

SkillsUSA Alumni

The Journey Continues...



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SkillsUSA Alumni Showcase New Events At National Conference

Special thanks goes out to the dozens of talented SkillsUSA Alumni members who participated in the 2008 national conference. A total of 48 alumni members were officially registered as volunteers, but many others helped national staff or worked with state delegations.

Alumni members volunteered in numerous ways, from serving as escorts for VIP guests to assisting as support staff at Kemper Arena. Others worked in the media room, helped at alumni headquarters or worked in the alumni booths. Still others worked to run the SkillsUSA Championships as part of the management team. Alumni volunteers also supported the delegate sessions and the election of national officers.

Alumni held a breakfast on Tuesday, June 24, with guest speaker **Peyton Holland** of North Carolina, who gave testimony on his SkillsUSA experiences.

The alumni conducted several fundraisers this year, including water bottle sales, a dunk tank, selling raffle tickets, the 5K Race and pin sales. All proceeds fund scholarships and alumni activities.

Comments or Feedback?

Contact program manager *Katie Mooney* at kmooney@skillsusa.org or 703-737-0639.



The SkillsUSA Champions 5K Race was held at Liberty Memorial Park on June 25 with more than 300 runners. Alumni member **Ceara Nordyke** runs, front left.

SkillsUSA Alumni Coordinating Committee Elections Results Announced at Nationals

The SkillsUSA Alumni Coordinating Committee (ACC) represents the Alumni and Friends Association and provides support to national headquarters staff in the area of alumni development. Elections were held for the ACC this spring and the committee members are as follows:

Executive Chair: George Laubmeier of Wisconsin;

Region 1 representative: Kathryn Shannon of Massachusetts;

Region 2 representative: Albert Rice of Arkansas;

Region 3 representative: Peggy Plowman of Michigan;

Region 4 representative: Brice Harader-Pate of Oklahoma;

Region 5 representative: Niki Clausen of Oregon;

Executive Secretary: Brittani Cockayne of Maine; and

State Directors' Association representative: Dara Dubois of California.

To contact any committee member, go to the directory at: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnicoord.shtml



Cameron Ferguson, president of the SkillsUSA Board of Directors, speaks at the Alumni Breakfast on Tuesday, June 24. The event was a highlight of the week for many alumni members, and attendance was at a record high.

SkillsUSA Alumni Pay Tribute to Outstanding Volunteers at Annual Recognition Luncheon

At this year's annual Alumni Luncheon, several longtime SkillsUSA volunteers were recognized.

The 2008 honorees were **Dennis Gehring**, **Pete Rayhart** and **Ranea Hopkins**. All work with the national staff in a variety of functions including VIP escort team, helping with alumni headquarters operations and working at the various alumni booths.

The alumni also recognized SkillsUSA program manager **Karen Beatty** of the national headquarters staff. She

has served the alumni for many years by managing their national database, mailings and helping to coordinate their activities at national conference. Thanks, Karen!

The Pin 'Guy' Gives Back to SkillsUSA!

SkillsUSA is fortunate to have dedicated alumni members like **Guy Wilson** of Kansas. Guy became involved with SkillsUSA in 1990 as a student. He competed at state and nationals, and served as chapter president.

After completing school, Guy became involved with the alumni. He worked with state and national alumni groups, became a Lifetime Member in 1991, and has attended every national conference held in Kansas City. He served six years on the Coordinating Committee. Guy is most proud of seeing the alumni "reach great heights in our growth."

Guy is known for his SkillsUSA pin collection and his love of pins. Be sure to look for Guy and his pins at next year's SkillsUSA national conference!



Guy Wilson



Alumni members **Jim Rhodes** of New York and **Brittani Cockayne** of Maine work the alumni booth at nationals, selling pins and water bottles and signing up new members.

Last Push for Alumni Membership for FY08

SkillsUSA closes the FY08 fiscal year on Aug. 31, and one of our goals this year has been to grow our member database to 5,000 people. Program manager **Katie Mooney** is working hard to tally up every single member. SkillsUSA alumni membership is free and it is open to anyone. Registered members get electronic newsletters, the online version of *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine and other communications. Alumni membership is also open to business partners, contest committees, judges or anyone else within the state organization. Please help us by asking any recent graduates, former members, instructors who are not professional members or others within your region to become SkillsUSA alumni members. To join, go to: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumniereg.shtml

Alumni Facts

- The alumni database as of June 2008 was just over 4,700 members.
- The alumni fund balance as of June 2008 was \$34,994.18.



Alumni committee member **Kathryn Shannon** of Massachusetts helped run many alumni events at conference.