



Welcome to the January/February 2016 *eNews*

Welcome to the first Spring 2016 edition of CU Student eNews!

The Student eNews is an easy-to-use resource for important student information and campus events. eNews is published two times each semester and will be sent to your Concord email account and [posted online](#), so you have easy access to past and future editions.

Staff of *Student eNews*

Upcoming Important Dates

Feb. 19, Friday, 4 PM	Last day for making application for May & August graduation without late fee
March 4, Friday, 4 PM	Mid-semester reports of unsatisfactory grades due
March 14-18, Mon.-Fri.	Spring Break
March 25, Friday, 4 PM	Last day for dropping courses with a grade of W or changing course status to audit (AU)
March 28-April 8	Advising for Course Selection – 2016 Summer & Fall Terms
March 30-April 8	Course Selection – 2016 Summer & Fall Terms

SO MUCH TO DO AT CU!!

Here are just a few things to do at CU. For more activities, visit the Upcoming Events Calendar on the CU website [HERE!!](#)

Also, check your email regularly for exciting opportunities available at CU. Student Affairs, the Academic Success Center, and the Communication Arts Department have teamed to provide a weekly email reminder of upcoming activities. Be sure to read *What To Do at CU* and participate in these exciting events!

February 2016

Wednesday, Feb. 10	12 – 4pm Louis Paul- Balloon Man
Monday, Feb. 15	President’s Day; Discover Day; 5pm Zumba Class; 7pm Jazz Ensemble Performance
Wednesday, Feb. 17	9pm Ron Placone Show
Monday, Feb. 22	5pm Zumba Class
Tuesday, Feb. 23	2-3:30pm Dr. Noam Chomsky Lecture on Poverty & Inequality in America
Wednesday, Feb. 24	8pm Indoor Roller Rink
Monday, Feb. 29	5pm Zumba Class

Upcoming Events from Multicultural Affairs

Feb. 2- June 1	Exhibit: “Outside the Mine: Life in a Coal Camp,” Library
Feb.3	Martin Luther King Celebration, Ballroom, 5 - 9pm
Feb. 6	Chinese New Year Celebration, Carter Center, 4pm-7pm
Feb.18	New International Student Reception, President's Home, 5pm
Feb. 26	Umoja Ball, Ballroom, 7pm
March 14-18	Spring Break
April 1 & 2	International Student Leadership Conference, James Madison University
April 10	International Banquet, Ballroom, 6pm

Announcements

Announcement from the Housing Office by Bill Fraley, Director of Residence Life

Room Sign-ups for the Fall 2016 Semester will begin in late February/Early March. All unmarried students (traditional age undergraduates) who have not received prior permission to commute are required to reside on campus in the University’s residence halls as long as space is available.

Applications for a housing exception should be obtained from the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Resident Assistants (RA's) will be in touch with each resident when the dates are set, and information will be posted on signs in the buildings and the Residence Hall Facebook pages.

The RA Selection Process for Fall 2016 will begin in mid to late February. Signs will be posted in each residence hall once those dates are determined. Basic requirements to be an RA include a 2.24 GPA and having lived on-campus for at least one academic year. Additionally, you cannot be on academic sanctions, behaviors sanctions at start date, nor been written up for serious infractions within the past year.

Student Employment

Effective January 1, minimum wage increased to \$8.75 per hour. Federal Work Study and CU Connect awards did not increase; therefore, students should consult with their supervisors to determine a schedule that ensures the semester award is not exceeded. Students seeking on-campus employment should visit <https://jobs.concord.edu/> (Student button) for available jobs and complete paperwork via <http://www.concord.edu/student-employment>.

Future Mountain Lions by Kent Gamble, Director of Enrollment

The Office of Admissions is seeking new Mountain Lions for the Spring 2016 and Fall 2016 semesters. If you know of any potential Concord University students, please submit their name, address, email and phone number to the Office of Admissions at admissions@concord.edu or call 1-888-384-5249. Thank you in advance for your support in helping us grow the Concord family!

Syllabi Now Available Online

For your convenience, most syllabi are now available online through [Courses Offered \(Seats Taken\)](#). Each syllabus is hyperlinked through the course title. This was effective for the Spring 2016 semester.

DegreeWorks

Concord University has a new web-based tool for students to stay on track to graduation. Through DegreeWorks, students can monitor progress towards a degree at any time. A DegreeWorks audit is a comprehensive academic history record; it includes transfer credit, currently enrolled courses, and courses needed to complete the degree. Grade point average can also be calculated through the GPA Calculator and students can check out other majors

under the “What If” tab. Access DegreeWorks under the “Student” tab in MyCU. For more information, click [HERE](#).

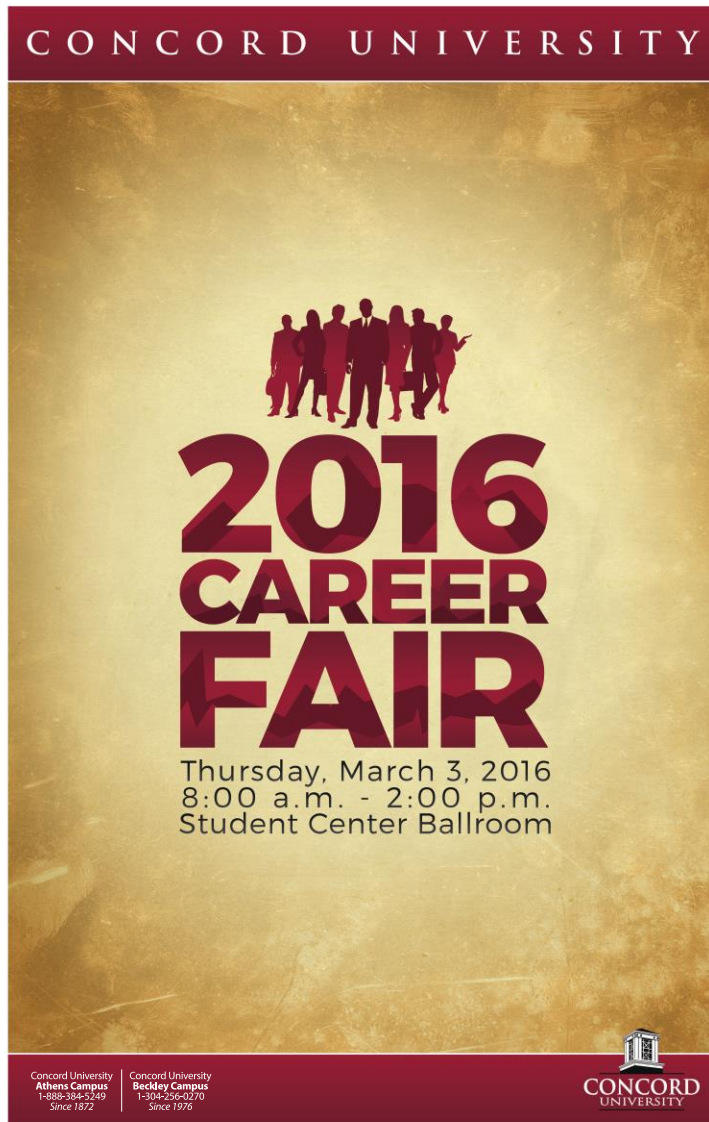
Income Tax Filing Assistance by Dr. Cynthia Khanlarian

Twenty-five (25) Concord University students have registered as volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) here at Concord University. This is our fifth year working with the Internal Revenue Service, offering tax preparation services. All students pass qualifying tests through the IRS. This year, the IRS is focusing on preventing identity theft and making sure the return is correct. We have additional procedures for this tax season that involve the information we collect from the taxpayer and the review process we apply to each return. Dr. Charlotte Davis, CPA and Dr. Cynthia Khanlarian, CPA, CMA will be working with the students.

This year, the IRS has provided the students with 10 laptops and a printer but of course, we've used the University computers and printers before and will continue to this year.

What's new is.... we will be offering tax services three ways:

1. We will meet with individuals in Rahall 130 on the Athens campus. Students will be available to complete and file tax returns on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:00 - 7:00 PM, in February and March (except for the week of spring break). This service is generally for individuals or families with income of less than \$62,000. The service is completely free. For this service, we ask the taxpayer to make an appointment by calling Ms. Bonnie Brown, (304) 384-5244.
 2. We will be offering a drop-off service this year. Taxpayers can bring their tax information along with a photo ID and their Social Security card. A student will prepare the return and have it ready for pick-up at a later date. At the time the taxpayer comes to claim it, there will be a reviewer to go over the return but the process should be a lot faster. To drop off your information, please come to Rahall 130 on Tuesday or Wednesday from 4-7.
 3. We will be offering, for the first time, computer stations to be used for free so that taxpayers can file their own returns using our software and internet for free. This service is only available to those with income of less than \$62,000. The VITA volunteers will also be available to help if the taxpayer has questions. These services will be available on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4-7 in Rahall 130.
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2016 Career Fair by Bren Yeager, Career Services

Career Services Office is planning a Career Fair to be held on March 3, 2016 from 8am-2pm. We are inviting companies and graduate schools that can offer our students internships, summer jobs, part-time employment, full-time employment, and graduate school opportunities.

In order for this to be a success, we need your help. If you have contacts with industries that would potentially hire our graduates, please share them with us so that we may invite them to attend our Career Fair. We want to make this successful for the entire University and not just a couple of majors/programs.

ALL students are encouraged to attend. Many professors are making participation a requirement for their class and/or giving extra credit for attendance at the Career Fair. Ask your professors if they will provide extra credit for participation in the Career Fair.

- Freshmen and Sophomores – can begin to get an idea of what industries they might be interested in pursuing after graduation and begin cultivating their network.
- Juniors – can begin working on their interview techniques and preparedness for employer inquiries, as well as practicing basics like approaching potential employers, handshakes, questions to ask of a potential employer, and expanding their network.
- Seniors – can use this time to turn network relationships into employment opportunities. (We will be giving our senior students specific information on working the Career Fair when they attend the Graduation Fair in February).

Please send potential contact information to careerservices@concord.edu or call 304-384-532

It's FAFSA Renewal Time! Important FAFSA Information

What are some important 2016-2017 FAFSA dates? The 2016-2017 FAFSA is now available. Students must renew their FAFSA each year. Deadline for the WV PROMISE Scholarship is March 1, 2016 and the WV Higher Education Grant April 15, 2016. Concord encourages all students to complete the FAFSA as early as possible to ensure that students receive the maximum amount of aid for which they are eligible.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool is available. This tool allows students and parents to access and transfer the IRS tax return information needed to complete the FAFSA.

The **FSA ID** replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN in May 2015. The FSA ID is a username and password that is used to access certain Federal Student Aid websites. Create a FSA ID at fafsa.ed.gov. For step-by-step directions to create a FSA ID, see below or view a video at <https://www.youtube.com/user/FederalStudentAid>. It will take approximately 10 minutes. Confirmation of social security information can take up to 3 days so create your FSA ID.

If you are a dependent student for financial aid purposes, one parent must also have a FSA ID. A student and parent uses his or her FSA ID to sign the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* or a Master Promissory Note for a federal education loan, among many other activities.

For more information about the FSA ID, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid. This page includes detailed information about the FSA ID, tips and resources to help with creating an FSA ID, and a link to create an FSA ID.

How to create an **FSA ID**

The FSA ID — a username and password — has replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN and must be used to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents. If you do not already have an FSA ID, you can create one when logging in to fafsa.gov, the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) at www.nsls.ed.gov, StudentLoans.gov, StudentAid.gov, and Agreement to Serve (ATS) at www.teach-ats.ed.gov.



Step 1 When logging in to one of the websites listed above, click the link to create an FSA ID.

Tip: Important: Only the owner of the FSA ID should create and use the account. Never share your FSA ID.

Step 2 Create a username and password, and enter your e-mail address.

Step 3 Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.

Step 4 If you have a Federal Student Aid PIN, you will be able to enter it and link it to your FSA ID. You can still create an FSA ID if you have forgotten or do not have a PIN.

Step 5 Review your information, and read and accept the terms and conditions.

Step 6 Confirm your e-mail address using the secure code, which will be sent to the e-mail address you entered when you created your FSA ID. Once you verify your e-mail address, you can use it instead of your username to log in to the websites.

You can use your FSA ID to sign a FAFSA right away. Once the Social Security Administration verifies your information in one to three days, or if you have linked your PIN to your FSA ID, you will be able to use your FSA ID to access the websites listed above. For help, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid.



College Goal Sunday!!

Need cash for college? Get help finding it! College Goal Sunday offers free help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). College Goal Sunday workshops will be hosted at 25 locations across West Virginia on February 21. CU is hosting two #CollegeGoal Sunday locations on Feb 21! Athens and Beckley (Erma Byrd Higher Education Center). More details: <http://collegegoalsundaywv.org>.

News

News from the Sociology Department by Lori Pace, Sociology Instructor

Sociology Instructor Lori Pace was reminded of the needs many veterans in our local community have when she met Mike Anderson, MSW for the Beckley Veteran Administration's Homeless Team, during the August Day of Hope in Raleigh County. Remembering service from past semesters that benefitted the Beckley VA and meeting several homeless veterans during the third Saturday Dream Center's food distribution, the Sociology students have decided to have a collection specifically for the homeless veterans in our local community. The collection will benefit both the ten bed homeless shelter for veterans and the outreach to those veterans living on the street. "Federal agencies, like the Veteran's Administration, are prohibited from asking for donations even when it is desperately needed." Instructor Pace said, "It is America's responsibility to take care of all those who served, and Concord students have always felt compelled to help in our community, no matter what was asked."

If you would like to participate in their collection, new gloves, hats, and all types of hygiene items will be collected now through spring break and can be delivered to the Erma Byrd HEC Concord Office or to Lori Pace by emailing lpace@concord.edu. Other types of donations like haircuts, new coats, and gift cards, can be directly donated to the VA by calling Cheryl Yost at 304-255-2121 extension 4162.

Higher Ed Day at the WV Legislature

Concord University students and administrators braved the winter weather conditions to participate in the 2016 WV Higher Education Day at the Legislature, held at the Capital on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. The student delegation was led by SGA President Ronni Wood, with

meetings arranged by Board of Governors Student Representative Adam Rose. Student Activities Director Andrew Sulgit assisted the students.

Concord staffed an information table in the Capitol rotunda and students met with state senators and delegates to share information and their concerns. Legislators were provided data on Concord demographics, including the large number of first-generation college students served; the tangible, direct impact that higher education has on West Virginia; the large number of community service hours donated by Concord students, staff, and faculty; and the large economic benefits to Mercer County by Concord. The students also delineated some problems facing West Virginia and pointed out that higher education is one solution to address these problems. Lastly, the students offered recommendation on how to mitigate the growing student loan debt issue.

Photos from Higher Education Day at the Legislature, 2016:





Beckley Campus News

Art instructor, Mark Tobin Moore, has a painting, "Recycled in West Virginia: Take Two Aspirins and Call Me in the Morning", in a juried exhibition at the Dairy Barn Art Center, Athens, Ohio. The exhibition, "OH+5: The Ohio Border Biennial, January 8 - March 12, 2016, showcases the best of works submitted by artists in Ohio, as well as Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The jurors were Susan Crehan-Hostetler, Gallery Director of the Hostetler Gallery in Nantucket, Massachusetts, and Athens, Ohio, and Bartholomew Ryan, Independent Curator, and former Milton Fine Curator of Art, Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Assistant Curator of Art, Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

CU's Beckley Campus held a Polar Express Experience on Friday, December 4 from 5 - 8 PM for The Buddies, a local group of children in our area. The Buddies is a collection of families with children with Downs Syndrome. About 30 families came out to visit with us at the Higher Education Center and enjoyed family games, crafts to take home, cookie decorating and a visit from the Jolly Fat Man himself!

Many of our students came out to volunteer with us as well as students and staff from New River Community and Technical College! We had the "Golden Ticket to Ride" for our Train Conductor, Adam Miller, to punch to make sure they visited all stations. Myra Harper, owner/operator of the McDonald's in our area brought tea, sandwiches, and vegetable trays to go with our hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn! The families were able to play giant ring toss and giant Jenga as well as some old school family games. They were able to make ornaments,

stockings and a picture frame for their picture with Santa to go in. The families had a wonderful time and enjoyed the whole experience.

Elsa and Anna from Frozen were also able to join us for the whole evening and ROAR made a special appearance too!



Academic Resources

Academic Success Center

Are you a student in need of assistance with coursework or study skills? As we prepare for midterms, please realize that Concord and the Academic Success Center (ASC) has a number of academic resources to assist you, 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 Assistance**--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.
- **Khan Academy** -- a free online resource with over 6,500 videos with instruction on everything from arithmetic to physics, finance, and history and hundreds of skills to practice at your own pace, and also test prep for graduate school entrance exams—such as the GRE, MCAT, & GMAT
- **Quizlet** – free online flashcards, tests, and study games. Use established flashcards for a topic or make your own. You can even share with your study group and others.

For more information, contact ASC Program Coordinator Steve Jarvis at 304-384-6074 or Director Sarah Beasley at 304-384-6298, or email asc@concord.edu.

Drop-In Tutoring

Concord has an extensive peer drop-in tutoring program available from noon to 8pm in key campus locations, including the Library, Student Center Study Lounge and Rahall Atrium. Visit <https://apps.concord.edu/tutoring/> to find the drop-in tutoring schedule for Spring 2016. Questions? Please contact ASC at 304-384-6298 or Student Support Services at 304-384-6088 for assistance.

Disability Services by Nancy Ellison, Director of Multicultural Affairs

Concord University is committed to working with students with disabilities to assist with academic accommodations that may be necessary and appropriate due to their disability. The Office of Disability Services assists in the coordination of appropriate services, based on each student's individual, documented needs. We also seek to enhance understanding of disabilities and provide support within the campus community. For more information, please see our [Website](#), contact the Office of Disability Services at disabilityservices@concord.edu, 304-384-6086, or stop by Student Center, Room 107.

Technology Resources & Emergency Alert

Microsoft Office ProPlus For Students

Concord University is a member of Microsoft's Student Advantage Program where **currently enrolled students are eligible for a free license to download and use Microsoft Office Professional Plus**. This license was automatically assigned at the start of enrollment at CU and remains until withdrawing or graduation. Students can install on up to 5 machines, windows or mac, as well as use the mobile versions of Office Mobile. After withdrawal or graduation, the

license is removed and the software enters a reduced functionality mode limiting it to viewing or printing only. Graduates can visit the site OFFICE 365 EDUCATION, enter their @mycu.concord.edu email address and get the license re-instated. For more information visit our support page at <http://www.concord.edu/office365>.

Technology Help Desk and Support

The IT Help Desk is Concord University's single point of contact for all technology- related issues for students, faculty, and staff. If you encounter a problem with anything from accessing email to using Blackboard or Banner, the IT Help Desk is here to offer the technology support that you need. We encourage you to look through our Frequently Asked Questions section at <http://www.concord.edu/student-affairs/academic-success-center/faq> when a problem arises; you will find answers to many of the most commonly asked questions there. If you are encountering an issue that isn't covered in the FAQ, then please contact the IT Help Desk either by phone, email, or in person.

Hours of Operation: **Monday-Thursday, 7:30am-8:00pm, Friday 7:30am-4:00pm**

Phone Number: (304) 384-5291

Email: cuhelpdesk@concord.edu

Emergency Text Alert System

CU has a text messaging alert system that is used to notify students of security, safety, and weather related notices on campus. You can easily register for this service by going to <http://sms.concord.edu/>. If you have any questions, please call the IT help desk at ext.5291 or by email at cuhelpdesk@concord.edu



Winter Fun!! Cecy Ramos, Willa Handy, & Olga build a snowman during winter storm Jonas