



WOU Parents & Families News for You

Fall 2008

Spring Term Meeting Update!

The Parents Club met officially on Saturday, May 31, 2008. 76 Finals Week Survival Kits were assembled in about 25 minutes.

A current copy of the budget was discussed. The members present were concerned about the Phoneathon revenue for this year. It is down \$5,000.00 from the previous year. This is the lowest revenue year in the five year comparison. Merchandise sales are up from last year but are about the norm in the five year comparison. Special Occasion sales are up dramatically from last year but are low in the five year comparison. Survival kits are about the norm for the five year comparison.

July 1st begins the new tiered membership charges. The old fee of \$27.00 will still be offered during the SOAR's and Move-In Day.

Key dates to remember: SOAR's June 27, July 11, July 12 and July 26. Move-in day September 21, Family Weekend October 4th and Homecoming October 18th.

The Parents Club President and Vice-President positions discussion has been

tabled until the December meeting.

Information was handed out about the Choices & Changes panel held during the SOAR's.

There are some parents in Hawaii who are interested in working with our Parent's Club for the Hawaii residents who are students here. The Hawaii WOU Parents Club is on our listserv and we will keep them informed on WOU happenings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 31st at 10 am in the Werner University Center Oregon Room.

Interested in helping write an article for this newsletter? If so, contact us at parents@wou.edu. We would love to have your involvement and support!



Family Weekend

Believe it or not, our annual tradition of Family Weekend on campus is just around the corner! We have a ton of things in store! Join us for the full day of events that fits our theme, "Everything Oregon!"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

- Family Feud LIVE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

- WOU Football Game at 2 p.m.
- Parents Club-sponsored continental breakfast
- Gourmet Burger BBQ
- Live Entertainment
- Casino Night
- Caricature Artists
- Educational Sessions!
- MUCH MORE!

Registration is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors or kids and \$8 for students. This includes everything but the football game!

Go to www.wou.edu/familyweekend for all the details!

Parents Club Information

Mailing Address:
Werner University Center
345 N Monmouth Ave.
Room 210
Monmouth, OR 97361

Website: http://www.wou.edu/student/parents_club

Phone: 503-838-8064
Fax: 503-838-8427
E-mail: parents@wou.edu

Staff Liaison: Jon Tucker

What Does Parents Club DO???

WOU's Parents Club offers a variety of services and benefits to members as well as the students at WOU!

This year, Parents Club is donating 8 \$1,000 scholarship - 4 to students of Parents Club members!

We also offer emergency loans for students at the Vice President for Student Affairs office.

We also provide:

- A website with links and information for parents on transitions for students.
- Connections and resources for parents with questions. You can connect with other parents or WOU administration with your needs.
- WOU Apparel, Finals Relief Survival Kits and Special Occasion merchandise to make your student's day! Proceeds go right back to Parents Club!

Parents Club Fundraising - the future?

As we have been reporting, our Parents Club revenues are down and the Club has made an effort to increase some revenue so that we can continue to offer scholarships to students!

Our office had a meeting with the new Vice President for University Advancement, Paul Moredock, and he had some great ideas for the future of Parents Club. Some ideas that he suggested was getting parents involved with the Phoneathon calls, sending letters soliciting donations for scholarships and eventually getting to the point where our fundraising doesn't rely upon membership dues AT ALL!

We've invited Paul to our next Parents Club meeting to talk about ideas for fundraising and keeping our ability to offer as many scholarships as possible!

Come join us on Saturday, December 6th at 10 am in the Werner Univ. Center Oregon Room to hear more and ask questions.



Next Parents Club Meeting
& Survival Kit Assembly
December 6, 2008
The Oregon Room
The Werner University
Center
10 a.m.

A Message from the Parents Club President

Hi from the Parents Club President

I would like to thank all the parents that worked SOAR this summer. I hope they had as much fun as I did when I worked them. It was great telling other parents what Parents club is about.

I would also like to welcome all of our new members. Your membership helps go to the scholarships we give out. That is what fires me up, that we are able to help some great kids get their education a little easier.

My wife and I are looking forward to seeing the new parents on Move-in day on September 21st. I remember when we moved our daughter in. Standing in line for a room number, carrying in boxes after boxes, running to the store for things forgotten and watching Mom leave her baby. I will admit it was a little hard on Dad too. We told her she had to stay at school for a month before coming home. Five weeks later she came home for the weekend. Sunday early afternoon she said " Can you take me home now". I looked at her and said you are home, she informed me that she lived at school now so that was her home. That was sort of hard on Mom and Dad. But she was right, school did become her home and still is.

Do not forget Family Weekend on October 4th. Parents Club sponsors the brunch and there are some great classes for parents old and new. Plus, there are some really fun activities for the family and the Football game. You will be able to see how your child is enjoying college life to boot.

We will be making survival kits on December 6th and hold our first meeting at the same time. We will also be electing officers and do some brainstorming on how we can improve the Parents Club. We would love to have you join us if you are able to make it. It is fun and you get to meet some of the other parents and compare notes on your children.

Remember your membership is tax deductible, so tell other parents about the Parents Club. The more members we have, the more money for scholarships.

Hope to see you at Move-in and Family Weekend.

John Vazquez

Scholarship Information:

WOU's Financial Aid Homepage:

www.wou.edu/financialaid

Student Involvement at WOU

Why is student involvement so critical for students?

One piece of a student's development that is often overlooked is the importance of students finding opportunities for extra-curricular involvement. WOU offers a tremendous number and variety of opportunities for any student and they should be explored in order to help students succeed - regardless of whether the student is an incoming freshman or a senior about to graduate.

Look at it this way. If you were an employer who was deciding between two students for a summer internship or a job right out of college, which would you choose?

Student A

- 3.5 GPA

Student B

- 3.2 GPA
- Orientation PLUS Team Member
- Vice President Psychology Club
- Intramural Football Captain

As an employer, I would give serious consideration to Student B on the basis of knowing that student has valuable leadership experiences that I cannot expect the first student to have earned. Employers and businesses consistently rate leadership as a #1 desired characteristic for employees once they leave college.

It isn't just for graduating students as well. Students that are involved on campus get higher grades and are more likely to graduate than students who are not as connected. Students may be more competitive for internships, research opportunities or good summer jobs through their experiences on campus.

In addition, students who are involved with leadership or activities are able to make connections with other faculty and staff, who can advocate on their behalf in a variety of ways. I know that I personally write dozens of letters of recommendation for students each year. It is something that I love to do for my students and anything I can do to help is very rewarding. I just have to know them through some sort of leadership experience in order to write an effective letter!

There are positions on campus that can correlate with academic credit. Some positions and leadership experiences can even provide some extra money with stipends, hourly wages, etc.

Students who choose to be involved gain a tremendous number of skills that are helpful throughout their futures. They can learn skills such as:

- Facilitating groups
- Organizing meetings
- Conflict management
- Public speaking
- Organization and time management
- Stress management
- Successful event planning and project completion
- Much more

As a parent, encourage your student to find the opportunities that exist at WOU or contact the Student Leadership & Activities office at (503) 838-8261 or go to www.wou.edu/studentleadership for some suggestions. We're more than willing to help out!



We need your e-mails!

Want to be on the mailing list for updates? Send us your e-mail to parents@wou.edu

Updated Webpages!

The Parents Club webpages are being expanded and updated! We've added new functionality by creating pages that deal with:

- Parents/Families of New Students
- Parents/Families of Graduating Students
- Resources and Links for Parents/Families
- Resources for Parents who live in Hawaii of WOU Students

www.wou.edu/student/parents_club

Move-in Day Information

Sunday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m. marks the beginning of the residence hall move-in process!

Here are some helpful hints if this is going to be your first move-in day:

- Bring a dolly/handtruck - there are a few available on campus, but it will be helpful.
- Unload items at the curb, have student or family member watch them and go park your vehicle.
- Utilize the free labor of student assistants or club members to help carry items to the room - they must be identified with a shirt or nametag.
- Talk with roommates about items to bring so duplication is limited.
- Bi-Mart is in Monmouth or Wal-Mart in Dallas for last minute items!
- Laptops are often better than desktops for small rooms.
- There are no elevators in Landers, Barnum, Butler, Gentle, Arbithnot or Maaske Halls - only Heritage.

For more hints about move-in day, contact University Residences at (503) 838-8211.

Parents Club Revenue Report

Our current balance for the WOU Parents Club as of the end of June data \$ 6,863.65. This includes some of the following details:

- Survival kit sales of \$2,850 for the fiscal year 07-08.
- Special Occasion gift sales of \$935.
- Over \$10,723 raised through Phonathon calling for memberships and scholarship donations.
- Merchandise sales totaled \$2,887 this fiscal year.

Our merchandise sales continue to increase to support the scholarship funds. We are on track to be able to provide eight scholarships for students for 2008-2009.

One thing Parents Club must do is work to balance its budget by increasing donation revenue in order to support the scholarship program. In addition, we are looking at the methods of raising money through the Phoneathon so that it will be more efficient and effective.

We will continue to work with the budget to examine where costs can be cut in order to continue to provide services and funding for the things that matter most!

New Student Week

If you are the parent of a new student, you can find information about the New Student Week schedule at: www.wou.edu and follow the link to New Student Week!

We've got an amazing schedule of events ready for your new or transferring student!



**WESTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY**

Parents Club

Werner University Center
Monmouth, OR 97361

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