Greetings from the Bonner House! Even though another spring term is well underway, the winter weather is still very much with us. While our staff are all trying to be patient and deal with the snow, the ice, the less-than-ideal road conditions, the cancellations and delays, we’re also moving forward with plans for the spring! It is our long-term goal to continue providing service and service-learning opportunities for our students while looking for additional ways we can help meet the needs of our local community.

We had a very successful fall term! Our Bonner scholars completed over 7,300 service hours, working with community partners like the WE CAN mentoring program and the Athens School. We also had scholars working on campus with a number of programs, providing support and assistance for the Student Support Services programs, the Upward Bound program and GEAR UP. The fall term included a full calendar of University 100 service projects. Two of our AmeriCorps VISTA members, Trent Estep and Courtney Hoover, deserve full credit for organizing and supervising 20 service projects. The 453 freshman students who participated contributed over 1,400 service hours to help with local events, environmental clean-ups, animal care and recycling projects. It’s amazing how much work these students accomplished!

The fall term also included the creation of a new Bonner outreach program. Samantha Smith, another Bonner House VISTA member, was instrumental in starting an after-school tutoring program at the Athens School. The program started with eight tutors and was able to provide tutoring and homework assistance to 25 elementary and middle school students each week. The program is now active again and we have 13 Concord students providing assistance to 27 Athens students. We’re very proud of this program (Thanks, Samantha!) and hope to see it continue serving the children in the Athens community.

We kick started the spring term with our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on January 18. Thirty-one members of our campus community (including two Upward Bound students!) chose to make this a “day on, not a day off” by working at Heaven Sent Ministries in Princeton to package food through the Food for Children program. Together, we were able to package 9,800 meals to be sent to help the citizens of Haiti. I think we’re off to a very good start!

The spring term will bring more freshman projects, weekend service activities, an alternative break trip and other Bonner events. We’re always looking for new service ideas, new projects and new ways to connect service to academics. So take some time and stop by the Bonner House…..we’d love to hear from you!

Happy Spring!

Kathy Ball
Director of the Bonner Scholars Program
Dear Concord Community:

For many of us, Valentine’s Day brings back fond memories of elementary school days when we gave out paper valentines to our friends and a special gift for our teacher. It was all about showing our friends and family that we care about them.

Valentine’s Day is in 10 days. Show your valentine how much you appreciate them in your life by helping people in our community battling cancer.

Instead of giving flowers, a gift to Relay For Life will allow a woman to learn how to use a scarf to regain her sense of beauty through the American Cancer Society “Look Good...Feel Better” program.

Thinking of giving chocolates to your sweetheart? Your donation could help a teenager battling cancer learn how to deal with friends, fatigue, activities and school through the American Cancer Society “Look Good...Feel Better for Teens” program.

Rather than buying that cute teddy bear holding a heart, your donation could help send a child battling cancer to camp at the American Cancer Society’s Camp Sunrise.

Instead of giving a gift certificate for a day at the spa, making a donation to Relay For Life allows the American Cancer Society to provide free lodging for cancer patients receiving treatment far from home through their Hope Lodge.

So before you head off to your local greeting card store, call the florist or fret over the perfect gift for your valentine...consider making a Valentine’s Day donation in their name to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. It’s a gift that will keep giving long after the flowers and candy are gone!

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Erin M. Clark
Relay For Life Chair
Concord University
clark@concord.edu

Thank You
for supporting such a great cause!
Let’s hear a ‘ROAR’ for...

Thomas Mayo

Mountain Lion wide receiver Thomas Mayo has been named to the D2Football.com All-American Team. The Concord University sophomore is one of seven players in the WVIAC to receive the honor. Check out Mayo's listing among an outstanding group of athletes from across the nation at: http://www.d2football.com/allamericans/15/.

Cheerleaders shine at Walt Disney World

The Concord University Cheerleaders received honors in the All Girl Division II category at the Universal Cheerleading Association’s National Collegiate Competition Jan. 15-18 in Walt Disney World. The cheerleaders have represented Concord at this competition since 1997. Concord was the only West Virginia college/university in the competition.

Bulletin Board

Reminder...Nominations for the Classified Employees Presidential Service Award are due on Friday, Feb. 5, 2010.

Department Updates

Admissions will host a Discover Day on Friday, Feb. 19. The event will begin at 10 a.m. in the State Room.

Dr. Jessica Alexander, assistant professor of psychology, and Dr. Anita Reynolds, assistant professor of education, will serve as faculty technology mentors for the fall 2010 semester. The mentors will work with the Center for Academic Technologies to provide technology training and assistance to faculty and staff.

Dr. Alexander is in her first year at Concord after completing her doctoral degree at Emory University last year. While a graduate student, Dr. Alexander managed the technology in a large research lab used for audio analysis and statistical analysis. She is also proficient in an array of instructional technologies including course management system software, stimulus presentation software, and website design.

Dr. Reynolds joined the Concord faculty in 2005. Her expertise extends across a wide range of course delivery technology including Blackboard, MediaSite, and video-conferencing. As part of her current duties, she instructs teacher candidates on the use and application of technology in the classroom.

The mentorships are funded by a grant received by the Dean’s Office from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Student-athletes holding children’s book drive

Fans who donate a book at the Feb. 11 doubleheader at the Carter Center will receive free admission to the CU vs. Alderson-Broaddus basketball games. The books are being collected by Concord University student-athletes and will be donated to children at a Charleston area women’s shelter during the 50th Annual WVIAC Basketball Tournament March 3-6, 2010. The student-athletes will also read to the children at the shelter. Books can be donated through March 1 and may be dropped off at the Carter Center. Concord University’s Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) is sponsoring the project. (This event was initially slated for Jan. 30, but was postponed until Feb. 11 due to inclement weather.)
Notable & Newsworthy

Dr. Lauri Reidmiller will be presenting “Gyotaku” at the spring West Virginia Art Education Association “Day at the Studio” Conference on March 5, 2010. Assisting with the presentation will be Concord University’s Art Education students. The presentation will focus on teaching the participants the printing process of Gyotaku (gee-o-taku) which originated in Japan in the early 1800’s. Gyotaku involves making a print directly from a fish. The process transfers all the details of the fish onto paper.

Originally, this printing technique was used by a fisherman to keep a record of the fish they caught. There are archives with records of fish caught 200 years ago in Japan. This interactive presentation will also provide the participants with methods of integrating this printing process into their existing art curriculum.

Concord rallies to aid Haitians

The Concord University community took to the hardwood to raise funds for victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in mid-January. Faculty and staff met students in a Jan. 21 basketball tournament raising nearly $4,000 in the process. That total includes donations collected at an information table in the Student Center, a bake sale, concessions, admission to the game, players fees, and a match from the Athletic Department. Caroline Stout, a CU student who has made more than half a dozen medical mission trips to Haiti, organized the fund-raiser with the assistance of fellow students. Proceeds have been sent to Randolph World Ministries to be used for food, water, and medical supplies for the Haitians.

Concord Charlie predicts an early spring

It’s official!
Area residents can expect an early spring.

That’s the word from Concord Charlie, Concord University’s groundhog prognosticator. The announcement was made during Concord University’s 32nd Annual Groundhog Day Breakfast held Feb. 2 in the Student Center Ballroom.

The famed groundhog’s annual weather forecast was delivered by Concord University Interim Vice President for Advancement Greg Quick and received by the breakfast guests with a round of applause.

“He did not see his shadow. Spring is impending and it will be coming fast,” Quick announced.

During a morning known for fun and folklore, Quick passed on Charlie’s message after the Concord burrow-dweller had “spoken” to his Pennsylvania counterpart Punxsutawney Phil via Quick’s BlackBerry. Phil had the opposite Groundhog Day experience and saw his shadow.

According to Groundhog Day tradition, if the groundhog sees his shadow the morning of Feb. 2, six more weeks of winter can be expected. An early spring will be on the way if he doesn’t see his shadow.

Concord Charlie shared the spotlight with Grand Groundhog Watcher Beverly Wellman. Wellman recently retired as executive director of the Mercer County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

“The Grand Groundhog Watcher honor is bestowed upon an individual who has positively impacted life and culture in West Virginia,” Quick said introducing the guest speaker. “Wellman has been a leader in promoting tourism statewide. She served as executive director of the Mercer County CVB from 1994 to 2009 and is currently executive director of the West Virginia Association of CVB’s.”
Director of Multicultural Affairs Nancy Ellison announces the following activities scheduled at Concord University in celebration of Black History Month, February 2010.

“We credit Black History Month to Virginia native Dr. Carter G. Woodson,” Ellison said. “Dr. Woodson founded Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month to honor the roles of blacks in American History. He felt it was important to hold the event in February because Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were both born in February. Here at Concord, through the collaboration of faculty, staff, and students, we have planned a variety of educational programs and activities that will appeal to a large audience.”

The noted musical trio Ewabo will bring the sounds of the islands to kick off the Black History Month Celebration at Concord University on Thursday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. on the Subway Stage. Featuring the steel drum, known as “pan” in its native Trinidad and Tobago, Ewabo is considered one of the top steel bands in the United States. The group’s skill has propelled them to prominence in the mainstream of international contemporary music. With the benefit of a variety of backgrounds in the arts, the musicians entertain, astound and educate audiences on the potpourri of Caribbean culture. Ewabo’s motto, “One Love,” is demonstrated as they perform a variety of exceptional musical arrangements.

Comedian Ron G will be performing on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at the Subway at 9 p.m. Ron G has a commitment to clean humor and describes his comedy as “high energy and clever with an urban flare.” Ron G was a finalist on Bill Bellamy’s show Who’s Got Jokes and NBC’s Last Comic Standing.

Mike Wiley will be performing a one-man play, “One Noble Journey,” on Feb. 25, at 12:30 p.m. as part of Concord University’s Martin Luther King Celebration. The play is based on the miraculous true lives of three slaves who overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to gain a life free of southern shackles. Gripping from start to finish, Wiley becomes Henry “Box” Brown, a black slave who sees no alternative but to mail himself in a small crate to freedom. Brown’s life unfolds like a Mark Twain adventure, perilous and somber at times while humorous and heroic throughout. Willing students and adults join Wiley on stage quickly and quietly becoming characters propelling the historic action.

Dana Gilmore is a Slam Poet and will be performing on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Subway at 7 p.m. Dana has performed on Season’s 3 and 4 of HBO’s Def Poetry Jam. Gilmore’s poetry is clear-cut and real. She describes herself as “a down-to-earth girl with a dash of diva,” speaking passionately, yet practically about life’s adversities, as well as alternatives for dealing with those realities.

The Kelly Bell Band will be performing on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at the Subway at 9 p.m. The Kelly Bell Band is a Blues Band from Baltimore, Maryland. They perform original music and have earned the title of “Best Blues Band in the Mid-Atlantic Region” for 12 years running.