

January/February 2009

Special points of interest:

- ASWSU-DDP Elections
- Legislative Initiative increasing GPA
- Application for Student Regent position now open
- Tacoma Rendezvous
- May Graduation
- Study Tips

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The Cyber Cougar



ASWSU-DDP General Elections Are Coming Soon!

The campaign trail may be over for Obama but potential ASWSU-DDP Senators are just getting started.

Who is running? Just check out their short biography and statement of why they are running.

Have a question to ask them? Each candidate will be holding "Chat with the Candidate" sessions in the

chat room where you have an opportunity to talk with them directly. Chat sessions are listed within each candidate's bio...click on "Chat Room Meeting Schedule."

Find the candidates that you want to represent you and then vote between March 5 and 13th. "See" you at the Polls!

<http://www.aswsu-ddp.wsu.edu/>



Student Leaders at December 08 Graduation: L-R Christina (advisor), Debby, Sarah, Tony, and Larry. Missing are Felix, Heather, and Amy.

DDP Student Wins National Award

By Richard Miller, CDPE staff



Distance Degree Programs student Debby Poris has been named the

Outstanding Non-traditional Student of the Year by the University Continuing Education Association.

"Debby is the third WSU-DDP student to win the award in the last 10 years, which underlines the strength of our program and its students," said Muriel Oaks, dean of the Center for Distance and Professional Education. "It's a real honor for Debby and for WSU."

The national winner is chosen from among six regional winners. Judging criteria include an "unconventional educational background," the handling of multiple commitments during the pursuit of a degree, and the nominee's ability to inspire others. Poris, 54, will receive the award at the UCEA's April conference in Boston.

Poris got the news on Jan. 16. "I felt like I was walking on cloud nine," said the Lynnwood, Wash. resident.

A business major, Poris maintains a 3.97 grade-point average, works full time as a fiscal analyst for the state Housing Finance Commission,

and is president of the DDP's student government. Poris says her determination dates back to her childhood when she wore a back brace for scoliosis. "I was out to prove to everyone I was not 'handicapped,'" she said. "I snow-skied, played basketball, tennis and volleyball in my brace."

She noted that the awards banquet is being held at the same time as a student government meeting, her husband's annual employee dinner and a proctored exam. "Just another day in the life of a non-traditional student," Poris said. "I will get it figured out - I hope."



General Elections will be held in early March for your Senate representatives and approval of the proposed Constitutional Amendment.

"I think raising the grade point average for the student government officers to 2.5 is necessary."
Heather Tom,
Senator



Get involved in student issues being impacted by the economy. Contact your representatives today. .

Constitutional Amendment Proposed

On January 7th, the ASWSU-DDP senate approved proposed legislation to amend the ASWSU-DDP Constitution. This initiative will increase the GPA requirements for student leaders to a minimum standard of 2.5.

Discussion was held within the message boards on the website and then dis-

cussed during the senate meeting. Senator Heather Tom stated, "I think that raising the grade point average for the student government officers to 2.5 is necessary. Student government officers are representing WSU and the student body, their representation needs to be reflected in educational

grades." The rest of the Senate agreed that student leaders should be held to a higher standard. Approval of the change was unanimous.

This will be voted on by the student body at the general elections in March.

Student Positions Available

From time to time, there are opportunities for students to participate in different boards such as the Bookie Board. We will attempt to keep you informed as to what is available. As WSU students, you are eligible to participate.

Student Regent Application: The application process has just opened for the 2009-10 student regent position. Applications are online or available at the Pullman ASWSU office (CUB 314). If you have an interest, please check out the website for more information such as descrip-

tion of the process, what the job entails, etc. The applications are due March 27. If you have any questions, please contact Debby Poris or the contacts listed in the document. Websites for the application are: aswsu.wsu.edu or regents.wsu.edu

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

Coug Day at the Capital was February 16th. This day was set aside for Cougs to talk to state legislators about student issues. There are many concerns especially with the budget deficit and the severe impact it has on higher education and WSU. Tuition caps are set at 7% but there are rumors that it may be approved to go higher (up to 14% has been rumored).

Even though we were not there

in Olympia, your student government would like to encourage you to talk and/or write to your legislators concerning student issues, especially tuition increases.

On another note: This newsletter is a product of the PR Committee and their desire to get more information out to all DDP students. I appreciate the hard work they have put into it and hopefully this will develop into an active online publication

where all DDP students can contribute.

The PR Committee is looking for writers, contributors, and suggestions. This is your newsletter. Have a study tip, an opinion, or just want an idea for an article? Want to write an article? Please feel free to contact the committee. Contact information on the ASWSU-DDP webpage under "Committees."

Have a great semester!

Tacoma Rendezvous is March 7th

Tacoma Rendezvous time is around the corner. We have an excellent schedule of events plus a lunch provided by the ASWSU-DDP and Cougar door prizes. There will be three academic seminars and a career building seminar. Academic advisors, financial aid counselor, and career counselors will be available

throughout the day. There will also be a raffle for two WSU football jerseys, courtesy of the WSU Athletic Dept. Proceeds will benefit Northwest Harvest.

This event is a great opportunity to meet other DDP Students, faculty, and staff. Butch may even make a guest appearance! For more registra-

tion or more information, check the ASWSU-DDP website under "Hot Topics".

Meet with:

Academic Advisors

Career Counselor Chris Miller

Financial Counselor Kathreen Silva

Visit with:

Other DDP Students

DDP Staff & Butch



Jeanie Pittman was the guest speaker at the 2008 Tacoma Rendezvous. She also taught the academic seminar!

May 2009 Graduation-Plan Ahead

May graduation information is now available on the ASWSU-DDP website plus registration for the graduation dinner hosted by ASWSU-DDP.

This is a wonderful time for you and your family to celebrate your success at completing your degree. For many of you, it has been a

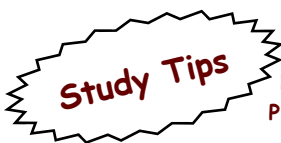
long road with many sacrifices. This time is for you and your family.

There is a lot of good information available on the website. Make your hotel reservations early as they fill up fast. Another option for rooms is the Clearwater Casino in Lewiston, which is 30 minutes away from Pullman.

If you have any questions, please let us know. Check "Hot Topics" on the ASWSU-DDP website for May Graduation.



**Feb 16, 2009
Coug day at Olympia!
Students from all
over the state met
with state legislators
to help them
understand WSU
student issues.**



Do you have a study suggestion or a tip on how to take tests well? Please let us know...we can all use the help!

I find that reading the text book away from my computer helps me to be less distracted (or turn it off!) ~ Debby

I'm a stay at home mom to an almost 18 month old. I definitely need to do all of my studying and coursework around his structured schedule. When he's playing by himself, I can sit in the living room with him and read (as long as he will allow.) During naps, I get most of my reading done. After my husband gets home and we've eaten dinner, I can finish

up my reading or any coursework that needs to be completed.

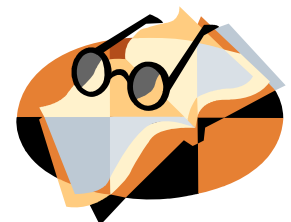
~ Amy
Proctored tests: I use FedEx instead of mail to get proctored exams turned in. (Take the envelope with your billing information included to the Proctor.) It gets to DDP much faster than going the postal route. ~Larry

Preparing for tests: I go through and make notes while I read the text. Then, when I am ready to start studying for the exam, I find it helpful to re-write my notes. It

seems to get it into my brain better than just re-reading them. ~Crystal

I put all my due dates on a calendar, one day before they are due. This way if Blackboard is down or something comes up, I am prepared. ~Debby

Do you have a great tip to share? Please send them to dporis@wsu.edu



Study tips from students are always great. We each work differently. Have a tip you can share? Send us a note with your favorite tips.



Carter G. Woodson

Source:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NEWS/thisweek/images/woodson.jpg>



Have a question about Blackboard or need help?

Just ask Larry, he has all the answers.

Celebrate Black History Month by Angela Godwin, DDP Student

In 1926, a historian by the name of Carter G. Woodson began a movement called "Negro History Week." Since that time, more and more African Americans have been recognized for their contributions to the success of our country. Eventually, the government acknowledged these contributions and Black History Month was born. February was chosen because, historically, it has been a month of full of important events.

For example, in the February of 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. In the February of 1870, the 15th Amendment was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude. In February of 1956, eighty participants in the bus boycott were arrested, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks among them. In February of 1960, a group of African American students were refused service at a lunch

counter and instead of leaving, they waited all day.

African Americans have endured overwhelming trials and tribulations in the United States and it's important for us to acknowledge their success and honor those who have worked so hard to make it possible. I encourage everyone to take part in the celebration! You can attend one of the many local events, volunteer, or just wear a button. Angela Godwin is a Junior, majoring in Psychology

Ask Larry — The place to ask questions

Dear Larry,

When my groups wants to use the chat room in Blackboard, it seems that others get there first. What can I do? —Always Late

Dear Always Late,

Did you know that the ASWSU-DDP website has a chat room you can use? There is a main room with the ability to set up side rooms just for your group. This is for students use to work on projects or just get together to chat. ~Larry

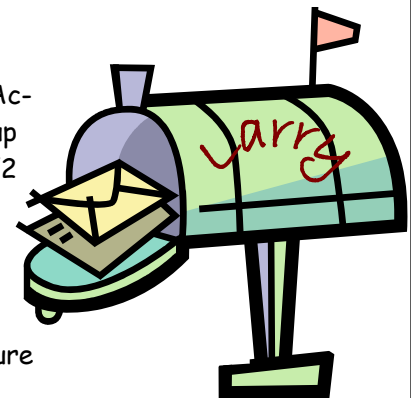
Dear Larry,

I get tired of sitting all day at work and then all night for school. What do you recommend? -Tired Tushie

Dear Tushie,

Well, don't sit so long! Actually, it is good to get up and move about every 1/2 to 45 minutes to keep the circulation moving and to keep your mind awake. Got a dog, take it for a quick walk. It sure helps to break up those long sessions at the old computer. ~Larry

Remember, there are only 2 1/2 months left of the semester or 82 days...sounds like forever huh? Hang in there.





General Elections will be held March 5–13th for your student leaders and approval of the proposed Constitutional Amendment.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment-Public Notice

On January 7th, 2009, the ASWSU-DDP Senate unanimously voted to amend the Distance Degree Program Student Government Constitution by revising Article IV §2 and Article V §2 to require those DDP students holding leadership positions to achieve a minimum 2.5 GPA to maintain eligibility for elected office. Currently, the Constitution requires only that DDP students holding leadership positions maintain "good academic standing" with the University, which simply means an elected official cannot be on academic probation.

The Senate has resolved to present this amendment to the ASWSU-DDP membership for approval at the next scheduled regular election in an effort to further the vision, mission, and goals of the Associated Students of Washington State University-Distance Degree Programs. Through holding student leaders to a higher standard of commitment and dedication to Washington State University Distance Degree Programs, the Senate believes the ASWSU-DDP membership can help build a foundation that will enhance student government support for higher education distance learning experiences as well as strengthen

advocacy within Washington State University for DDP students and their unique non-academic needs and interests. In order for this amendment to pass, it must receive an affirmative majority vote of at least fifteen percent of ASWSU-DDP members in the upcoming March election.

If passed, Article IV §2 of the Distance Degree Program Student Government Constitution will be amended to read:

ASWSU-DDP Senators must be members of ASWSU-DDP, must be enrolled with WSU's Extended Degree Programs for a minimum of three credits every semester during which they serve as a senator, except the summer semester, and must achieve and maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA. Senators shall be elected in the annual general election.

If passed, Article V §2 of the Distance Degree Program Student Government Constitution will be amended to read:

Members of the Executive branch must be members of ASWSU-DDP, must be enrolled with WSU's Extended Degree Programs for at least three credits every semester during which they serve, except the summer semester, and must achieve and maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA. The President shall be elected in the annual general election.

Thanks to Kody McConnell, DDP Student, for writing up this legislation. He is a junior, majoring in Social Sciences with a formal minor in Business Administration.

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.

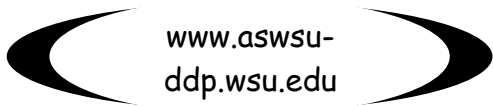
Senate Meetings are held in Centra and are public meetings. Follow the link "Senate Meetings." Agenda and click on "Attend". This will take you to Centra, where you will have to "log in" and download the software needed. When you get into the meeting room, click on the "Text Chat" icon on the upper right.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



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



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

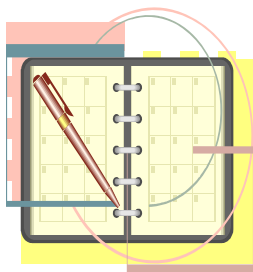
We develop and maintain a supportive leadership organization, while serving as advocates for Washington State University Distance Degree seeking students and their unique non-academic needs and interests.

Your Representatives are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Debby Paris, President (Lynnwood, Wa) | Tony Sain, Senator (Bellingham, WA) |
| Larry Lawrence, Vice President (Las Vegas, NV) | Felix Moran, Senator (Camano Island, WA) |
| Crystal Darling, Secretary (Spokane, WA) | Sarah Barth, Senator (Seattle, WA) |
| Amy Bray, Treasurer (Vancouver, WA) | Heather Tom, Senator (Vancouver, WA) |

Calendar of Events

Feb 2-Feb 9	File for Candidacy for ASWSU-DDP Senate
March 4	Open House and Academic Seminar: South West Washington Learning Center
March 5	Open House and Academic Seminar: North University of Puget Sound (Everett)
March 5-13	ASWSU-DDP General Elections: Vote for Senate Leaders and Constitutional Amendment Initiative
March 7	Tacoma Rendezvous and Northwest Harvest Food Drive
May 8	ASWSU-DDP Graduation Dinner
May 9	WSU Graduation in Pullman



Did you know DDP Students contributed \$55 and 30 lbs of food for Northwest Harvest? This happened at the Cougar Hardwood Classic event. You still have an opportunity to help at Tacoma Rendezvous!

