Welcome Back

Winter break has come and gone. We now venture in spring—a season of renewal. This semester will see the snow melt and a new beginning come into play. In a way, the renewal of nature is quite symbolic. Soon we will say goodbye to old friends, hello to new experiences, and learn to adapt in an entirely new model. As we go forth through this semester, let us remember the reason why we do this work. The coming months will be filled with hard decisions—personal and professional alike—but it is our determination to see our purpose through that will carry us. Whatever your reason is for pushing on, hold close to it and never lose sight of it. Stay focused, stay passionate, and—most of all—stay you.
As told by…. The UW-L Pride Center

For this edition we spoke with Kaila Henry, Grad Assistant in the UW-L Pride Center, about her role on campus and her journey into graduate school.

How did you end up deciding to pursue a masters degree in Student Affairs?

K: My path to Student Affairs was a little clumsy. I didn’t know what Student Affairs was until the summer after my sophomore year when my first Residence Director suggested I would excel in the field. Since that conversation, I have invested everything I have into studying and preparing to enter into Student Affairs. I have been extremely privileged with the experiences and opportunities I have been apart of since my undergrad. Most of the early positions I stumbled into on accident but they were the best accidents to happen to me.

What appealed to you about working in the Pride Center? And what keeps you coming back day after day?

K: When I first came to visit day at UW-L, I was dead set on getting an assistantship within residence life. During the graduate assistant open house, I met Will at the University Centers table. In Pennsylvania, there is little discussion about LGBTQ* issues or education, so discovering UW-L had a Pride Center enthralled me! I immediately connected with Will and hearing what I would be doing at the Pride Center made me excited about graduate school and the new possibilities. My first day at the Pride Center was more than I could imagine. My students and the changes I am helping to make are the reason I look forward to going to work every single day. Each day brings new memories, challenges, and opportunities to grow into the professional I hope to become.

Each day brings new memories, challenges, and opportunities to grow into the professional I hope to become

-KAILA HENRY ’16
What has been the best feature about your GA position? What about the SAA Program, in general?

K: The best feature of my graduate assistantship is seeing the passion within my students and helping them create the change they want to see. Currently my students are working to create a queer person of color group, something UW-L has needed for a while now. Seeing this process from just an idea to an almost recognized group has inspired me to know our students can make a change. I am just fortunate to be able to help them. The SAA program has provided me with the opportunity to take what we are learning in class and applying it to my assistantship (yay theory to practice!).

What do people not know about the Pride Center that they ought to?

K: Something that people should know about the Pride Center its not just a place for people within the community, but a place for all. There are always students down there who love making connections and would love to meet other graduate students and professionals. This is also a space to learn. We offer books and DVDs for both educational and fun purposes. Plus, when I’m not in class I am always down in the Pride Center so this would be a great opportunity to get to know me better!

What are some major upcoming events that will be hosted by the Pride Center?

K: Some of our upcoming events are our Queer Cinemas! March 25 is (A)sexual, April 22 is Stonewall Rising. Both are excellent movies! And of course, our event of the year! The 14th Annual Drag Show is April 18 at 7:00 pm in Valhalla! The theme this year is The Seven Deadly Sins. So grab your dollar bills and come visit our performers for a wild night!

The UW-L Pride Center is located in the lower level of Cartwright Center and maintains the following hours:

- Monday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Wednesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Thursday 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Check out the UW-L Pride Center on….

Facebook - [https://www.facebook.com/pages/UW-La-Crosse-Pride-Center/234522890008131](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UW-La-Crosse-Pride-Center/234522890008131)

Twitter - [https://twitter.com/uwlpridecenter](https://twitter.com/uwlpridecenter)

Pinterest - [https://www.pinterest.com/pridecenter/](https://www.pinterest.com/pridecenter/)
SAA in Pictures

Whether they are planning campus events, reaching out in the community, or just enjoying our students have been busy people over the past few weeks. This collection of photos highlights everything they have done!

Whitney Hedge, Shari Schoohs, and Megan Lindbeck take in a Packer game.

Tom Heiar, Anna Turriff, and Amanda Gasper presented the Money Couple Program out of the UWL It Makes Cent$ Office.

Bailey Steckbauer, Libby Thorson, Shaundel Spivey, and Sarah Johannes participated in the Alumni Panel at the recent WiGreek conference.

Whitney Hedge, Megan Lindbeck, and Klinton Blair helped to raise funds for the SAA Org through decorating the SAA Org Tree at this past Rotary Lights event.
$ 300,000,000

In his most recent budget, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker proposed a $300 million cut of state funding to the UW System. Additionally, Governor Walker has proposed giving the UW System public authority status in the name of greater autonomy—something the UW system has sought for years (Associated Press, 2015). This major policy decision comes on the heels of what is widely assumed to be Governor Walker’s plan to run for president. While the cut represents a significant amount of cash, critics on both sides of the issue have taken to defense of their beliefs. Walker and his aides have cited a $1.3 billion surplus maintained by the UW System (Herzog, 2015). However, UW System officials have come out and called the claim of a massive surplus as “misleading word because the number represents the total of cash balances kept in accounts across all campuses, many of which are earmarked for planned, obligated or designated purposes, as well as for cash reserves that all businesses keep on hand for unexpected shortfalls and expenses” (Herzog, 2015, Number is misleading, para. 2). Additionally, many Chancellors within the UW System have said that these cuts will inevitably lead to position losses, with UW- Milwaukee projecting losses up to 200-300 positions (Associated Press, 2015). Within our own campus, Chancellor Joe Gow has gone on the record as saying he is committed to not cutting positions, but the campus may opt to begin to outsource certain maintenance services (Associated Press, 2015).

How this situation will play out remains to be seen, yet one thing has become absolutely clear: changes are coming to our campus. The coming months will be tense as the cuts are debated at the university and legislative levels. As we move forward, let us all remember that we are in this endeavor together. Let us be reasonable, open minded, and supportive. Ultimately, we are here for the students and need to keep their best interests in mind. You are an important piece of the education process and we’re glad you’re here.

Shout Outs!

We conclude this edition with many shout outs from across the campus. Thank you to all those mentioned for the great work that you continue to do! You are appreciated!

- Shout out to the four SAA grad who volunteered to sit on my alumni panel for WiGreek 2015 undergraduate fraternity/sorority leadership conference that was held on campus. Thank you for taking time out of your day to help me and our office out!

- Shout out to Andrew, Kaila, Sarah Piñon, Meng, Stephanie Bohlam, and Charles for helping out with the EFN 205 class panels!

- Katie for doing an awesome job with SAA Org meetings and getting guest presenters!

- Nick for doing a great job presenting to the SAA Org and always being open to share his experiences!

- Charles and Noelle for coordinating SAA Visit Day!

- Libby and Stephanie B. for being great Campus Climate professionals and advocates for inclusivity!

- Shannon and Carmen for always having Emergen-C handy!

- Shout out to Carmen for all her hard work on LeaderShape this year! It’s going to be a great session!

- Shout out to Shari and the SAA Org for planning a great bowling night!

- Shout out to Shaundel for lending his rap skills and the UC Grads for their help with the recruitment video! Y’all were great!

Got a story to tell? Want to have you event highlighted in the next newsletter? 

Send your information, shout outs, photos, and stories to blair.klin@uwlax.edu

Follow us on twitter @UWLSAAORG