Intercom – Message from the President

Connie Brizuela

Hey, has school started already? Summers seem to fly by faster and faster! If you haven’t already, be sure to sign up for the annual meeting in Jackson Hole in October! The conference web site is http://oia.uwyo.edu/rmair/. Come ready to vote on bylaw changes to split the Secretary-Treasurer position into “Secretary” and “Treasurer,” and on whether to provide some financial support for our “best paper” presenters to attend the national conference.

We have two fantastic candidates for Vice President: Lou Attanasi and Kathy Chandler-Henry! This year, Joe Curtin has set up a web-based election. Watch your e-mail for a message from Joe with instructions on how and where to vote.

This summer, we identified 68 non-member institutional research professionals at higher education institutions in the Rocky Mountain Region, sent them information about the services and benefits of membership in RMAIR and AIR, and invited them to our annual conference. Our goals were to:

- Inform IR professionals about the benefits of membership in AIR and RMAIR
- Extend benefits of membership to a larger group
- Expand the high quality of institutional research in the Rocky Mountain Region.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in membership, we have both e-mail and snail-mail packets ready to send! Let me know at hanuman@uwyo.edu. Hopefully, we’ll see some new faces in Jackson, as well as all of our long-time friends and colleagues! Happy Trails! –Connie
Greetings fellow RMAIRians! I hope all is well with each and every one of you.

With an abundance of special projects, this summer was very busy for us here in institutional research at the University of New Mexico. A couple of us got a great start at the AIR Forum in Toronto. Be sure to read your fellow RMAIRians comments on the Forum in this issue of PANORAMA.

This issue also contains an update on our fall RMAIR conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This year’s program looks great. Concurrent sessions! This newsletter contains some details on RMAIR’s “Train the Trainer Workshop,” and be sure to look over the preliminary program on the conference website (http://oia.uwyo.edu/rmair/program/preliminaryprogram.htm).

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I especially want to thank the PANORAMA State Reporters. They do a great job time after time. I also want to thank Kathy Chandler-Henry for the work she has done in the past as the State Reporter Coordinator. Thanks Kathy!

I am looking forward to our meeting in Jackson Hole. I hope to see you there.

RMAIR Annual Fall Conference is Fast Approaching

Please come to beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming for the 2002 RMAIR fall conference from October 9-11. The conference will be held at the fabulous Spring Creek Ranch (http://www.springcreekranch.com/) with views of the Tetons from every room. As usual, RMAIRian’s contributions have created an outstanding program. Sue Koller, program chair, announced that the entire schedule would feature concurrent sessions, so there will be no problem finding a presentation to fit your interests. On Wednesday, we will also have concurrent half-day workshops. Lisa Muller will be offering a workshop on National Datasets, and Jacki Stirn will provide a workshop on IPEDS and the Peer Analysis System. Connie Williamson, local arrangements chair, has put together some great entertainment—including magnificent food, a great band, and a true Western trail riding experience. Please check out the conference website at http://oia.uwyo.edu/rmair/. The website includes the program with abstracts of the presentations, an on-line registration form, and all the information you might need. See you there!
Train the Trainer Workshop to be Offered in Jackson Hole

Lisa Muller of the University of Wyoming will offer RMAIR’s “Train the Trainer Program”. Lisa has been in institutional research for 10 years. The workshop is “Using National Datasets,” which was offered at AIR 2002 in Toronto, Ontario by John Milam who was then at the University of Virginia. Currently, Dr. Milam is continuing to work with NCES on the Answers Project as a managing partner at highered.org.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with an understanding of the uses of national datasets for institutional research. The primary focus will be on using institutional and sample survey datasets from NCES and NSF. Online resources such as ANSWERS Web site and NCES Data Analysis Systems (DAS) will be discussed. Participants will learn about the different approaches to use in finding needed data, including (1) topical, (2) source, (3) level of aggregation, (4) collection method, (5) time/date, and (6) intended use of the data set.

Reflections on Toronto AIR Forum

Several RMAIRians attended the Toronto AIR Forum in May. As editor, I thought it would be great for attendees to share some of their experiences—things they learned, highlights, and impressions—with the rest of us. Here are the comments I received:

John Wilson (University of Arizona):
“Maybe I was just lucky in my selection, but I thought that, apart from the general sessions, this was the best forum in terms of program content that I have attended in some time. I especially liked the panel on IR and its relation to presidents, governance, etc. I also found Toronto delightful—first time there—so maybe that put me in a good mood to listen. In any case, my thanks to the program track and proposal evaluation teams.”

Mike Ellison (University of Nevada, Las Vegas):
“This past AIR forum was my first, as I am new this past year to our IR office, and to the field of IR in general. I worked for years in an IT office; my background is as a computer programmer, and systems/
The AIR forum in Toronto was good for me in that it broadened my understanding of Institutional Research as a field. I enjoyed not just the sessions, but also the informal conversations I had with long-time members, which often centered on the successes and trials of the IR/IT relationship. I spent much of my time there attending the more technical sessions and was impressed with how technology was being applied to IR problems in many institutions, particularly in the area of data warehousing.”

Cathy Burleson (University of Montana):
“From the Toronto Air Forum I mostly learned about Enrollment modeling. Also, I attended an informative workshop mastering online databases. I brought back materials from the above . . . now all I need is time to look over and experiment with what I have learned.”

Archie George (University of Idaho):
“Three attended the AIR Forum in Toronto from the University of Idaho office of Institutional Research and Assessment: Archie George (myself), Director; Ray Wallace, IR Analyst; and Jason Mayer, Programmer. Each of us presented and also facilitated at least one session. I served as a reader for track 4 "Higher Education Collaborations, Policy Issues, and Accountability," and am track chair for the 2003 Forum. This was the first AIR conference for Jason, and the second for Ray. I believe both benefited greatly from the sessions they attended, as well as the experience of preparing and presenting some of the exciting work we are doing here at the University of Idaho. The executive leadership at Idaho believe that these opportunities are important not only for professional development of our staff, but also represent opportunities to enhance the reputation of the institution. Thus, funds have been made available for this type of travel as long as each individual is on the program in a significant role.

My general impression was that this year's Forum was among the best I have ever attended, and the conference evaluation indicated the same. Many of the numerical ratings on the Forum evaluation showed the highest average since they have been keeping records! The facilities and food certainly contributed, but the session content and quality of presentations was also generally above expectations. While there were a few isolated technical glitches, the support for presenters was outstanding. As a rule, only those who failed to check with technical staff prior to their session to insure their equipment was compatible had any problems. Keep this in mind for next year if you are presenting!

Attendance at the Forum in Toronto was down somewhat from the last several years, but was actually above expectations given the budget reductions and travel restrictions in some states. There is concern about attendance at the 2003 Forum in Tampa, Florida, as budgets continue to be tight. However, the Toronto experience was outstanding, and I am expecting even higher quality in Tampa given the savvy of the leadership.”
News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor

Enrollments Rising as State Dollars Decline

Jane Wellman in the July/August issue of Trusteeship, in an article entitled "Weathering the Double Whammy," sums up the problem facing higher education in Arizona. Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity College, phrased it this way, in a rap song entitled The Double Whammy Rap:

We got a problem,
I hafta confess.
You keep askin' me
to do more with less!
Revenue shortfalls
... cut-cut-cut...
Baby-boom echo
... too, too much!

Doublewhammydoublewhammy
Oofoooohhhhhhh!

We have more students, but funding has been cut. In Arizona, the universities and the community colleges have had funding reduced and more cuts look likely. In fact, the State Board for Community Colleges lost their funding (the Legislature eliminated their line from the budget) and have had to relocate and let go of most of their staff.

For the three public universities, enrollments are growing. Using unofficial figures (census date is the 21st day of the semester), student head count is up 5% at Arizona State University, 2% at Northern Arizona University, and 2% at the University of Arizona.

Pima Community College, in Tucson, has a gain of 5% in head count. This is not official; for community colleges, the census date is the 45th day of the semester. Like the universities, budgets have been reduced for the community colleges. Maricopa, also unofficial, is up 8% from last year.

COLORADO
State Reporter: Stephen Chambers

Colorado Considers Change in Funding Higher Education

A proposal being considered by the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education in the 21st Century may dramatically change how public colleges and universities are funded. Up to this point, the state has appropriated funds to each governing board. Each board, has in turn, allocated these funds among the institutions governed. The proposed alternative would do away with this approach by providing the state appropriation directly to college students.
If approved, the proposal would grant each full-time student about $4,300 to attend college for an academic year. This dollar figure being discussed already includes about a 10% cut to the state appropriation per student FTE used last year. The student would then be responsible for paying the grant funds, plus regular tuition and fees, to the institution he or she attends.

One advantage of this approach would be the potential for public colleges and universities to no longer fall under the spending constraints of the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR). TABOR is an amendment to the state constitution that limits increases in state spending to 6% a year, with small factors built in for inflation and population growth. In recent years, TABOR has in the viewpoint of many, placed unrealistic limitations on the ability of institutions to raise sufficient revenues to stay competitive in the higher education market. Without the TABOR spending cap, institutions would be allowed additional financial flexibility with the overall goal of improving higher education quality.

IDAHO
State Reporter: Archie George

On July 15, University of Idaho president Robert Hoover unexpectedly announced that he was a finalist for the presidency of Nevada State College in Henderson and that this would be his last year in Idaho. Soon after, however, flanked by Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, legislative leaders, members of the Idaho Board of Education, family and friends, University of Idaho President Bob Hoover recanted, saying "Jeanne and I agonized over our initial decision to make this our last year in Idaho, and then agonized again this week," Hoover said. "However, we had no idea the impact our decision to leave would have on our own feelings and on those of our friends and colleagues. We have received hundreds of e-mail messages, hundreds of telephone calls, cards and letters, and an extraordinary burst of encouragement from the staff, faculty, and students of the University of Idaho. Suffice it to say, we were surprised and humbled, honored and overwhelmed—and ultimately persuaded. We have decided to see our Idaho commitment through until we retire in the fall of 2007."

Perhaps the high drama paid off. As on August 30th, Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne announced additional steps needed to be taken to make up an estimated $168 million shortfall for FY03. The state economist released the revised 2003 revenue estimate at 3.9 percent growth over FY 2002. "Given the new revenue estimates, which are down because of the ongoing national recession, it is necessary to identify sources of funds in the event the economy continues to under-perform," Kempthorne said. The Governor has ordered an immediate 3.5 percent holdback for general fund agencies, excluding public schools and higher education. That holdback should result in $26 million in savings. "Because of my commitment to education in Idaho, I'm exempting public schools and higher education from this holdback," Kempthorne said.

Enrollments at the U of Idaho seem to be up more than 3% over last fall. New freshman enrollment appears to be at record level again in spite of a 12% increase in student fees. Official numbers for UI and other institutions in the state should be available by Sept. 13th.

After 42 years in the education field and serving as Boise State University's president for nearly a decade, Charles Ruch announced that he will retire as head of the university when his successor arrives next summer. Ruch made the announcement at his annual state of the university address to faculty and staff August 27th.
As of Sept. 3rd, Boise State University enrollment was just short of 17,800 headcount (about 3.5% increase from last fall's record), but more importantly, credit hours taken by students are up seven percent over last year. Students are again increasing their semester loads to more full time.

President Dene Thomas had her official "investiture" at Lewis-Clark State College on August 22, after one full year on the job. For the second year in a row, the number of students at U.S. News and World Report's 2001 best northwest public, four-year liberal arts college is up. Although it's still early, figures from the first day are indicating a 5% increase over last year. And the number of applications still in the queue could send that number even higher. This year, following months of strenuous planning and difficult decisions related to budget issues, the news is especially welcome. "It certainly confirms that higher education is still a priority, a top value in the minds of Idaho citizens," Thomas said. "People still look to higher education for the means to change their lives."

State budget concerns aside, Thomas is hopeful for the future and stated her conviction in her inaugural address. Her remarks focused on hope, promise, and continued forward momentum. Despite the hard economic times facing higher education institutions in the State of Idaho, Thomas reiterated her belief that LCSC has a bright future, that its employees, students, and supporters working together can weather the difficulties and "come out on top." She created the new Investiture Scholarship Fund in that spirit, designing it as another means for students to access education. She hopes the fund will quickly attain endowed status and, in addition to being its creator, she is a major contributor.

LCSC also has a new Director of Institutional Research, Chet Herbst. Chet worked with Dene Thomas at the University of Idaho several years ago, while she was Associate Provost and Chet was head of the joint Air Force ROTC program at U Idaho and Washington State University. Chet has only recently discovered RMAIR, I have encouraged him to join the listserv and attend the conference in Jackson Hole.

Early fall enrollment prognostications were not forthcoming from Idaho State University. The most interesting current "press release" at ISU, at least to this reporter, is the Pocatello Pump. The Northwest's oldest rock climbing competition is celebrating its 20th year Sept. 14-15 "on the best quarter mile of basalt anywhere" located in Pocatello's Ross Park. The event is a fund-raiser for a variety of causes, including funding one of the few rock climbing scholarships awarded by an American university.

Sponsored by the Idaho State University Outdoor Program, the Pump generally attracts about 180 participants—primarily from Idaho, Montana, and Utah, but climbers come from as far away as California and Colorado. In addition to the climbers, plenty of spectators attend this event held the same weekend as the annual Cooperative Wilderness Handicapped Outdoor Group (C.W. Hog) Pig Out. The Pig Out is scheduled Sept. 14 in Lower Ross Park.

"We definitely get a lot of spectators watching the climbing by entrants who are from age 6 to 60," said Peter Joyce, ISU outdoor recreation coordinator. "We may not draw the top names in the climbing profession, but there are some really good climbers that come to the Pump, and they're fun to watch. If you're a non-climber, it can be amazing to watch someone get up a sheer rock cliff that looks impossible to climb from a spectator's point of view."

Although billed as a bouldering competition, Joyce said that over the years the event has become less competitive and more "beginner and recreational climber friendly." The top prizes for winning the event's competition are ceramic mugs created by local potter Phil Jenkins. The rest of the prizes donated from a variety of sponsors are awarded through drawings.

"Everybody gets a chance at the gear donated to the event," Joyce said. "You could come in dead last and have a chance to walk away with the best prizes."
MONTANA
State Reporter: Cathy Burleson

A special session was held in August for budget reductions. There were reductions in all agencies, and the Montana University System appropriations were reduced approximately 12.5 million dollars or 8.4%. More of the same is expected in January. Tuition surcharges are being planned to generate the appropriation differences. For more information, please see the July 2002 Montana University System Board of Regents newsletter at http://www.montana.edu/wwwbor/NewsLetterBoR7-02.pdf.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Virginia Moore

University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN)

The financial situation is not good in our state. (Sound familiar?) Governor Kenny Guinn has called for a 3% reduction in all general fund appropriations for the current fiscal year. This call comes on the heels of other unanticipated strains on the budget: a rescue of the State self-insurance program, approved but not funded by the legislature during a special session this summer, which must be covered by all agencies including the UCCSN and its institutions; rising utility costs; and the loss of investment income. Campuses will submit their revised budgets to the system office by August 28; UCCSN must make its submission to the Governor by September 3.

Concurrent with the response to the current fiscal crisis, budget requests for the next biennium are moving forward. For the 2003-2005 biennium, the base budget amount requested by the UCCSN is a 24.7% increase over the previous biennium, due in part to pressures from rapid growth in enrollment. In addition, budget enhancements in excess of $55M are being requested.

In fall 2000, the state of Nevada implemented yearly, per-credit Millennium Scholarship awards for qualifying (B-average or better) state high school graduates who enroll in UCCSN institutions. Each degree-seeking student’s maximum award is $10,000. According to a study done by the System Administration Office, the program is having an immediate and positive impact on college continuation rates in the State. In fall 2000, when Millennium Scholarship students first enrolled at the UCCSN, the college-going rate increased to 49% (up from 40% reported in 1998). The percent of Nevada’s recent high school graduates who attended school outside of Nevada decreased very slightly from 1998 to 2000 (-0.7%).

University of Nevada, Reno (Nevada)

The Institutional Analysis is office is happy to welcome Linda Brunson, who joined our team in August as an Institutional Research Analyst. Linda comes to us most recently from the State of Nevada’s IT division, with prior experience at our University in areas such as International Programs and the College of Education. We also congratulate Arthur Chenin, who was promoted to Institutional Research Analyst at about the same time. Arthur has been with this office for about a year and a half now. We look forward to doing good things with the addition of such talent to our staff.
The air is filled with the excitement of a new academic year. Mother Nature cooperated by providing a nice, cool breeze on “residence hall move-in day.” It was a break for all of us after an unusually long, hot and dry summer—but no doubt was especially appreciated by students, parents, and volunteers as they hauled belongings from cars to dorm rooms. It was also on a cool and comfortable morning that thousands of new freshmen and transfer students filled the quad and walked in a bagpipe-led procession to Lawlor Events Center for the third annual New Student Opening Ceremony.

Nevada will address this year’s fiscal challenges by making strategic cuts aligned with our strategic priorities. Among these are a hiring freeze, a 2-week campus closure during the winter break, and departmental operating budget reductions. Every effort is being made to minimize the impact on instruction during this time of rapidly increasing enrollment. Institutional Analysis will have very little money for travel this year—so (sniff) we won’t be seeing you in beautiful Jackson Hole—and having our latitudes expanded in Tampa will depend upon how things go between now and then…

Building a meaningful relationship with each of the 2,300 or so Millennium Scholars on the University of Nevada, Reno campus this past spring has proved successful in keeping nine out of 10 such students eligible for their awards. Millennium Scholars at Nevada agree to guidelines ensuring their compliance with several strategies for academic success, and their hard work is paying off. Of the 2,287 Millennium Scholars who enrolled for spring 2002 semester classes at Nevada, 90 percent (2,049) maintained their eligibility through Aug. 14, according to figures released by the Office of the State Treasurer. The Treasurer’s office, which administers the Millennium Scholarship program, reported the awarded students’ grade-point average at Nevada was a state system high of 3.11 on a 4.0 scale. To maintain scholarship eligibility while attending the University, students must earn at least a 2.0 GPA in no less than 12 semester credits.

All 17 of the State of Nevada’s counties are participating in University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) community education for the first time in the program’s 88-year history. Mineral County Commissioners voted to accept and fund UNCE programs in their county, completing the tradition of programming throughout the state. Cooperative Extension will open an office in Mineral County’s convention center in Hawthorne and will conduct an extensive countywide needs assessment. Their intent is to tailor educational programs to the unmet needs of Mineral citizens and to use all the advantages of the Internet, compressed video, and satellite technologies to provide them with access to a broad range of university expertise.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)
– by Diane Muntal –

To say that UNLV is “funding-challenged” this fall would be an understatement. Unfunded utility increases, unfunded health insurance increases, a property insurance increase, and unexpectedly high enrollments will result in a budget impact of about $10 million for the institution. Two emergency initiatives have been implemented: 1) a hiring freeze that may affect an estimated 150 state-funded positions through the end of the fiscal year, and 2) fewer class offerings in the spring 2003 semester. Other strategies are being considered and will be discussed at upcoming Board of Regents meetings.

Preliminary reports indicated that FTE enrollment will jump an estimated 10% this fall, and increased headcount will exceed 6%. If the newly implemented funding formula were funded at 100%, UNLV Rebels would be dancing down the academic mall. Looks like UNLV faculty and staff will be dancing to a different beat—a fast paced jig with few rests.
UNLV’s Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning was awarded a planning initiative award of $20,000 to fund the creation of a data warehouse. The pilot project will allow senior administrators to access data from the Student Information System regardless of their level of technological application and will inform future advances in campus data management and access to institutional data. The warehouse will also allow the office to develop a dynamic automated site for publishing ongoing data services such as fact book pages, student profile information, and data formatted for program review.

UNLV’s School of Dentistry presented white coats to the inaugural class of 75 aspiring health professionals who began the first of 11 semesters of rigorous study this month. Classes are being held on the main UNLV campus until the school moves to its permanent home on the Shadow Lane campus. Dr. Patrick Ferrillo, the new dean of the School of Dentistry, served as the dean of Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine since 1987, and is recognized nationally and internationally for his leadership in dental education.

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Dawn Kenney

Dawn Kenney from TVI Community College in Albuquerque recently agreed to serve as New Mexico’s state reporter. She did not have enough time to write a report for this issue of PANORAMA, but look for her reports in the future. Thanks Dawn!

UTAH
State Reporter: Valerie Stegeman

Utah State University – USU Program Guarantees That Students Will Graduate in Four Years

As lawmakers and higher education officials alike look for ways to tighten their budget belts, a new program at Utah State University promises to save money for both university students and the state. The Graduation Guarantee Program is designed to help students who sign up for the program to graduate in the shortest time possible, saving money for students and for the university too, said Utah State Provost Stan Albrecht. See http://utahstatesman.com/news/258372.html.

Southern University of Utah – SUU Completes Second Round of Budget Reductions

Southern Utah University has completed its second round of budget cuts in less than a year, and although they are not as large as the first, they are painful. The pruning will include adjustments to the healthcare package for all employees, the elimination of six staff positions, and the conversion of three other positions from state money to self-support dollars, as well as some smaller cuts in personnel funding and operating and administrative support areas. “It’s a lot tougher to make cuts after you’ve already carved more than $1.6 million from the budget a few months earlier,” says SUU spokesman Dean O’Driscoll. See http://www.suu.edu/news/budget.htm.
University of Utah – U of U's Summer Research Opportunity Program Offers Much More Than Research

August 5, 2002 – This week 23-year-old Lupe Figueroa, a senior in Spanish and Human Communications at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), will finish up eight weeks of graduate school-level research at the University of Utah. She is one of 23 students completing this year’s Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), sponsored campus-wide by the U’s Graduate School.

The SROP provides first generation, economically disadvantaged and underrepresented undergraduate students, from throughout the United States and its territories, the opportunity to perform research under the guidance of faculty in the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Medicine, Mines and Earth Sciences, Science, Pharmacy, and Social and Behavioral Science. The project also allows the students, mostly college juniors and seniors, the chance to see what graduate school is all about. See http://www.utah.edu/unews/releases/02/aug/summer.html.

Utah Valley State College – UVSC Appoints New Vice President of College Relations

Val L. Peterson, the former associate vice president of college relations at Utah Valley State College, will now serve as vice president of college relations under President Kerry D. Romesburg. Peterson assumed the position July 1.

"I am very excited about the opportunity I have to work as vice president of college relations and be part of President Romesburg's executive team," Peterson said. "I look forward to dealing with the challenges of growth and the strategic direction of the college."

Peterson attended Brigham Young University where he received a bachelor's degree in communications with a public relations emphasis in 1987 and a master's degree in mass communications theory in 1994. He will complete a doctorate in educational leadership this year. See http://www.uvsc.edu/relations/releases/03july02.html.

Brigham Young University – Construction Begins on New Joseph F. Smith Building

On June 3 BYU began construction on a five-level Joseph F. Smith Building to replace the Joseph F. Smith Family Living Center. With a design that will allow natural light to enter much of the facility, the building will become a campus centerpiece and will accommodate the two largest colleges on campus.

The new building will house significant portions of the College of Humanities, including the Humanities Research Center, the Center for Language Studies, and the university's language departments. Units from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences will also be housed in the building, such as the School of Family life, the Family Studies Center, Women's Research Center, the Center for Family History and Genealogy, and child and family studies labs. See http://magazine.byu.edu/article.tpl?num=06-sum02.
Westminster College – Announces Interim Dean of the College

Dr. Jesse Mann, will serve as Westminster College’s Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College. Mann will replace Dr. John Deegan, Jr., who recently was appointed president of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C. A national search for his replacement will begin soon.

“I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jesse Mann has agreed to serve as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College,” said R. Thomas Willimason, president of Westminster College. “Jesse has served the College for 18 years, most recently as Associate Dean of the College and Chair of Modern Languages. He is well qualified to fill his new interim role.” See http://www.westminster.edu/News/comm_site/news/2002-2003/DeanMann.html.

Weber State University - University Village Opens its Doors

For those dying to see what is inside the new University Village housing complex without getting arrested for breaking and entering, Weber State University housing services sponsored an open house for the community on July 10. Members of the community, students and anyone in general were encouraged to come and investigate the new, six-building complex at 1321 East 4600 South in Ogden, south of the Dee Events Center.

The free-of-charge open house will gave visitors the opportunity to see the village's community center and one of the living spaces. "It's a chance for the community to see what the construction has been all about," said Amanda Stoots, marketing and conference coordinator for WSU housing services.

According to Stoots, the community center offers housed students a recreation room, a fitness center, computer labs, a kitchen, and back patio for barbeques and social interaction.

The living spaces come in fully furnished fours, four bedrooms, each sharing a kitchen, living room, and two bathrooms. Each cluster will include wireless and high-speed Ethernet access (for Internet course accessibility), appliances, and satellite television. The monthly cost, $340 plus electricity, can be paid month by month, by semester or by year. See http://www.wsusignpost.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2002/07/09/3d2a3d0b17733?in_archive=1.

Dixie State College – Fall Registration up at Dixie State College

ST. GEORGE – Aug. 7, 2002. Fall semester at Dixie State College is less than two weeks away, and students are scrambling to finalize fall schedules. Aug. 20 marks the first day of classes.

“We’re seeing a crunch down the stretch like we normally do,” said vice president of student affairs Bill Fowler. "A lot of students put school in the back of their minds for as long as they can during the summer. It kind of sneaks up on them, and there’s always a last minute rush as the first day of classes approaches."

The only problem with that strategy, Fowler said, is that students sometimes don’t always end up getting the courses they need or want. Enrollment for fall semester is already 5-percent ahead of where it was last year at this time prior to the semester. Ultimately, last fall semester resulted in the most frequented semester ever known at Dixie State. A record 8,115 students were enrolled in courses last fall at the college. See http://www.dixie.edu/pr/news.htm#fallregistration8702.
The University of Wyoming has started the fall semester with Weeks of Welcome, a new parking system, and the sounds of construction as crews finish summer projects. Raises went into effect July 1.

The University of Wyoming President, Philip Dubois, will be meeting with each department on campus in the next couple of months to discuss general five-year planning for the university and get feedback from the staff on important issues for the future. The two-month presidential sabbatical went well with the vice-president for academic affairs, Thomas Buchanan, serving as acting president. During the summer months academic planning continued, and as a result, the next set of academic planning proposals will be released early in the fall.

The construction on campus includes several ADA projects with external ramps, stair replacement, and the Old Main elevator. OIA will be back into slightly smaller office space soon. The elevator cuts right through part of the office space in Old Main from the 1st to 4th floors. The new parking and bus system is now in place following months of construction. Bus shelters, new parking lots, and frequent additional buses linking the main campus to parking lots a mile away are all part of the new University of Wyoming culture.

Weeks of welcome include academic departmental welcoming events, outdoor activities and pep rallies, success series from the writing center, library and student affairs, and students helping the local community, as well as campus resource and study abroad fairs. The campus is quite festive.

In Wyoming Community College news, the community college commission approved a new Casper College Respiratory Therapy degree program and two locally financed construction projects.

I hope to see many of you at RMAIR in Jackson Hole Wyoming in October.
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