

Daniel Degallier

201 Second Street West, Suite 012D

Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone | 507.429.0749

Email | degallierd2642@my.uwstout.edu

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Stout Student Association
UW-Stout
Selection Committee, Samuel E. Wood Medallion Award
118 Memorial Student Center
302 10th Avenue East
Menomonie, WI 54751

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to nominate myself for the Samuel E. Wood Medallion Award. I believe I am an excellent candidate for this prestigious award on the pretenses of my contributions to students and to the Stout community as a whole.

I have made myself known in the Greek community on campus as well as in Residence Life through University Housing as an experienced leader and professional student. I would like to be recognized for my leadership positions and contributions during my time here as a student. My experiences at Stout have shaped me into the leader that I am today, and I seek to be recognized for these efforts.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Degallier

Enclosed:
Scholarship Application

I. Campus Involvement

2010 - 2011 Academic Year | Freshman Year

- **UW-Stout, Stout Adventures - Climbing Wall Specialist**

I was able to go on one of Stout Adventures "Freshman Wilderness Experience" trips as an incoming Freshman to UW-Stout the summer of 2010. We spent a week sea-kayaking the apostle islands up on lake superior. Throughout that trip I got to know several of the staff and thought that it would be a fantastic place for me to work as a student. I put my application in, and ended up getting a position as a Climbing Wall Specialist at Stout Adventures. My background as an Eagle Scout and avid outdoorsman really gave me the skills to do the job and I had a great time interacting with staff and students while at work. I also took the opportunity to help teach a Youth Climbing League throughout the year, teaching young kids from the community how to rock climb safely and with success goals in mind.

- **Aspire-Bridge Program**

As an incoming Freshman, I was able to participate in the Aspire-Bridge program with a handful of other students. We all came to campus two weeks early, started two of our classes ahead of time, and did many engaging activities and workshops around campus and the community. This greatly helped me get a jump-start before everyone else arrived. Once they did arrive it set me up as a leader on my floor and community as having already learned some of what was going on around campus.

- **Art and Design Living-Learning Community**

I was also placed into the Art and Design Living-Learning Community as I was enrolled into the Industrial Design program. This gave me some very unique opportunities. I was able to bond far more with my floormates due to being in most of the same classes and studying and doing projects as a group. I was able to connect and lead more on the floor and be there as a resource for others when they needed it. My Resident Advisor pushed me to have a better relationship with him, our Academic Resource Coordinator and Hall Director, as well as our professors and advisors. Being a part of this I quickly noticed that I was getting a much different experience than other students around me, more and more being set apart in what I was doing in school and in my extracurriculars. I became better known on campus as a leader, and soon would take those skills to new endeavours.

- **Campus Crusade (CRU) - Tech Lead**

After going to the student organization fair *Backyard Bash* during orientation week, Campus Crusade (now CRU) caught my attention. I started attending early on in the semester and ended up being able to head up their technology team running the sound and lights for the services and events. I had a great time bonding with members of that team, training other individuals how to operate the equipment, and always put on a professional and prepared setting for those attending.

2011 - 2012 Academic Year | Sophomore Year

- **University Housing - Resident Assistant (RA)**

During my Freshman year throughout all of my experiences, I was noticed by both my Resident Assistant on my floor as well as my Hall Director and was shoulder-tapped into going to a LEAD Retreat sponsored by University Housing. At a camp for a weekend, myself and a group of students from the residence halls worked on finding our strengths, doing team builders, and learning what it means to be a better leader and how we could push ourselves to be a better one. Going into that weekend I had an inkling of wanting to be a Resident Assistant. After I came back I knew it was something I could excel at and enjoy giving back to the other students around me.

I was placed in Fleming Hall for the fall semester, with a student staff of nine and a floor of fifty male residents. This was one of the biggest times of growth for me as an individual and as a student leader. I was only a sophomore and was expected to know everyone's names, room numbers, majors, etc in just a few short weeks. I also was expected to lead these men in their academics when they needed help and enforce conduct if they weren't meeting our expectations. I had to do all of this while they knew I was their same age, and in some cases younger. I quickly realized that I had to step up my game if they were to respect me as their Resident Assistant and as a peer. Holding floor activities and regularly stopping by their rooms I was able to build relationships (a key to my college career) and know some of the problems before they came up on the floor. I had some very trying experiences with staff and management, as well as a clash with extremely heavy course work. I thought maybe the Resident Assistant position might not be the best fit for me after all.

Fleming Hall closed at the end of fall for renovations, and I was transferred with many of my current residents to a floor in Mccalmont Hall. Although I had decided not to reapply for the fall 2012 semester, I decided to stick out the spring semester. I was also joined on my floor by the first 10 Saudi Arabian students in their international program. This was very exciting for me, being able to help my residents understand each other and their habits better while in the middle of some moderate conflicts due to some of the culture barriers. I enjoyed working with the international students and learning about their cultures and being a great resource for them during their first semester in the states. I meshed much better with my new staff team and regretted the fact that I had missed the deadline to re-apply for the position for the next fall. Being a Resident Assistant showed me that I needed to make the most of any situation and find value in some of the smaller things to make what I was doing worth it. Even with all the stresses and conflicts, the Resident Assistant position pointed me in a whole new direction for the next few years to follow.

- **University Recreation - Challenge Course Facilitator (Summer 2012)**

The summer after my sophomore year I decided I wanted to stay in Menomonie and work for the University by getting a position at the Challenge Course with Stout Adventures. As a Facilitator I had a fantastic time with a high-energy staff team working through many hot and exciting days out on the course. We had the opportunity to lead all sorts of groups of different ages and demographics through the low and high ropes courses teaching them leadership and team development skills. Many of the participants were young kids who had many fears of heights or had trouble working with others. It was extremely rewarding to be able to lead them to work and succeed with their peers and see them with new skills and a more positive attitude when they left at the end of the day.

2012 - 2013 Academic Year | Junior Year

- **University Housing - Security Assistant (Fall 2012)**

As a Security Assistant I helped keep the residence halls secure during one overnight shift per week. I kept a close relationship with hall staff and campus police to ensure any threats or policy violations were handled appropriately. This was a very challenging job for my schedule, working overnight shifts while maintaining a heavy course load.

- **Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity at UW-Stout - Founding Member and Vice President of Education**

In the fall of 2012 I was recommended by several faculty and student leaders to be recruited to start a colony of Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity at UW-Stout. I didn't know it was a fraternity when I met with a representative from their headquarters, I thought I was meeting about a "leadership organization" and some people I respected had recommended that I talk to them. I met with them and talked about some of my ideals, morals, life goals, and my answer to our classic question "What would you do if you were in charge of 50 of the best men on campus?" I began to gather that this was a fraternity and began to dig into what they were about. So much of what they had to say to me was nearly all the same as what I had just told them about myself. I wanted to develop men to be better in our world, to promote equality, to have responsible finances, to be a leader to my peers, to excel in my academics, and to leave a legacy. These were all things that Pi Lambda Phi was about. I didn't have a great view of Greek Life as a whole coming into college, or from all of the stereotypes I knew of. Based on this, and knowing that I would have freedom to make it something better and potentially change Stout for the better, I decided it was something that I would regret if I wasn't a part of it.

After helping to find nine other men to help start this organization, we founded the Pi Lambda Phi colony at UW-Stout. I was initiated as the colony's Vice President of Education and Development on the executive board. Now at 34 members, we have maintained the highest fraternity GPA every semester since we started, as well having the best campus relations and service to the community. I will continue to touch on this part of my college experience in the rest of my years here.

- **Rocktekn - Design Assistant (Spring 2013 Internship)**

Worked as a Design Assistant in Adams, WI designing corrugated merchandising displays. My duties included design work, testing, and prototyping, project management, and customer relations.

- **University Recreation - Challenge Course Facilitator (Summer 2013)**

Continued from the summer of 2012.

- **University Housing - Summer Camps and Conferences Assistant (Summer 2013)**

Worked on a large staff maintaining the residence halls and running the front desk operations for camps and conferences while they were on campus.

- **Summer 2013 National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA (Summer 2013)**

I was able to attend Pi Lambda Phi's national leadership convention and awards ceremony during the summer and learn an incredible amount about chapter operations and how to better achieve our goals as a colony. This was a great networking experience and gave me a much better vantage point on the organization and where I wanted to take our colony at UW-Stout.

2013 - 2014 Academic Year | Senior Year

- **University Housing - Desk Services Manager (DSM)**

As a Desk Services Manager I am now responsible for a staff team of 16, including desk assistants, resident assistants, and security assistants. I run the service desk operations in Red Cedar Hall and am responsible for building security and making sure my staff provides the best customer service that our residents can get. It took me several rounds of applications and interviews to finally attain this position, and I am very proud of that. I am responsible for hiring, training, and managing a very diverse staff that involves tasks like completing payroll and other managerial tasks. This is something that no one else I know on campus can say they are doing before they've graduated. The Desk Services Manager Staff across campus won an award from University Housing that year for our excellent training, staffing, leadership, and teamwork as a group of Desk Services Managers.

- **Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity - President**

- **Spring Officer Training Conference in Madison**

Attended a regional training with several other executive boards from other chapters in the midwest, learning how to lead our coordinators and achieve smarter goals throughout the year.

- **Chapter Advisory Board Started**

Set up an Advisory Board comprised of five Stout professors and faculty, chaired up by an Alumni from another chapter. This board has been instrumental in allowing us to move on the goals we need in a timely manner on campus. I was able to hand-pick the advisors and match them up to each of my five executives under myself as President. This gave them much better resources for their branches in recruitment, finances, risk management, communications, and education.

- **"Step Up" Student Facilitator**

I was able to co-lead an evening of discussion with the entire Greek community of over a hundred fraternity and sorority members on campus in the topics of bystander intervention and sexual assault prevention. I was able to be a powerful voice and tactful facilitator in helping the greek community to be better involved in "Stepping Up" on and off campus.

- **All Greek Cleanup (Fall and Spring)**

Among other community service efforts as a part of Pi Lambda Phi, I was able to participate helping clean up yards for people who needed it in the surrounding community. In the fall we rake and clean up yards, and in the spring we maintain a highway cleanup stretch outside of town. These efforts are headed up by the Inter Greek Council, Interfraternity Council, and the Involvement center. We are able to be leaders of the community and shed a better light on the students of Stout by giving back as a whole to those in need around Menomonie.

- **Summer 2014 National Convention in Raleigh, NC**

- **Meritorious Achievement Award (Personal) and Advisor Awards**

I was awarded for my efforts and contributions to my Colony being able to help lead it in the previous year as President. I was also able to nominate and give one of our best advisors and Greek life director awards from our International Fraternity, both of which were the only individuals out of 44 chapter to receive those awards. Our advisor came out to Raleigh to receive his award for his contributions in person.

- **Awarded second best for chapter operations out of 44 chapters internationally.**

In just two short years we were able to get almost to the top with our operations including finances, recruitment, community service, risk management, campus involvement and other areas. We have a goal to come back and win number one next year, which will be quite an accomplishment having to beat out chapters that are over a century old, some with more than triple our members. I am very proud to have been able to lead my executive board and the colony as a whole to attain our goals. This has been nothing short of my proudest accomplishment so far.

2014 - 2015 Academic Year | (Super) Senior Year

- **Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity - President**

My final semester as President of Pi Lambda Phi has been very action-packed. I have been leading my executive board in bringing in the largest recruitment class we have seen so far, as well as raise money for our chapter and our philanthropy. I have been maintaining great relations with the university and our headquarters as we move closer to receiving our Charter as a full-fledged chapter. This is the legacy I want to leave behind, and looking back at the 34 men I have helped develop into better leaders on this campus I know it has all been worth it. I look around and see men heading up other student organizations, in student government, as Resident Assistants and Orientation Leaders, and I know that we are truly developing leaders out of these men. It's exactly what I set out to do, now it is my task to make sure it is steady and in the best condition possible before I graduate and leave it to the men that come after me.

- **Fall Regional Recruitment Training hosted at UW-Stout**

I was able to help our colony of Pi Lambda Phi to host an all-day Recruitment Training session for chapters in the midwest. With over 50 men in attendance, we brought in a speaker and several staff from our headquarters to help us learn new recruitment practices and get extensive hands-on experience on how to grow a healthy chapter efficiently and seek the right kind of members that we wanted.

- **Wall of Hope Event for the Elimination of Prejudice Foundation**

Working closely with my VP of Education, we hosted an event called *the Wall of Hope* on campus to raise awareness of our philanthropy, the Elimination of Prejudice. We brought in a speaker to go talk to several classrooms throughout the first day of the event as well as host a workshop that was open to all students and the community to talk about race issues. Throughout a whole week people were able to come and buy a brick and paint their own messages of hope for the university on it and add it to our wall in the Student Center. We sold and painted 500 bricks throughout the week raising over \$1200 for the foundation. The bricks are going to be a permanent installation on campus highlighting the hopes against prejudice in our community. This took an incredible amount of planning including talking directly with the chancellor, vice chancellor, dean of students office, campus police, and involving many other student organizations to join in our efforts.

- **Community Service**

I have continued in my service to the community through more yard cleanups with the greek community this year. Above and beyond that I enjoyed volunteering my time through projects like Christmas for Kids, Relay for Life, and March of Dimes throughout this year.

- **University Housing - Desk Services Manager (DSM)**

Training has been a large part of what I have focused on this year as my second year in the Desk Services Manager position. I was able to help train in new Desk Services Managers during the first several weeks of school and continue to be a resource for them throughout the year. I am continually challenged to better train my desk staff in new ways and to learn how to motivate them to do their work and provide excellent customer service to the building. I am challenged to manage my time better as my stress level and class load go up nearing graduation. I know this position has helped me push and develop myself more and at the same time bring others up with me into leadership roles.

II. Reflective Statement

1. Please describe the contribution and impact that you have made to your organization(s), university and/or community. How have your contributions impacted the students, university and/or community?

Being a resource for the men on my floor as a Resident Assistant and developing the men of Pi Lambda Phi have been my most impactful contributions. Every opportunity or position of leadership that I have been given has changed me just as much as it has the people I am able to impact.

Through being a Resident Assistant I was able to lead, shape, and mold fifty young men through their second year of college while I was going through it with them. I left those men knowing that I had changed them, or at the very least made an impression on them, of what it means to be a part of a strong community.

Pi Lambda Phi has been my greatest impact on the Stout community. I will be leaving this university knowing that there are good men to lead and continue our mission after I am gone. I will leave knowing I have helped dozens of men realize their full potential and give them the tools to get where they want to go. These men stand for equality and are changing this university, and I know they would be in a different place without me.

2. What makes a good leader and what skills do you value the most based on your leadership experience on campus?

I'm convinced that a leader can take many different shapes. The shape I think relates best to the students and people around me is someone who leads by example; serving, inspiring, and truly knowing those that they lead.

The people that have led me the best and the way I have done my best is by being a servant leader. Not commanding, but serving those around me to lead by example, setting good standards and tracks for others to follow in my footsteps. I also know that in order to really lead someone you have to know them. Not just know their name, major, and favorite sports team, but really know who they are. I want to know where someone comes from, what their passions and struggles are, and what they are afraid of, then I can truly help them accomplish something greater for themselves. Inspiring people is one of the hardest parts of leadership for me.

How do I get someone to believe in a vision that I have? By example, persistence, mutual trust, and passion in everything you do. People don't join ideas or organizations, people join people.

3. How have you personally grown and developed throughout your time at UW-Stout? How will this help you in the future for your personal and professional life?

I came to UW-Stout looking for something and found it, but not before finding something else...I found that I really cared about the people around me before I cared what I was here for. As I move towards graduation these are becoming one and the same.

Leading so many people has not only impacted others, but it has made me into the person I am today. I see differences in people as strengths, fears as motivators, and relationships as the most valuable thing I have. The relationships that I am building and nurturing now are going to be there for a lifetime in some capacity or another. I know now how to get to know someone for who they are, so that we can better relate and work together. Through my time as a Resident Assistant and recruiting for Pi Lambda Phi I can talk to anyone and relay to them exactly what I need them to know. I have the courage now to talk in front of people and lead sensitive discussions and meetings. I'm proud of what I have accomplished, and I am *StoutPROUD* for every experience in the last five years.