

THE SCOOP

January – February 2011

PARENTS CLUB PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear Concord Family,

Are your students exploring new academic possibilities at Concord? Concord's size and location in southern West Virginia are an optimal combination. Concord is small enough so that students can get to know their professors and large enough to offer diverse classes and extracurricular programs. Contrasted to colleges with hundreds of students in classes taught by graduate assistants, many of Concord's classes have a student to professor ratio of 20:1 or lower. Because the Athens campus is so walkable, it's easy for students to get to classes and activities and develop friendships.

There are many choices for adventures outside the classroom throughout the next several months. Concord offers study abroad opportunities and special interest groups. There are also myriad recreational and historic attractions within an hour or two of Concord for students and parents to visit. There are several state parks in the area. We enjoy staying in the lodge at Pipestem Resort State Park, a few miles away, which offers trails, golf, horseback riding, and an aerial tramway to the Bluestone River Gorge. The Bluestone Wildlife Management Area and the Bluestone Dam near Hinton are great places for boating and fishing. Also at Hinton is an historic train station. Winterplace Ski Resort, near Beckley, is popular with the students. The Exhibition Coal Mine near Beckley chronicles life in a coal camp and is well worth a visit. Lewisburg in neighboring Greenbrier County was recently voted "America's coolest small town" and will be featured in the September issue of Budget Travel magazine. The Greenbrier Resort at White Sulphur Springs is a world class destination and dates to 1778. There are several Civil War battlefields in the area where reenactments are held. Whitewater rafting trips and zip-lining are popular along the New and the Gauley Rivers. I hope that you and your students will take advantage of these nearby attractions. Please share your suggestions and tell us your favorite places to visit in the area.

Martha Endres

President

Concord University Parents Club

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- ∞ February 25, Fri. Summer school schedule published, distributed and publicized
- ∞ February 28, Mon. GRADUATION FAIR, one-stop shop for May and Aug. graduates
- ∞ March 4, Fri. Mid-semester reports of unsatisfactory grades submitted by faculty
- ∞ Mar. 7-11 (M-F) Spring recess (Bonner Alternative Spring Break, Wheeling, WV)
- ∞ March 18, Fri. Last day for making application for May graduation 4 p.m.
- ∞ March 25, Fri. Last day for dropping a course with grade of "W" or changing course status from credit to audit 4 p.m.
- ∞ Mar. 21-April 7 Advising for course selection for Summer and Fall 2011
- ∞ Mar. 29-April 7 Course selection for Summer and Fall 2011
- ∞ April 18, Mon. Concord Earth Day Celebration



Residence Halls close for Spring Break at 5pm on Friday, March 4th. All residents have to be gone by that time, so please plan ahead. We reopen at 1:00pm on Sunday, March 13th.

IMPORTANT 2011-2012 FAFSA INFORMATION

It is time to file the 2011-12 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)! Be sure to file early; priority filing deadline is March 1st. As of January 30, 2011, there is a new IRS link where the 2010 tax return information will be transferred to the FAFSA if you select the option. IRS information will be available approximately 1 week after electronically filing your 2010 tax return or after approximately 6 weeks if you filed a paper tax return.

If your student FAFSA record is selected for verification, we will send you a request for additional documentation. Please submit these documents promptly so we can award the student financial aid. If you are selected for verification and you transferred the tax data from the IRS (and did not change any data transferred) then you will *not* be required to submit copies of your 2010 federal tax return. This will be fewer documents for you to submit and expedite the verification review; thus the student can be awarded sooner.

We have two new financial aid staff. Tammy Brown is the Administrative Assistant Senior and is responsible for the state grants, outside scholarships and other outside agency programs (i.e. AmeriCorps, Vocational Rehabilitation). Previously she worked at Concord University as Accounting Assistant II in the Business Office for the past six years. Dixie Terrell is the Financial Aid Assistant II and is responsible for customer service, incoming and outgoing documents, etc. Dixie worked as a temporary employee in the financial aid office last year. Please let us know if you need assistance.

Debbie Turner, Financial Aid Director



CU HOSTING NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

ATHENS – Concord University will hold its annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Carter Center.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day is aimed at commemorating the achievements of female athletes, and to encourage girls to take part in sports and fitness-related activities. WVIAC Assistant Commissioner and Senior Woman Administrator Stephanie Prewitt is scheduled to attend.

Girls in 3rd through 8th grades are invited to participate in the event at Concord. The activity is free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. Participants are encouraged to arrive by 10:30 a.m. for sign-in at the Carter Center lobby.

Coaches and student-athletes from a variety of CU sports will host instructional sessions at various locations in the Carter Center. A free pizza lunch for all participants will follow the sessions from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Attendees should dress for sport activity, but are not required to participate. Those who opt out of the sport activities can observe and learn about the different sports that will be represented.

Each participant will receive a T-shirt, lunch and free admission to that day's Concord basketball doubleheader against Fairmont State. The women's game begins at 2 p.m., followed by the men's game at 4 p.m.

Parents and others accompanying Girls and Women in Sports Day participants may attend the games with \$5 admission for children and \$8 for adults.

For additional information, contact Dr. Angie Edwards, assistant athletic director, at (304) 384-5270 or Tracy McCallister, senior women's administrator, at (304) 384-5954. Visit www.womenssportsfoundation.org for more on Girls and Women in Sports Day.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Greetings from the Office of Multicultural Affairs! We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and that your student is excited to begin spring semester. To celebrate Black History Month, we've planned many exciting activities and programs. Our goal is to provide an educational journey that highlights the accomplishments and influences of black Americans in all areas of American culture. We have a wonderful line-up of events sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Student Activities, the Office of Housing and Residence Life and Student Support Services. The events include the following:

February 3, 2011 - Student Center Ball Room; 6 pm.; **Hardway Connection;** This eight member group from the Washington D.C. area will present a program entitled Music and Dances of the Civil Rights Movement. The first part of the program will include a workshop with dance instruction and the second part of the program will be a dance.

February 8 & 11 - Marsh Hall Room A-237; 9 pm; **For Colored Girls;** See Kimberly Elise, Janet Jackson, and Loretta Devine as they portray one of the characters represented in the collection of twenty poems, revealing different issues that impact women. This film was directed by Tyler Perry. A discussion will follow.

February 17 - Student Center Subway Sides; 8 pm; **Leah;** Come hear guitarist, singer-songwriter Leah Morris as she performs a night of folk and blues music in the tradition of the Civil Rights Movement.

February 22 & 25 - Marsh Hall Room A-237; 9 pm; **Hotel Rwanda;** Everyone should see this movie which tells the true-life story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who housed over a thousand Tutsi refugees during their struggle against the Hutu militia in Rwanda. A discussion will follow.

February 23 - Main Theatre Alexander Fine Arts Center 9 am and 8 pm; Mike Wiley Productions presents the play, **Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till.** In 1955, a 14-year-old black Chicago youth traveled to the Mississippi Delta with country kinfolk and southern cooking on his mind. He walked off the train and into a world he could never understand – a world of thick color lines, of hard-held class systems and unspeakable taboos. Young Emmett crossed that line and stepped into his gruesome fate by whistling at a white woman.

We invite everyone to attend each of these events and join us as we celebrate the contributions of black Americans in film, television, music and theatre.

Nancy Ellison
Director of Multicultural Affairs

ATHLETIC NEWS

Concord University is pleased to announce the appointment of Coach Garin Justice as the new head Mountain Lion football coach, following the sudden resignation of Mike Kellar. Coach Kellar is returning to California University of Pennsylvania as associate head coach, following two successful seasons at Concord. Kellar served as Cal's offensive coordinator for five years before coming to Concord in December 2008.

The CU athletic department moved quickly but thoroughly, following Kellar's resignation, promoting Garin Justice on January 7th. Justice was one of Kellar's first hires as an assistant at Concord, and was the Mountain Lions' offensive line coach and strength & conditioning coordinator for two years.

Concord went 14-8 in Kellar's two seasons as head coach, after posting a 1-21 record in the two seasons prior to his arrival.

Justice, a native of Gilbert in Mingo County, started his coaching career as an assistant at his alma mater, West Virginia University, in 2006. From there he spent two seasons at Florida State, then came to Concord.

As a player, Justice was a three-year starter at WVU and captain of the 2005 team that went 11-1 and beat Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. He was an All-Big East honoree that season, and was a Sporting News 2nd-Team All-American.

He was also the Big East Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

In other Concord football news, wide receiver Thomas Mayo was named a 1st-Team All-American by Don Hansen's Football Gazette. Running back Brian Kennedy was named Honorable Mention.

Mayo, Kennedy and defensive back Aaron Martinez earned spots on the All-WVIAC 1st Team. They were three of 16 Concord players to receive all-conference recognition.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Concord's Men's Basketball team continues to enjoy a breakout season. As of February 14, the Mountain Lions were 10-13 overall and 7-12 in the WVIAC. The eight wins are two more than the team had all of last season.

Junior guard Javaughn Acree-Manuel has played a big role in Concord's turnaround. He went over the 30-point mark five times in CU's first 15 games, including a 39-point performance at West Virginia Tech and 37-point games against Bluefield State and Seton Hill.

Acree-Manuel was the conference's leading scoring at the season's halfway mark.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Concord Women's Basketball team stands at 13-10 through February 15, including a 10-9 mark in the conference.

As of mid-season, Concord led the conference in blocked shots, at nearly six per game. Camisha Alexander was the WVIAC's 4th-leading scorer, and Jolysa Brown posted seven "double-doubles" – double-figure performances in two categories (i.e., scoring and rebounding) in the same game.



MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

In Men's Track & Field, sprinter R.J. Anderson has earned a spot in the national championship meet in one event, and is closing in on another.

Anderson won the 55-meter dash at the Marietta Open in Ohio on January 21st. His time of 6.31 was a Concord record, a Marietta facility record and automatically qualified him for nationals.

Anderson also won the 200-meter dash at Marietta. Head coach Mike Cox says Anderson's time of 22.14 seconds is a school record and puts him close to the time he'll need to qualify for nationals in that event.



WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

In Women's Track & Field, Shawnee Carnett continues to re-write the Concord record books.

The sophomore has set two new school records this indoor season.

The first came in the 800 meter run at a meet in Newport News, Virginia on January 16th, with a time of 2:14.49.

The second was in the 500 meters at Virginia Tech Invitational in Blacksburg on January 14th. Carnett posted a time of one-minute, 15-point-79 seconds.



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

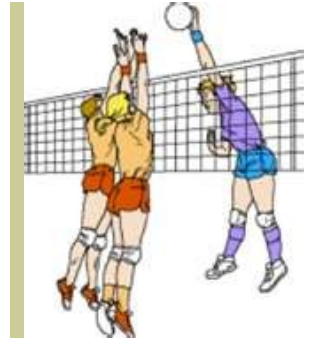
In November, Concord's Volleyball team saw its season end with a five-set marathon loss to Shepherd in the WVIAC Tournament in Charleston.

It was Concord's first appearance in the tournament since 2008.

The Lady Lions showed improvement on the court, and have impressed the rest of the league with the way they play the game.

The WVIAC has named Concord as the winner of its Volleyball Fall Sportsmanship Award, as voted upon by the conference's head coaches and game officials.

The Lady Lions will be allowed to display a traveling "Sportsmanship Championship" banner for one year.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAVEL ABROAD

We still have a few spots left on the summer study abroad



program. The cost of the trip is \$5,400, all inclusive, and the dates are, tentatively, July 12 to August 2.

GRAD FAIR

One-stop shop for all graduation needs

When ??

Monday, February 28, 2011

Time ??

9:30am - 2:00pm



Where ??

Student Center Ballroom

GUEST COLUMNIST: AN INSTRUCTOR'S VIEW OF UNIV 100 - FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

By Tom Bone, Concord Alumnus and Director of Public Relations Emeritus

Students enrolling at a university need to get familiar with tasks as varied as getting an ID card, beginning a career search and watching their personal budgets. That's why Concord University put intense effort into carefully designing a class that all freshmen now take, University 100.

The class usually meets one hour each week and has been structured so students get to know the ins and outs of university life, academic and otherwise. Students also complete a "public service" activity that helps them learn to work with others on a beneficial out-of-class project.

The Academic Success Center in Marsh Hall at Concord pitches in collaboratively to help students who may be at "high risk" of not making it through their first year.

Faculty from a variety of fields teach University 100 courses, and their teaching assistants, usually seniors, provide another avenue for one-to-one counseling and early identification of individual needs.

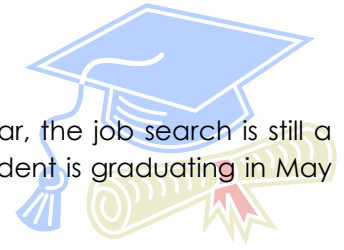
The instructors and their TAs have reported numerous instances in which students have been helped through the maze of first-year challenges.

I have seen this first-hand, teaching a section of the class on Fridays last fall. I remembered the "lost" feeling I had at times during my freshman year at Concord (1972-73), and wanted to do something to help the current class of freshmen avoid that feeling. The students' smiles and encouraging results provided feedback that this is a productive way to add to the success rate of entering students.

And, even if the student is in the "genius" category, there is something beneficial to learn from a few weeks in University 100.



GRADUATING IN MAY OR AUGUST????



While national predictions indicate a slightly brighter employment climate this year, the job search is still a process that requires significant time and attention from the job seeker. If your student is graduating in May or August, please provide that gentle reminder that it's time to get in gear!

Several job fairs are scheduled and students should be encouraged to attend them to talk with employers, learn about the hiring needs of employers and perhaps get invited to an interview at the employment site. To be competitive in the job market, students that are serious about their job hunt should be dressed professionally and ready to present themselves as a professional candidate. Business suits are standard job fair attire. We do have a local organization that has slightly used women's professional clothing available at a reasonable cost. If your daughter would like more information about this program, please have her visit the Career/Advancement Services office.

Students should also take multiple copies of their resume, printed on quality stationery with them. It is advisable for the student to research in advance the companies that will have a representative at the fair. That way they have a guesstimate as to the number of resumes needed and also can develop an efficient strategy for visiting employers the day of the fair.

If your student has questions, needs to have his/her resume critiqued, would like to schedule a practice interview, etc., he/she should contact Career/Advancement Services. He/she can call (304) 384-5325 to schedule an appointment.

Upcoming Fairs

- Thurs, March 10,** Teacher Recruitment Day (interviews scheduled by appointment only for student teachers)
- Thurs, March 17,** RTM Student Sponsored Job Fair, Ballroom
- Wed, April 6,** Spring 2011 Job Fair co-sponsored with Bluefield State College, Gymnasium - Bluefield State
- Thurs, April 7,** Career Fair 2011 co-sponsored by schools in WV, VA, and TN, Holiday Inn & Suites, Bristol, VA

For further information on any of these fairs, please have your student contact the Career/Advancement Services office.

Upcoming Webinars

- Wed, Feb. 16,** 3:30 pm, Exploring Elite Opportunities, B19-Library
Students will learn about applying for nationally prestigious scholarships, internships, and experience based programs.
- Thurs, Feb. 24,** 1:00 pm, 315A-Rahall
Jenny DeVaugh, a social media strategist with Barnard Hodes Company will provide handy tips on transitioning from social media sites like Facebook, MySpace and others to the more professional world of LinkedIN. Ms. DeVaugh is the third most "linked in" woman in the world.

THE BIGGEST LOSER, CU P4P CHALLENGE

Dear Concord family,

Want to lose weight, be healthier, and help others—all at the same time? Concord is launching a Pound for Pound Challenge (P4P) in conjunction with The Biggest Loser. The Biggest Loser will donate food commodities to our local food bank equaling our total pounds lost. For example, if collectively Concord students, faculty, and staff lose 500 pounds, our local food bank will receive 500 pounds of food to distribute to needy families. Our loss is their gain!

The CU P4P Challenge ends on May 6th, 2011. Here's how parents (or grandparents, aunts/uncles, siblings, etc.) can join Concord's effort:

- * Go to <http://pfpchallenge.com>
- * Click on orange **Pledge Now** box
- * Click **Join a Team**
- * Search **Concord P4P** by Team Name & Select
- * Enter Requested Information
- * Enter Pledge
- * Set up Account
- * Join our Facebook Group
- * Search for Concord P4P and click Join Facebook Group

If you have any problems or questions please feel free to contact us via email- amillshardy@concord.edu or at 304-384-5311.

Our On-campus P4P participants have completed the official weigh-in, but if your student still wants to join, he/she can do so—by contacting us or following the directions above. On-campus, we formed two groups for a friendly competition: students vs. faculty/staff. The team losing the most weight wins a trophy and bragging rights!

You can even pledge to simply maintain your already healthy weight! The Biggest Loser will donate 5 pounds of food for maintaining your current weight. You can still join the CU P4P Challenge!

We're planning a lot of support—and fun—throughout the Challenge. We have guest speakers and activities to help us meet our goals. "Headquarters" is the Subway Sides (make that Subweigh Sides during the Challenge). We'll have a walking group to join for exercise-with free CU pedometers. Aramark will emphasize nutritious options and have a professional chef demonstrate healthy cooking tips. Zumba classes have resumed and students are volunteering to lead other students through fitness routines in the small gym throughout the week. The CU Fitness Center will be open-with new free weights added-to boost our fitness routines.

We invite everyone to join in this worthwhile Wellness Committee project and join the *P4P Challenge!*

For more information, contact asc@concord.edu, or call (304) 384-6035 and check MyCU for updates. Ready, Set, Go!!...



VOLUNTEERS TURN DAY OFF INTO 'DAY ON'

By GREG JORDAN
The Bluefield Daily Telegraph
January 18, 2011

BLUEFIELD — For some people, Martin Luther King Day wasn't a day off; instead, it was a "day on" devoted to community service.

About a dozen students with the Bonner Scholars Program at Concord University spent their day off as a Martin Luther King Day of Service. Rather than take time off from class, they spent much of their day working at the Bluefield Union Mission.

It's the second year Bonner Scholars have worked during the day of service commemorating the civil rights leader, said Alex Hosseini of AmeriCorps VISTA, who works at the Concord University Bonner House.

"Last year we went to Heaven Sent Ministries in Princeton," he recalled.

In one room, volunteers were cutting up cakes and putting the slices in plastic sandwich bags so they could be included in the bag lunches the mission distributes.

"It's kind of a national movement," said Kathy Ball, director of the Concord Bonner Scholars program. "In fact, it's to make it (holiday) a day on rather than a day off. We've been helping with the lunch meals that have been going out, handing out bags of groceries, and sorting winter coats."

Participating in the day of service helps give students a bigger perspective on the needs in their community, Ball said.

"They get some real world experience as opposed to classroom learning," she said.

In the mission's kitchen, box meals with chicken and sides such as vegetables were being prepared. Student Megan Godfrey, 21, said Bonner Scholars like her do volunteer work every semester as part of their program work. Besides helping her meet Bonner Scholar requirements, the work is fulfilling on a personal level.

"Honestly, it makes me really feel good to be helping people; and when you work with something like this, you realize there is a need in the area," Godfrey said. "You don't get to see this every day. It's not just on TV. It's everywhere."

Downstairs, other scholars had spent much of their afternoon sorting out a donated mound of winter coats. The result was rows of coats, many of them new, hanging from clothes racks.

"They did an absolute mountain of work," said Linda Finkel of the mission staff. "People donate coats, but we didn't have anybody to sort them."

"It's amazing. We can see the floor," added student Dustin Blankenship, a senior at Concord University.

Before work got underway, navigating through a room filled with coats was a challenge.

"Pretty much, you could see a path through it, and that's it," said Jennifer Nail, a junior at Concord.

The students sorted the coats by size, gender and age group.

"We had an assembly line," said Megan McCoy, a Concord sophomore. "It's pretty amazing for people to have a place like this to come to."

McCoy and her classmates were already talking about conducting coat drives and clothing drives of their own at Concord University so the Bluefield Union Mission can serve more people. While students prepared their community service plans for the future, people who could benefit from their efforts kept arriving at the mission's lobby to apply for food, clothing and other necessities many individuals take for granted.

