From the Desk of . . .

As the Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) degree candidates were announced at commencement last Saturday, you may have wondered “what is the Regents degree?” Like our other bachelor degrees, the RBA is a 128 credit hour degree and contains a general studies curriculum. The purpose of the RBA, however, is unique. The Regents bachelor’s degree was created by the Board of Regents, now the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), in 1974 to meet the needs and recognize the accomplishments of adult learners. The RBA provides returning adults with the opportunity to complement coursework with college credit for professional certifications and experience. Adults who have had a false start at college are forgiven failing grades received more than four years ago. The Regents program has been a great success: over 20,000 students have earned the RBA and Regents graduates average about ten percent of every graduating class across the state’s public colleges and universities.

For many non-traditional students, family commitments, work obligations, and distance severely limit opportunities to attend college. These logistical barriers are particularly imposing in our state and the percentage of West Virginians who have earned a college degree lags behind the national average. Therefore, HEPC Chancellor Brian Noland is expanding the Regents program to increase adult learners’ access to college classes. Through the new RBA Today program, Regents students statewide will be able to take asynchronous courses from any of the participating schools. Concord is a leading contributor to RBA Today with professors Hugh Campbell, Linwood Clayton, and Tracy Luff preparing courses for the program. Dr. Campbell’s Theories of Leadership class is part of a new inter-institutional RBA area of emphasis in organizational leadership.

For the adult student who needs a fresh start on her or his college degree, the Regents Bachelor of Arts degree program can make a life-changing difference. We look forward to helping future Concord RBA alumni experience the professional rewards and personal satisfaction that come with a college degree.

George Towers, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean
Professor of Geography
Veterans Lounge opens at Concord University

Veterans attending class or working at Concord University now have a new place to gather. A veterans lounge for students, faculty and staff officially opened its doors on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 with a ribbon cutting and open house.

The lounge, located on the lower level of the Jerry L. Beasley Student Center, offers areas for study, conversation and relaxation and is part of an ongoing initiative by the Concord University Veterans Office to offer a “veteran-friendly” campus. Established in 2009, the office works with United States veterans, reservists and active duty service members to utilize educational benefits from the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Earlier in the day, Woodmen of the World Field Representative Samuel J. Conner presented the Concord University Veterans Committee with a U.S. Flag to be displayed in the veterans lounge.

Professors present at national conference

Three Concord University professors presented at the National Professional Development Schools (PDS) annual conference in Orlando, Fla. in March 2010. Dr. Anita Reynolds, Dr. Terry Mullins, and Dr. Charles Grindstaff, all part of Concord’s Teacher Education Program, co-presented at two sessions, “PDS Website: Working Together in Real Time” and “Educational Psychology, Assessment, and Technology (EPAT).” The PDS partnership aligns the university with the K-12 public schools to collaboratively strengthen classroom instruction and student learning, and the effective preparation of future teachers.

The first presentation, “PDS Website: Working Together in Real Time” focused on the PDS goal of contributing to improvements in the K-12 classroom. In an effort to facilitate this goal in a continuous and meaningful manner, Concord University is developing a PDS website for use by the PDS public school partners. The session provided information on the development of the website, the components of the website and future plans to expand the scope of the website.

The second presentation, “Educational Psychology, Assessment, and Technology (EPAT)” examined a new and innovative way in which Concord University and PDS partner schools are cooperating to present the teacher education program. Educational Psychology, Assessment, and Technology (EPAT) is an integrated offering that combines three education classes: The Psychology of Teaching and Learning (EDUC 305), Educational Assessment (EDUC 310) and Educational Technology (EDUC 301). The major goals for combining these courses include presenting educational concepts from them in an integrated fashion and providing on-site reinforcement of concepts by course professors during the field placement component in PDS schools.
Let’s hear a ‘ROAR’ for...

Concord University’s Newest Alums

Congratulations and best wishes go to CU’s Fall 2009, Spring 2010 and August 2010 graduates!

Send us your news!

Let us know what’s new with you or your department...e-mail Campus E-News at enews@concord.edu. Be sure to include your name and telephone number so we can contact you, too. Deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication.

Notable & Newsworthy

Dr. Dianna Ross is the recipient of the West Virginia Society of CPA’s Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award.

Terri Philpott has been named the Director of Student Support Services. She has served as the Interim Director during the 2009-10 academic year.

Trena Stovall was selected as Financial Aid Assistant III. Trena is a graduate of Concord University and has worked previously in the Financial Aid Office.

Andrew Wright has been named Head Baseball Coach and an instructor in Human Performance for the 2010-11 year. Drew was the Assistant Baseball Coach at Concord in the 2009-10 academic year and also from June of 2002 to June of 2004. He was an Assistant Baseball Coach at WVU from July of 2005 to May of 2007. He received his master’s degree from WVU in Athletic Coaching Education in 2007.

Andrew Wright, center, is named CU’s head baseball coach at a recent press conference. He is joined by President Gregory Aloia, left, and CU Director of Athletics Kevin Garrett.

William King was hired in March as an assistant football coach. King comes to Concord after three seasons as defensive coordinator at West Virginia State. Before his time in Institute, King spent four seasons as linebackers coach at Morgan State in Baltimore, Md. He has also coached at Elon College (N.C.), Tusculum College (Tenn.) and James Madison (Va.) He is a native of Charleston and had an outstanding playing career at Marshall University.

Kathleen Weldon, Fall 2009 Concord graduate, has been selected as one of six women to receive the prestigious Grace Mason Lundy Award of Delta Zeta Sorority for 2009-2010. The award is presented to senior members of Delta Zeta who throughout their college years, have given the greatest evidence of loyalty, devotion and service to their chapters and to the sorority. Michelle Smith, national president of Delta Zeta, called Weldon “a role model and an inspiration for Epsilon Delta Chapter at Concord University.”

“Rediscovering Rural Appalachian Communities with Historical GIS,” a research article by Concord geography professor George Towers, appears in the spring, 2010 edition of the Southeastern Geographer. The paper presents a GIS (geographic information systems) methodology that locates the boundaries of the small, close-knit farm communities that defined the local countryside between the Civil War and World War II. The Southeastern Geographer is the research journal of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers.
Department Updates

Musical to benefit Miner Relief Fund

“Bat Boy: The Musical” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bat_Boy_the_Musical) will be presented by the Concord University Department of Music May 20 - 22, 2010 at 8 p.m. nightly. General admission is by donation with all profits going to the WV Miner Relief Fund.

The cast, crew and orchestra include: Edgar (bat boy), Mike Dorsey, CU student, Galax, Va.; Shelley, Desi Davis, CU student, Beckley; Meredith, Chandra Sheppard, CU student, Summersville; Dr. Parker, Matthew Browning, CU faculty; Rick, John Wisman, CU student, White Oak; Ron, Tyler Ball, CU student, Princeton; Maggie, Carrie Honaker, CU student, Greenbrier; Daisy, Tanya Spinella, CU student, Princeton; stage director/ Rev. Hightower, Josh Miller, CU faculty; music director/keyboard I, Laura Zamzow, CU faculty; keyboard II, Jordan Stadvec, CU student, Princeton; keyboard III, Jesse Ratcliffe, CU student, Hinton; drums, Casey Cangelosi, CU faculty; lights, Jenna Phillips, CU student, Princeton; and tech, Aaron Chamberlin, CU student, Beckley.

For more information call 304-384-5301 or go to http://music.concord.edu.

Local art students featured in show

Young Mercer County artists are exhibiting their work at Concord University now through May 31, 2010.

“The art show is a growing partnership between Concord University’s Art Department and the Mercer County school district,” Dr. Lauri Reidmiller, CU assistant professor of art, said.

She said the “Night in the Art Gallery” exhibition showcases Mercer County art students from elementary through high school whose creations were selected by the county’s art teachers to be included in the show. The following schools are represented: Bluefield High, PikeView High, Princeton Senior High, Princeton Middle, Glenwood Middle and Athens.

The exhibit is located in the Arthur Butcher Gallery of the Alexander Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The public is invited to visit the exhibit and attend a reception that will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Reidmiller said that Concord art education majors will offer hands-on activities during the reception and faculty from the Concord University Art Department will conduct demonstrations.

The tentative schedule for the reception includes: George Walsh, photo transfer demonstration; Jacqueline Trent, gelatin prints demonstration and hands-on activity; Susan Price, origami demonstration and hands-on activity; and, Denise Ward and Victoria McInturff, gyotaku prints demonstration and hands-on activity.

Students are served a late night breakfast during finals week.
Public Administration papers examine campus issues

Students in Public Administration have done several projects this semester related to improving our university and our local communities. Students examined campus parking, meal plans, accessibility for the disabled, the student judicial board, public school consolidation, the local availability of ACT and SAT tests, cafeteria food waste, the effects of block scheduling in high schools and metro consolidation of county and municipal governments.

Each of the papers yielded academically interesting and practically useful findings, many of which will guide the way for future study by the students themselves and other academics and policy-makers.

Students presented their findings to the class on April 28, 2010.

Perhaps most importantly, students learned some valuable lessons regarding the achievement of results in the public and not-for-profit sectors of the economy, particularly: 1) that systematic, informed investigation generally reveals that problems and solutions are not as simple as they might seem; and 2) that even when problems and solutions are simple, administrators need to confront customer biases related to long-standing prejudices and practices.

The research has been shared with university administrators and community leaders. The students themselves would like to make it clear that they themselves bear no personal responsibility for future policy changes, particularly those related, say, to trayless dining and increased parking enforcement.

This article was written by CU student James Blankenship

Commencement celebrates academic achievements

Concord University held commencement on May 8, 2010 with ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Spring 2010 class was joined by graduates from December 2009 (nicknamed the 2009 Blizzard Class by Dr. Aloia) and August 2010. Concord's Class of 1960 participated in the morning ceremony in recognition of its 50th reunion.

OSP presents awards

The Concord University Office of Sponsored Programs recently recognized the campus community for efforts in submitting proposals and securing funding. Awards were presented on April 28 during a program in the Rahall Technology Center entitled “The Finer Details of Successful Proposals.”

Recipients include: The Presidents Cup FY 2010, awarded to the academic division with the highest in total funding for sponsored programs for the year; Social Science Division; M.V.P. (Most Valuable Project Director) FY 2010, awarded to the principal investigator who has acquired the most funding due to exemplary dedication and leadership, Dr. John David Smith; and, Rookie of the Year, awarded to the principal investigator for outstanding performance in the submission of their first federal proposal, Dr. Susan Williams.

The Commendation Award FY 2010, which recognizes principal investigators who secured funding, was presented to: Dr. Joseph Allen, Dr. Linwood Clayton, Dr. Richard Druggish, Dr. Joseph Manzo, Dr. William O’Brien, Dr. Roy Ramthum, Dr. George Towers, Dr. Darla Wise, Ms. Melissa Gattuso, Dr. Nancy Burton, Dr. Darrell Crick, Dr. Tracy Luff, Dr. David Matchen, Ms. Terri Philpott, Dr. John David Smith, Dr. Cheryl Trull and Ms. Kathy Ball.

The Proposal Submission Award FY 2010, which acknowledges principal investigators who have submitted a proposal for FY 2010, was awarded to: Dr. Nancy Burton, Dr. Darrell Crick, Dr. Thomas Ford, Dr. Kathryn Liptak, Dr. Joseph Manzo, Dr. Stephen Rowe, Dr. George Towers, Dr. Jim White, Dr. Susan Williams, Ms. Kathy Ball, Dr. Linwood Clayton, Dr. Richard Druggish, Dr. David Hill, Dr. Tracy Luff, Dr. David Matchen, Dr. John David Smith, Dr. Cheryl Trull, Dr. Sarah Whittaker, Dr. Darla Wise, Dr. Joseph Allen, and Dr. David Chambers.

Box City recognized in state newsletter

The Bonner Scholars recent Box City is featured in the April 2010 edition of Stateline. This newsletter for West Virginia state government employees is produced by the West Virginia Department of Administration, Division of Personnel. You may find the article at: http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/stline/10-15/10/Apr10-02.pdf.