



# The LIGHT

## Good words for Great Souls

BY: ALAN OTHMER

I am Alan Othmer and am the Manager of Education & Transition Services for AbleLight College. I have been with AbleLight for 35 years, starting as a part time job while I completed my education degree at UW-Whitewater. In various roles at AbleLight, I supported the Learning and Development of people served by AbleLight, employees and the broader community through outreach and presentations at seminars and conferences. I transitioned to the AbleLight College Manager role in October of 2023. I am extremely passionate about the AbleLight College experience providing individuals the tools to become independent in both living and working in the community of their choice. I am blessed and grateful to be working with such a talented team of staff members. They have continued shaping the program to suit the interests and talents of the students, leading to students directing their own IGSP's and so they can live more independently, actively participate in their communities, and pursue their chosen career. The AbleLight students and their dedication to self-development are truly inspiring.



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## CUW: Campus & Community Updates

AbleLight students have been actively participating in CUW events, from the heartwarming Operation Christmas Child packing party to our family and friends attending An Evening of Gratitude. These experiences have not only brought joy but also valuable lessons. Through these events, they learned about compassion, gratitude, and the transformative power of generosity. Many of our students took part in the CUW production of A Christmas Carol. This performance further enriched their journey, emphasizing time management, balance and the importance of empathy. These shared moments have shaped them into individuals with a deep appreciation for kindness and communal joy.

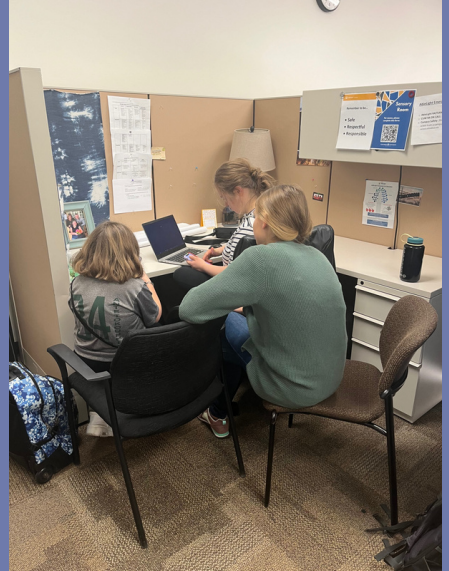


## CUW: Internship Updates

LAUREN HAS BEEN A DELIGHT! FROM DAY ONE SHE HAS HAD A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND AN EAGERNESS TO WORK WITH US. SHE HAS DONE WELL IN UNDERTAKING NEW CHALLENGES AND ADAPTING TO CHANGES. – KATHERINE , LIBRARY

KEEGAN, DIA, ABBY AND NICK ALWAYS PUT THEIR BEST EFFORT INTO EACH TASK AND WORK ASSIGNMENT AND HAVE BECOME RESPECTED MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM". "WE LOOK FORWARD TO MAINTAINING A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH ABLELIGHT AND THE STUDENT INTERNS. – LAURIE, MAINTENANCE

EMILY W. HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN ARRIVING ON TIME AND CARRIES OUT HER IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT REMINDERS. SHE ALWAYS HAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND DEMONSTRATES GOOD INTERPERSONAL SKILLS WITH EVERYONE.– LOIS, OTPT CLINIC





## CUAA: Campus & Employment Updates

Our students continue to practice their employment soft skills in their assigned internships which includes arriving on time to work, following instructions, persevering serving through tasks they typically do not like to do, and learning to advocate for themselves. All our internship partners have had positive feedback and are excited to continue having our students on their team. For campus and community life, students attended a variety of sporting events, pop-up events, and enjoyed partaking in International Education Week. For November's Monthly ALC Outing, students went to Best in Games (BIG) followed by dinner. On this outing, students utilized a number of skills learned in the classroom such as time management, budgeting, appropriate conversations in a public setting, and problem solving. In addition to this, earlier this month Jack Potter, a second-year student, participated in Jet for a Vet, an annual 5K that raises money and awareness for veterans.





## CUAA: Academic Updates

In all of our classes, we have focused on how to maintain personal safety, responsibility, and respect for self and others. Notably, in Independent Living & Personal Development, students have been learning strategies for effective problem solving and time management using everyday scenarios students are likely to experience now and in the future. In Financial Literacy, students practiced creating a mock budget using their anticipated monthly income based on their career interests and researching different common expenses based on where they would like to live after graduation. In addition to this, first and second year students have been learning about how to dress for an interview and practicing questions they may be asked during an interview. Living Well continues to be the highlight of all our weeks as we focus on cardio and strength training.





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## CUW SPOTLIGHT: KEEGAN GLASER



I WAS BORN IN WAUKESHA, WI ON AUGUST 11, 2004. I AM CURRENTLY A 1ST YEAR STUDENT IN THE ABLELIGHT COLLEGE PROGRAM. ON CAMPUS I WORK FOR MATINENCE, WHICH I REALLY ENJOY! ONE DAY I HOPE TO HAVE MY OWN MATINENCE COMPANY DOING LANDSCAPING FOR HOMES AND DIFFERENT BUSINESSES. ONE INTERESTING FACT ABOUT ME IS THAT I COLLECT CARS, IN FACT I HAVE OVER 1,000 CARS.

## CUAA HIGHLIGHT: ERIK SWANSON



HOMETOWN: PINCKNEY, MI  
HIGH SCHOOL: PINCKNEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
FAVORITE COLOR: BLUE  
FAVORITE CLASS: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (CUAA COURSE)  
FUN FACT: "MY FAMILY HAS RAILROAD EXPERIENCE BEFORE I WAS BORN."



# AbleLight College





## ABLELIGHT COLLEGE THIRD YEAR FELLOWSHIP

AS THE ABLELIGHT COLLEGE AND CONCORDIA STAFF & FACULTY PREPARE FOR THE 24-25 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE INQUIRY AND APPLICATION PROCESS IS UNDERWAY FOR THE 3RD YEAR FELLOWSHIP. THE 3RD YEAR FELLOWSHIP IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT GRADUATES OF THE ABLELIGHT CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING PROGRAM WHO WANT TO CONTINUE ACADEMIC, CAREER, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING INSTRUCTION TO PREPARE FOR EMPLOYMENT. APPLICANTS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR SHOULD SUBMIT AN INQUIRY/APPLICATION LETTER (EMAIL OR WORD DOCUMENT) OUTLINING WHY YOU FEEL YOU WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, YOUR CAREER AND INDEPENDENT LIVING GOALS THAT WILL BE BOLSTERED BY THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, AND SUMMARY OF YOUR PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING PROGRAM. APPLICATION LETTERS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO ALAN OTHMER, MANAGER OF EDUCATION & TRANSITION SERVICES, AT [ALAN.OTHMER@ABLELIGHT.ORG](mailto:ALAN.OTHMER@ABLELIGHT.ORG) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2024. APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF THEIR STATUS FOR APPROVAL/DENIAL BY JANUARY 31, 2024.

APPLICATION REVIEW WILL INCLUDE ASSURANCE OF THE ALIGNMENT OF BOTH THE STUDENT WITH THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS THE OFFERINGS OF THE PROGRAM WITH THE STUDENTS CAREER GOALS (E.G. A CAREER GOAL OUTSIDE OF THE AREAS OF FOCUS OF CUWAA AND/OR ABLELIGHT). FOLLOWING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM, FELLOWSHIP STUDENTS WILL WORK WITH THEIR ABLELIGHT ADVISOR IN THE SPRING SEMESTER OF THEIR 2ND YEAR, TO IDENTIFY CAREER INTEREST AREAS, INDEPENDENT STUDY AREAS, AND ANY (OPTIONAL) CU ACADEMIC COURSES THAT WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE STUDENT'S PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE VOCATIONAL AREA OF FOCUS. SYLLABI FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR ARE THEN INDIVIDUALIZED TO THE STUDENT'S AREA OF FOCUS AND LEARNING PLAN. ALL 2ND YEAR STUDENTS ARE ENGAGED IN THE CREATION OF A TRANSITION TOOLKIT DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER, REGARDLESS OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE 3RD YEAR FELLOWSHIP.





## ABLELIGHT COLLEGE THIRD YEAR FELLOWSHIP

### **AN OVERVIEW OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:**

THE THIRD-YEAR FELLOWSHIP IS COMPRISED OF FIVE MAJOR ELEMENTS.

1. INTERNSHIP/VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE(S) (BUILDING UPON THE EXPERIENCES FROM YEARS 1 & 2, A "NEXT LEVEL" EXPERIENCE IDEALLY IN THE COMMUNITY IS OFFERED)
2. COMMUNITY APPLICATION COURSE (CAMPUS & COMMUNITY-BASED EXPERIENCES THAT ARE CONNECTED TO A PARTICULAR EVENT/ACTIVITY EMPHASIZING APPLICATION OF CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS)
3. SOCIAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ON AND OFF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON BUILDING INDEPENDENT RECREATION/LEISURE AND SOCIAL SKILLS)
4. SELECTED CUW AUDITED COURSES (OPTIONAL, BASED UPON AVAILABILITY AND APPLICABILITY, COURSES WILL BE CONNECTED TO CAREER DRIVEN FOCUS AREA)
5. INDEPENDENT STUDY (A SPECIFIC AREA OF INTEREST/PASSION/SKILL BUILDING THAT IS JOINTLY DETERMINED WITH STUDENT AND ADVISOR)

### **CAPSTONE ASSIGNMENT:**

THE CAPSTONE ASSIGNMENT CULMINATING THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR IS THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF A PORTFOLIO INCLUDING EVIDENCE OF PROFICIENCY TOWARD EACH OF THE MAJOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

- 1) CRITICAL THINKING
- 2) CREATIVITY
- 3) COLLABORATION
- 4) COMMUNICATION
- 5) INFORMATION LITERACY
- 6) MEDIA LITERACY
- 7) TECHNOLOGY LITERACY
- 8) FLEXIBILITY
- 9) LEADERSHIP
- 10) INITIATIVE
- 11) PRODUCTIVITY
- 12) SOCIAL SKILLS

### **MEASUREMENT:**

THE OBJECTIVE MEASURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP STUDY AND APPLICATION OF SKILLS IS THE PREPARATION FOR, IDENTIFICATION OF, AND OBTAINMENT OF GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, IN THE COMMUNITY AND INDEPENDENT LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE STUDENT'S CHOICE.



FRI 12/15: WINTER BREAK  
BEGINS- STUDENTS MUST  
CHECK OUT BY 4:00PM

MON 12/18 - 1/6: NO CLASSES

SUN 1/7: STUDENTS CAN  
RETURN ON CAMPUS BETWEEN  
5-8PM

MON 1/8: FIRST DAY OF  
SPRING CLASSES

MON 1/15: NO CLASSES -  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



11/4: MARGARET SWEENEY  
(1ST YEAR)

11/24: MORGAN JENKINS  
(CUAA RA)

12/1: HIRT, JULIA  
(CUAA SSA)

12/16: NOAH LOVELESS (1ST  
YEAR)

12/20: HERTEL, ELIZABETH  
(SSA)

12/24: ABIGAIL CZERNICKI  
(1ST YEAR)

1/6: ANGELA POST (DIRECTOR  
OF ADMISSIONS)

1/6: DANIEL MORRIS  
(CUAA SSA/RA)

1/13: MCKEE, TYRONE  
(SSA)

1/31: JARED DENTON (CUAA  
1ST YEAR)





# AbleLight College

ALAN OTHMER, MANAGER OF EDUCATION & TRANSITION SERVICES

## CUW

ERIK HALLING, COORDINATOR OF ADMISSIONS  
TASIA PINKHAM, CAREER PREP. COORDINATOR  
CAMILLE FRENCH, COMMUNITY & CAMPUS COORDINATOR  
MATTHEW ALCALA, SSA  
TARAH ALLISON, SSA  
ELIZABETH HERTEL, SSA  
TARYN KANNON, RA  
ADELYA KORMONICKA, RA  
ANYA MATTKE, SSA  
SARA MCCORMACK, SSA  
TYRONE MCKEE, SSA  
MADISON SCHMITT, SSA  
MADELINE RASCO, RA  
JADYN VAIL, RA  
BRADYN WINDNAGLE, RA



## CUAA

ANGELA POST, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS  
LAKENA HOHRN, PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST  
ISABELLE ARNOLD, SSAL  
DANIEL MORRIS, SSA/RA  
MORGAN JENKINS, SSA  
JULIA HIRT, SSA





# AbleLight College

DONT FORGET TO LIKE AND FOLLOW US  
ON INSTAGRAM AND FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK!



INSTAGRAM ABLELIGHT COLLEGE  
CUW



FACEBOOK ABLELIGHT CUW

FACEBOOK ABLELIGHT CUA



# AbleLight College

## Campus and Community Events and Outreach

CHECK OUT THE CUW ANDROID APP, CUW EVENTS, OR CUW IOS APP FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND CUW!



CUAA UPCOMING EVENTS ARE POSTED ON::  
[HTTPS://WWW.CUAA.EDU/EVENTS/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cuaa.edu/events/index.html)

