

THE SCOOP

Concord University Parents Club Newsletter January-February 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Spring 2014 semester! We are excited to have our students return to campus and we look forward to a fun and successful semester! We have many exciting events scheduled and, of course, classes and academic work will keep your students quite busy.

Some quickly approaching events are the annual Groundhog Day Breakfast, with a visit from Concord Charlie and this year's Grand Groundhog Watcher Greg Puckett; the Graduation Fair for our May and August graduates; College Goal Sunday for free FAFSA assistance; and our annual Founders Day Celebration, where past and present Concord accomplishments and contributors are celebrated.

One of the main goals of the CU Parents Club is to communicate with our families regarding important information and campus happenings. Please be sure to let us know if you have questions or concerns.

On behalf of the Parents Club, Best Wishes,
Marjie Flanigan

Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students

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ACADEMIC SCHEDULE -SPRING 2014

January

- 20 Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 Registration and Payment of fees 8:30 am
- 22 Classes Begin
- 23 Late registration fee begins for on-campus courses

*Important
DATE!*

February

- 5 Last day to pay fees
- 7 Last day for adding class 4 p.m.
- 27 Last day for making application for May graduation
- 28 Founder's Day Convocation/Celebration
Summer school schedule published

March

- 7 Mid-semester reports of
unsatisfactory grades

- 10-14 Spring Break recess (no
classes)



Mar. 17-Apr. 4

Advising for course selection for Summer and Fall 2014

Mar. 24-Apr. 4

Course selection for Summer and Fall 2014

- 28 Last day for dropping a course with grade of "W" or changing course status from credit to audit 4 p.m.

May

- 9 Last class day
- 12-16 Final Exams
- 18 Commencement

*Important
DATE!*



GRADUATION FAIR 2014

May 2014 and August 2014 **Graduating Seniors** are invited to the Spring 2014 GRADUATION FAIR!!

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Place: Jerry & Jean Beasley Student Center Ballroom

Time: 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

What: One-stop shop for all graduation needs

Here students can:

- ❖ **Apply for graduation**
- ❖ Pay the **\$50.00** application fee
- ❖ Get **measured** for *caps and gowns*
- ❖ Have a picture taken for the **Pine Tree** yearbook
- ❖ Discuss *student loan exit interviews* with the **Financial Aid Office**
- ❖ Receive a memorable gift, courtesy of Concord University



Graduate students who plan to graduate in May or August may attend or they may mail their applications for graduation and \$50.00 application fee to the Registrar's Office and call the University Bookstore to give measurements for caps and gowns and pay for the hood that is part of their regalia.



A Note from Financial Aid

Now is the time to complete your 2013-2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) at www.fafsa.gov. The priority date for filing is **March 1, 2014**, especially for West Virginia residents who qualify for the West Virginia Higher Education Grant (WVHEG). Filing early qualifies students for maximum financial aid! If your 2013 tax return is not complete by this date, you can use estimates – and revise after you file your tax return.

Verification – If you are selected by FAFSA for verification, a **red flag** will appear on your student's MyCU account. If selected for verification, you will need to provide the financial aid office with additional documents. The financial aid office will mail a letter listing documents and information needed for verification. We are no longer able to collect copies of tax returns; therefore the student and parent will need to use the IRS data retrieval tool in FAFSA on the Web (detailed instructions on our website, www.concord.edu/admissions/financial-aid). The Data Retrieval Tool will be available early February but IRS data may not be available until late February due to a delay in when the IRS will accept 2013 tax returns. Or, an IRS tax return transcript (free) may be requested at www.irs.gov – Order a transcript.

Financial aid will not be awarded until verification is complete!!

Need a tax credit? “1.5 million Americans failed to claim eligible education benefits,” reported by National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. There is a tax credit of up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition, fees and course materials paid during the taxable year. You will need form 1098-T (generated on January 31st by the Business Office and available to print from the student's MyCU account) and complete IRS **Form 8863** to see if you are eligible.

For more information, visit:

www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Benefits-for-Education:
-Information-Center.

Feel free to contact our office at 304-384-6069 or finaid@concord.edu if you have questions.

2013 Tax Information Form 1098-T Notice

Concord University has issued Form 1098-T electronically for the 2013 tax year. **Printed forms will not be mailed.** Students can access their form by logging into their MyCU account (<http://mycu.concord.edu>).

The Business Office notified students that they are not able to reproduce the form with the labeled boxes and cannot supply student financial information to others; therefore, **if someone else claims either the student or an education deduction or credit on your student's behalf, the student needs to provide this information to them as soon as possible.** In most cases, this form needs to be provided to a parent or other legal guardian.

Please remember the Business Office cannot answer tax questions or provide tax advice. These types of questions should be directed to a tax professional. The Concord University IT HelpDesk is available for MyCU login assistance and can be reached at (304) 384-5291.



COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

Concord University is pleased to once again join in College Goal Sunday to assist students and families complete the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA must be renewed each year. It is now time to renew FAFSA's for the 2014-2015 academic year using 2013 income and tax information.

WHAT: COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

WHEN: Sunday, February 9, 2014

WHERE: Athens Campus: Rahall Technology Center, Room 103
Erma Byrd Higher Education Center (Beaver/Beckley), Computer Lab

WHO: New or current students & families

BRING: 2013 tax/income information; untaxed income info, parents' social security #'s, student's driver license #, bank balance & asset info

For more information, visit

https://secure.cfww.com/Financial_Aid_Planning/College_Goal_Sunday.aspx

Declaration of Major/Minor

A note from Dr. Jane Smith, Interim Vice President & Academic Dean

In an effort to make certain that students graduate in a timely manner, Concord University now requires students to declare an academic major as soon as possible, but no later than the completion of 60 hours. As this is the initial implementation of this procedure, **ALL students** - even those with over 60 hours and/or a declared major were asked in fall 2013 to complete the form.

Students can also use this form to change majors. Students who fail to complete the form will be unable to register for subsequent semesters until the process is completed.

An advisor will be assigned by the appropriate Division Office once the Registrar's Office processes the form. Students will receive an electronic notification of their advisor assignment. Students should check their MyCU account to see that current declaration of major information is correct. Questions should be directed to the Registrar or the Academic Dean's Office.

For students who did not complete the form during the fall semester or over the break, the form is available online at <https://apps.concord.edu/machform35/view.php?id=47623> (<http://concord.edu> > Academics > Registrar).



News from the Beckley Campus

Erma Byrd Higher Education Center (HEC)

The Erma Byrd HEC (Higher Education Center) would like to welcome back students and remind everyone to check the bulletin board and Facebook page, "Concord Beckley Student Services".

Student Government Representatives Celia Laverty and James Miller are working with Student Services Coordinator Lori Pace to plan activities, events, service projects and a great spring semester. Students will again support the Solid Waste Authority's Earth Day 10K/5K and Festival in April.



If a parent sees that their student is struggling or needs support, please call Lori Pace, Instructor of Sociology at 304.252.0270 (work) or 304.763.5396 (cell). Most difficulties simply need heard and directed to the right resources, much of which we have available at the HEC.



Academic Resources Offered at CU

Concord University is committed to assisting our students through providing needed academic support to succeed. The following pages include some of the academic resources Concord University provides free of charge to both full and part-time students. Please encourage your students to take advantage of them!



Academic Success Center (ASC)

The ASC is a place for students to come for help--whether it is assistance with coursework, advising, financial aid, or another reason. Described as a “One Stop Shop,” students, parents, faculty and staff utilize the ASC on a regular basis. Students may be self-referred, or referred by faculty or staff, students, or others. Regardless, the ASC helps any Concord student needing extra assistance to succeed.

The ASC has many resources to help with coursework, including:

SMARTHINKING -- a free online tutoring program that provides tutors 24/7 for most classes

Drop-In Tutoring -- we can refer you to one of the peer tutors for help with your class

ASC Study Hall--one-on-one assistance with study skills; organized study groups; mentor program. Stop by the ASC office in the Rahall Atrium, Suite 243

Study Skills -- learn how to focus your study time for the best results.

Kahn Academy -- a free online resource with over 3,200 videos with instruction on everything from arithmetic to physics, finance, and history and hundreds of skills to practice at your own pace.

The ASC works with students individually to help achieve their academic, personal and career goals, and in collaboration with each student to develop good study skills and to enhance academic success.

The ASC is located in the Rahall Technology Center, Room 243; Email: asc@concord.edu; Phone: 304-384-6074

McNair Scholars Invites New Students



The Concord University McNair Scholars Program has invited twelve students from Concord University to become the 18th group of McNair Scholars to participate in the McNair Scholars Program beginning in Spring 2014.

The Scholars and their field of study are as follows:

The McNair Scholars Program is a TRIO Program fully funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Concord University hosts one of two McNair Scholars Programs in West Virginia. The program provides academic, social, and financial enrichment opportunities to prepare college students from disadvantaged backgrounds for graduate or professional school. Each Scholar completes a faculty-supervised independent research project in a chosen field of study and a summer research internship at his/her home institution or another institution. He/she earns a research stipend of up to \$2700 and credit hours, in exchange for research progress. The McNair Scholars Program also sponsors visits to area graduate programs, regional/national McNair conferences, and field-specific meetings or conferences.

For more information on how to become a McNair Scholar, or the McNair Scholars Program in general contact Lisa Karnes via phone (304) 384-6019 or e-mail lkarnes@concord.edu

Summer Bivins
Social Work
Katherine Engo
Psychology
Stacy Farley
Chemistry
Jesse Kidd
Chemistry
Carl Mullins
Biology
Owen Nickle
Political Science
Shiela Ramsey
Environmental Geoscience
Ahmed Salau
Chemistry
Kristen Shafer
Business Administration
Kirston Smith
English
Kristie Taylor
Biology
Caitlin Testerman
Psychology

Student Support Services (SSS)

SSS, a federally funded **TRiO** grant program, helps students meet the challenges of academic life. The SSS goal is to help students stay in school and to graduate college. Currently, there are five TRiO programs at Concord University: **Upward Bound (2), McNair, Student Support Services & GEAR UP.**



All SSS participants must meet the qualifying criteria of either being first generation, low income, or having a documented physical or learning disability. When students have little money and few resources they can use a "hand". SSS helps students with many things including

helping them find their way around campus, assigning a peer mentor, helping register for classes, finding a tutor, personal or academic counseling, technology assistance, choosing a career, and helping with financial aid information & direct financial support. Student Support Services program students also participate in 2-3 cultural trips a year. All trips & services are free to participants. To apply for SSS please visit the main office in Rahall Technology Center Room 246 to complete an application.



Concord University Counseling Center (CUCC)



The CUCC is a free counseling center located on the 2nd floor of the Bonner House. Whether a student is stressed over classes, tests, projects, internal or external personal situations, or struggling to cope with a mental illness, the Counseling Center is a phone call away. Mr. David Bailey MA, AADC-S, LSW, is the Center's counselor.

Puzzled?



We can help put the pieces together.

The staff values confidentiality. All personally, professionally, and legally committed to your right to privacy. Because there are no lifts or elevators to the 2nd floor, we are more than willing to make arrangements to meet you in accessible location. The Counseling Center is open Monday-Friday 8-4p, with after-hours appointments available by arrangement. To schedule an appointment, please call 304.384.5290.

WVAEA 2014 State Conference

The West Virginia Art Education Association (WVAEA) 2014 State Conference was held at West Liberty University in October. During the conference Dr. Lauri Reidmiller, Concord University, Associate Professor of Art, presented “Navajo Sand Painting”.

The presentation focused on the history, processes and techniques used to create authentic sand paintings. “My professional interests are aimed at improving education across all contemporary educational levels and environments in which teaching and learning about visual arts education occurs; as well as to develop substantial experiences related to advocacy, teaching and leadership for my students. I have always focused on teaching content in the most authentic ways possible. It is my aim that combining innovative pedagogies, thoroughly researched content and infusing authentic art forms and materials enables students



Dr. Reidmiller with participants



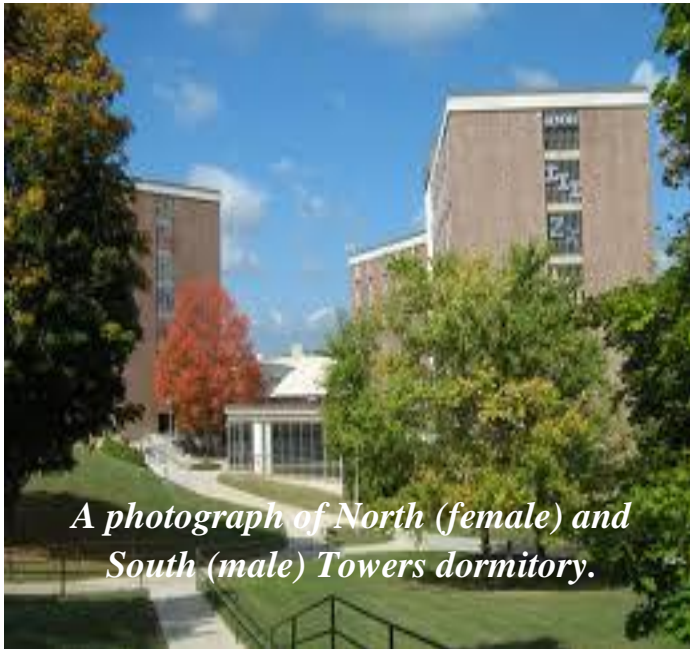
CU Students
Art Education
majors assist
with
presentation

The presentation also provided the art educators in attendance with methods to integrate the dry painting processes and techniques into their existing art curriculums. Assisting with the presentation were Concord University's Art Education students; Cassady Berry, Cortney Cox, Megan Ray, and Kimberly Sexton.

“I encourage my students to show others what it means to be 21st century learners through their actions and professional involvement. I've always taught them that the classroom is much larger than four walls and I make it a point to invite them to assist me at conferences and outreach projects. It is through this involvement that my students have been able to undertake and put into practice, what they have learned in the classroom in much larger forums. By facilitating as many of these opportunities as possible, helps them expand their identities beyond “student” and experience themselves as vital members of the art community,”

A Note from Housing

Happy New Year from Housing & Residence Life! By Megan Webber, Resident Director, and Bill Fraley, Director of Residence Life



A photograph of North (female) and South (male) Towers dormitory.

While students were on break, custodial staff members were busy cleaning and preparing for our students' return. Following the January chemical spill that impacted the water supply to some West Virginia counties, the Housing & Residence Life Office offered the opportunity for students who were affected to move back into their assigned residence hall rooms early. We wanted to make sure those students had the opportunity to take advantage of having access to clean water with no additional charge to students.



For the Spring 2014 semester, Housing & Residence Life staff will continue to offer educational and fun programming to provide students with information that is beneficial to their time at college and beyond. Past awareness and safety programs have focused on the effects of alcohol and substance abuse, personal safety, sexual misconduct, fire safety, and more. Other programs offer positive social outlets or focus on topics of interest to students.

We look forward to another great semester with your students. Please let the Office of Housing and Residence Life know of any questions or concerns! housing@concord.edu, Phone: 304-384-5231

Final Exam Care Packages

Although students have only recently arrived back on campus, we already have information to pass along for finals week. Please be sure to check your mail in late February or early March for information on ordering Final Exam Care Packages. We have partnered with On Campus Marketing (OCM) to offer parents the option of purchasing a Final Exam Care Package for their on-campus student. OCM will send letters to students' home addresses providing all of the information needed to order, along with the Care Package options.



Parents must respond directly to OCM by April 18th to ensure delivery of your student's care package for spring finals. Please know that this is entirely optional and offered only as a service to our students' families.

Renovations: Completed and in Progress

From Rick Dillon, Vice President of Administration and Associate Dean of Students

Since May 2012, Concord has addressed several infrastructure needs located throughout Alexander Fine Arts and the Marsh Library. We are pleased to announce that the work in each facility has concluded. The Marsh Library now has air-conditioning and humidity control, a new space for Concord University archives, upgraded fire protection technology, a new front entrance, a new roof, a new handicap bathroom, and several large windows have been restored encircling the great library study area.

Alexander Fine Arts Center has a new roof and elevator. Additionally, hood and vent systems have been installed to provide fresh air and upgraded safety to several art classrooms. Concord's primary theatre received a fire suppression system, and new safety railings have been added to the second floor balcony. The existing air-conditioning system received much-needed repair and upgrading.

This building season, and using a matching grant from the State of West Virginia, Concord will complete several projects intended to improve overall ADA access for our students, staff and faculty. In addition, this same grant will replace broken and cracked sidewalks campus-wide. Work on these collective challenges will begin mid-April and end the first week of November 2014.

This spring semester, contractors will be on-hand to significantly remodel the Game Room located in the Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center. The Game Room is located on the ground floor. This important space is continuously utilized by both residential and commuter students.

All groundwork is complete and approvals met to begin renovating the Towers Residence Halls beginning late Summer or early Fall 2014. The project calls for much of the work to be completed while the residence halls are occupied in 2014 and 2015. As we inch closer to kicking-off this massive renovation project, I will provide more details. Thanks and best wishes to our students and parents as we continue to improve *The Campus Beautiful!*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Andrew Sulgit, Director of Campus Activities & Greek Life

An action packed Spring calendar is planned for students, including continued support of the local and regional entertainment industry, as well as out-of-area talent from across the US. We will kick off the start of Spring Semester 2014 with *The Variables*, a popular rock and blues act from Beckley, WV. Also, we will offer students, faculty and staff discounted \$5 tickets to Marquee Cinemas.

Concord Students Aisha Dewitt and Crystale Taylor, two students from this year's successful Talent Show, will perform in February. February will also feature a big-screen showing of the classic *Groundhog Day* with Bill Murray, as well as award-nominee *The Butler*.

Commuter Students will get a special tribute with our second annual *Commuter Appreciation Week*. Commuter specific prizes will be given away, as well as food and pertinent information, such as how to properly winterize and drive your car on snowy days.

Lastly, our big, annual concert tradition will continue with *Liverpool Legends* in April. *Liverpool Legends* are a Beatles Tribute band from Branson, MO, who are widely considered to be one of the top Beatles Tribute acts nationally.

Liverpool Legends is the only act to be endorsed by the Beatles lineage, as they were hand-picked by Louise Harrison, the late George Harrison's sister. This year celebrates the 50th anniversary of The Beatles "coming to America" on the Ed Sullivan Show, which will make the event all the more special.

**Beatles Tribute Band
Liverpool Legends
coming to CU!**



FERPA RELEASE & INFORMATION

In accordance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), most information regarding a student's educational record is considered private between the student and the University and requires a written release for discussion of this information with a third party. To facilitate the consent process, students may complete an electronic FERPA release, granting consent to third parties. Students are encouraged to sign FERPA releases in advance for individuals who may need on-going permission, including parents; spouses; legal dependents; employers; and third-party agencies that may need financial aid or grade information. Students may rescind consent or change the type of information to be released through the same process as permitting consent. To allow the release of information electronically, students should follow the steps below:

1. Log into MyCU (<http://mycu.concord.edu>)
2. Click on the Student tab
3. Click on FERPA/Information Release under the Information box on the left side of the screen
4. Complete the form, assigning a PIN number for the individuals to whom you are granting permission for release of your indicated university information
5. Provide the PIN number to the person(s) to whom you are allowing information access

NOTE: Information will not be released to an authorized individual without the person knowing the PIN. This is for your student's protection.

EMERGENCY Alert Text Msg. System

Concord University aims to ensure the safety of all students, faculty and staff. To subscribe to the emergency alert text message system, please click [here](#). (<http://sms.concord.edu>)

Those who sign up for emergency alerts will receive a text message/email pertaining to school delays and closings. Participants will also receive alerts warning of potential threats on campus urging students and all others to immediately remove themselves from campus.

To view the inclement weather schedule and more information, please click [here](#).



EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Numbers to Know

All Athens campus phone numbers begin with (304) 384 -- unless otherwise noted.

- Admissions: 5248
- Beckley Campus: 304.256.0270
- Business Office: 5234
- Counseling Center - 5290, 6087
- Financial Aid: 6069
- Housing Office: 5231
- Director of Housing and Residence Life - 5231 (office); 384-4212 (home)
- Registrar: 5236
- Student Affairs: 5256
- ADA/504 Compliance Issues Office of Disability Services - 6086
- Emergency Police Line - 384-9334
- Office of Public Safety non-emergency - 5356, 5357
- Southern Highlands Crisis Counseling Line - 1-800-615-0122

For complete Directory Information visit

<http://www.concord.edu/fsdirectory.php>

