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

**eAlert System in use:** Now in use for about a year, the UW-Richland eAlert! system is used to inform members of the campus community of any weather or other emergency that impacts the campus as a whole; the system will not be used in notifying students of cancellation of a single course, for example.

Students, faculty, and staff have received reminder notices about the 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.

Within the past two months we’ve utilized eAlert! on two occasions; both were weather-related. The most recent was on Wednesday, January 30, when a fairly significant snow storm caused us to cancel classes and activities as of noon that day.

When you talk with your student, you might ask if they’re aware of Richland’s eAlert! system … and if they’ve added their cell # to PRISM.

Perhaps this is an opportunity for us to let you know how we handle weather-related concerns. 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. And, as you know, if the weather is such that it dictates closing the campus, the eAlert! system will be activated.

Through all of this our word of advice to students is simply this: use your 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?
Second Semester Notes: Now that we’re into February, students will start hearing terms 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!

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.


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

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 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.
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 20 different emphasis options:

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

Mid-Term Week Approaches: The infamous “mid-term week” is not really that far off. March 8-14 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 21st, 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 18-22:** Spring Break 2013 will be the week of March 18-22. Therefore, as of the close of classes on Friday, March 15, students will have a respite from the daily grind and will return to campus on Monday, March 25. Campus View residents will need to check-out by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 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:

- 2, 3-Week Sessions
- 1, 6-Week Session
- An array of UW Colleges Online course options
- 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 2013-14  Changes are you and your student have either completed or started the financial aid application process for the 2013-14. 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.

It’s very important that students apply by the priority date. Some types of financial aid do deplete which means late application can mean the student loses out on financial aid they would otherwise receive.

$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 11-23: High School Art Exhibit on Campus

February 19: Love of Learning Lecture, “Architectural History of the A.D. German Warehouse” (the first in a series of lectures concerning this Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building in Richland Center) / 6:30 pm / Pippin Conference Center

February 21: Reception for fall semester Dean’s List students

March 1: Summer Session registration begins

March 2: UWR Alumni Association Homecoming Events

March 5: Love of Learning Lecture, “Preserving & Restoring the A.D. German Warehouse” / 6:30 pm / Pippin Center

March 17: Concert Series presents “Ancora Quartet”

March 29-31: UWR Theatre Department presents “The Elephant Man” 7:30 pm on March 29 & 30; 1:30 pm on March 31, Coppertop Theatre

April 1: 2013-14 Scholarship Application Deadline
2013-14 Priority Date for Financial Aid Application

April 8-12: Richland ROCKS Week (See item below)

April 10: Love of Learning Lecture, “Bottoms Up,” Dr. Aharon Zorea / 6:30 p.m. / Pippin Conference Center

April 13: Love of Learning Lecture, “Weight of the Nation: The Obesity Epidemic,” 6:30 p.m. / Pippin Conference Center

April 21: Concert Series Presents “MACH”

April 24: “Taste of UW-Richland” Campus Preview 3:00-5:00 pm / 2, $100 scholarships awarded!

May 3: 42nd Annual Roadrunner Road Rallye

May 10 Graduation & Awards Night 7:00 p.m. / Coppertop Theatre

May 14: Last Day of Classes for the Semester

May 15: Study Day

May 16-21: Final Exam Week

(Convences 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 101. Student Services staff and other advisors will be in the Roadrunner Café to provide degree audits and advising assistance as we help students prepare to register for fall classes.

O Option to Register. This is the student’s opportunity to get fall classes registered earlier than normally possible.

C Celebrate Richland! The ‘C’ in ROCKS will allow us an opportunity to celebrate life as a UWR student. We’ll have fun with this and also remind them of resources available.

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 24, 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.

This year, two lucky students will receive $100 scholarships just for attending!

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.

The best start for the life you want!