Exciting things happening at UWR

If the “rolling stone gathers no moss” adage is true then a UW-Richland stone would be absolutely free of any and all such growth! Among some of the exciting things we’re working on:

- **Chinese Connection:** Dr. Patrick Hagen, CEO/Dean, hosted a delegation from Yueqing, China, in early November. Nearly two years in the making, the visit culminated with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will foster curricular and student exchanges in the coming years. A city of 1.2 million, Yueqing is also now a sister city with the City of Richland Center. The MOU was signed at the Pyle Center in Madison and was followed by a visit to the Governor’s Office.

- **Flexible Degree Option:** You’ve probably read about the UW System initiative to offer a more flexible, competency-based approach to earning a college degree. Set to start with some courses available in the Fall of 2013, two UW System institutions are busily planning for implementation; the UW Colleges will offer its AA&S Degree in this model, while UW-Milwaukee will offer four degree programs and one certificate program in the model. The UW System already offers 4,600 online courses and 120 online degree programs, but not a flexible option for students to work at their own pace and take as many courses as they can finish for a flat fee. This particular initiative will be very innovative, utilizing the latest in educational technologies and assessment practices.

- **Higher Learning Commission:** Early in November, an evaluation team from the Higher Learning Commission conducted its 10-year accreditation review of the UW Colleges, with evaluators visiting every campus. While final results of the review won’t be known until February, all signs point to a very favorable and enthusiastic result. Evaluators were conducting their regular 10-year review, as well as a review of two other considerations: the Bachelor of Applied Arts & Science Degree (BAAS) and the change in our mission statement to reflect the fact we will now offer a bachelors degree.

- **BAAS:** Speaking of the Bachelor of Applied Arts & Science Degree … we continue to plan for the initial “launch” of this new degree program, starting in Fall 2013. Joanna Muller joined our staff in July of this year and serves as the Professional Experience Coordinator for the program. As such, Joanna is responsible for the creation, coordination, and oversight of the campus service-learning and internship placements.

- **Streaming Courses:** Several UWR professors have begun utilizing streaming technologies available on campus as a means of delivering portions of their classes.
Streaming courses feature recorded, multimedia lectures which are accessed via the web using streaming video technology.

Is that all, you ask? No, as a matter of fact, but perhaps it will demonstrate that there’s no such thing as stagnation on a college campus!

Enrollment up-dates & student body facts

Enrollment this fall is 521 students, including a new freshman class of 200 students (nearly 15% more NF than a year ago!). At 521 students, UWR recorded its 3rd highest enrollment in history.

Here are a few additional enrollment stats for your consideration:

56% of our students are full-time students
54% are female; 46% are male
83% of our students are 16-21 years of age
16% of our students are 22 years of age and older
7% are age 30 and older
36% are from Richland County, but 19 other Wisconsin counties are represented, too
2 Out-of-state students come from Minnesota
34 international students represent 14 different countries (Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Georgia, Hong Kong, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Switzerland, and Vietnam)

Of significance:

➢ UW-Richland enrolled 4 valedictorians again this fall, the second highest number in the UW Colleges.
➢ Our 36 non-resident students comprise the largest number of non-residents in the UW Colleges.

Enrollment in the UW Colleges this year is at 14,162.

Fall semester comes to an end

Friday, December 14, is the last day of classes on campus; Final exams begin on Saturday, December 15 and conclude on December 22. Second semester classes begin on January 25.

We will offer one course during a three-week period in January known as Winterim. And, while there will be no classes during the semester break, our office will be open during normal office hours each weekday. The only exceptions will be:

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<td>Mon. and Tues., Dec. 31 &amp; Jan 1:</td>
<td>New Year’s Holiday. Campus closed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan 21:</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day: Campus closed.</td>
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Academic Alliance 2.0 program expands

Pictured above are some of our Alliance partners, including, left to right: Lisa Scofield, River Valley; Jamie Jones, Richland Center, shown with collaborating partner Dr. Amanuel Teweldemedhin, UWR; and, Britni Walz and Maureen Young, Sparta.

What was a pilot program in two high schools last year has now grown to a much grander version of this dual-credit program, involving students from 6 area schools: DeSoto, Iowa-Grant, Mauston, Richland Center, River Valley, and Sparta. Ithaca High School is also an AA 2.0 partner, but offers its course on an every-other-year basis.

We had 98 students enrolled in dual-credit courses this fall; 4 new classes will start up in January. Dr. Karen McLeer, associate dean and associate professor of English, is coordinator of the program. She says discussions are underway with several new schools and so the program’s growth will most certainly continue.

What’s unique and interesting about this program?

➢ Students earn both high school and university credit without leaving the high school building.
➢ The high school instructor meets UW Colleges credentialing requirements and is, in effect, functioning as both the high school and UW-Richland faculty member. The high school faculty member works with a UW-Richland faculty liaison.
➢ Students pay 50% of the normal tuition; student segregated fees are waived. This year a 3-credit course cost $296.91 and that is based on the $98.97 per credit fee.
➢ Your school doesn’t need to alter its curriculum at all.

For more details, check out the AA 2.0 page on our website. Check it out: http://richland.uwc.edu/academics/academic_alliance.asp. Dr. McLeer can be reached at: karen.mcleer@uwc.edu.
Guaranteed Transfer Program continues popularity @ UWR
Since its inception more than a decade ago, nearly 1,000 UW-Richland students have signed “intent to participate” forms in the Guaranteed Transfer Program. While its greatest impact is seen at UW-Madison and UW-LaCrosse, GTP provides that transfer “peace of mind” for students heading to any four-year UW System campus. It is, in essence, a guaranteed admission program in the junior year—and is most assuredly a major reason many students choose to start here. We all know it’s pretty tough to be admitted as a new freshman at several UW campuses, including Madison & LaCrosse, but GTP makes it relatively easy to be admitted as a junior. Guaranteed.

Student leaders elected
The UW-Richland Student Senate became a functioning body following elections held in late September. Members include: President Callie Pinkstaff, Richland Center; Vice-President Wenxin Hu, China; Treasurer Rebecca Frank, Hazel Green; Secretary Emily Rebahn, Cazenovia; Freshman Senators Jennifer You, Hong Kong, and Tatia Davitashvili, Republic of Georgia; Sophomore Senators Allyson Hastings, Viroqua, and Sun-Ah Shin, South Korea; Sophomore Collegium representatives Michael Schwichtenberg, Wonewoc and Krista Jonietz, Norwalk; Freshman Collegium representatives Jae Suk Kim, South Korea, and Alex Barnes, Richland Center. Other members of the Student Senate include: Dustin Skolaski, Boscobel; Amanda Baker, Gays Mills; Khalid Abdl-Haleem, Muscoda; Anna Schellhorn, Gays Mills.

Pictured above are members of this year’s UWR Student Senate.
Campus View residence halls

120 students are calling Campus View “home” this fall and so, once again, our residence halls are at capacity. Clearly the availability of housing at UW-Richland is a major “draw” for students considering their college options—and we’re glad we can provide that option for students. The housing staff includes Glen Brown, executive director; Heather Walker, residence life coordinator; Jane Jones, office manager; and three student resident assistants. The RAs are: Alicia Nofsinger, Tomah.; Adam Larson, Tomah; Alexis Reber, Viroqua; Rebecca Frank, Hazel Green/Southwestern, is the Academic Resource Coordinator, a new position this year.

Campus View residence halls not only provide a comfortable and safe living environment, but also academic and social programming for the residents. This past summer Symons Hall was totally renovated, making it a much nicer environment for students.

And, in the “exciting news” department for housing, discussions are actively occurring for an expansion project within the next year or so.

UWR activities keep students engaged

We’ve said it in past newsletters, but it bears repeating: A key factor in student success is linked to student engagement. UWR students have wonderful opportunities to get involved in a wide array of clubs and organizations, performance groups (i.e., athletics, music, theatre), and academically-oriented activities.

A major effort is undertaken each year to help our students connect with us and with each other. Our first year seminar offerings continue to expand; in fact, again this year, more than 90% of our new freshmen are enrolled in a first year seminar class this fall.

Our “WintORientation” for new second semester students will take place on Thursday, January 10.

All of these activities are geared toward helping our students achieve success.

A sneak peak at Summer 2013

Our Summer Session course schedule for 2013 is now set and, while significantly reduced in offerings, will continue to provide credit earning options for students.

Classes being offered next summer include:
Astronomy 100, Survey of Astronomy: 3 credits / Natural Science option
Sociology 130, Contemporary Social Problems: 3 credits / Social Science option
Biology 373, Animal Behavior: 3 credits / Natural Science option*
*Biology 373 is a part of the “UWR Your Way” program, an accelerated program option, primarily intended for returning adult students. Through the accelerated hybrid course offerings, students will be able to complete courses/credits at a much faster pace.

**Campus Visits or for information:**
John Poole, Assistant Dean, Ext. 223
George Henze, Coordinator, Ext. 219
Lisa Behling, Coordinator, Ext. 239
Emery Sanchez, Coordinator, Ext. 246
Joanna Muller, BAAS, Ext. 228
Kari Bartels, Program Associate; Ext. 264
Eric Hoffman, Program Associate, Ext. 221
Glen Brown, Housing (608) 647-6709

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**Spring Campus Preview:** Wed., April 24 / “Taste of UW-Richland”
Student-Parent Preview, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
In addition, we continue to offer Personal Previews which allow students to schedule their own campus visit. This year we’ve tabbed Tuesdays & Fridays as campus visit days. And, a Personal Preview visit means a free t-shirt for the student (while supplies last!)

Reminder: Don’t forget we have a website just for you! The High School Counselors’ page is found at:
http://richland.uwc.edu/resources/hs_counselors.asp