Happy New Year!

I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy. With the start of 2013, I started reflecting on all the new things that our society, program, and University experienced that were new in 2012. For our Alma Mater, there was the switch to semesters. Our society had to rethink our programming and calendar to accommodate the changes that came with that change. Ohio State also saw a new era begin with the hiring of Urban Meyer as the head football coach, and Jonathan Waters as the new leader of TBDBITL. What a thrill to watch our football Buckeyes go 12-0! And did you see any of the band shows this year? I can’t wait to see what kind of halftime shows the Marching Band has in store for us in the future! For the Stadium Scholarship Program, our students were introduced to a community service based work program. I applaud those returning students who had to make the transition not only to semesters, but to the changes within SSP. I know it wasn’t easy, but hopefully, things will become easier as Spring Semester progresses.

Finally, Congratulations to all of you who helped to make the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society a 2012 OSUAA Gold Star Alumni Society! This is a first for our program, and we hope we can continue to make the University and the OSUAA proud. Another congratulations goes to our newsletter editor, Doug Bloss, who was named an Outstanding Alumni Society Leader in 2012. Doug has been working to move our newsletter into the digital age, as well as reach out to alumni who may not know that we exist, and get members more involved. Thank you Doug!

Here’s to a happy, healthy, prosperous, and victorious 2013!
Assistant Hall Director’s Report  

This year I have had the pleasure of joining the Hall Complex as one of the assistant hall directors. I recently graduated from Wittenberg University, with a BA in Psychology, and minors in Spanish and Health Science. I am now a first year Master’s student enrolled in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program. Taking on the assistant hall director position, I didn’t necessarily know what to expect, but I must say that my first semester here at OSU has truly been amazing! Working with the hall complex, one of my responsibilities includes overseeing the SSP program. I have to say that this program has truly come to hold a near and dear place in my heart after having had the opportunity to learn about it and work with the students.

This year we have rolled out quite a few changes, one of them being a community service initiative with “Buckeye East,” where students are tutoring elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as volunteering at Isabelle Ridgeway and the MLK library. The students have made some great strides in their service sites, bringing new energy to the scene, and attaching to kids, helping them realize that their dreams, with hard work, can be achieved.

This year, we are excited for what the fall semester held and what the spring semester will bring. The students this past fall not only immersed themselves in service, they also attended Resident Advisor programs to continue in their community building, along with participating in many traditional events, where they have opportunities to work with other students, while planning and implementing events to enhance the cooperative living environment. Some of the traditional events included the SSP welcome back event, the birthday celebrations committee, the SSP trip planning committee, and the Thanksgiving dinner, all of which went off without a hitch.

Spring semester, we look forward to continued involvement in programs along with the opportunity for students to plan and implement the SSP formal, the trip to Washington D.C., and help plan a brand new event of the year celebration. We look forward to student’s continued involvement in community service. It’s my belief that through the changes that have occurred this year that students will grow individually, adhering to OSU’s mission of becoming responsible citizens, as well as they will continue to make friends that will last a lifetime. I truly have grown to love and believe in this program as it challenges students to get out of their comfort zone, learn to interact with others, plan and implement various events, and grow academically, individually, and holistically.

As we continue to look for the future, we are constantly asking ourselves, the students, and of course, the alumni how we can make the program better and what we can be doing to make this one of the best experiences the students have during their time here at Ohio State. Myself and Jen (the current Housing Coordinator) look forward to adding programs, events, and alumni involvement as we move forward into the next semester and year. We believe in the program where it is at and where there is potential. I can honestly say that I believe the Stadium Scholarship Program is one of the premier residence hall experiences and has the potential to change student’s lives here at Ohio State and in their life after graduation!
With the early start to the 2012-2013 school year, autumn semester started off as usual for SSP’ers with the annual visit to Ohio Stadium. The SSP residents were welcomed by a few of our alumni and then allowed to walk around the field and take pictures. We have had several events within the dorm during autumn semester. Some of the events include a game night, a brunch cooked by some of the residents, and even a visit from a few local police officers who talked to the residents about how to be safe on campus. As usual, the annual Thanksgiving dinner had a great turnout. We had a lot of delicious food and a lot of fun. Even some of the alumni were able to join us for the meal and share some stories with us. The Sunday before finals week, the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Association Board threw a pizza party and gave us care packages to help us with snacks during our study breaks. Recently, about 40 residents took a trip to Washington D.C. and got to see some great sites and even meet up with a few alumni while they were there. Now that spring semester has started, we are looking forward to Escapade, our spring formal, as well as other meals activities that are still being planned!
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 considered a sustaining member and eligible for certain benefits, OSU graduates must make an annual contribution of at least $75 to any Ohio State fund. The board of directors requests 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 online at www.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 2013 dues for the Stadium Scholarship Alumni Society which are $30.
The switch from quarters to semesters has been a topic for the full-time staff at Ohio State for many years, with platforms such as regular “QSU” emails and the myswitch.osu.edu site providing us detailed information throughout the process. However, during the first semester, we experienced some of the anticipated, and some unexpected, changes as we made the shift.

Positively, our students are better able to align their summer opportunities with those being offered by a variety of employers and other institutions, as many internships and other summer experiences are crafted around the semester calendar. The switch will also allow our graduating seniors to enter the job market at the same time as the majority of their peers at other institutions, and allows for students coming in from other institutions to more easily transfer their credits. Additionally, the move to semesters has required that the entire campus participate in a review and redesign of their existing way of doing things. From course content, to student organization traditions, to major campus events and activities, each has been revised to not only fit the new calendar, but ideally, to align with current practices and trends in higher education.

The move to semesters has also presented some expected, and some unanticipated, challenges. From the start of the semester, it was clear that the daily rhythm of campus has changed. There is no longer the set release time of classes that allowed one to anticipate high traffic, but instead the creation of additional courses has resulted in a higher volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout the day. When a perceived higher incidence of accidents happened early in the fall, President Gee convened a Traffic Safety Task Force that reviewed the trend and crafted short and long-term responses to make the campus environment safer for students, faculty and staff. (Traffic Safety Report available here: http://undergrad.osu.edu/Traffic-Report.pdf.)

In the residence halls, several of our communities felt the impact of having our Thanksgiving break fall much later in the year. Students who were homesick needed to wait a bit longer to visit their families, and roommates who could have used a bit of space were in rooms together for a longer period before the break as well. Compounding this, students widely expressed concerns about their adjustment to the semester course load. The Undergraduate Student Senate has raised this issue with the University Senate, stating that students feel some courses contained too much content, or moved at an unmanageable pace. As a result, an appeals committee has been formed to respond to students who feel they have been impacted in a significantly negative way by the switch. To date, 12 students have engaged in this process.

Overall, when considering the many moving parts that comprise Ohio State, the switch has gone amazingly well. Students are quickly adjusting to the new calendar, and the staff and faculty are committed to making adjustment to accommodate the change as we identify new needs.

SSAS Membership Declines 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 2013 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.

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 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.

SSAS Membership Form

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SSAS Membership Form
**Purpose of Awards**
To honor former residents of the OSU Stadium Scholarship Dormitory or Program 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 Stadium Scholarship Dormitory or the Stadium Scholarship Program for at least three quarters.
- 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 April 17, 2013.
- 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, no more than two will be accepted and each must be limited to one page 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 achievement and service for which the recognition was made.
- Winner(s) will be notified by April 30, 2013.

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**SSAS Outstanding Alumni Awards Nomination Form**

I nominate ___________________________________________ for the ________________ Award.  Years in Dorm ____________

**Nominee’s Information**

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Address

City ___________________________ State ___ Zip

Phone ____________________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail address ___________________________________________________________________________________

**Nominator’s Information**

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Address

City ___________________________ State ___ Zip

Phone ____________________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail address ___________________________________________________________________________________

Please submit nomination to Doug Byers (SSAS Alumni Awards Co-Chair) via email to byers.11@osu.edu or mail to 615 Copeland Mill Road, Suite IC, Westerville, Ohio 43081.