

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of The Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society

osustadiumalumni.com

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COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

What brought us together, keeps us together still. *By Kristy Mount*

During an icebreaker at a recent conference we were asked to share an interesting piece of information with others. I went with my “go to” statement; “I lived in the stadium for three years while in college.” The perpetual conversation starter did not fail as people’s eye lit up and the great questions began. In summary I always share that it was an amazing experience that couldn’t be surpassed.

Many of you reading this can use the same icebreaker, but some cannot. Many of our SSP alumni lived in Mack Hall or in the current location, Scholars East and West. However, the final statement can be repeated for all: **the Stadium Scholarship Program is an amazing experience that can’t be surpassed.** Rather than look at what has changed, your SSP board focuses constantly on what has always been the same in SSP. These similarities include the cooperative spirit, traditions, service to others, academic strength, and financial need.

The most obvious and defining thread that runs through the 81 year history of the program is the cooperative spirit. Since the beginning, residents have contributed to the running of the program in trade for a reduction of cost. Much more than a money saver it has always given a sense of belonging, of family, of unity that is unique to SSP. Although the nature of the work has changed, the atmosphere continues. Due to the change in the meal plans and architectural limitations, current students cannot participate in the cooking, but other contributions are central to the mission of each student in the program. They work together daily to keep the program a vital, functioning and energetic place to live; a home away from home. They work as one to continue the program that all of us enjoyed.

As you read the newsletter, know that through all of the changes that have taken place in our Stadium Scholarship Program the constants remain the same. You will be glad to know that the cooperative spirit still remains as the tie that binds the residents into one. Thank you for remaining committed to the program through your membership. Please encourage others that you know from the program to do the same. Membership information is available on the website or feel free to contact me (mount.11@osu.edu) with any questions. You also can continue to live the cooperative spirit, if you are interested in serving as a mentor to current students or volunteer for any upcoming events contact me. The cooperative spirit built and still remains the heart of the Stadium Scholarship Program.

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you to purchase on-line.
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Director's Report by Cheria Dial

Greetings! My name is Cheria Dial and I am the new assistant hall director working with the Stadium Scholarship Program. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio and a graduate of current football powerhouse Glenville High School, I did my undergraduate work in Spanish and International Relations at Tufts University in Boston. Upon graduation I joined Teach for America and taught high school Spanish in Baltimore. After having my first son, I decided to move to Columbus to pursue graduate work in Black Studies and Higher Education & Student Affairs. The only job that I applied for at the university after earning both of my master's degrees in 1999, a program coordinator position in the Honors & Scholars Center, is what kept me here at Ohio State. After 13 years in the Honors & Scholars Center, 7 of them as its associate director, I made the decision to become a full time doctoral student in Higher Education & Student Affairs. In 2012 I accepted an assistantship as an assistant hall director in the Residence on Tenth with University Housing and moved with my two sons to south campus. As of July of this year I learned that I would spend my final two years as a full time graduate student working with SSP.

Although SSP is only active in Scholars East this year at half capacity with 48 students, this has been a wonderful way for me to ease my way into the program. We started the year with 3 hours of teambuilding activities at SuperGames in Worthington where students were able to use physical and intellectual challenges as a way to break the ice and lay the foundation necessary to form meaningful connections with one another. Via the six committees, our students are honing their leadership skills and learning to support one another's endeavors by planning a vast array of activities and programs. Veteran SSP RA's Bret Mayer and Taylor Ward are also doing an excellent job engaging the SSP community. We have held more than 25 activities, programs, and service opportunities this semester. Highlights include the annual trip to Philadelphia, PA where we enjoyed a presentation from one of the leading Egyptologists at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and a guided tour, making shoes as a collaborative effort with Inspire OSU for children in Uganda, dissecting the movie Mean Girls exploring its various gender and racial implications with a professor from Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and promoting safer sex practices with a rousing game of condom bingo. Through a survey of students living on campus many in SSP have indicated that they would like even more opportunities to engage with one another socially and to explore the city of Columbus together. As such, our spring semester initiatives will definitely incorporate this feedback with the following: bimonthly movie nights in Scholars East and off campus; more home-cooked meals, excursions to COSI, Gallery Hop in the Short North, LazerCraze, an OSU Department of Dance performance (we have several dance majors in the program this year), a tour of the Columbus Museum of Art, and a play.

If any of you are interested in coming in to talk with current students about your time in the program and your career path please let me know; you can email me at dial.3@osu.edu. I am definitely looking forward to spending my last two years in Residence Life with a program steeped in tradition and filled with incredible students; here's to SSP!

SSAS Winter Social Events

by Barbara Letcher, SSAS Social Chair

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, when life settles back into the winter routine, the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society invites you to join us as we kick off 2015 with basketball, hockey and even a little wine and craft beer tasting.

House Wine will once again host Stadium Alums for their 6th Annual Wine and Craft Beer Tasting. The event will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at House Wine located in old Worthington. Their Enomatics wine dispensing machine offers a fun way to try up to 24 different wines . . . by the ounce or by the glass. An excellent selection of craft beers is also available.

SSAS will join the Ohio State University Alumni Association for the 7th Annual Alumni Society Hockey Night on March 7, 2015 when the OSU Men's Hockey team takes on the Golden Gophers from Minnesota. A pre-game tailgate will be held at the Longaberger Alumni House from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. before the game gets underway at 6:00 p.m. Brutus Buckeye will be on hand with the OSU Cheerleaders and the OSU Pep Band and other special guests for an evening of fun, food, entertainment and prizes.

We hope you can join us for at least one of our winter events. More information will be available on Facebook and on our website or by contacting Barbara Letcher at bletcher1975@gmail.com. If you have suggestions for other events, please let us know.

STAY CONNECTED

by Doug Bloss

With all of the technology around us, it is now easier than ever to stay connected with the Buckeyes, the Stadium Scholarship Program and the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society (SSAS). The current residents have a newsletter/blog ssposu.blogspot.com. They have requested input from alumni to help complete the History section. Please contact the bloggers directly to help with this project. If you would like to stay more connected with fellow SSP alumni, there are three options. The first is that you can "LIKE" us on our new group page created by current resident Alyssa Stahlgren at go.osu.edu/ssas_facebook. By "liking" this page, you will be notified on your Facebook homepage whenever new announcements are posted for upcoming events. The second way to stay connected with fellow Stadium alum is to join the "regular" SSAS group page on Facebook. Lastly, you can frequently go to our website osustadiumalumni.com. We attempt to post upcoming events on both of the Facebook pages as well as the website. Lastly, the Buckeyes currently have an iPhone and Android app for your mobile smartphones. The iPhone app is Buckeyes Unite. It is a free app that allows you to see event locations, check in wherever you are and just generally stay connected with other Buckeye Fans.

Student Activities, Autumn 2014

by Cheria Dial

Twenty-four SSP'ers spent the weekend of October 10th in Philadelphia, PA with our new assistant director for residence life, Cat Geletka, and me. After a long bus trip and checking into our hotel we enjoyed an amazing meal at one of the Ventri family restaurants, Alla Spina. Our visit to the National Constitution Center included a presentation about our nation's evolution called Freedom Rising along with a tour of a traveling exhibit entitled Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello. Following lunch at historic Reading Terminal Market, we enjoyed a lecture from leading Egyptologist Dr. Stephen Phillips along with a guided tour at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Although our evening visit to trendy South Street was optional, all of the students opted to participate. We spent our last morning touring Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. While departing our group lunch at Chickie's & Pete's we ran into some OSU alumni decked out in their Buckeye gear enjoying an afternoon of football.

-- Cheria V. Dial, SSP Assistant Hall Director



On Sunday, November 17th, SSP had our annual Thanksgiving dinner. It was a hit, and nearly every SSPer was in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and had a great time. This event brought us even closer with each other. Also, it would not have been possible without the aid of the alumni. Thank you for all that you do to help. Again, thank you for contributing to make this event a success.

-- Kevin Mo, SSP Community & Meals Committee Member

The students made cards and cookies for the OSU veterans who live in the Veteran's House on campus on Veteran's Day. The Events Committee planned this program and delivered all of the personalized, hand-made cards and treats to the Vet House residents. This was a great program, the students really enjoyed it and the Vets appreciated their thoughtfulness. The Vets gave the committee a tour when they dropped off the goodies.

--Cheria V. Dial, SSP Assistant Hall Director



The Procrastination Prevention event was one geared toward helping the students in our dorm learn effective methods to combat putting off homework. The representative from Younkin Success Center was very informative about ways to fight procrastination. For me personally, I enjoyed the topic of using social media to actually help us in our studies. She discussed various apps that create alarms that give us study breaks while working. She also discussed apps that provide a schedule that you want, as well as some that force you to be fully woken up in order to unlock your phone (you have to complete some memory game). Another thing she mentioned that some of us have taken to heart is to have a friend go with you to the library and hold each other accountable to study during that time. Overall, it was a very enlightening session, and the Subway Fresh Fit Platters helped to promote a sound mind and a sound body.

-- Paul Kraemer, Scholarship Committee Chair

On November 30th the Recognition Committee had our second SSP Birthday Celebration. We celebrated the November and December birthdays of six SSP members. Thirty-three members of SSP came to show their support. At the birthday party we had Catfish Biff's, cake, and played board games. This event was a big success in which we were able to build a stronger sense of community within our dorm by bonding over the games that we played.

-- Ethan Oldfield, Recognition Committee Chair



THE STADIUM DORM YOUTUBE

Believe it or not, life in the Stadium Dorm from the fall of 1972 is on YouTube.

[youtube.com/watch?v=wgmcsOwwj5I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgmcsOwwj5I)

SSP Mentoring Program

by Noah Zierden

We, the current residents of the SSP, are asking for help from our alumni. We would greatly appreciate your help in starting a mentoring program. We have written short notes about ourselves and what are career aspirations are. If you feel that you could give any of us some career insight, we would greatly appreciate it. If you are willing to be a part of this effort, please e-mail me at zierden.4@osu.edu with your contact information. I will forward it on to which ever student you think you can give some guidance to. Thank you in advance for considering being a part of this mentoring program.

My name is **Kyle Weddington**. I am a first year Engineering Physics major from Sabina, Ohio, which is a small rural town outside of Wilmington, Ohio. My goal is to someday work for a well-known software company (specifically Google or Microsoft). I am concentrating on Computer Science and Engineering. I love performing arts such as band and musical theater and I play the flute and guitar.

Hi, my name is **Noah Zierden** and I am from Cardington Ohio, a town about 45 minutes North of Columbus. I am a first year Business student specializing in Economics. After graduation I want to attend Law School with hopes of one day becoming a corporate lawyer. I am involved in the Mount Leadership Scholars Society, as well as the Student-Alumni Committee Chair for SSP. I look forward to getting to know you and learning from you. Thank you!

My name is **Ethan Oldfield** and I am from Cincinnati. I am a second year Middle Childhood Education major in the school of Education and Human Ecology. I aspire to one day be a middle school math teacher. This year I am the head of the Recognition Committee and am heavily involved in the SSP community. Some of my interests include going to OSU sporting events, golfing, playing tennis, and playing basketball. During the school year

I focus mainly on my studies and throughout my summers I spend my time working on two golf courses in Cincinnati.

My name is **Victoria Colin**. I am a first year Biology major on a Pre-Med tract. I was born here, at the OSU Wexner medical hospital, but then moved to Chicago, IL. I aspire to be a pediatric oncologist and hope to make a difference in the lives of as many children as I can. While working in a children's hospital is my end goal, I also aspire to do humanitarian work in third world countries. I am currently a member of P.A.S.S, a diversity and community service group. As a Mexican-American student, I enjoy engaging in cultural diverse experiences. I look forward to me to meeting you and thank you for your continual involvement in the Stadium Scholarship Program.

My name is **Japera Benson** and I am an African American female double majoring in Psychology and Journalism. I plan to attend graduate school and specialize in Marital and Family Therapy. After obtaining my state license in Marital and Family Therapy, I aspire to become a Marriage counselor and become a columnist writing about relationships. I plan to write a novel as well. I am from Cleveland, Ohio. I also enjoy event planning, ceramics, and arts and crafts.

My name is **Kelsey Krenwinkel** and I am sophomore studying Middle Childhood Education, specializing in math and language arts. I am from Cincinnati, OH and this is my second year in SSP. I'm on the dance team here at Ohio State and am also involved in Athletes in Action as well as Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. I also work part time at Ann Taylor.

My name is **Cody Sheeley** and I am majoring in Astronomy and Astrophysics. I'm from Bellefontaine, Ohio, which is about an hour north of Columbus. I want to eventually go to grad school, get my doctorate and do research in the field.

Continued on page 5.

Thank you! Thank you!

by Mary Ann Heft, SSAS Treasurer

Thank you for your contributions to the Stadium Scholarship Dorm Scholarship Fund, the Stadium Dorm Founder's Fund and to sponsor a student at the annual scholarship banquet. Due to privacy concerns and the possibility that I might miss someone, we are not giving names.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, we awarded scholarships of approximately \$10,000 from the Scholarship Fund. The income from the scholarship fund is used to provide scholarships to residents returning to the program. The winners are selected each spring and announced at the annual scholarship banquet. Our goal is to increase the amount in the fund so that annual earnings will increase allowing us to award more and larger awards.

Members of the board were amazed when students were telling us recently that they were not returning to the program next year for financial reasons. The cost of the least expensive meal plan is currently over \$1,800 per semester.

Contributions to the university are tax deductible as allowed by federal law. If you are interested in leaving a specific legacy as two of our alumni did by creating their own endowed fund to support the Stadium Program, please contact Board president Paula Santa at santa.1@osu.edu.

OSUAA Modifies Membership

by Mary Ann Heft and Craig Little

On July 1, 2012, the Ohio State University Alumni Association modified its membership. All alumni holding a degree are basic members of OSUAA. To be consider a sustaining member and eligible for certain benefits, OSU graduates must make an annual contribution of at least \$75 to any Ohio State fund. Your board of directors request that you consider one of our funds for any gift you are making to be a sustaining member. Contributions to the funds that support scholarships (account number 606878) and ongoing service to the residents (account number 606879) would also be appreciated. You can give on-line at giveto.osu.edu/igive/onlinegiving. If you were a life member of OSUAA prior to June 30, 2012, you retain your full benefits associated with life membership.

This change does not impact 2015 dues for the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society which are \$30.

SSP Mentoring Program, *continued from page 4*

My name is **Kyle Krawczyk**. I'm a female from Norton, Ohio aspiring to be a teacher. I am a 19 year-old freshman student majoring in History on the education track. My goal is to be an Integrated Social Studies teacher for grades 7-12. I may use

my History major to find a job in historical journalism as well. However, I am also considering minoring in English to get a teaching license in this subject. I like to play soccer and run on my free time. I have gotten involved with Block O since being here and love to attend different sporting events and activities. I would appreciate any guidance that you could provide. Thank you!

Hi, my name is **Jeffrey Hooper**. I am a freshman Aerospace Engineering major from Jackson Township, which is located in Northeast Ohio near Akron and Canton. Currently, my career goals are to graduate from Ohio State with my Bachelor's Degree in 4 years and do internships during the summer after my sophomore and junior years, maybe even after my freshman year. I don't know a whole lot about Aerospace companies, but I went to a Boeing information session before the career fair this fall and that seems like a great company to work for. Although I've lived in Ohio my entire life, I also want to explore the world, so I'd like to near the East or West coast after I graduate. I am passionate about travelling, learning, volunteering, reading, trying new things, and exploring new ideas. I actively follow current events, especially sports and politics. I'm looking forward to making the most out of these next four years at Ohio State.

My name is **Max Suddendorf**. I'm a 19-year-old freshman living in Scholar's East. I am currently a Computer and Information Science major and I hope to take that study in the direction of a Bachelor of Arts over a Bachelor of Science degree, but I have not 100% decided that yet. I am not entirely

sure where I want to go career wise, but I am currently leaning towards going into an IT position rather than a coding position in the field. In my free time I enjoy playing Frisbee and chess. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this.

My name is **Miranda Shelton**, I'm from Ross, Ohio. It's the Cincinnati area. My major is currently Pre-dental hygiene, but I was pre-nursing major and only switched to dental hygiene because I didn't get into the nursing program. However, I wish to apply to both the nursing and dental hygiene programs this year. I still need to shadow two different dental hygienists for a total of 20 hours before I apply to the dental hygiene program. Honestly, I would rather get into the nursing program to eventually become a nurse, but dental hygiene is my backup plan.

My name is **Joey Keating** and I'm a freshman Business student with a specialization in Finance. I'm also pursuing a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovations. I'm from Xenia, OH, a small town an hour south of Columbus. I was just offered and accepted a summer internship working with CollegeWorks Painting, where I will be managing my own small business. I'm part of the Global Business Learning Community and FisherDirect student.

Hi! My name is **Andrew Huang** and I am a freshman specializing in Chinese and Finance. My interest in Chinese is inspired by my heritage. While my mother is American, my father is from Taiwan. I have practiced speaking and writing Chinese with my father for many years and enjoy learning because improved Chinese skills mean I can better communicate with my family in Taiwan. I can also connect better with my father and have more refined conversations. My interest in Finance took root during an internship at The College Planning Network, a firm specializing in creating the best financial strategy for

each customer's specific financial standings. I enjoyed the fact that understanding finance could make such a profound positive impact on customer's lives, and I have realized how important understanding finance is in relation to my own well-being and my college education affordability.

In my first semester of college, I have committed myself to several organizations I really enjoy and believe I can make significant contributions towards during my college career. After an eight-week pledge process, I was admitted to the business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi. I am also in the Asian American Association Leadership Development Program in which I shadow the executive board. Additionally, I am an entrepreneur scholar.

My future career goals could include becoming a financial consultant or an international businessman. However, I am still quite unsure of what I truly want to do and would truly appreciate the opportunity to work in a business or financial setting in a summer job or internship in order to better understand what my true passions are. My family is from Cleveland Ohio but my sister lives in Columbus and I would be able to commit to either city during the summer.

Hello SSP alumni! My name is **Caitie Johnson** and I am a first year double majoring in Psychology and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Spanish. I was born and raised in the tiny town of Rushsylvania, Ohio. Other than the SSP program, I am involved in the Psychology Peer Mentoring Program and I work at The Mirror Lake Creamery and Grill. In my time at OSU I plan to conduct original research, get a little more involved than I currently am, and meet tons of new people! I hope to graduate in 4 years and move on to go to law school, with the ultimate goal of being a criminal defense attorney. I could really use any guidance that you have to offer, as I hope to make the best of my time here! Thanks.

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Challenges Continue

by Kristy Mount

Challenges continue as numbers decrease, but with your support our response is strong.

The Stadium Scholarship Program has been challenged yet again, but your board remains dedicated to maintaining the program. In the spring of 2014 we found out that the program had dropped from approximately 100 students to less than fifty. Due to the drop in numbers the program currently occupies just one building (Scholars East) rather than two. The board and the university are concerned with the situation and are moving swiftly and are dedicated to getting the numbers back up by the 2015-16 school year. As the reasons were analyzed it was found that the program is still relevant and important to current students but that there was a disconnect in the process of connecting the appropriate students with the program.

The SSP still focuses on students with a financial need and high academic standards and OSU students need to understand better the availability and value of the program. So, what is changing to make this happen?

Up until now the SSP has not been marketing with the other Living and Learning Communities that service the university. Starting this year, the Stadium Scholarship Program will be featured in the Guide to Learning Communities that is provided to 9,000 admitted students in January. Additionally, Scholars East and the SSP will be included in the March 3 Open House offered to admitted students. A designated SSP webpage will be easier to access and will be linked to the SSP alumni page so that students can appreciate the unique alumni group that they have serving them. Phone banking, emails and targeted post-

cards will also help to encourage students to choose SSP. These efforts are supported by the board through your dues money. Please realize that the board uses your donations and dues dollars to maintain and grow the current program and you are vital to these efforts. Additionally, board members give of their time to attend student events to promote the program. Be reminded also that all alumni are welcome to all events. You should be receiving emails announcing opportunities. If you are not, contact me to be added to the email list (mount.11@osu.edu).

We are very excited and optimistic about these changes and look forward to regular updates from the university as the year proceeds. We have received great support from Beth Fines in the Office of Student and Resident Life and are appreciative of her hard work and excellent communication.

From Ohio to Kenya

by Larry Hohler

When a Kenyan former student approached me 14 years ago to help him take AID's affected orphans off the streets, I had no idea what I was getting into. I had just retired from teaching, and was at the loss for something to do, so I agreed to help. Over the next five years we struggled to achieve 501 C 3 status, locate some land and build an orphanage. In January, 2005, we opened Hope Children's Home to our first 18 street children, almost all of them younger than 10 years old. In the years since the number has grown to over 80, and our effort to support them has expanded to include a farm, a scheme to manufacture and market school uniforms, and a welding operation that produces iron doors and window guards. The income produced by these activities does not begin to cover the growing expense involved in feeding, clothing, and educating our children, so much of our time is spent fundraising. During a visit last September, we were able to observe in a very real way the fruits of our labor. We visited Moses

Miangi, a bright 18 year old who came to us in 2007, suffering from malaria, worms, and malnutrition. He is now a freshman at Kenya Technical University, and hopes to become an architect. Our next stop was Thika, where three of young people have enrolled Mt. Kenya University. On our way to the Home in Meru, we stopped at Chuka University, where Caroline Kathuri is pursuing a degree in Eco Tourism. Our final stop was at Kenya Methodist University, where Kelvin Koome is enrolled in a doctor's assistant program, and Jane Mwendwa is studying pharmacy. Twenty one year old Betty Gakii earned her teaching degree in September, will soon be working, and returning to the Home, over time, the amount we invested in her education. All of our scholars have agreed to do the same.

Helping to develop human capital in Kenya has been the most rewarding activity I have ever been involved in. To find out more, access our website at hopechildrensfund.org.

WELCOME EVENT



SSP residents, staff and alumni take to the field during a welcome event for the Stadium Scholarship Program.

Reunion Weekend 2014

by Curt Mencer



It must have been a great idea! Last year (2013), we joined a couple other alumni groups in the Ohio Union on Reunion Saturday! This year, there were a number of alumni groups who shared the Union, including a fraternity. Apparently, this trend is catching on!

I am not really a social guy – I used to enjoy the quiet of the reunion meetings we had... well, sorta! Truth is, the Ohio Union is such an awesome facility that having our meeting there just makes sense! And... our actual meeting is just as private and intimate and focused on our issues as it has always been. Plus, we have the chance to meet in a state of the art facility! It's all good!



Speaking of issue focus, I appreciate the opportunity to focus on issues facing the program today that we were not concerned about when we were a couple hundred men living in the West side of Ohio Stadium doing our own cleaning! I was a bit surprised to hear that one of the challenges the Stadium Scholarship Program faces is competition from other programs. As I recall – okay that's a challenge but there ya' go – the help I got from my SSD scholarship was pivotal! I mean there would have been no college for me at all, if not for the opportunity to live in the Stadium and serve my fellow residents dinner!

Speaking of the residents, we heard from Noah Zierden. It was obvious to me that this young man represents the nature and spirit of Stadium residents. He mentioned a trip to Philadelphia and the need for us to develop a mentoring program with current SSP participants. If I still lived in Central Ohio, I would quickly step up and be a part of that endeavor. I'm pretty sure my years of living in West Michigan have not dampened my enthusiasm for Ohio State and the SSP! Because of my enthusiasm, I know that I can participate in the mentoring program via e-mail, texting and telephone calls even though I am not local to central Ohio.



The Hall Director, Cheria Dial, shared that 12 events have been held for program participants this year. More importantly, a number of SSP students serve on a half dozen committees and each of them donates 15 – 20 hours of their time in service to those committees! That's impressive!

New President, Kristy Mount, appealed to the group for a Vice-President. Sue Vallera volunteered before the reunion event ended. Kristy shared some memories of John Mount and his enthusiasm for the SSP!

We continue to be honored as an "Outstanding Alumni Society," due at least in part to the focus and dedication of our officers! Lynn Ward won the Archie Griffin autographed football and Ohio State won the game! Great day and great memories! See you next year!!

THE MIND'S EYE

Being blind didn't stop Greg Daniel from marching with the band.

By Dan Caterinicchia | Photo by John Duncan (first appearing in the digital alumni magazine)

Members of The Best Damn Band in the Land must be in top physical and mental shape to complete Script Ohio and other complex routines. One misstep or attention lapse could be embarrassing, even dangerous.

Even after picture-perfect practices, marchers sometimes drift from their lines. When that happens, they use visual landmarks on the field or in the stadium or other venue to regain their orientation.

But what if a band member can't see?

Greg Daniel, cornet player, was a band alternate as an undergraduate and currently serves as co-chair of the Hyper Active Band, a small group of alumni who play at events to raise money for TBDBITL scholarships.

Daniel, 61, has been blind since age 6. To march, he relied on sound, on music embossed into Braille and on his band family.

"I'd listen to people behind and beside me, and that's harder to do when there's 80,000 people in a stadium," Daniel said. "I'd always hope to get someone who could just blow the lacquer off the horn right behind me. It would be like someone else using the rearview mirror to drive forward."

Daniel said his first year in the band was a learning experience, but he vied every week of his last three years for a starting spot. He never did earn a regular spot, but he marched in from the sidelines to play for the last two songs of his final home game, against Michigan in 1974, and then marched off with the band.

Five years later, he marched with the Reunion Band in Script Ohio at a football game, the last time he has been a part of that formation. He held the elbow of the bandmate in front of him as a guide.



Greg Daniel practices with the Ohio State alumni band.

Daniel has tales of broken noses and other injuries suffered during the crossovers needed to complete Script Ohio and other routines. He is no hurry to do it again.

"There ought to be studies done of anxiety while going through crossovers," he said with a laugh.

Daniel attended the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus as a youngster and learned to play the cornet from a TBDBITL alum who was teaching there. When he returned to his hometown of Shelby for his sophomore year of high school, the band director asked him to join the group.

"I didn't know a thing about marching but I knew about memorizing music, and that's what they did," Daniel said.

In his first two years he did concert formations only, but he marched during his senior year.

After being admitted to Ohio State, he contacted the band director and received the OK for a tryout.

Daniel remembers the date: Sept. 19, 1971. T-row with the other cornets. He stayed with his squad and away from the administrators. He wanted to be treated like everyone else and learn the music and formations with everyone else. During breaks, another band member took him aside and

showed him physically what to do with steps and with his horn.

"Anything visually, they would either explain it to me or show me," Daniel said.

He graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics education, and that attitude of inclusion continued into his days as a band and university alumnus.

"'We will help you.' Those were the best four words I heard," Daniel said of his welcome from the band alumni. "But they also allowed me to help them in ways that I can," which has

included leadership of, and service to, the alumni band organizations.

Many alumni play in all three of the bands, which are volunteer groups. The Reunion Band has hundreds of members who play at one football game per season. The Active Band plays year-round at concerts, parades and other events. The Hyper Active Band mostly plays at wedding receptions and graduation parties.

"I always tell them we're the only tax-deductible part of their wedding reception," Daniel said. There is a fee for about 25 minutes of Hyper Active Band entertainment, and all the money goes to fund band scholarships.

Daniel worked for 35 years for the state of Ohio as a computer programmer and software tester before retiring in 2011. He and his wife have two grown children.

Daniel's other family, TBDBITL alumni, continues to grow. "I have made friends old enough to be my parents and young enough to be my kids," he said.

Co-workers used to ask Daniel what he had in common with the 20-somethings he would interact with.

"Are you kidding me? We've got band stories that never end," he said.

Gifts to the Stadium Funds by Mary Ann Heft

Thank you for gifts that were made to the Stadium Scholarship Dormitory Scholarship Fund #606878 and the Stadium Scholarship Dormitory Founders Fund #606879 with your 2014 reunion responses and 2015 dues payments. If you have not contributed in 2015, please consider supporting the Stadium Scholarship program.

The Scholarship fund is our original endowed fund. This fund is used specifically to provide scholarships to students who return to the program each year. In April 2014, a total of \$13,000 in scholarships were awarded for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The Founders fund is used to support current residents. It is used to help buy equipment or pay for other items that the residents or the director requests. Some of the ways this fund is used is to provide finals week care packages, throw a pizza party for current residents, and to contribute to the costs of group events such as Escapade.

To be a sustaining member of the Ohio State Alumni Association and be eligible for certain benefits, graduates must make an annual contribution of at least \$75 to any Ohio State fund. Your board of directors request that you consider one of our funds for any gift you are making to be a sustaining member. You can give on-line at giveto.osu.edu/igive/onlinegiving. If you were a life member of OSUAA prior to June 30, 2012, you retain your full benefits associated with life membership.

The SSAS Board requests that life members also consider making a contribution to one of our funds. Two of our alumni have endowed funds to support the Stadium Scholarship Program. If you are interested in leaving a legacy by including SSAS in your estate plan or establishing your own fund, please contact us at "**Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society**" stadiumalumni@gmail.com so we can help you make it happen.

Thank you for your support.

SSAS Membership by Mary Ann Heft

Over the past several years, the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society (SSAS) has seen a steady decline in the number of dues paying memberships. We are looking for your ideas to grow our membership and make our programs more relevant to you. The annual dues provide financial support for student and alumni activities. Get involved and encourage your friends to also get involved. I challenge you to recruit one other person to join us as members of our alumni society. It will be FUN for everyone.

Dues are \$30 for the 2015 calendar year. Checks should be made payable to SSAS and mailed with the form below to Mary Ann Heft, 3582 Keeper Ct., Columbus, OH 43221.

Benefits of membership:

- Opportunity to purchase football tickets
- Reduced prices for certain events
- Support current program residents
- Receive email notification of events
- Opportunity to reconnect with old friends
- Receive newsletters
- First priority for events
- Reward others with the benefits you received from the program.

For more information about membership, contact Len Kummerer at kummerer.3@osu.edu

If email notification is not good for you, please specify that you would rather be notified by US Mail. Additionally, please consider a contribution to our endowed funds.

The account number for the fund that supports scholarships is 606878.

The account number for the fund that supports ongoing service to current residents and alumni is 606879.

SSAS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ OSU Alumni 9 digit # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ What years did you live in the SSP? _____

E-mail address (please print clearly) _____

Graduation Year(s) _____ Major(s) _____

Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society Outstanding Alumni Awards

PURPOSE OF AWARDS

To honor former residents of the Stadium Scholarship Dormitory or Program (SSD/SSP) at The Ohio State University, whose outstanding deeds will serve as good examples for others, particularly students and young adults.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR AWARD

Nominees for any of the awards must:

- Have lived in the SSD or SSP for at least three quarters or two semesters.
- Be willing to have this recognition publicized as an example for youth to strive to match.
- Nominator must be a dues paying member of SSAS.

Professional Achievement Award

This award will be presented to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and have a superb record of distinguished career accomplishments. Please consider the following when submitting your nomination:

- Career accomplishments
- Professional impact
- Significant publications/research (primary authorship)—*no more than five, please.*
- Community service

Citizenship Award

This award will be presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves in service to humanity and who have best exemplified the university's motto, "Education for Citizenship," by having performed significant voluntary service to their community beyond the call of business or professional duty. Please consider the following when submitting your nomination:

- Service to humanity
- Service to community

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

This award will be presented to young alumni who have demonstrated distinctive achievement in a career, civic involvement, or both. Nominees must not reach their 36th birthday during the year in which the award is to be given. Please consider the following areas when submitting your nomination:

- Career achievements
- Civic involvement
- Age 35 or younger

METHOD OF NOMINATION

- Nominations must be in typewritten form (one nomination form per nominee per award).
- Use of the Society's nomination form is required.
- Deadline for consideration is **Aug. 1, 2015.**

- Nominations must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Alumni Awards Committee of the Society.
- Nomination must be limited to three pages.
- Should letters of support be submitted, please keep them to no more than two submissions. These should be limited to two pages each by persons other than the nominator.

METHOD OF SELECTION

- A committee of this Society, appointed by the Society President, will select honorees.
- The number of persons to be honored each year will be determined by the Committee.
- Selection of honorees will be made from eligible candidates for whom nominations have been received prior to the above deadline.
- Names of persons to be honored will be announced by the chairman of the selection committee, who will be responsible for preparation of a short biography for each honoree. The biography will include a description of the achievements and services for which the recognition was made.
- Winner(s) will be notified by **Sept. 30, 2015** and presented at the annual meeting in the fall (TBA).

SSAS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Please attach your nomination letter to this form and send them to
Dr. Douglas Byers, 615 Copeland Mill Road, Suite 1C, Westerville, Ohio 43081 or email byers.11@osu.edu

NOMINEE'S INFORMATION

Name _____ Yrs in Program _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Award nominated for _____

NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION

Name _____ Yrs in Program _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____