

Parent & Family Up-date ...

Fall, 2009

Office of Student Services
University of Wisconsin-Richland
Parents & Family Web Page: <http://richland.uwc.edu/resources/parents.asp>

Welcome! Maintaining communication with the parents and family members of our students is important to us and so we offer this fall newsletter as a means of continuing our conversation with you.

Let us know how we can make this site a more workable and valuable tool for you. If there are pieces of information you think we should include on our Parents & Family site, send an e-mail to John Poole at: john.poole@uwc.edu .

Fall semester notes: Now that we're past the first 5 weeks of the semester, students seem to have "settled in" for the long haul. Your student is undoubtedly feeling more comfortable with the rhythm of the semester and is now gearing up for mid-term week (October 15-21).

Here are a few fall facts that you may find interesting:

- Enrollment this fall is at 495 students. Our full-time equivalency is 5% up from one year ago ... and that's a good thing; in fact, we exceeded our enrollment target this fall by 6%. This year's freshman class includes 216 students.
- Former student Terry Sebranek was the featured speaker for the all-campus Convocation used to kick-off the fall semester. The event was held as part of "Welcome Week" and took place on September 11. Terry earned his AA&S Degree at UW-Richland and then transferred to UW-Platteville where he completed his undergraduate degree in business. While she couldn't be here that day, Terry's wife Jenna was also tied into that keynote and was featured quite prominently in his remarks. Jenna is also a UWR alumna and is now in Medical School at UW-Madison. Having successful alumni address students early in the semester, we feel, provides them with a "snapshot" of where they can be in a few short years!
- Speaking of "Welcome Week," we had a large number of participants in our "Passport to Success" program. Through a series of educational and fun activities, the main goal of the Passport program is to encourage student participation so they gain awareness of the university, its people, programs, and places. Students were rewarded for participating, too. We had over \$800 in prizes to award to students who participated!
- Student government elections have taken place and so our Student Senate is now fully-constituted.

- Campus Ambassadors have been selected and are already involved in a variety of events here on campus—not the least of which is the role they play in hosting prospective students and their families.
- The Roadrunner volleyball season has just concluded, as has our coed club soccer season. Basketball practice will start in a couple of weeks and the first games are on November 4.

Mid-Term Week Nears ! Your student is bound to be feeling a bit of apprehension as the infamous mid-term week approaches. This year our designated mid-term week is October 15-21. And as you may know or anticipate, students will encounter a lot of testing during this week. Our faculty will be providing mid-term grade information by Friday, October 23; once they've done that, students will be able to view their mid-terms grades via their PRISM account.

Mid-term time is also an opportune time for students to meet with their advisors to begin planning for second semester. We'll start 2nd semester registration in mid-November.

Have lunch with your student! We hope you know the Roadrunner Café in the Wallace Student Center is open to the public. What's more, you're more than "public" ... you're family! And so, when you have time and can work it out with your student, we encourage you to *take your student to lunch* in the Roadrunner Café! If you have questions or ideas for Laurie Allen, food service director, e-mail her at: laurie.allen@uwc.edu .

Our Associate Degree now offers options: Effective with the start of the second semester, students will have the option of completing their Associate of Arts Degree *with an area of emphasis*. At UW-Richland those options include 14 different emphases; in addition, we continue to offer certificate programs in business and environmental studies.

An "emphasis" is a concentration of coursework in a given discipline, or area of study. Completing the AA&S with an area of Emphasis is not a requirement, but an option we feel students will find exciting in providing an enhancement to their coursework.

Our emphasis offerings include:

Biological Sciences	Health Science	Pre-Nursing
Computer Science	History	Psychology
Education	Literature	Theatre Arts
Engineering	Mathematics	Writing
Environmental Studies	Philosophy	

We'll be talking with students a lot about this new option, especially once advance registration begins.

Campus Safety: Safety is a common and constant discussion item on campuses nationwide—and UW-Richland is no exception. From fire drills to tornado drills ... to

issues related to protocol for other security-related issues ... we are continually working to assure that ours is a safe and secure environment; or, at least, as safe and secure as is practicable in these times. We continue to emphasize to students the importance of checking their university e-mail regularly: this is our official mode of communication on campus.

Our campus-wide emergency notification system is operational and, in fact, was demonstrated to students on September 10.

And, for your information, our latest Campus Security Report is now available at this site: www.uwc.edu/students/security/rlnasr.htm .

Wellness Newsletter for Students : By following the link below, you can access the October issue of the “Student Health 101” wellness newsletter sent via e-mail to all UWR students. This is part of an on-going effort by the UW Colleges Alcohol & Other Drug Education office.

<http://readsh101.com/uwrichland.html>

Caring for your student is a major focus of what we do—and that “caring” extends far beyond the classroom.

Campus Counseling Services: All UWR students are eligible to take advantage of *free* mental health counseling services through our Campus Counseling Services Office. We have contracted with Richland County Health & Services counseling staff to provide on-campus services for our students. On-campus office hours are 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Thursdays and students can take advantage of the downtown walk-in clinic, as well. In addition, there is a 24/7 crisis line available by calling (608) 647-2106.

David Dati, LCSW, LMFT, a clinical therapist with Richland County H&HS, is providing services for our students. He will also be doing educational programming for students and staff each semester.

Funding for the counseling services has been made available through student fees.

Fall Campus Preview: UW-Richland is always eager to host interested, prospective students. And, while almost any weekday can be a “personal preview day” here at UWR, we do host one group preview program each semester. This fall’s event is slated for **Wednesday, October 28, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** While primarily designed for high school seniors, the program is open to all interested persons.

And so, if you have another family member who’s considering college—or know of someone for whom UWR is a good match—encourage them to register for our group preview day. Individuals can register on-line via our website: www.richland.uwc.edu .

If the group preview isn't an option, be sure to let potential students know we can host a personal preview day for them, too.

Winterim Registration is Underway: The semester break (Dec 23-Jan 25) can be too long a break from classes for many of our students. For those students the opportunity to focus on one class during a 3-week period in January is a great way to either work ahead on credits ... or catch up. The UWR Winterim runs from January 5-22 and offers three options for students:

History 290, History of Wisconsin
Physical Education 210, Theory of Coaching
Physics 107, Foundations of Physics

NEW THIS YEAR: Students living in the residence halls will be able to remain in the residence halls if they are enrolled in a Winterim class. The additional fee is \$14 per day.

Some up-coming events :

- **Concert Series Presents “Rabbit Ears” – Sunday, October 18**
Flute/Classical Guitar Duo in Concert – free to UWR students
- **UWR Theatre Department presents, “Voice of the Prairie”**
Free student performance on Thursday, October 22. Public performances at 7:30 p.m. on Friday & Saturday, October 23 & 24; 2:00 matinee on Sunday, October 25.
- **Love of Learning Lecture Series: “Health Care in Wisconsin”**
Monday, October 26 -- 6:30 p.m. – Pippin Conference Center
- **Love of Learning Lecture Series: “Ghosts, Monsters & Legends of Wisconsin”**
Thursday, October 29 – 7:00 p.m. – Pippin Conference Center
Presented by Todd Roll, Paranormal Investigator AND UWR Library Director
- **Roadrunner Basketball Season Opens at Home – Wednesday, November 4**
Vs. Fox Valley Tech (Women’s Game @ 5:30 / Men’s Game @ 7:30)
- **Fall Transfer Fair – Tues., Nov. 3– 11:00-1:00 / Student Center**
Students talk with representatives from 4-year schools as they develop their transfer plans; 16 institutions will be represented.
- **Advance registration for 2nd Semester begins – November 11**
\$100 Advance Tuition Deposit due prior to registration.
Students are required to meet with their academic advisor & pay a \$100 Advance Tuition Deposit prior to registering.

- **Class “drop” deadline for semester long classes – November 10**
Students are allowed to drop classes without penalty through the 10th week of classes; November 10 ends the 10th week this semester.

To stay in-the-know regarding campus events, use this link and check monthly activities:
<http://richland.uwc.edu/events/default.asp>

Concerned about issues facing your student? College is a time of change; and, if you haven’t already, you’ll undoubtedly notice change in your student in the weeks and months ahead. Just as you saw your student go through various developmental stages in elementary, middle, and high school ... so, too, will you see them go through developmental stages in college; fortunately, most will be positive. It’s also quite likely your student has stumbled a bit already—issues with roommate adjustment, perhaps a poor grade on the first test in a particular class, or some other issue. Knowing how and where to access resources to help in these situations is part of the learning process—and you can help.

If concerns develop, encourage your student to contact his/her academic advisor ... or a counselor in Student Services. We’re here to help them learn from these early stumbles so the stumbles are one-time events. The first semester in college can be the toughest because of all the transitions—not the least of which is the realization that college is *a lot of work*. We do have resources here on campus and nearby to help students in virtually any situation.

Why can’t we tell you about your student’s progress? It’s because of a piece of federal legislation known as FERPA.

FERPA stands for the Federal Educational Rights & Privacy Act and is legislation that protects a student’s right to privacy. While FERPA restricts what we can share with you regarding attendance and progress issues *without a signed release from your student*, we encourage you to contact us when/if concerns arise. Your call will set into motion a series of proactive steps on behalf of the student.

And, if you and your student decide having a signed release is the way to go, have him/her stop in Student Services and we’ll provide the form. Once a student has completed the release, we can share information with you per the student’s wishes.

Looking way ahead -- The last day of classes will be December 15. Final exams begin on Thursday, December 17.

Questions? When you have questions or need information, please contact us. The Student Services staff contact information is found on the Parents & Family web page under “Resources.”