Welcome Back:

Second Semester, hit the ground running with academics, & assistantships. But what happened during break? Check out what we were up to!

Special points of interest:

- As Told By: Gina Montilino
- Shout Outs
- Senate News
- History in HE
- Events
- Twitter Handle @UWLSAORG

Officers:
Jackie Rindone: President
Katie Van Wyk: Vice President
Stephanie Falch: Vice President
Anna Turriff: Secretary
Trent Mortimer: Treasurer
Bailey Steckbauer: Communications Coordinator
Noelle Ponasik: Events Coordinator
Alyssa Gostonczik: Events Coordinator

Katie had a five day Christmas celebration with every possible family member within a 100 mile radius, including second, even third, cousins. Then spent one week snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing in the northern woods of WI with my parents, ending it with a celebration in my mother's 50th birthday.

Stephanie Falch went on a 17 day back-packing trip through Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This picture is from the bell tower of Iglesia la Merced in Granada, Nicaragua.

Anna Turriff and her siblings spent time together over winter break!

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Kim Soumar and her sister Kaleigh celebrated Christmas at home!

Anna Turriff and her siblings spent time together over winter break!

Nick Thuot and his partner visited Rotary Lights in La Crosse.

Sam Pierce and his Family celebrated the Packers!

Alyssa Gostonczik and her partner celebrated her birthday on the slopes!
My experience in Ecuador was both extremely challenging and incredibly rewarding, which I’m starting to realize is a common combination in the field of student affairs. My internship with the Department of Modern Languages started last April with recruiting students for this year’s trip, taking advice from last year’s group leader and SAA alum Natalie Magnus, and making travel plans for our group of 18. I’ve been lucky to have gained plenty of service learning and international education experience in the last five years so I felt prepared to facilitate discussions, help students adjust to cultural differences, and lead the “logistical” side of the trip. I was not as prepared to help the students “make sense” of the poverty and struggles of Ecuador while I simultaneously needed to make sense of it for myself.

In our crisis and counseling class, we referred to the counseling method of “mindfulness.” I understood mindfulness as walking alongside the student, experiencing what they are experiencing and reflecting together. Mindfulness does not require an answer. My trip to Ecuador was the epitome of this. I walked alongside the students through the tiny and poverty-stricken town of Bunche, through the crab-filled mud on our tour of the local ecosystem, and down the street of bustling Muisne during a political campaign set to the beat of salsa. I also walked alongside them as we discussed our own White and American privilege and the complicated race relations of Latin America. The only question I ever had the answer to was “What time are we eating dinner?” And even that was difficult to answer sometimes!

As a group we have been asked many times what we actually “did.” In total, we built three bathrooms, repaired a dangerous floor, and replaced a few crumbling walls. But I’m hoping we “did” a lot more than that in the form of education, reflection, and creating a desire to keep travelling mindfully.
Here are some things being discussed at student senate:

- Dining services came in to talk about Sodexo, regarding an update this year and about the theft of food and supplies in Whitney.
- LeaderShape applications went out for students to apply for this spring break 2014.
- Senate is looking to improve their leadership and visibility on campus.
- Requested that Student Association pay for two buses to send students down to the White Privilege Conference in Madison in March. Voting will occur on 2/12.
- Discussion about graduation regalia, recommendations going to be made to the provost office that students be allowed to wear stoles & pins to recognize their involvement in student activities.
- STILL senator seats open & elections will occur this spring—please encourage students you work with to get involved with their shared governance board!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns that you want us to look into. We are here to represent YOU the graduate students.

Whitney Hedge- Hedge.whit@uwlax.edu
Libby Thorson- Thorson.eliz@uwlax.edu

News from Our Graduate Student Senators

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Bitesize History for February

From Noelle Ponasik, Curator of History

Since 1976, February is annually celebrated as National African American History Month in the United States. In honor of recognizing the central role of African Americans in the history of the United States and in higher education, here are some bitesize historical moments for February.

- **February 1, 1960** – In Greensboro, North Carolina, four African American students sat down at a lunch counter inside a Woolworth store and were refused service, but did not leave. The scene was repeated over the next few days, with protests spreading to other southern states, resulting in the eventual arrests of over 1,600 persons for participating in sit-ins.
- **February 3, 1870** – The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of (male) citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- **February 21, 1965** – Malcolm X (1925-1965) was assassinated while delivering a speech in a ballroom in New York City.
- **February 22, 1965** – In Montgomery, Alabama, 80 bus boycott participants voluntarily gave themselves up for arrest. Later in 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court mandated desegregation of the buses.
- **February 23, 1868** – African American educator and leader W.E.B. Du Bois was born. Du Bois articulated in his publication, *The Souls of Black Folks* (1903), the “color line” was the central problem in the 20th century.

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**Event Insight!**

**Night on the Slopes**

Ready to hit the slopes?! Join the REC Special Events staff for a night of fun on the slopes of Mount La Crosse! Transportation will be available at no cost to the ski slopes! Transportation FREE! Buses will leave the REC at 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM and return to campus after an evening of fun. Please remember to bring your student ID to check in! Sign up at the Recreational Eagle Center.

**Friday, February 21, 2014**

- Lift Ticket $15
- Ski Rental $10

**Graduate Student Organization (GS)) Bowling Night !**

Monday, February 17th, 2014 6pm

Pla Mor Lanes in La Crosse, Wisconsin

Use @UWLSAAORG to engage in discussion and stay up to date on events.
Visit Day Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Interview People: Please arrive at the Clearly Center at 9:45 AM
Lunch People: Please arrive at the Cleary Center at 11:45 AM
If you are no longer available please have someone sub for you.