



PARENT & FAMILY UP-DATE ...

Spring, 2012

Office of Student Services
University of Wisconsin-Richland

Parents & Family Web Page: <http://richland.uwc.edu/resources/parents.asp>

Realizing we have new families in our midst, some items in this newsletter have been reprinted from the fall edition.

eALERT SYSTEM TO BE ACTIVATED: While we had anticipated implementation of the new e-mail and text message **eAlert** system in the first semester, various issues precluded its implementation, but ... systems are now “go” for what appears to be an implementation of the system yet this month (February).

Students, faculty, and staff have been receiving reminder notices about the new system, particularly if they wish to receive **text messages** as part of the alert system. If they wish to accept text messages, they must enter their cell phone number in their PRISM account and indicate it as a cell phone number.

The **eAlert** is intended to inform members of the campus community of any weather or other emergencies that impact the campus as a whole; the system will not be used in notifying students of cancellation of a single course, for example.

When you talk with your student, you might ask if they’re aware of this new **eAlert** system ... and if they’ve added their cell # to PRISM.

SECOND SEMESTER NOTES: The week of February 20 marks the 5th week in the semester, so the semester is already about one-third complete. Students are beginning to hear words like ... drop deadline, mid-term, advance registration for summer & fall classes, and everyone’s favorite: **spring break**. We think that last one resonates most positively with them!

Recent days have seemed somewhat “balmy” for wintertime and, while we hope the trend continues, we also realize Old Man Winter can rear his ugly head at almost any time.

And so, when and if weather concerns cause travel difficulties, how does your student find out about weather-related cancellations? The primary mode of communication is **university e-mail**. Weather-related announcements are also made on the local radio station, WRCO AM/FM, but e-mail is the quickest and most sure-fire way for us to get the word out.

Through all of this our admonition to students is simply this: use your own discretion in determining whether or not it is safe to drive to campus. We never want a student to risk safety just to get to class. We tell students to think of school as they would their work and in the wake of inclement weather ask this question: would I go to work today?

CONTINUING THE CAMPUS SAFETY THEME We feel very fortunate that UW-Richland is a safe and secure campus community. Despite that fact, we aren't naïve enough to think "that" can't happen here.

We remain ever vigilant in our effort to keep UWR a place where students come to learn, grow, enrich, and expand their horizons in a safe and comfortable environment.

Our campus **Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)** meets monthly—and more often if need be. BIT is present on our campus as a means of maintaining that vigilance.

Even though the "Is My Child Safe on Campus?" article was placed on the Parents & Family page a year or more ago, the information included in it is as relevant today as it was then. Most of what is written pertains to our campus. We encourage students to be careful, to be aware of their surroundings, to not walk alone at night ... to lock their doors. You may want to take a look at the article for more detail.

We are in very close contact with local authorities and receive their input and support on a regular basis. In fact, the Chief of Police for Richland Center is a member of our **Safety Committee**.

Want to check out our Annual Security Report? Use this link:
<http://www.uwc.edu/students/security/rlnasr.pdf>

We will continue to do everything we can to help assure the safety of every member of our university community.

UWR ASSISTS IN VOTER ID PROCESS: UWR students who are eligible to vote in Wisconsin and who do NOT have the proper documentation now required for voting, are able to obtain that documentation by contacting the Student Services Office. For those students needing documentation, our office is now equipped to provide the Government Accountability Board-approved photo identification card, as well as the enrollment verification form. Of course, this service is provided at no cost to the student.

ENHANCING THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE: The AA&S Degree **With Emphasis** option is gaining significant interest among students. Launched a couple of years ago, an Emphasis is a concentration of coursework in a given discipline, or area of study. Completing an AA&S Degree with an area of Emphasis is not a requirement; rather, it is an option for students to enhance the overall associate degree. The emphasis areas are in addition to certificate programs in Business & Environmental Studies which have been available to UWR students for a number of years; a certificate program is comparable to the emphasis areas, although completion of a certificate does not require completion of the AA&S Degree. UW-Richland now offers 19 different emphasis options:

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

CAMPUS COUNSELING SERVICES: This item is reprinted from the fall newsletter, in the event you didn't have a chance to read it.

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 & Human Services counseling staff to provide on-campus services for our students. On-campus office hours are 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday; students can take advantage of the downtown walk-in clinic, as well. In addition, there is a 24/7 crisis line available by calling (888) 552-6642.

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.

MID-TERM WEEK APPROACHES: The infamous "mid-term week" is not far off. March 5-9 is "mid-term" this semester ... and means an abundance of stress for students. Tests, due dates for papers, special class presentations combine to make mid-term week one students are glad to see pass.

Faculty will record mid-term grades by noon on Wednesday, March 14th, at which time students will be able to view their mid-term grades via their PRISM account. As with final grades, mid-term grades are not mailed. As indicated, students will have access to grade information online.

Mid-term time is also time for students to be in contact with their academic advisor. We see this as a prime opportunity for student and advisor to meet ... discuss progress ... and plan for the next semester—and beyond.

ADVISORS REACH OUT TO STUDENTS: Every degree-seeking student has an assigned academic advisor. The advisor is a key resource person for the student, able to answer basic and rudimentary questions regarding appropriate course selection; assist in monitoring associate degree progress; provide helpful insights and references for academic and career-related interests; and, in general be a guide and mentor.

A special post card mailing is scheduled for mailing to all students the week of February 20, asking them to be sure and check their university e-mail for a special message from their advisor. We are surveying our students now to determine their plans for fall ... and to encourage their return.

Perhaps you'll see the post card. We want our students to know we value and appreciate the confidence they place in us—and that we hope they'll be back with us in the fall.

During spring break week, a second post card mailing takes place as we remind students about advance registration for fall ... and let them know, as well, that a 5th semester at UWR may be a good thing, particularly if it means completing the Associate of Arts & Science Degree. Having an associate degree at transfer has very distinct advantages in terms of overall degree progress, so returning for a fifth semester is often well worth the investment.

SPRING BREAK WEEK IS MARCH 19-23: Spring Break 2012 will be the week of March 19-23. Therefore, as of the close of classes on Friday, March 16, students will have a respite from the daily grind and will return to campus on Monday, March 26. Campus View residents will need to check-out by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16, although for students involved in the campus theatre production that weekend, special arrangements for the weekend may be possible.

SUMMER SESSION @ UW-RICHLAND: This year's UWR Summer Session offers:

- 3-Week Session
- 6-Week Session
- 7-Week Session
- Student housing will be available for interested students.

Many students find summer the ideal time to work ahead on courses and credits, or to catch up. Summer is a whole new ballgame when it comes to classes. It can be the prime time to focus on that one course that gives a student a major headache (math, anyone?) ... or to explore new options not otherwise available during the academic year.

Financial aid may be a possibility as well. Students should consult with Kari Bartels or John Poole in Student Services to find out details.

If you'd like to see what's available this summer here on campus, please go to our website (www.richland.uwc.edu) and click on "Course Schedules" in the navigation bar. Offerings on campus are complimented very nicely with online opportunities as well. Registration opens on March 1.

FINANCIAL AID FOR 2012-13: Chances are you and your student have either completed or started the financial aid application process for the 2012-13. The renewal application makes re-application for financial aid much easier; plus, it's always easier to do something the second time.

The application priority date for UW-Richland is April 1. *Priority* just means that students who file by that date will be given first consideration in the aid review process. We encourage students to file 2-3 weeks prior to the Priority Date if at all possible. **Applying for financial aid is something that students need to do every year.**

This past year many students found out—quite painfully—how late application can be detrimental to their financial health. Funds in the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant program were depleted as of June 10, meaning students applying June 11 and thereafter would not receive WHEG funding even if they were eligible. It's likely WHEG funds could run out even sooner this year. **Message? Apply early!**

\$100,000 For UWR STUDENTS! Through the generosity of some wonderful benefactors this past year, our scholarship endowment now exceeds \$1 million ... and that means we will be awarding over \$100,000 in scholarships to new, continuing, and transferring UWR students. That's an impressive number.

The application deadline is April 1. Scholarship materials are available in the Student Services Office and also available via the UWR website: www.richland.uwc.edu.

A WORD ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES: Just as a student should not have to pay to apply for financial aid, s/he should NOT pay to apply for scholarships. There are a lot of "too-good-to-be-true" offers out there ... and, generally speaking, that's precisely what they are: too good to be true.

Every year the Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection in Wisconsin issues a number of scholarship scam alerts, so you need to be very careful.

Our best advice? Avoid fee-based searches.

There are many FREE scholarship searches students can use. One of the most common is the fastweb scholarship search with well over \$1 billion in scholarships. The web address for fastweb is: www.fastweb.com.

SPRING EVENTS: Once mid-term time and spring break have passed, the semester will literally *fly*. Here are some of the activities your student will be able to take part in during the coming weeks—and you’re invited, too!

February 16:	<i>Love of Learning Lecture, “Conservation & Buddhism in Thailand” / 6:30 pm / Pippin Conference Center</i>
February 26:	<i>Richland concert Series presents Gabriel Bolkosky, Classical/jazz violinist / 2:00 pm</i>
March 1:	<i>Summer Session registration begins</i>
March 1 & 8:	<i>Love of Learning Lecture, “Mars Returns / Return to Mars” / 6:30 pm / Pippin Conference Center</i>
March 3:	<i>Alumni Association Homecoming Events, including 5:30-7:30 pm reception for Charter Faculty & Deans</i>
March 10:	<i>Continuing Education Office presents “Silent Saturday,” part of the series devoted to films of the silent era.</i>
March 16-18	<i>UWR Theatre Department presents “Almost, Maine” 8 pm on March 16 & 17; 2 pm on March 18. Coppertop Theatre</i>
March 19-23:	<i>Spring Break Week</i>
March 25:	<i>Concert Series presents “Wisconsin Brass” / 2 pm</i>
April 1:	<i>2012-13 Scholarship Application Deadline</i>
	<i>2012-13 Priority Date for Financial Aid Application</i>
April 6:	<i>Deadline for dropping full-term classes</i>
April 2-6:	<i>Richland ROCKS Week (See item below)</i>
April 22:	<i>Concert Series Presents “Atz & Pomolova” / 2pm</i>
April 27:	<i>41st Annual Roadrunner Road Rallye</i>
May 4:	<i>Graduation & Awards Night</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. / Coppertop Theatre</i>
May 19:	<i>Last Day of Classes for the Semester</i>
May 10:	<i>Study Day</i>
May 11-17:	<i>Final Exam Week</i>

(Concert Series events are open to students free with presentation of their UWR photo identification card.)

The listing above is not all-inclusive, but gives you a pretty good idea about the kinds of activities offered on campus during the coming weeks. In addition, there are intramural and open gym activities, including the spring softball league; the activities available through the Symons Recreation Complex; and, so much more.

WHAT’S “RICHLAND ROCKS WEEK”? For over 10 years now, the Office of Student Services has sponsored a spring semester event known as “ROCKS Week.” The entire focus of this week-long series of activities is aimed at retention; in other words, connecting with our students to let them know we want them back in the fall—if, of course, that’s an appropriate option for them. Each day of the week is assigned a letter from the word ROCKS. This year’s ROCKS Week is April 2-6.

- R** Registration Amnesty Day. In other words, we allow any currently enrolled student to sign up for fall classes on the first day of ROCKS Week (April 2). Normally a priority registration calendar is in place, allowing students with the most earned credits to register first, but on **R** day ... anyone is eligible (as long as the \$100 Advance Tuition Deposit has been paid and they've met with their advisor).
- O** Options for Majors is the theme this day as colleagues from various 4-year campuses join with faculty here to highlight programs, requirements, and other important aspects of key academic majors, including education, allied health, natural resources, criminal justice/pre-law, business, as well as a special session for undecided majors. This is an excellent opportunity for your student to learn more about his/her chosen field ... and to connect with key advisors from key transfer campuses.
- C** Caring for Yourself. The 'C' in ROCKS will allow us an opportunity to help students focus on taking care of themselves ... financially, psychologically, physically. We know success in the classroom can't happen if students aren't well in all aspects of their lives.
- K** Kwack, the Scholarship Duck Race! Yes, this is a very fun event. Eligible students who have submitted scholarship applications by April 1 will have a duck entered in the duck race—and at noon on April 5, the ducks will be ceremoniously dumped into the waters of Brush Creek. The winning duck wins its owner a \$200 scholarship.
- S** Sundaes in Student Services. The final event of the week features an “open house” in the Student Services office where we highlight programs like the Guaranteed Transfer Program—and then offer all comers a delicious ice cream sundae, complete with homemade chocolate & caramel toppings!

“TASTE OF UW-RICHLAND” SPRING PREVIEW DAY: 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 spring’s event is slated for **Wednesday, April 25, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** While primarily designed for high school juniors and seniors, the program is open to all interested persons, especially parents.

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.

CONCERNED ABOUT ISSUES FACING YOUR STUDENT?

Knowing how and where to access resources to help in these situations is part of the learning process—and you can help. If you have concerns, encourage your student to

contact his/her academic advisor ... or a counselor in Student Services. We're here to help them!

As many of you realize, the Federal Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents us from sharing academic information with you ... unless the student has completed a release form and filed it with Student Services. If your student would like a release form, have him/her contact Student Services, or access the form which is now available via the Parents & Family webpage.

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."

**THANK YOU FOR BEING AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE
UNIVERSITY.**