



parents and families

WELCOME FROM NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION & FAMILY PROGRAMS!

Dear Parents and Families,

We're pleased to be sending you our second newsletter filled with articles about recent and upcoming events as well as other campus information. You'll find that the students, faculty and staff at SSU are busy with many endeavors and we'd like to invite you to get involved too. Last year, with the help of some parents of current SSU students, New Student Orientation and Family Programs developed a mission statement for our Family Association: "The Sonoma State University Family Association's mission is to build the partnership between the University and families to enhance the educational experience of SSU students." We want to hear from you to help us develop a strong, active and committed Family Association. You can contact us at orientation@sonoma.edu. We look forward to seeing all of you at Parent and Family Weekend in the Fall (see article on page 4).

Sincerely,
 Jacqueline Holley
 Coordinator for New Student Orientation & Family Programs

Fun Facts about SSU

- Deemed "Best Value" Colleges, one of the Best 368 Colleges in the country, one of 25 of the "Most Connected (wired)" as well as being among the top "green" campuses by *Princeton Review*.
- In April of 1994, Larry Allen, graduate of SSU, became the first and only Sonoma State football player drafted into the NFL when the Dallas Cowboys made him their second round pick, and the 46th player chosen overall. In his six NFL seasons, Larry has earned five All-Pro selections.
- U.S. News & World Report ranks Sonoma one of America's Best Colleges (Master's Universities in the West) each year.
- The man famously known as "Jack" from the fast-food restaurant Jack-in-the-Box commercials graduated from SSU in 1979.
- Most classes are relatively small compared to many colleges. Sixty-two out of the 74 classrooms on campus hold fewer than 50 students (84%).

SUMMER CLASS SIGN-UPS AVAILABLE NOW

Classes are being offered this summer (starting April 1) and will continue until classes are full. Session dates include an 8-week session, which lasts from June 1 to July 24; a 4-week session that lasts from June 1 to June 26; and a second 4-week session that lasts from June 29 to July 24. Students that are eligible to attend are continuing students, newly admitted Fall 2009 students, CSU visitors, and concurrent enrollees. Students can take up to a maximum of 9 units over the summer in any combination of sessions. For more information on Summer courses, please visit the website at <http://sonoma.edu/ar/summer/>.

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS TO BUILD HOUSES

JUMP, Join Us Making Progress, is the hub for student volunteering on campus. One of the many programs that JUMP coordinates is the Alternative Breaks Program. This Spring Break, 30 students, 4 student staff and 1 professional staff member will be venturing to New Orleans, Louisiana April 10-17, 2009, to rebuild the Gulf Coast. We'll be working in Saint Bernard's Parish, an area completely flooded by the hurricane. During the trip we'll be working to rebuild homes and restore the local community.

Sonoma State students have dedicated 3 years to working on the relief efforts caused by the hurricanes. Each year student staff organize this trip, working on everything from medical forms to a fun-filled itinerary. This is our second Alternative Break during this academic year. Over Winter Break the program traveled to Galveston, TX to rebuild after Hurricane Ike. We're happy to report that we're planning on having two trips next academic year, as well. One trip will be

geared towards students involved in Greek Life with an interest in philanthropic activities. For more information about JUMP, visit us at: <http://www.sonoma.edu/as/jump/>



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Take Back the Night is an annual event in Sexual Assault Awareness Month with over 400 participants to break the silence. Students are given a safe space to make their voices heard about sexual assault and to be able to "take back the night." Some tell their own stories, while others pass on stories of others. No one should have to be afraid to

walk around at night, or to walk to their cars after class and this event brings awareness to make it known our campus fights back against sexual assault! Take Back the Night will take place on April 28 at 7pm in the Cooperage, and is hosted by the Center for Student Leadership, Involvement, and Service and the Student Advocates for Education.

GET STUDENTS INVOLVED!

With over one hundred chartered student organizations, joining a club is an excellent way to get involved and gain leadership experience. Additionally, serving as a club officer allows students to take their leadership skills to the next level. As a member or officer of a club, students will learn about organizational issues such as membership recruitment, fundraising, running effective meetings, managing conflicts, and

program planning.

The staff at the Center for Student Leadership, Involvement & Service encourages students take advantage of the support and resources available to chartered student organizations.

Encourage your student to get involved in a student organization—it can positively change their whole SSU experience! For a list of clubs on campus, visit the CSLIS website at www.sonoma.edu/campuslife.

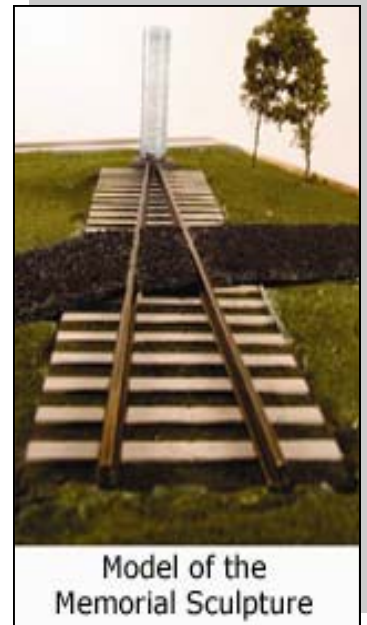


HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A lasting memorial to the Holocaust and genocides in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North America was dedicated on the campus of Sonoma State University on March 29. The monument carries the personal remembrances of survivors of the Holocaust and genocides as well as the relatives and friends of the deceased on some 460 laser inscribed bricks that are part of the sculpture

foundation. The sculpture design consists of two 40-ft long railroad tracks emerging from a gentle grassy rise, crossing a foot path, and narrowing to a width of six inches where the rails disappear into a black granite pedestal and foundation of a 10-ft tall, clear glass tower. The tower, a cylinder fabricated from 5,000 pieces of glass, will be illuminated from dusk to dawn, by sunlight

during the day and artificial internal lights at night. To view a video about the Holocaust Memorial, please visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12BhX_oMQhw To find out how to purchase a brick for the memorial please visit <http://www.sonoma.edu/holocaust/grove/index.html>.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Since the inception in 1961, the Alumni Association has developed a variety of programs and services for the benefit and enrichment of over 53,000 alumni. Every year, over 1400 students join the Sonoma State University Alumni family. Governed by a robust Board of Directors, the Alumni Association supports the campus community through

scholarships and relationships that foster engagement and connection with the campus community. We are advisors to an active student group, the Student Alumni Ambassadors who provide us a direct link to the student body and host the annual "Senior Send Off," our celebration for each graduating class. Our alumni are leaders in government, education,

social work, research and business. Please sign up for our Alumni Newsletter at <http://www.ssualumni.org/econnection.htm> Even if you're not an Alum, we'd love to share with you what we're up to.



GENDER BENDER

Gender Bender is a drag show that the Sonoma State University Queer-Straight Alliance puts on every spring. Club members and other people from the campus dress in drag and lip sync and dance to songs of their choosing. Admission is always free, but donations are accepted. We also have a raffle in which tickets can

be purchased for \$1 and prizes are given away in between acts. Additionally, there is a drag costume contest where audience members can get a prize for the best costume. This year, the show was held on Friday, April 3rd at 8 pm.



SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

New Student Orientation & Family Programs

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orientation@sonoma.edu

Visit us at
www.sonoma.edu/saem/orientation

SAVE THE DATE! PARENT AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Take a mid-semester break and join your SSU students for a weekend of fun, athletic events, art exhibits, Sonoma County cuisine, information, and much more. Mingle with other parents and families, and SSU faculty and staff in beautiful Sonoma County. Enjoy men's and women's sporting events, theater productions, breakfast with the Vice President and Deans, Campus Recreation activities, and more. Parent and Family Weekend will take place on Friday, October 9 to Sunday, October 11. Mark your calendars and check the website for more upcoming information at http://sonoma.edu/saem/par_fam/.

LIP JAM: ONE-HIT WONDERS

Every year, Alpha Gamma Delta sorority holds an annual event entitled "Lip Jam" to raise money for the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation. The foundation donates a significant amount of money to diabetes research and education. Lip Jam is an entertaining event where members of SSU clubs and organizations participate in a lip-syncing contest. The event also consists of humorous MCs, raffle prizes, and an awards ceremony. However, the

focus of the event is to increase awareness about diabetes.

This year, Lip Jam took place on March 14 and the theme was "One Hit Wonders." The selection of songs ranged throughout decades, including "Whip It" and "Grease Lightning." For the first time at Sonoma State, Alpha Gamma Delta awarded two winners by separating male winners and female winners. The male winner this year was the fraternity of Tau Kappa Epsilon. The female winner

was the sorority of Alpha Delta Pi, who did a wonderful job incorporating new and popular songs with well-known favorites.

In the past years, themes have included 1980's and 1990's, which included songs like "Ice, Ice Baby" by Vanilla Ice and "Thriller" by Michael Jackson. Every year, this is a fun, popular, and much anticipated event that brings together the Sonoma State community while raising money for an important cause.

NEW ASSOCIATED STUDENT POSITIONS ELECTED

On March 24 and 25, the campus was buzzing with excited voters. Students elected new student government officers to be held for one full year. The newly-elected President is Heather Hanson, who will oversee the general student body and appoint members to committees, as well as serve as the voice for the students. The Executive Vice

President is now Jenny Tice, who will represent the academic values of the student body. The Vice President of Finance is Nicholas Curry who will oversee the ASI budget and allocate funds back to students. To find out more about the positions, visit the Associated Students website at <http://www.sonoma.edu/as/>.

