

The Scoop

Edition 17

Inside this issue:**Academic Calendar** 2**Concord Vet Friendly School** 3**Study Abroad at Concord** 4**FERPA release** 5**Note from Financial Aid** 6**Preparing for Finals** 7**Sports News** 8-9**News from the Beckley Campus** 10

Welcome!

Dear Parents,

Unbelievably, Fall 2011 semester concludes next week! For your students, it's "*Crunch Time!*" The next week will be filled with class projects, papers, studying, and exams. Term papers with due dates that last month seemed so distant are suddenly due tomorrow. Even for the most diligent of students, this is a stressful time. For those procrastinators among us, exam time can be overwhelming. Our advice to parents: Be supportive! Now is not the time to remind your student, "I told you so!" or to share your own holiday stresses. Simply listen or help your student devise a workable plan for surviving the semester with the best possible results. You can also remind your students that a month-long break soon awaits them.

This newsletter edition includes tips for final exam preparation; information on semester grades and FERPA information release; dates to remember; Study Abroad opportunities; FAFSA completion for 2012-2013; news from the Beckley Erma Byrd Center; the Emergency Alert System; and updates from Athletics. Additionally, information on Concord's new student I.D. system and *Concord Cash* is introduced. Your students will be receiving information shortly on the new system for "check change" distribution via their *Concord Cash* card.

We are pleased to announce that Concord University earned the distinction of being named the Number 1 four-year college for veterans by Military Times *Edge* magazine. Our student veterans own the honor of this award through their military service and dedication to their studies at Concord. We are proud of all of our Concord students, but acknowledge our veterans who greatly enrich our communities and campus.

On behalf of the Parents Club, thanks for your support during the semester. Enjoy the time spent with your students over the break. And congratulations to our December graduates and their families!!

Best wishes and peace,
Marjie Flanigan
Vice President of Student Affairs

Academic Calendar

Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King Day Holiday

Wednesday, January 18: Classes begin

Monday - Friday, March 12 - 16: Spring Break

Friday, May 4: Last class day

Monday - Friday, May 7 - 11: Final Exams

Saturday, May 12: Commencement

Important Dates from Housing!

Friday, December 16, 2011 - Winter Break: All Residence Halls Close at 5pm

Monday, January 16, 2012 - Residence Halls open for check-in 1pm-Midnight

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 - Residence Halls open or check-in 10am-Midnight

Friday, March 9, 2012 - Spring Break:

All Residence Halls Close at 5pm Sunday

Sunday, March 18, 2012 - Residence Halls reopen at 1pm

Friday, May 11, 2012 - Summer Break: All Residence Halls close at 5pm

Concord Cash System by Jennifer Nail Sr. Math Education Major



Starting this spring students will be issued a new student ID. These new ID cards will have more than just their picture on it. The new cards are part of BlackBoard's "Concord Cash" and will operate not only as the student's ID card, meal plan card, and library card; it will also serve as a Discover debit card, or *Concord Cash*.

These cards will be used at facilities in the Student Center for Flex Dollars, but they can also be used at any Campus facility including the bookstore, cafeteria, or Subway, Grille Works, and South of Sicily as long as there is money on the card. At the beginning of the semester a student's check change will be applied to the card, instead of issuing the student a check. From that point students can use their *Concord Cash* at any facility that accepts Discover Cards, or they can transfer their money to an existing bank account. If students choose to continue using their *Concord Cash*, then they can manage their accounts online. This account comes with no fees, free check writing, and students cannot overdraw their accounts. Students can also opt into having their Concord payroll placed onto their *Concord Cash* cards.

The student's account works like any other bank card, and also as a campus ID. Parents can add money to the card and students will have access to a free on-campus ATM. The spring introduces Phase One of *Concord Cash*. Eventually students will use their ID's for campus door access, vending, laundry, and more. Students should watch for information via email and MyCU.

CONCORD UNIVERSITY TOPS THE LIST OF VETERAN-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

ATHENS, W.Va. - Concord University is ranked the nation's No. 1 four-year college for veterans by Military Times Edge magazine. The publication released the report Monday, Oct. 31.

The "Best for Vets: Colleges 2011" list is based on criteria including academic accreditation, central veterans offices and staff knowledgeable on veterans issues.

Established in 2009, the Concord University Veterans Office works with United States veterans, reservists and active duty service members to utilize educational benefits from the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The office also works with student veterans in areas from housing to tutoring to counseling.

Concord University President Gregory F. Aloia has led the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission's Veterans Task Force in its work to advance the recruitment, retention and graduation of veterans at the state's institutions of higher learning. Concord University is a "role model" in this initiative to offer veteran-friendly college and university campuses.



Marsh Hall now Part of the Cat's Meow Collection



A campus landmark is part of the Cat's Meow collection. The Pine Trees Chapter of the Concord University Alumni Association commissioned a miniature of Marsh Hall and the delightful collectible is available for \$15. Proceeds help fund a Pine Trees scholarship for Concord freshmen. The piece features the Marsh Memorial Carillon. For more information, email the chapter at pinetreesalumnichapter@hotmail.com or call 304-384-9457. The Advancement Office can also provide ordering information at advancement@concord.edu or 304-384-6311.

Reprinted from the Concord Alumni Magazine

Study Abroad Opportunities at Concord by Jennifer Nail Sr. Math Education Major

Throughout the past few years Concord has worked to provide more study abroad opportunities to its students. This initiative is headed by CU President Aloia, who wants more students to participate in an international experience while at Concord. An International Initiatives Council was created, comprised of representatives from each academic division; members of the administration; and David McKee, Director of International Admissions. The Council has a threefold charge: (1) to create opportunities for Concord Students ; (2) to create opportunities for Concord faculty and staff; and (3) to increase and diversify the international student population at Concord.



Concord Students and Dr. Susan Williams in Mari Republic, Russia.

As part of this initiative several trips are offered to Concord students on an alternating schedule. Past trips include the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and Ireland. This year's trips include excursions to Korea, Japan, Russia, Spain, India, Austria, and Costa Rica.

Dr. Joseph Manzo and the Geography Department coordinated the Korea and Japan trips; fifteen Concord students participated in the 2010 and 2011 opportunities. While on the trip the students were stationed at a university where they studied various topics from cooking and dance, to language studies. As part of this trip Concord invited three students to Concord for a year of study.

The Russia trip is coordinated through the Social Science division and includes a partnership with Russian faculty and students.



Concord Students at Trafalgar Square on the 2011 Bard Study abroad trip to the United Kingdom



Concord students from the 2010 Korea Japan trip along with Russian, Thai and Korean students.



Concord alumna Sarah Justus , in front of the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College during the 2010 India trip.

The Spain trip is a first for Concord. It will occur during the intersession between the regular school year and the summer terms, and is focused on art and art appreciation. Dr. Jack Sheffler, Chair of the Fine Arts Division, and Dr. Cory Williams are co-sponsors of the trip.

Study Abroad opportunities Cont'd

The India trip is through Dr. Darla Wise and the biology department. This trip also began in 2010 . Four students are selected through an application process. These students shadow doctors in India in order to see how the medical field works in India.

Performing Arts will be taking a trip to Austria over spring break, headed by Dr. Laura Zamzow. While

on this trip members will tour and perform at various locations.



Concord students sightseeing on the 2010 Fine Arts Ireland Trip



Left : CU in Puerto Rico

Final Grades and FERPA Release Form

Final grades are no longer mailed to students via U.S. Postal Service. To receive grades students will log into their MyCU account. If students have holds on their accounts, they will not be able to access their final grades until the holds have been resolved. Also, parents will be unable to access students grades, financial aid, or other information unless the student completes a FERPA release form. To complete a FERPA release follow the directions below.

Directions for FERPA Release of Information

In accordance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), all information regarding a student's record, with the exception of certain directory information, is considered private between the student and the university and requires a release for discussion of this information with a third party. The student may wish to grant permission to all or some information, including financial aid, student accounts, grades, and other university information to a parent, spouse, employer, agency, or other person of the student's choosing.

Students wishing to release information to a third party can do so by completing the FERPA/Information Release Form. Directions for completing the form are outlined below:

For Students:

Log into MyCU (<http://mycu.concord.edu>)

Click on the Student tab

Click on FERPA/Information Release under the Information box on the left side of the screen

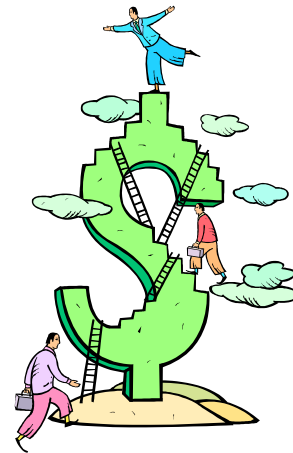
Complete the form, assigning a PIN number for the individuals to whom you are granting permission to your indicated university information

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 protection.

A Message from Financial Aid

from Ms. Debbie Turner, Financial Aid Director



It is almost time to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2012-13 year. The FAFSA for 2012-13 is available starting on January 1, 2012 at www.fafsa.gov. Concord's priority filing deadline is March 1, 2012. Filing date may be a factor in awarding some financial aid programs so file early. Completion of your 2011 federal tax return to file the FAFSA is not required but you will need to use estimated numbers and revise them after you file your tax return. Need assistance with completing the FAFSA? Join us for College Goal Sunday on February 12, 2012 from 1 pm - 4 pm at University Point. Financial Aid experts will be on-hand to help students and families complete the FAFSA.

Your student's FAFSA record may be selected for verification. If selected, the financial aid office will request additional documents to be completed and copies of other financial records. Selection for verification does not mean the FAFSA was completed incorrectly. The verification process is to ensure students are eligible for the various types of federal aid. Financial aid is not awarded until verification is complete, so be sure to submit requested documents promptly to qualify for time-sensitive aid.

There is an IRS Retrieval link in the FAFSA available the first of February. If you have completed your 2011 federal tax return we encourage you to use this link to populate the FAFSA. It will take a few days after you file your electronic tax return before the data can be retrieved; it will take a few weeks if you file a paper tax return. If you file the FAFSA with estimated numbers, you can use the IRS Retrieval link to make corrections.

New regulations prohibit Financial Aid offices from collecting copies of the federal tax return as documentation for verification. Beginning with the 2012-13 year, the tax filer must either use the IRS Retrieval link or request a tax return transcript from the IRS. The IRS Data Retrieval process is the fastest, easiest and most secure solution for meeting verification requirements.

Attention!

Classes are filling fast! Ensure that your students get the classes they need. Encourage them to register for classes if they have not already done so. Have them talk to their advisor, the Academic Success Center, or Registrar today.

Finals and Finals preparation

by Jennifer Nail, Sr. Math Education Major



As the last few weeks of the semester quickly draw to a close there is one thing still concerning every student: Finals! Though I have been with the huddled masses at all hours of the night during 24 hour library hours for finals week, there are a few tips that could help your student avoid that same fate.

First and foremost, don't wait until last minute to begin. Students have known about projects for awhile now, and yes, we all procrastinate to some degree, but now's the time to turn that around. Starting now is still earlier than starting the night before, and it can sure save your student from some of the stress of last minute preparations. This tip goes for, applies to all course work, papers, standardized tests, essay exams, projects, and even presentations. Do not wait until the night before a large cumulative exam to begin studying!

Secondly, although it's hard, try not to stress. One cannot live on caffeine alone, and should not try to. Get appropriate (even if still reduced) amounts of sleep and remember to eat healthier. Students should study appropriate amounts, and in appropriate settings. Find a corner of the library set up and stake a claim, sit with people who will keep them positively motivated, but won't distract them. If they have a regular study group, don't change for the final. If they've been successful studying like this all semester chances are it will also work for the final.

Finally tell them to remember that once the exam is over, it's over. There is no need to stress about the test once it's done. This is just taking time and energy from their other exams. And remember after all exams are done, they're over, and your student is headed home.

Winter weather is on its way...Are Your Students enrolled in the CU Emergency Alert System?

If not they should sign up for this free service

Signing up allows students to be among the first to find out when classes are cancelled or delayed. It will also inform enrollees of any campus emergencies. All current students faculty and staff are eligible. Students can also register their parents for CU Alert. To register just go to www.sms.concord.edu.

Sports News from Kyle Cooper, Sports Information Director



Concord Football Makes History

Concord's football program made history this fall. The Mountain Lions claimed their first WVIAC championship since 1990 and earned their first playoff berth since 1992, during a thrilling month of November.

CU began the month with a 32-29 victory at West Liberty on November 5th, a game in which the Mountain Lions scored three touchdowns on defense.

That set up a winner-take-all showdown with West Virginia Wesleyan the next week for the conference title. Senior running back Brian Kennedy rushed for a career-high 303 yards, and junior quarterback Zack Grossi threw five touchdown passes, as the Mountain Lions won the crown with an epic 48-40 win that wasn't decided until the game's final play. After time expired, Concord's players rushed the field at Callaghan Stadium in a joyous celebration.

The next day, Concord found out it had been selected to the NCAA Division II Super Region 1 playoffs, and was matched up against Kutztown University in a first-round game on November 19. Unfortunately, the Mountain Lions' season ended with a 17-14 defeat.

Fourteen players earned All-WVIAC recognition, including seven on the first team – Kennedy, linebacker Joe Greenway, offensive lineman Brandon Link, safety Aaron Martinez, linebacker Jake Lilly, cornerback Riyadh Richardson and defensive lineman Josh Miller.

The awards didn't end there. Greenway was named the WVIAC's Defensive Player of the Year, and Garin Justice earned the league's Coach of the Year award. Justice guided CU to a 7-4 record (7-1 in the conference) in his first year as head coach.



New Men's Basketball Coach— Coach Kent McBride takes the Court

More history came from Concord's men's basketball team in November, when Kent McBride made his debut as head coach. The 2006 CU graduate succeeded the legendary Steve Cox, who announced his retirement in March 2011 after 33 years in Athens.

The Mountain Lions fell in overtime in McBride's debut – 103-96 to West Virginia Tech – but CU closed out November with three wins in its next four games. McBride has brought an exciting, up-tempo style to Concord, and the Mountain Lions have become a dark horse contender in the rugged WVIAC.



Women's Basketball Update

Concord's women's basketball team started its season with three wins in its first four games, including a thrilling 103-94 victory at Glenville State the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The win snapped CU's five-game losing streak to the defending conference tournament champions, and helped senior center Jolysa Brown win WVIAC Player of the Week honors for the third time in her career.

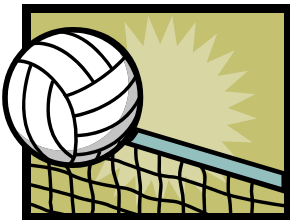
Concord Cross Country

Concord's cross country teams ended their 2011 season at the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region meet in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania on November 5th. Both teams finished 17th in a very deep and competitive field.

Chelsea Callaway was Concord's top finisher in the women's race. Sterling Snyder was CU's top performer in the men's race.



CU Volleyball Team Appears in WVIAC Tournament



The Concord volleyball team made its second straight appearance in the WVIAC Tournament, going the distance in dropping a tough, five-set match against Fairmont State.

Concord loses only two seniors from this year's team. The Lady Lions finished the season with 15 victories, up from nine last year.

CU proved tough to beat at home this year, finishing with a 10-3 record at the Carter Center.

A Message from Admissions

Dear Parent Club Member,

The Office of Admissions is currently looking for new Mountain Lions. If you know of a potential Concord student, please let us know.

I thank you for recommending potential students to join our Concord family. Submit the following information through email: admissions@concord.edu or call toll-free 1-888-384-5249:

Student's name, address, phone number, e-mail, name of high school and graduation date.

Sincerely, Kent Gamble Director of Enrollment



Visit our website at
concord.edu

News from Erma Byrd Center, Beckley, WV from Lori Pace

Concord students at the Higher Education Center (HEC) organized a November collection to benefit the local Veteran's Association which serves veterans in a hospital and nursing home environment, as well as homeless veterans in southern WV counties. The collection spread to the Sociology Department on Athen's campus, the local Raleigh and Fayette communities, and several local businesses with a total of over \$1000 of collected items and direct donations made. Cheryl Yost, Volunteer Coordinator, expressed appreciation for everything donated and was overwhelmed by the "Maroon Army" of Concord and the response to the Veteran's Administration's needs.



Pictured on the right is Lori Pace delivering part of the collection



Left: Mark Moore designer of veteran shirts, Right: Concord Student and Veteran Fred Lambert

Art Instructor, Mark Moore, shared an original design for Concord University T-Shirts with the Veteran's Support Group on main campus. Our student veterans are now wearing distinctive black and white recognition of their university and their military service.

Additionally, the HEC students have continued to "Serve Where You Stand" in multiple ways around the community this fall semester to benefit: Just for Kids Child Advocacy,

The Women's Resource Center, The Dream Center, Beckley Fire Department, the Emergency Responders, and Little Beaver State Park. Students at the Erma Byrd Center epitomize the Concord motto of the late President Joseph Marsh, "*Come to learn, go to serve.*"