with other DDP students and staff. Watch the ASWSU-DDP website for more information and game tickets.

University Center Open House By Debby Poris

On March 5th, I had the pleasure of attending the Everett University Center's Open House event. The University Center is located at the Everett Train Station. This is a busy place with students milling about on the second floor and train riders on the ground floor. The University Center has partnerships with six other colleges and universities to bring bachelor's and master's degree programs to the Everett region. They also provide proctoring and computer services to WSU's DDP

students.

Chris Kincaid (advisor) and Kathreen Silva (financial aid counselor) and Chris Miller (career counselor) made the trek over the snowy mountains to meet with students in the south Snohomish/King County area. There were snacks to enjoy and great door prizes.

Unfortunately, the scheduled academic seminar had to be cancelled because the instructor was stranded on Snoqualmie

Pass, which had closed. However, many of the students were able to attend the academic seminar in Tacoma two days later.

The University Center has now moved to the new Gray Wolf Hall on the Everett Community College campus. If you need proctoring or other assistance, be sure to look them up. <http://www.uceverett.org/>



Chris Miller

Career Blog By Chris Miller, Career Counselor

I can't think of anything more fun than updating my resume, but truthfully, it is a very important task to carry out. I update my resume about once a year because it's very easy to forget about all the little things we've done at work during the previous year. One thing that I recommend doing is keeping a work log for the sole purpose of keeping your resume up-to-date. At the end of every month you can jot down every thing you've done at work that could be considered resume appropriate in your work log. You could write down presentations you developed and led, workshops you attended, projects you were involved in that yielded specific outcomes (write down the numbers/data/evidence), conferences you attended, etc.

Another important thing to consider when updating your resume is the format. Some questions to think about when choosing a format: Does my resume have a theme? Does it need one? Is a chronological resume the best for me? Would a functional resume work better? The answers to these depend upon your previous experience, future goals, and employers you may work with down the line. Some good examples of these resume formats can be found at www.careers.wsu.edu.

The last essential part of resume updating is in the little details. Make sure your personal information and contact information are accurate. Also, if you have an objective statement on your resume, it probably needs updating since you have

most likely progressed in your current position. If you don't have an objective but do have a skill section, then make sure that skill section is up-to-date. When it comes to updating your current position on your resume, be sure to revise your duties, skills, responsibilities, accomplishments, dates of employment, and any new licensure or certifications. Other important sections to update would be education, volunteer work, professional organizations, and references. Reevaluate your references and make sure their information is correct and also make sure that they are still appropriate references for your goals. With the current market instability we face today, it's imperative to be prepared for the unknown as best as we can.



Have a question about Blackboard or need help?

Just ask Larry - he has all the answers.

Ask Larry — The place to ask questions

Dear Larry,

The syllabus for one of my classes this semester was riddled with mistakes and very confusing. I want to let the school know how I feel, but want to remain anonymous. Is there a way to do this?

Larry Says:

When you are in Blackboard, there is a link at the bottom of the left sidebar that reads "Course Evaluation". You can submit your feedback there, which will remain confidential. The feedback is not shared until after grades are posted. Your thoughts are used to improve the course for future students

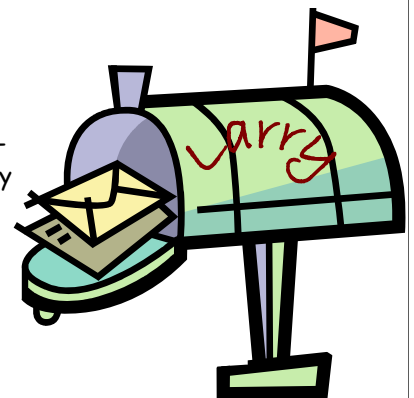
and for faculty evaluations, so it is important you give your input.

Dear Larry,

I'm looking for ways to be more involved as a DDP student. Sometimes I feel very disconnected from other students, so want to connect with others and contribute my skills. What's a good way to do this?

Larry Says:

Join an ASWSU-DDP Committee! Go to <http://www.aswsu-ddp.wsu.edu/committees/2008-2009/>.





Calendar Photo Contest

The ASWSU-DDP Public Relations Committee needs photos for the next ASWSU-DDP calendar. Photos taken by DDP students will be featured on calendar cover and the June and July pages.

The winner of the photo contest will have their photo featured on the cover.

Please submit your photos by May 25th to Heidi Hiatt at wildlynx@wsu.edu. Photos need to be high resolution. Please include your name, contact information, and a description of the subject matter, such as the event and location. Winners will be notified in early June.



Getting in touch with your student leaders is easy! They are waiting to hear from you!

Internship and Volunteer Opportunities By Heather Campbell

For the DDP student the task of finding an internship or volunteer opportunity may seem daunting. Many resources are available to help make the search easier.

WSU CareerLink is the online job/internship listing site available to all students. The WSU Center for Civic Engagement works with students to link them to volunteering and internship opportunities within their community as well as offering resources to help track service hours online. The WSU CAST program has volunteer opportunities for students in promoting WSU to prospective students. Some ideas of

places to contact about volunteering: non-profit organizations, hospitals, public schools, health district, and local government offices. Internships are often available in local, state, and federal government offices. If there is a particular industry or company someone is interested in, look up the human resources representative for that company and contact them about the possibility of an internship. Internships can be created that benefit both the student and the company.

Chris Miller, Career Counselor for DDP students, has

this advice "When searching for internships it is important to remember that an internship and a job search are really no different, which means you will have to do a lot of networking to find out what kinds of opportunities are available."

WSU Career Services <http://www.careers.wsu.edu/>

WSU Center for Civic Engagement <http://cce.wsu.edu/>

WSU CAST Program <http://www.cast.wsu.edu/>

Honor Society Available to DDP Students

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the national honor society for non-traditional/adult students, making it an ideal complement to the Distance Degree Programs. Members have the opportunity to apply for Alpha Sigma Lambda scholarships, receive a membership card and certificate, and wear honor cords at graduation, among other benefits. The honor society has an informative website, <http://www.alphasigmalambda.org/>, and newsletter, the *Midnight Oil*. This is a great highlight to have on your resume as a DDP student. For more information on the WSU Nu Lambda Upsilon chapter, contact DDP advisor Christina Sturman at sturmanc@wsu.edu.

ASWSU Hours and Meeting Schedule

President and Vice President Office Hours: Tuesdays 6:00pm to 7:00pm PT

Senators' Office Hours: Every non-senate meeting Wednesday 6:00pm to 7:00pm PT

Senate Meetings: Every first and third Wednesday of the month 6:30pm PT

Office hours are held in the chat room. Students are encouraged to meet with their student leaders to ask questions or make suggestions.

Senate Meetings are held in Centra and are public meetings. Follow the link "Senate Meetings." Agenda and click on "Attend". This will take you to Centra, where you will have to "log in" and download the software needed. When you get into the meeting room, click on the "Text Chat" icon on the upper right. The reports for the meeting are located on the website, just click on the "Online Packet".

DDP Online Newsletter



Rich Miller, DDP Program Representative

DDP's online newsletter is joining the blogosphere. The new blog format offers more articles, fun features and need-to-know facts. Check it out at <http://wsu-online.blogspot.com/>.

Be sure to bookmark the site or sign up for news feeds to get the latest info. delivered to you.

If you have career questions, feel free to ask our career counselor Chris Miller. Go to <http://wsu-careers.blogspot.com>.

Services & Activities Fee Committee

The S&A Fee Committee met on April 13th and heard presentations from various groups interested in receiving allocations from DDP S&A fees. After presentations were heard, the Committee deliberated each request until late in the evening and voted. This year's committee included Craig Stephens (advisor), Carrie Paine (student), Stephanie Norton (student), Colleen Cook (Director of Administrative Services), Amy Bray (ASWSU-DDP Treasurer), Christina Sturman (ASWSU-DDP advisor), and committee chair Debby Poris (ASWSU-DDP President). The committee has recommended approval of the allocation for each group:

ASWSU-DDP (includes \$50,000 endowment)	\$ 220,270
Student Support Administration	175,659
Virtual Mentor Program	104,556
Learning Centers (carry-forward only)	0
Learning Centers-Child Care Program	12,000
Learning Centers-Gym Reimbursement Program	1,400
Learning Center Study Group Laptop Program	250
Intercollegiate Athletics	39,500
Center for Civic Engagement	<u>\$ 21,172</u>
Total Recommended Allocation	\$ 574,807

Teach for America By Andrea Valle, TFA Recruitment Director

Disparities in educational opportunities limit the life choices of the 13 million children growing up in poverty today, impacting their earning potential, voter participation, civic engagement and community involvement. These disparities disproportionately impact African-American, Latino/Hispanic, and Native American children, who are three times as likely to live in a low-income area. You have the power to change this.

Teach For America seeks individuals from all backgrounds, academic majors, and career interests who possess the leadership skills and experience that will enable them to change the prospects of students growing up today and, ultimately, to effect fundamental change in our society that will make it a place of opportunity for all.

As a member of Teach For America, you will commit two years to teach in one of our country's high-need public schools and will gain the skills, perspective, and experience that will help you make an impact over the long term and pursue your personal and professional goals, regardless of your career path.

This is a challenging endeavor, but by taking advantage of the support and resources that Teach For America provides, you can have a tremendous impact on the lives of your students.

To learn more about Teach For America's employer partnerships with top firms like Google, JP Morgan, and Goldman Sachs, join us for this call:

Teach For America's Employer Partnerships:

Helping Corps Members Affect Long-Term Change

Rex Farrand (NYC '06 & Goldman Sachs employee) & Jenny Tsai (NYC '07 & Google deferral) will share their stories

Tuesday, April 21 @ 5 pm PDT

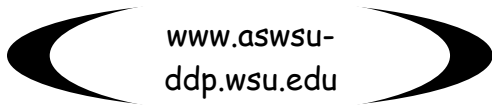
Register for this online event: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/706136359>

If you're unable to join the call, sign-up to learn more: <https://www.teachforamerica.org/online/info/index.jsp?action=signUp>

Full salary and benefits. All academic majors.



ASWSU-DDP
 Van Doren Hall, Room 104
 P O Box 64522
 Pullman, WA 99164-5220



Vision Statement

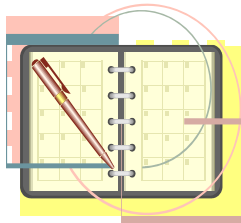
The Associated Students of Washington State University Distance Degree Program (ASWSU-DDP) student leaders envision the enhancement, facilitation, and support of higher education learning experiences for all WSU-DDP students.

Mission Statement

We develop and maintain a supportive leadership organization, while serving as advocates for Washington State University Distance Degree seeking students and their unique non-academic needs and interests.

Your 2008-2009 Representatives are:

- Debby Poris, President (Lynnwood, WA) Tony Sain, Senator (Bellingham, WA)
- Larry Lawrence, Vice President (LV, NV) Felix Moran, Senator (Camano Is., WA)
- Crystal Darling, Secretary (Spokane, WA) Sarah Barth, Senator (Seattle, WA)
- Amy Bray, Treasurer (Vancouver, WA) Heather Tom, Senator (Vancouver, WA)



2008-2009 Northwest Harvest Food Drive

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Northwest Harvest Food drive. We collected a total of \$190.00 and 30 pounds of food this school year. We also want to thank WSU Athletics Department for donating several football jerseys to raffle off as part of the food drive campaign. This was our community service for the year and we are grateful to all of you for helping in making it a success. Thank you for your generous donations!



Calendar of Events / Important Dates

April 13	Registration Begins for Summer and Fall 2009 Classes
April 15	ASWSU-DDP Senate Meeting
May 1	Reinstatement Deadline for Summer
May 1	Deadline to Change Course from Pass/Fail to Letter Grade
May 1	Deadline to Use Uncontested Course Withdrawal (Undergraduates Only)
May 6	ASWSU-DDP Senate Meeting
May 8	All Assignments/Exams Received/Dated
May 8	ASWSU-DDP May Graduation Reception
May 9	May Commencement Ceremony—Pullman
May 11	Angel Learning Management System Replaces Blackboard
May 20	ASWSU-DDP Senate Meeting
June 1	Deadline to Apply for Fall 2009 Scholarships