

Campus E-News

FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 · NUMBER 16 · FEBRUARY 18, 2010

Focus Events

Friday, Feb. 19, 2010

- Higher Education Day at the Legislature
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, W.Va.

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010

- Coffee with the President
3 p.m.
Room 201A
Marsh Hall

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010

- WV Author James E. Martin
Book Signing
10 a.m. – 12 noon
Presidents Room
Marsh Library

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010

- Mike Wiley
Black History Month Lecturer
“One Noble Journey”
12:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Center

Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010

- Annual Girls and Women in Sports Day
9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Carter Center

Monday, March 1, 2010

- Convocation of Scholars
5 p.m.
Main Theater
Fine Arts Center



From the Desk of . . .

“If winter comes, can spring be far behind?” British poet Percy Shelley had nothing on the Registrar’s Office. Though we are in the midst of winter, the Registrar’s Office staff knows that spring is not far away and we need to be thinking about Spring Commencement. We were disappointed the Fall Commencement could not be held due to inclement weather. Our 109 December 2009 graduates will be invited to participate in the Spring Commencement Ceremony on May 8.

The seventh semi-annual Graduation Fair was held on Monday, February 8. The fair is held to provide graduating seniors with a “one-stop shop” to apply for graduation. This semester 140 seniors took advantage of the fair to apply for graduation. Thanks to the efforts of many individuals, seniors were able to apply for graduation, pay graduation fees, get measured for caps and gowns, and order invitations and class rings. University police officers provided a great service by fingerprinting the Education Division student teachers as part of their required federal background checks. Seniors were also able to obtain information on student loan exit interviews and other information to make the transition from life as a Concord student to life after Concord.

Music and food added to the atmosphere. Thanks to the generosity of the University Administration, one lucky participating senior each semester wins a \$1500.00 student loan reduction. This semester’s winner is Kayla N. Lail, a pre-professional biology major from N. Tazewell, Va. Josten’s Inc. donated a class ring. The recipient of the class ring is Cornell D. Core, a physical education and health education major, from Pembroke, Va.

The deadline for applying for May and August graduation is February 26. After seniors apply, a graduation audit is prepared and candidates are notified about current grade point averages, honors designations, and any possible deficiencies.

Just remember, no matter how deep the snow,
spring will be here soon!
Concord Charlie promised!

Carolyn Cox

Carolyn Cox
Registrar

Bulletin Board

Time for a check-up...
Concord University’s Annual Health Screening will be held on Feb. 26, 2010 in the Dance Studio from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Please schedule your appointment by e-mail: edwardsas@concord.edu.



Concord students, faculty travel to Costa Rica

In January, 15 Concord University students and two faculty members, Dr. Roy Ramthun and Dr. Karen Griffiee, traveled to Costa Rica for a Study Abroad experience. The students were participating in either the RTM 345 Ecotourism course taught by Dr. Ramthun or the PSY 350 Mindfulness course taught by Dr. Griffiee.

Over the course of nine days, students toured five different parks and preserves (both national and privately owned). Speakers from the National Institute for Biodiversity (INBio) and the St. Elena Cloud Forest Preserve met with the group and discussed the problems and issues of tropical forest management. The group also participated in a variety of ecotourism activities including a whitewater rafting trip on the Sarapiquí River, a zip-line canopy tour and a bird and crocodile watching tour.

The tour was operated by EF Tours Inc. The tour guide, who had worked with a group from Concord in the past, is a trained naturalist and holds a vocational degree in Ecotourism. This guide is able to provide both formal interpretive discussion of Costa Rican ecosystems, and can also easily answer informal questions from students about the culture and lifestyle of the country. For our group he was also able to provide valuable insight on the role of the tourism industry in the Costa Rican economy and the social impacts of tourism on Costa Rican communities.

Students taking the Ecotourism course had been assigned preparatory readings on the topic of ecotourism and about Costa Rica's tourism industry. During the trip, they were instructed to observe a variety of interactions between tourists and the Costa Rican citizens as well as observing the operations of Costa Rican ecotourism businesses. They kept journals of their observations and turned those into oral presentations upon their return to Concord.



Left: Visiting a high school, Santa Elena, Costa Rica



Right: At the National Institute for Biodiversity's Education Center

Students in the Mindfulness class were assigned readings and exercises on "mindfulness" meditation practices designed to help the development of clear, present moment awareness in a systematic way. Mindfulness has been demonstrated to be useful in psychology in promoting mental health and well-being and has been incorporated into many different kinds of treatment programs.

Students were able to experience extraordinary and personally challenging things on this trip, which provided a unique context for learning "mindfulness" in an experiential way. For example, in paper assignments written after the trip, many students in the Mindfulness course found immersion in the Costa Rica environment and participation in some of the activities like the zip-line canopy tour to be initially unsettling (and even frightening), but also an opportunity for intensive, immersion practice of the mindfulness skills that "paid off" very quickly. Students in both the psychology and ecotourism classes seemed to come away with a deep appreciation for the physical and cultural environment of Costa Rica... especially the coffee, crocodiles, and people.



Emergency Alert System

Instant text messaging Vital in communications



Weather alert...inclement weather schedule...classes cancelled...closed...Get the word on Concord University weather, safety and security issues with instant text message alerts. You can receive messages on your cell phone and e-mail alerts. Sign up today with the Center for Academic Technologies (CAT). Go to the Concord University website (www.concord.edu) and click on the "Center for Academic Technologies" link under "Quick Links." When you have arrived at the CAT page, click on "Emergency Alert System" in the right hand column under "News." Follow the prompts and provide the requested information to complete the registration. For more information or assistance contact the CAT at 304-384-5361.

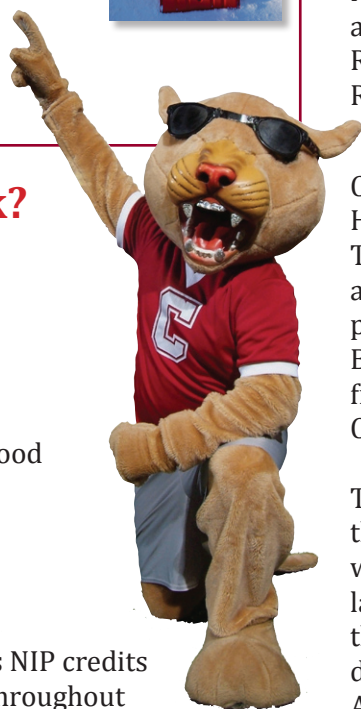


Next Issue
 Thursday, March 4
Submission Deadline
 Monday, March 1
 4:00pm

Let's hear a 'ROAR' for...

The Concord University snow removal team

These hard working individuals have had a monumental job clearing roads, parking lots and sidewalks during this harsh winter. They have been out in the elements again and again battling snow, snow and more snow. Thank you for a job well done!



Need a tax break? NIP credits Now available

The Concord University Foundation, Inc. has more than \$20,000 in Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) credits remaining for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The West Virginia Development Office awards NIP credits annually to organizations throughout the state giving eligible donors, both individuals and businesses, the opportunity to receive a 50 percent state tax credit on any scholarship donation of \$500 or more.

The deadline to make your donation and receive the tax credit is March 15, 2010.

The Concord University application was specifically designated for scholarship support of West Virginia students who are economically disadvantaged, from economically distressed neighborhoods or from underserved populations. Your gift will impact the lives of students at Concord University and is deeply appreciated.

For more information, please call the Concord University Foundation office at 304-384-6266.

Department Updates

Concord University's Public Relations Workshop is planning a fund-raiser to benefit Relay For Life. The event is called Pie-A-Professor and will take place during the week of April 19-23. Workshop students will raise money by collecting donations for every professor entered into the competition. Professors earning the most money will receive a pie in the face during the April event. The money will be raised in the two weeks prior to the event in the Jerry L. Beasley Student Center.



Professors participating are Sally Campbell, Gabriel Rieger, Joseph Manzo, James White, Tom Davis, Marshall Campbell, Jenni Canterbury and Michael Cox. Other professors interested in participating in this Relay For Life fund-raiser can contact the Concord University Public Relations Workshop at boxoffice@concord.edu.

Concord University's Beckley Center has joined with the Coal Heritage Highway Authority to offer a series of five public lectures on coal history. The lectures are offered through the Appalachian Studies Department and are part of the class, "Coal Culture in West Virginia." They will be presented each Tuesday from March 23 to April 20 at 7 p.m. in the Erma Byrd Higher Education Building on Airport Road in Room E 10 and are free and open to the public. For more information contact the Beckley Center at (304) 256-0270.

The first presentation on March 23 is a living history performance of the feisty labor organizer "Mother Jones," performed by Karen Vuranch who is also the course instructor. Mother Jones was an active force in the labor movement in the early part of the 20th century. She campaigned for the rights of workers in many occupations. Specifically, she spent a great deal of time working with the newly formed United Mine Workers of America. Mother Jones is also known for her work with the railroaders, steel workers and, most notably, children in the textile mills.

Dr. Ken Sullivan of the West Virginia Humanities Council will present a lecture on March 30 entitled "John Henry: Man or Myth." Dr. Sullivan will discuss the legend of the famous steam drill race as well as the issues surrounding the building of the railroad and the changes West Virginia faced as industry and technology found a foothold in the Mountain State. In conjunction with Dr. Sullivan's presentation, the West Virginia Humanities Council will have on display a traveling exhibit, John Henry: The Steel Drivin' Man. The exhibit will be in the atrium at the Erma Byrd Center from March 26 - April 1.

On April 6, Thurmond Miller will recall his years of living in the coal camp of Helen as he talks about "Life in a Raleigh County Coal Camp." Next in the series, on April 13 Dr. Dave Matchen, of Concord University's Geology Department, will talk about "The Environmental Impact of Coal." The series will conclude with a concert of "Music from the Coal Fields" by community activist and songwriter Elaine Purkey on April 20.



Notable & Newsworthy

Kevin Garrett has been named Concord University director of athletics.



“Based upon the recommendation of the Athletic Advisory Council, I am pleased to announce that Kevin Garrett has been named the director of athletics of Concord University,” Concord University President Gregory F. Aloia said. “He has provided strong leadership and continuity to the athletic program since assuming his duties and we are proud to have him in this position.”

Garrett served as assistant director of athletics for five years prior to being named Concord’s interim director of athletics in April 2009. He has been head baseball coach for 16 years.

Greg Quick, Concord University interim vice president for advancement, has accepted a position as assistant football coach with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League.



“Mr. Quick is a consummate professional,” Concord University President Gregory F. Aloia said. “He has shown the ability to motivate and lead whether in athletics or advancement. He has helped to move Concord to a different level in the areas of media, marketing and development.”

Mr. Quick will continue to work for the University until April 15, 2010.

Convocation offers time for celebration

Concord University will hold a Convocation of Scholars and Founders’ Day Celebration on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 5 p.m. in the Main Theater of the Alexander Fine Arts Center.

The event offers a time to celebrate Concord’s legacy and honor recipients of academic and service awards. Recognition will be given to members of the campus community for teaching, scholarship/creativity and service.

Performances by the Concord University Symphonic Band and ConChords are also part of the program.

Opera Studio

presents

‘Tender Land’

The Concord University Opera Studio presented Aaron Copland’s opera “The Tender Land” on Feb. 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Theatre of the Alexander Fine Arts Center. The opera was set in the American Midwest and offered a unique peek into the isolated world of a rural family, whose oldest daughter has dreams of an adventurous life.



“‘The Tender Land’ is a rarely performed gem of the operatic repertoire because it’s extremely difficult to sing. Our talented student cast worked tirelessly to learn the score and they did a wonderful job portraying the story,” Joshua Miller, CU’s director of vocal studies, said.

Professor Taylor Baldwin conducted the performances with a chamber orchestra made up of Concord faculty and students. The production was staged and designed by Miller.

Martin holding book signing

West Virginia author James E. Martin will hold a book signing at Concord University on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010. The event will be held in the Presidents Room of Marsh Library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Martin was previously scheduled to visit Concord University on Friday, Feb. 19.

He will have copies of his books available for purchase and have his illustrations on display. While on campus, Martin will also visit a children’s literature class to speak with Concord University students.

Martin has written the popular “Grandpa Ed’s Bedtime Stories,” “The Chartreuse Mongoose,” “Life Aboard the Monkey Bus,” “Now What,” and “FEET – a Chronicle of the Places My Feet Have Taken Me in Eighty Seven Years.”

He has also penned his autobiography. Martin said he wrote the story of his life “as a family history to inform his children and grandchildren where they came from.”

