

Outstanding Alum

Nick Taylor



The Office of Disability Services (ODS) recognizes Nick Taylor as their 2016 alumni. Taylor graduated from Wichita State with undergraduate degrees in business administration, sports administration, and a Master's of Education in sports administration in 2007.

Taylor was born with arthrogryposis, a congenital disease that restricts muscular development and affects joints in the body. He uses a motorized wheelchair for mobility. Even though he would be described by many as having a severe disability, Taylor has become one of the world's greatest wheelchair tennis players in the quad division. At the Paralympics, he has won three gold medals, one silver medal in doubles competition and one bronze medal in the singles division, making him one of the most decorated Paralympians ever. Additionally, Taylor won over 100 tournament titles, four U.S. Open doubles titles, and 14 straight World Cup Team championships.

For seven years, Taylor volunteered as director of operations for WSU's Men's Tennis program. He has served as the vice president of Wheelchair Sports Inc. for the last five years, and as an inspirational speaker at high schools, elementary schools, and other organizations sharing his story and encouraging people with and without disabilities to reach their full potential.

"Disability Services played a critical role in my success as a student at Wichita State. Without their note-taking services, test-taking services, computer lab, and overall place I knew I could always go if I needed help, I never would've finished the three degrees that I did," says Taylor.

Rising Star

Shelia Ibanga



This year, ODS has selected Shelia Ibanga as TRIO Day Student of the Year for 2016. Sheila was not chosen because of her degree, grade point average, or outstanding services provided to the university. Instead, she is honored for her persistence in pursuing and graduating in December 2016 with a general studies degree emphasizing in sociology and women's studies.

Her journey to pursue a two-year business education degree began at WSU in 1981. However, this changed to an accounting major in 1994. At the time, she had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was a single mother with two girls ages five and 11.

Her initial studies at WSU were difficult; adjusting to college life meant she was managing a household, working, and studying. She soon realized to complete a degree she would need assistance and found ODS in the fall of 1994. While participating in ODS, Sheila used note takers, escorts, and extended test time.

Although Sheila had many setbacks in her educational plans and personal life, her goal has always been obtaining a college degree. Now, one of her daughters is a college graduate and currently serves in the U.S. Marine Corps, and her other daughter is pursuing a college degree. The ODS staff honors Shelia Ibanga for all her accomplishments.