



BECKER COLLEGE

Parent Newsletter

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A Note from the Vice President ...

Another academic year is drawing to a close, but let's remember the semester is not over yet. Encourage your son or daughter to work to the best of their ability to finish the semester on a strong note. I want to thank you for your continued commitment to Becker College. We believe partnering with parents is essential to the success of our students. We continue to be awed by the developing maturity of our students, grateful that Becker encourages their independence while gently guiding them through their undergraduate years. I hope your son or daughter is having the experience of a lifetime, learning about the world, making forever friends, and considering the role they will play in a global society.

In an effort to enhance their educational experience the college renovated the Biology lab over the holiday break and will renovate the chemistry lab this summer. We hope to enhance several other buildings this summer so that the total college experience can be enjoyed by all our students, staff and faculty.

Enjoy the summer!

Ken Cameron
Vice President of Student Affairs

Academic Affairs

“I got this letter from you just the other day...”

The 2008-09 Academic Year is rolling fast and furious towards a close. The fall semester seems like eons ago to me, and I know from personal experience now that we are past spring break – and midterm grades – time will seem to pass doubly quick. Midterm grades – that reminds me of a phone call I got from a parent just after sending home those letters to students who had gotten D's or F's at mid-semester. Mom started off by telling me about the letter she had received from me the day before. When I stopped her to let her

know that the letter had in fact been addressed to her son, she told me she thought it was addressed “To the Parents of...”. If you have been to any of our orientation sessions you know the emphasis we place on FERPA, and the fact that the student’s educational record belongs to him or her the moment he or she enters an institution of higher education. Now, I will come clean and admit that I purposefully send those letters home over spring break because I hope that students and parents will at least get a chance to chat over that week. However, I can’t discuss the educational record unless the student has given written permission for me to do so. The most important conversation you can have is the one with your son or daughter, the student, regarding their academic progress, not with me ABOUT them. But I do know that a conversation with the Dean can sometimes move things along just a bit. Anyone who needs a copy of the FERPA waiver form can find it on the Becker web site at <http://www.becker.edu/pages/784.asp> Scroll down to the bottom and print out the Annual FERPA notification; the form is on the last page. Completed forms can be mailed to the registrar’s office.

The desired result of those letters is, of course, that the students realize that they’d better get moving and work on those grades. I’ll be trying to pull together some statistics regarding the improvements seen between the time of midterm grades and final grades, to assess the impact of both the midterm grade process and the letters which I began sending out last year. I can tell you that more than one student has stopped me in the hall and reported that they had been able to bring up their grades after that wake-up call.

I’m happy to say that most of the interactions I have with students on a daily basis are NOT stories which one would be afraid to bring home. Students talk with me about their career goals, their educational goals, and their general progress. As an undergraduate, I was the one who brought student complaints to the Dean, and I am always willing to hear them out. My proudest day each year is the day of Commencement, when we all recognize the achievement of our students. Please, if you find yourself the recipient of an invitation to either Awards night or the Honors Convocation, make it a point to come and celebrate that achievement.

Betsy Fuller, PT, EdD
Dean of Academic Affairs

Campus Notes and News

Tuition Freeze

The Board of Trustees approved a zero percent increase in tuition and fees for traditional and accelerated programs, and a zero percent increase in room and board, for the 2009-2010 academic year.

A Council of Independent Colleges survey, completed by The Austin Group, based on 2007-2008 figures, found that Becker College’s tuition is already lower than the median for similar private New England colleges.

Becker Receives Federal Funds

The Town of Leicester and future nurses are the beneficiaries of federal appropriations requested by Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-MA) and Congressman James P. McGovern (D-MA), and approved by President Barack Obama.

The Town of Leicester will receive \$380,000 for transition of the landmark Rev. Samuel May House, on Becker's Leicester campus, into a town visitor center and a museum dedicated to the Underground Railroad.

The College received a \$522,000 appropriation in support of the nursing education program. This appropriation, the first in the college's history, supports the nursing department's efforts to develop additional opportunities for students to enter and advance in the nursing profession.

Loew Speaker Series

The Franklin M. Loew Speaker Series launched on March 24 with "Bullying and Cyberbullying" with Elizabeth Englander, Ph.D., a sobering view of the online experiences of young people. Founder and director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC), Dr. Englander offered coping methods for young people and their parents to a group of Becker students and faculty in a crowded Daniels Hall.

The series is a public forum that invites scholars and professionals to present lectures on topics of interest and importance to the Becker College community. Upcoming lecturers include Temple Grandin, Ph.D., professor of animal science at Colorado State University, livestock handling expert, and well-known author.

All lectures in the series take place in the newly renovated Daniels Hall in the Borger Academic Building in Leicester and are open to the Becker College community and to the general public at no charge. Parents who live in the Worcester/Leicester area are encouraged to attend. RSVPs to lectures@becker.edu are encouraged, as seating is limited. Call 508-373-9460 for more information.

Laboratory Upgrade

Frederick Liberatore, Ph.D., laboratory coordinator and instructor, describes one of the latest pieces of equipment welcomed into the laboratories in the Borger Academic Center on the Leicester Campus, "The Diode Array Ultraviolet-Visible-Near Infrared Spectrophotometer, in plain English, separates light like a prism and measures how much goes through a sample of a liquid or solid. The activity of the most remarkable catalysts in nature, enzymes, can be measured on this instrument."

The Spectrophotometer has the capability of scanning from 200-1,000 nanometers, which covers the ultraviolet, the complete visible spectrum (that's what we see for colors from red to violet), and the near infrared (heat is infrared radiation.) The entire spectrum can be scanned in seconds. Older, less refined instruments require several minutes to do the same job. The second amazing fact about the instrument is that stray room light does not interfere with measurements due to a remarkable system of filters.

Faculty News

Kerri W. Augusto, Ph.D, psychologist, professor of psychology at Becker College, and columnist for Baystate Parent Magazine, can add novelist to her credentials with the release of *Strawberries in Winter*. Dr. Augusto weaves the story of Kyra Adams, a 30-something suburbanite with a successful husband, a grand colonial, a charming daughter, and a pervasive feeling she is living someone else's life. The problem is, she's right. The novel was released as an eBook in January 2008 and in paperback in November. Dr. Augusto did a local book signing and has been featured in Newsweek and on WCRN 830AM.

Gail C. Hartman, DVM, director of veterinary clinical services, is to receive the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association's (MVMA) 2008 Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Hartman began her time at Becker College as an adjunct veterinarian in 1996, and she has served as assistant director, and director of animal science programs. In 2002 she became director of veterinary clinical services for the Lenfest Animal Health Center on Becker's Leicester, Mass. campus, where she also teaches. Dr. Hartman has contributed textbook chapters, and she co-developed a video course for veterinary technicians.

Sheila McAvey, Ph.D will contribute articles -- on "Brenda Starr" and "Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American to be canonized -- to *The Forties in America*, a three-volume reference work on all aspects of American and Canadian history between January 1, 1940, and December 31, 1949. The publisher of the work is Salem Press.

Dr. McAvey will also participate in the second Irish Studies Colloquium at Boston College, April 18, 2009. She will present current research on "Longing and Female Desire in the Anglo-Irish Novel."

Vladimir Pistalo, Ph.D., associate professor of liberal arts, received the NIN Literary Award for best novel of 2008. Considered one of the highest honors for Serbian contemporary authors, Pistalo was recognized for his novel, *Tesla: Portrait Among the Masks*, a creative recounting of the life of the legendary Serbian-American inventor.

A citizen of the United States since 2002, Dr. Pistalo has authored 10 books and numerous stories. He teaches U.S. and world history and intercultural communication.

Maria Rosen, RN, Ph.D, co-wrote a chapter in the new Ward and Hisley's *Maternal-Child Nursing Care* textbook that was published in February. As a pediatric nurse and pediatric nurse practitioner, Rosen has more than 25 years of experience in pediatrics, making her ideal for writing the chapter on the "developing child". Chapter highlights include health assessment and holistic nursing of children.

Commencement Information

For Parents of Seniors:

As Commencement 2009 approaches, we want to express our pleasure that your student is about to achieve the milestone of completing the academic requirement to graduate from Becker College. We are honored to have shared in the academic and social growth with our students throughout the past few years. We look forward to celebrating with you on this special occasion.

Graduates are expected to attend one of the following meetings:

- April 21 Graduating Class Meeting, Daniels Hall, Leicester at 3:00 pm
- April 22 Nursing Graduating Class Meeting, Room 210, Worcester at 3:00 pm
- April 23 Graduating Class Meeting, Gymnasium, Worcester at 3:00 pm

During the meeting, your student will receive a cap, gown, invitations, tickets and final instructions for Commencement. If your student has not ordered a cap & gown yet, please instruct him/her to contact Joyce at joyce.erickson@becker.edu or 774-354-0463. Each graduate is guaranteed six tickets; during the meeting there will be an opportunity to sign up for four additional tickets. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for handicapped accessible seating.

Commencement will be held at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester at noon. Graduates must arrive no later than 10:30 am. For information on directions and parking, log on to www.dcucenter.com or call 508-755-6800. Immediately following Commencement, a reception will be held in the South Hall of the DCU. Everyone is invited to participate.

Additional information is available on the homepage of the Becker website. If you have any questions regarding the graduation events, please contact Michelle at michelle.fatcheric@becker.edu or 774-354-0462.

Michelle Fatcheric
Director of Student Affairs

Athletics

2009 Becker College Spring Sports Update

Women's Basketball: The Becker College women's basketball team finished the 2008-09 campaign with a record of 14-12. The Hawks fell to Daniel Webster in the NECC Quarterfinals 63-54. Senior Beth Pion was selected 1st Team All Conference. Pion finished her career with 1625 points, which makes her the all time leading scorer in Becker College women's basketball history. Rachel Pinak also finished her career at Becker on a high note. Pinak was selected 2nd team All Conference. Pinak had far and away her best season as a Hawk, scoring 339 points. She finished with 859 career points.

Men's Basketball: The Becker College men's basketball team finished the season on a high note. The Hawks won the New England ECAC Championship, by defeating Rivier College 89-73. Travis Suber was selected by the coaches of the New England Collegiate Conference as the Player of the Year. Travis averaged 20 points per game during the 2008-09 season. Travis also took home NECC First Team All-Conference honors. Freshman Terrance Favors was selected by the coaches of the New England Collegiate Conference as the Rookie of the Year. Terrance scored 330 points during his first season at Becker. Sophomores DeJohn Exum and Trey Jacobs were elected to the All-Conference Honorable Mention Team. The Hawks finished the season with a record of 22-8. The 22 wins set a Becker College NCAA basketball record for wins in a season.

Men's Ice Hockey: The Ice Hawks finished the 2008-09 season with a record of 11-14-1. Becker made it into the ECAC Northeast tournament, only to lose to Wentworth 5-1 in the quarterfinal. Jered Kersner led the Ice Hawks with 8 goals and 10 assists. Head Coach Steve Hoar will enter the 2009 season just two wins shy of 200 for his career.

Softball: The softball season has gotten off to a bumpy start for the Hawks. Becker has dropped their first 13 games. Despite the winless start, junior Amanda Fogaren has batted .394 with 2 homeruns and 6 RBI's. The Hawks have 14 games remaining to try and turn their season around.

Men's Lacrosse: The men's lacrosse team has started the season winning 6 out of their first 7 games, including 6 straight wins. Josh Fask has led the Hawks with 22 goals and 19 assists. Aaron Fill and Jon Nessen have chipped in with 14 goals each. Peter Fellows has been outstanding in goal, making 86 saves and compiling a record of 5-1. John Malcolm filled in for Fellows in net against Husson College, as the Hawks clawed their way to an impressive 10-9 victory.

Women's Lacrosse: The Lady Hawks are off to a 4-5 start. In just her second season at Becker, sophomore Tammy Mullen scored her 100th career goal during a 26-9 win over Elms College. Tammy has accomplished this feat in just 21 games, averaging over 5 goals per game. In 2008 Tammy scored 51 goals, she has already scored 57 goals in just 9 games this season. Freshman Nicole Lijana has been a nice compliment to Mullen, scoring 39 goals along with 11 assists.

Baseball: The Hawks have already surpassed their win total from 2008. Josue Lopez leads the Hawks with a .420 batting average. Freshman Joe Corey has been outstanding, batting .379 with 6 stolen bases. Freshman pitcher Cody Harmes pitched a 10 inning no-hitter against Lyndon State, only to get a no decision in a 0-0 tie. The game was called after the 10th inning due to darkness. The Hawks are currently 3-1 in the NECC thanks to sophomore pitcher Errick Maddern. Maddern has pitched two complete game victories against conference rivals Daniel Webster and Elms College.

Men's Tennis: The men's tennis team is off to a 2-4 record. Peter Rota is leading the Hawks in singles play with a record of 4-2. Charles Heard and Tim Howard have chipped in by winning 2 of 4 of their singles play matches. The Hawks have struggled in doubles action with a record of 4-13.

Matt Tittle
Sports Information Director

Frank Millerick
Director of Athletics

Campus Police

The Becker College Police Department is proud to continue several of our previous proactive initiatives in order to better aid our community. In cooperation with the Worcester Police Department and the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Police Department we have increased our patrols to better serve not only the Becker College community but also the greater Worcester area.

Some of the additional programs offered by campus police include:

- An Auto Etching program, in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police Governor's Auto Theft Strike Force, which deters theft and can provide the participants up to 10% off of their comprehensive Auto Insurance.
- The Fatal Vision Alcohol Awareness education program taught to all students enrolled in the First Year Experience course.
- Two series of the Women's self defense and empowerment program known as R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense).
- Continuation of the Security Tracking of Office Property or S.T.O.P. program which assists with identifying and tracking all college issued laptops.

Recognizing the continued concerns of personal safety, and need for education and awareness, the Becker College Police Department remains committed to providing programs and education to assist all members of the Becker College Community.

David Bousquet
Campus Police Chief

Career Services

As the academic year comes to a close, seniors are considering their post-graduate plans, and underclassmen are wondering what they will do for the summer. Twenty-six Becker students explored their options at the recent Colleges of Worcester Consortium Career Fair held on Wednesday, March 25th at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester. More than 70 organizations attended the event, ready to discuss job and internship opportunities with over 600 total participants.

Andrew Danzilio is a senior Psychology Major who attended, and is interested in human services organizations such as The Bridge of Central MA and The Key Program. Danzilio found the fair to be an efficient way to distribute his resumes. “By attending a career fair, you can meet several organizations that suit your career interests,” he said.

Business Management senior Julian Turner, whose interests lie with companies such as John Hancock Financial Network and True Green, noticed that it wasn’t just students at the event, but seasoned candidates from the community. “I was surprised by the total turnout,” he said. “I didn’t know so many people needed jobs right now.”

The Colleges of Worcester Consortium Career Fair is held shortly after Spring Break every year. It is an effective way to network for careers in several fields. Emails are sent to all students announcing the event, as well as mailbox flyers, posters, and other promotional materials. Mark it on your calendar for 2010 and encourage your son or daughter to attend. As March 2010 approaches, check the Career Services web site at: <http://www.becker.edu/pages/436.asp> to get specific information.

“I recommend that younger Becker students attend career fairs because it is a great opportunity to find employment,” said Turner. Danzilio adds “Make sure you check out the fair web site ahead of time, so you can be more prepared for the companies at the event.”

Eric Saczawa
Director of Career Services

Collaborative Learning Center

Spring is in the air here at the Becker College *Collaborative Learning Center* - the snow has melted, the birds are singing and finals are right around the corner!

The *Collaborative Learning Center (CLC)*, with locations on both the Worcester and Leicester campuses, is dedicated to helping Becker students reach their academic goals by providing them with the academic supports crucial to building and strengthening their skills. Our staff fosters a supportive and productive learning environment by helping students to explore their academic potential and strive toward excelling in their chosen fields of study. Even better – our services are conveniently located and free of charge!

The *CLC* has been bustling with students hard at work editing compelling research papers, analyzing the state of our economy, calculating dosages, decoding the meaning of Robert Frost’s poetry, and learning about the importance of metabolic processes, all while preparing for exams and working on final projects. Students from many different majors including Liberal Arts, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Business Management, Psychology, Education and others have benefitted from tutoring sessions, workshops and spontaneous study groups.

Students can take advantage of many services including individual and group content-area tutoring, instruction on ways to improve study skills, and workshops on a variety of topics. Our spring semester workshops include “Studying for the Sciences,” “Writing That Paper,” and “How to Take Notes,” in addition to other subject-specific sessions focusing on chemistry, algebra and writing/grammar.

Becker College learning specialists and peer tutors are available to all students for scheduled tutoring appointments, as well as for selected drop-in sessions. Whether students need to study for a test, figure out how to solve word problems or could use some help writing and formatting a paper, our dedicated and knowledgeable staff is here to support them.

Please feel free to contact me for more information!

Dolores Radlo
Director, Collaborative Learning Center

Counseling Services

“New jobless claims jump unexpectedly to 669K” (Boston.com), “Consumer loan delinquencies hit record high” (CNNMoney.com) are only two recent news headlines that indicate our country’s financial crisis is far from over. Anxiety over finances has increased for everyone. Your student is not immune to the impact of these times.

Students are expressing concerns. Many are worried about their future job prospects, being eligible for additional student loans, or their ability to pay back the student loans after graduation. Many families are in financial disarray due to job loss, reduced wages, or the threat of foreclosure on their homes.

As parents, you can help alleviate some of the anxiety being experienced by your students. First, be honest with your student about family finances. It is not enough to just announce that you cannot afford your family's traditional summer vacation. Include your students in the discussion and stress the importance of necessity over luxury. Explain to them that the need for a new roof and their tuition is a priority.

Parents also need to be competent role models and teachers. Financial responsibility is learned over time. Teach your student how to budget, prioritize, and save. Warn them of the dangers of credit card debt and high interest rates. Instruct them that credit cards should only be used when absolutely necessary and that does include buying dinner for all their friends. Talk with them about credit history and monitoring their credit reports. Impress upon them that some employers are now requiring a credit report before hiring.

Anxiety increases when we have limited information about a stressor. Anxiety lessens when people feel more in control of a situation. By sharing information about family finances with your students, you are telling them that you have some control as well as a plan which will ease their anxiety. You are also indicating to them that you recognize that they are maturing into responsible young adults capable of understanding the needs of the family.

Wendy Miles, Director
Stephanie Stilla-Petrie, Asso. Director
Counseling Services

First Year Experience

As the spring semester comes to a close, I encourage you to engage your student in a conversation about how they have enjoyed their first year - the academic skills that they have developed and the relationships that they have built with their peers as a result of their first year experience at Becker College.

Here are some of the great things that students have said about their 2008-2009 FYE class:

- *"It helped me look at college in a different way."*
- *"It's nice to know that I have an entire class just to help me become a better student."*
- *"This class was pretty fun. It wasn't [like a] typical class I have ever taken. I was able to get an answer about everything – and I ask a lot of questions!"*

The culture trips associated with the FYE class also received positive feedback from the students who visited various locations in New England. The students have found significant value in the bonding and learning that has occurred on these trips. The trips have also been a great opportunity for the instructors to work with the students outside of the traditional classroom setting. One student commented, "I really appreciated the trips to the [Newport] Mansions. I think that instead of focusing on how rich they were, I was more motivated by how in those times, just making a bit of money was hard." The students made real-life connections on the cultural trips.

I hope to continue the relationship with your student as he/she progresses through his/her college career. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding educational information about this program or other questions about Becker College.

Sarah Forti
Director, First Year Experience

Health Services

Student Health Services has been very busy during the cold & flu season with triaging and treating various illnesses. Our focus is on teaching students how to care for themselves during illness and to recognize symptoms that may require additional medical care. We also review different ways to promote overall health and wellness in our student population. Just as you taught your child years ago, hand washing remains the single most important factor in reducing the spread of illness.

We welcome spring with open windows and all of the outdoor activities it brings! It is always great to see students coming out of “hibernation” and enjoying a game of wiffle ball or Frisbee in the many open spaces Becker has to offer. The whole campus community seems to be energized with the changing season and becomes recharged and refreshed. We wish nothing but the best for our graduating class and look forward to welcoming new students to our campus. Have a happy, healthy spring and summer!

Catherine J. Meloche R.N., B.S.N.
Director of Student Health Services

Residence Life

The date for housing selection for next year is rapidly approaching. To participate in the housing selection process, students must:

- Be a current student at Becker College.
- Have registered as a full time student (12 credits) for 2009-2010 academic year by April 17, 2009.
- Pay a non-refundable \$200 housing deposit to the Student Accounts Office by April 10, 2009.
- Have no outstanding student account balance at the time of housing selection.
- Bring their Becker College Student ID to the selection process.

The \$200 housing deposit fee cannot be assessed to a student's account and must be paid directly to Student Accounts prior to entering the housing selection process. If the housing deposit fee is not paid students cannot participate in the housing selection process. (No Deposit = No Room Selection = No Exceptions).

Housing options available for upperclassmen on the Leicester Campus:

Barrett Hall

Hitchcock Hall (over 21 housing)

Knight Hall

Housing options available for upperclassmen on the Worcester Campus:

Merrill Hall

Miller Hall

Willow Hall (apartment style living)

Additional information can be obtained at <https://www.becker.edu/pages/1150.asp>.

**Tyrone Newsome,
Assistant Director of Residence Life and Housing**

Student Activities

For the fifth year in a row, Becker College students and staff participated in Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge Alternative Spring Break Program. This year, 20 students and 3 staff members traveled to Raleigh, NC. While there, we worked with the deconstruction (decon) crew and the AmeriCorps Construction Crew. With the decon crew, we helped tear down the drywall in two houses. We learned about the "ReStore" where Habitat sells donated or salvaged items to the general public. The profits from the ReStore are used to help with building costs for the Habitat houses. With the AmeriCorps construction crew, we worked on the framing stage on a lot where they were building 7 houses. We helped with various projects including building and raising exterior walls on the 2nd floor of some of the houses, building and putting up interior walls, and getting the houses ready for the roof trusses.

The students had a great time and learned a lot about building. One student commented that what he most enjoyed was learning about Habitat. He was impressed by the process that the families go through to get a Habitat House. He didn't really know much about Habitat prior to the trip, and thought that anyone could get a Habitat house. Instead, we all learned that people must apply for house. After completing the application process and being verified that the qualifications are met, families are required to work with Habitat. Habitat requires a certain amount of "sweat equity" from families before and during the building process. We also learned that Habitat houses tend to be sturdier than professionally built houses, mainly due to the fact that volunteers tend to use more nails, which are nailed by hand and not with nail guns so they tend to hold better. One of the AmeriCorps builders told us that in areas where major storms destroy houses, Habitat houses are more likely to remain standing.

Upon returning to Massachusetts, nearly every student has come up to me and said they want to go back. During the trip, the students form a family – they cook for each other and look out for each other. After returning, students remain friends with the people they met on the trip. Most of us suffered from service withdrawal – we would be sitting in class, at work, or in the dorm feeling that we would rather be doing community service.

In working with the AmeriCorps crew, we were told about what AmeriCorps is and how to get involved. AmeriCorps has been called the domestic Peace Corps. Participants sign up to work with various community service-based organizations. There are many options for what you can do - the people we worked with chose to work with Habitat for Humanity. They were taught the skills they needed to build houses and work there for one year. They get paid small housing and living stipends. After completion of the program, they will receive an educational grant that can be used to pay off college loans or further their education. Some of the students are considering this as an option for after graduation. Students who are not graduating are looking forward to participating with Habitat again next year.

Jean Blackmer
Director of Student Activities

Direct any questions or comments about the parent newsletter to the Parent Services Committee c/o Wendy Miles at wendy.miles@becker.edu