

YLF NEWS

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! **March 2-3, 2009** is this year's Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities! This year's theme is: **"You're Not the Boss of Me!" The Road to Freedom, Support, Authority, and Responsibility** and will be at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center.

This is a wonderful conference for you to attend! I have attached a flyer with more information about this conference, which includes information about scholarships for you!

When you register for the conference, give me a call or drop me a note in the mail or e-mail. I'd love to know that you're coming up!

SEE THE ADDITIONAL HAND OUT FOR MORE INFO!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to Trevin (YLF 2005), Jacob (YLF 2008) and Joey (YLF 2008) for helping stuff posters! These Alumni came to the ODDC office and helped prepare a mailing with YLF posters and brochures that will be sent to every school district in Oklahoma!

They worked all morning to finish it and then ate pizza! Thanks Ann for the pizza!



EFFECTIVE LEADERS ARE GOOD COMMUNICATORS

Whenever you're working with people, success depends on your ability to communicate!

—from How to Develop Your Leadership Skills (brochure), 2007 Edition

Some tips on becoming a good communicator:

PERSON-TO-PERSON COMMUNICATION:

- **DEVELOP YOUR SPEAKING SKILLS.** Speaking, whether to an individual or to a group, is a skill that improves with practice.
- **BE "TIMELY."** Present only information that's current and relevant. Also make it a point to be on time and stick to the schedule.
- **PRACTICE GOOD LISTENING HABITS.** Be courteous and pay attention to what's being said. Take notes, and ask questions if you're confused.
- **KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!** Smile! Even if you disagree with what's being said, don't let your emotions interfere with clear thinking. Summarize without injecting your opinions, too.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- **BE BRIEF.** Stick to the subject at hand, to avoid confusing your readers.
- **BE ACCURATE.** Check all the facts before putting anything on paper.
- **KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Don't use confusing vocabulary or unnecessarily complicated explanations.

"COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY"

Communication is the key to developing and using all other leadership skills — because people can't work together without communicating!





YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?!



January Birthdays

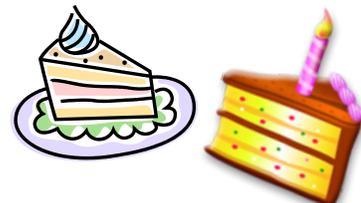
John Paul Reyes—YLF 08
 Loren Drake—YLF 07
 Brett Cunningham -YLF 05
 Trevin Lawson—YLF 05
 Jamie Brewer—YLF 04
 Patricia Hurlburt—YLF 04

February Birthdays

Ashley Snyder—YLF 08
 Rachel Ware—YLF 08
 Rikney Johnson—YLF 06
 Jody Kiddy—YLF 05
 Shanda Moody— Staff
 Chauncey Goff—Staff

March Birthdays

David Goodwin—YLF 05
 Dara Austin—YLF 05
 David Smith—YLF 04



YLF HELLO'S

Hey, Hey, Hey! **Jacob** from 2008 salutes his fellow 2008 grads and staff, **Shay** checked in with the office and says 'Hello' to everyone, **Jessica B** says she's ready for graduation this

spring! (Hey Jessica, does this mean party time at your house?) **Cody** called and said he can't wait for YLF 2009! He's so excited! **Cody** has turned in 15 blue cards as of the end of

December, the most of all alumni! Reminder to everyone: turn in your blue cards for what you do! Let us know what you're using your YLF leadership training for!

GUESS WHO!

Believe it or not, this is a fellow YLF Alumni! Now who is it? Any one have any guesses? Who can be the first to give me the correct answer? You may call, e-mail, or mail your answer to:

Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council
 2401 NW 23rd St, Suite 74
 Oklahoma City, OK 73107

- OR -

Jenifer.randle@okddc.ok.gov

- OR -

405-521-4964
 800-836-4470

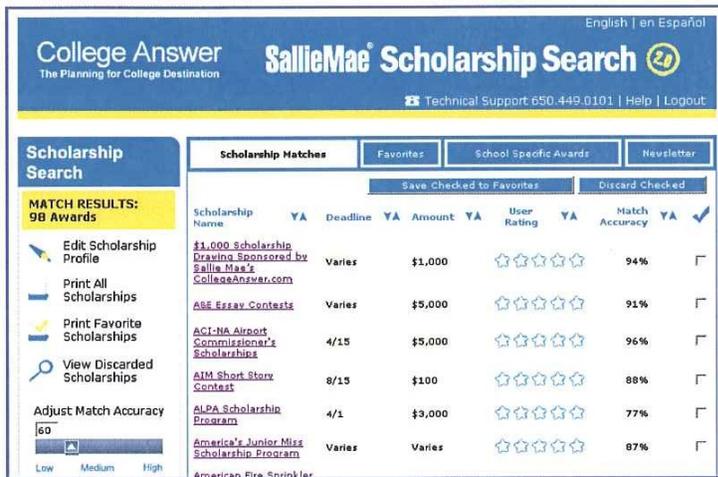


FREE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Sallie Mae's free scholarship search is the perfect solution for everyone looking for scholarships to help pay for college!

Facts

- Easy-to-use without unnecessary questions.
- Database contains over 2.8 million scholarships worth more than \$16 billion with updates and additions made daily.
- A truly FREE service with no ads and no selling of user's personal info.
- Questionnaire profile also offered in Spanish.



Features

Users receive scholarship matches immediately and can use advanced features to help their scholarship search succeed:

- Sort scholarships by name, deadline, or award amount.
- Rate scholarships to prioritize which to pursue.
- Adjust the "match accuracy" to see more or fewer awards.
- View a printable calendar listing all scholarships by deadline.

What our visitors are saying ...

"I've used nearly all of the scholarship websites out there and yours is the best!"
– S. Duncan

"The scholarship search is very helpful and well organized. Thank you."
– J. Handley

"Just wanted to say THANK YOU. Your search helped me find some awesome scholarships."
– M. Ko

"Thank you for not selling out my son's name like most websites. Our family appreciates that your service is really free."
– Sammie

Privacy is important!

Our privacy policy ensures protection of users' personal info. Users using our scholarship search:

- Will not receive unwanted e-mails (a.k.a. spam)
- Will not be subject to intrusive advertising

www.CollegeAnswer.com/privacy

* 2.5 GPA * artists * baking an apple pie * band members * broadcast journalists * C average students * Catholics * choir * chemistry majors * cheerleading * children of veterans * computer science majors * confectionary technologists * cosmetologists * criminology majors * debaters * duck calling * education/teaching majors * engineering major * farmers * financial need * forensic psychology * French speakers * gardeners * golfers * grandchildren of alumni * Greek descent * gymnastics * horseback riding * Latino students * leadership qualities * left-handed *

www.CollegeAnswer.com/scholarships

marketing majors * military affiliation * mibsters * registered on CollegeAnswer.com * nursing * overweight students * people named Murphy * performing arts * photography * poetry * Polish descent * political science * promoted vegetarianism * Quaker * quirky brilliance * ROTC * scouting * sing the national anthem * skateboarding * students with disabilities * studying fungus * synchronized swimming * talented musician * track & field * twins * Virginia residents * vocational education * volleyball * water skiers * welding * wildlife conservationists * writers * yearbook *

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



2006 YLF Graduate Kimberly Peter just checked in with us, sending the YLF Hall of Fame form back and completing the DD Council's Consumer Satisfaction Survey! Kim is staying uber busy in the state of Texas, studying Marine Biology at Texas A&M at Galveston (Texas). She is a member of Aggie Scholars and Tri Beta (a biological honor society). She is on an offshore sail team, involved with Sea Aggies for Christ, and Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network....

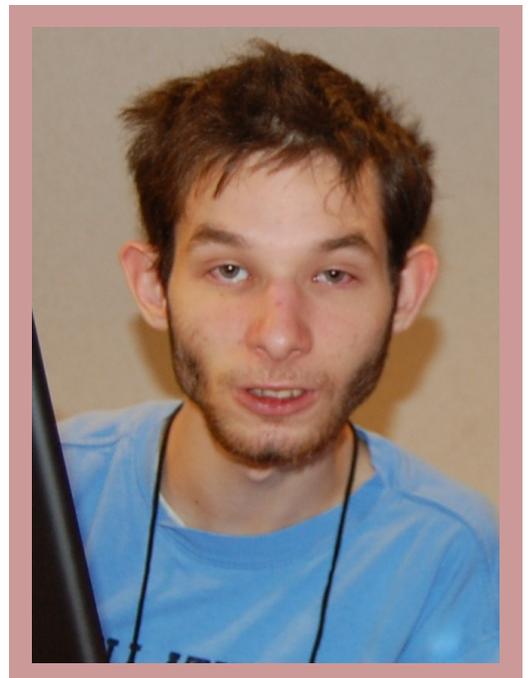
Not only is she staying involved in her community and college, but she is among the top 3 students in her classes!

CONGRATULATIONS KIM & DAVID! YOU ARE SHINING STARS!

2007 YLF Graduate David Blose spoke at this year's Partners in Policymaking Legislative Day in November! He spoke with several others, including Mark Liotta, the council Chair and the Speaker of the House during the legislative debate!

David was the first alumni to receive the NEW YLF Graduate pin because of his efforts!

PS. David...Where is your blue card for legislative day?



VISIT: <http://okylf.pbwiki.com/FrontPage>

About Your News!

The **YLF News** and **YLF Wiki** is **YOUR** connection to leadership, one another, and the YLF.

We want to hear from you! Send your comments, photos, articles, recipes, drawings, cartoons, etc. When you do so, don't forget to send in a "Blue Card!" I'll sign it and you'll be on your way to returning to YLF in 2009!

Send your newsletter or wiki contributions to:

Jenifer Randle
Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council
2401 NW 23rd Street, Suite 74
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Or e-mail to:
jenifer.randle@okddc.ok.gov

Or call me, I'd love to hear from you!

YLF ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT CARDS "BLUE CARDS"

Congratulations to those Alumni who have sent in one or many "BLUE CARDS"! Since the latest reminder, the number of blue cards increased by leaps and bounds... You guys are doing AMAZING stuff in your communities! Continue to share! Here are our blue cards turned in by years as of June '08 (NOTE: Those alumni who mailed in surveys were given a blue card for each survey mailed in):

YLF 2004: **7** blue cards
YLF 2005: **34** blue cards
YLF 2006: **14** blue cards
YLF 2007: **18** blue cards
YLF 2008: **47** blue cards

Here's what some of your fellow alumni have been doing. Help me in giving them

a Pat on the Back!

Brett ('05) has been elected to the UCO Student Association!

Jacob ('08) has been promoted to a Commander position in JROTC!

Rikney ('06) Lead a Group Fishing Tournament!

Jesse ('04) Keeps busy playing guitar in a band for his church!

Heather ('06) Is active in the Moore -Norman Deaf Leadership Club!

Jessica B. ('08) Helped prepare for homecoming at her high school!

*Remember: If you need more blue cards, write us a letter, e-mail us, call us! We'll send them to you!