



Transfer eNewsletter

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Please visit us online at <http://www.transfernews.washington.edu> for the full version of the Transfer eNewsletter, including many useful links, an interview with a current UW transfer student, past issues of the newsletter, and more!

Welcome from the Editor

By Megan McConnell, Editor, Transfer eNewsletter

Welcome to yet another issue of the Transfer eNewsletter, the University of Washington's on-line publication dedicated to prospective transfer students and the academic advisers around the state who support them. I'm glad you found your way here!

As usual, I'm excited about this issue and the wealth of information it contains for students considering transferring to the University of Washington. I'm particularly thankful for the contributions of a couple of people who have lots of helpful advice to give to students out there. The first is Beth Scholler, who herself transferred to the UW from North Seattle Community College, has worked as an orientation leader here at the UW, and is just about as involved as any student I know on this campus. In her first-person "Outside the Classroom," piece, she offers up valuable first-hand knowledge about the resources students should avail themselves of and the things they shouldn't bother worrying about.

Also especially welcome this issue is an article from veteran adviser Melissa Wensel about the value of a liberal arts education to prospective employers. In "Reality Check on an Old Myth: The 'Unemployable' Liberal Arts Major," she takes on, quite convincingly, the idea that English, History, and other such majors prepare one to either teach or pour espresso. I encourage advisers and students alike to read it.

New this issue is a regular feature on programs and developments at the University of Washington's other campuses, UW-Bothell and UW-Tacoma. I am pleased to have their participation and believe firmly that all prospective transfers owe it to themselves to consider the array of programs and alternatives at all three campuses when considering the right fit for their bachelor's degree.

I wish you happy reading and a wonderful summer! The Transfer eNewsletter takes the summer off, but will be back in the fall. Hope to see you again then. ❖

Reality Check on an Old Myth: The “Unemployable” Liberal Arts Major

By Melissa Wensel, Director of Student Services, UW English Department

Can you guess what the following individuals have in common?

Michael Eisner, CEO of Disney
Garrison Keillor, Host of NPR’s “A Prairie Home Companion”
Toni Morrison, Author
Diane Sawyer, Broadcast Journalist

Or these?

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, NBA Player
W.E.B. Dubois, Author
Antonin Scalia, Supreme Court Justice
Martha Stewart, Entrepreneur

Obviously, all of these people are celebrities in business, entertainment, the arts, and public life, but did you know that they all majored in two of the quintessential liberal arts subjects, English and History? So much for the hoary old myth that a liberal arts major is a one-way ticket to a dead-end job!

Although most History and English grads aren’t destined to become media superstars or Supreme Court justices, evidence abounds that capable liberal arts majors have excellent prospects for professional success. Numerous studies have shown that the skills most valued by employers are the transferable skills commonly developed by liberal arts majors, including:

- * Critical thinking
- * Analyzing/problem solving
- * Writing
- * Communication
- * Team work
- * Leadership
- * Adaptability/flexibility
- * Creativity

Liberal arts alumni who go on to become employers have a special appreciation for the skills that our students bring to the workplace. The Winter 2006 issue of A&S Perspectives highlights the careers of three UW English graduates, all Seattle area entrepreneurs and CEOs, who understand the relationship between liberal arts education and professional success.

Abundant evidence for the professional value of liberal arts B.A.s can be found easily in alumni data bases. A recent search of English Department records revealed countless successful individuals working in business, marketing and sales, the media, government, law, non-profit, education and research, the arts and entertainment, publishing, writing, technology and the internet, and more. Only one alumnus reported being a “waffle house griddle operator!”

(Continued...)

The future looks similarly bright for UW History graduates. At a recent career event hosted by the History Department, students were treated to real-life career advice from banking and investment professionals, a foreign service officer, a video-game designer, a real estate agent, an organic farmer, and the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity—just to name a few. As the Microsoft mother of a current History major told her: Business degrees can get you in the door; liberal arts degrees give you the skills to move up.

In spite of evidence to the contrary, however, the myth of the “useless” major persists to an alarming degree. We see its prevalence at freshman orientation sessions when 80% of the new students say they plan to major in either business or engineering. We feel its effects on students who struggle with familial pressure to choose “practical” majors. We experience the power of the myth most acutely during tough economic times when anxiety about post-graduation employment soars.

Advisers at the University of Washington know that 70% of all our students will be graduated from majors in Arts and Sciences, and that most of them will go on to satisfying and well-paid careers. And we know that this reality doesn’t come about merely because of insufficient space in competitive professional programs. Most students do finally follow their intellectual passions, even if it’s by way of a circuitous and tortuous path. How can we communicate these truths to students so that they can find their way more quickly and surely to satisfying majors and careers? Here are some practical tips:

- * Only connect! Connect early in your college experience with people, the curriculum, programs, and other resources that will allow you to explore intellectual and professional pathways in reflective, purposeful ways. Faculty, advisers, career counselors, alumni, and fellow students all have roles to play in this process. UW programs for premajors, such as ArtsLink, the Individualized Second Year Advising Program (ISAP), and the Pre-Major in Astronomy Program (Pre-MAP) provide different approaches for helping students connect.

- * Learn the language of skills. Students often fail to appreciate the value of their transferable skills because they haven’t learned how to identify and articulate them! Learning to think in terms of skills, rather than job titles, enables students to understand and communicate the value of their liberal arts educations. Dependable Skills workshops offered by the Career Center, and Major Skills workshops in a number of departments give students structured opportunities to learn the language of skills.

- * Engage in experiential learning. What happens in the classroom will always be central to student intellectual development, but there’s a wide world out there for further learning. Students who engage in volunteer experiences, service learning, and internships have excellent opportunities to explore career fields, build resumes, and build relationships. UW interns consistently fare better in the job search than students with no internship experience. Internship opportunities are offered by the Career Center, the Carlson Center, and numerous academic departments.

- * Stay positive. It’s easy for students to get discouraged by all the negative information out there, whether it’s gloomy economic forecasts or tongue-clucking from those who still think that English majors become teachers, and History majors brew espresso! We advisers encourage you to study what you love best, whether that happens to be English, History, Mathematics, Near Eastern Languages, or Art. The truth is that students who choose majors based upon what they enjoy are much more likely to be engaged in their studies, earn higher grades, and get involved in their undergraduate educations in interesting ways with like-minded people. What we often tell students is that “a BA is a BA is a BA” to most employers. There are just as many happy English and History alumni working in the arenas of business, government service, administration, and entrepreneurship as there are Business alumni in these same fields. Try to attend events and forums where you will meet great alumni, such as Career Discovery Week and numerous UW job fairs. Nothing takes the hot wind out of an overblown myth like the positive influence of living success stories! ❖

So Now What? What to Expect When Your Decision Arrives

By Susan Inman, Lead Admissions Counselor, UW Admissions

The University of Washington takes great care in assessing applications and does not rush the selection of future students. We receive thousands of admission applications, making the review process long. While this process requires patience on the part of applicants, the benefit is that each applicant is reviewed as an individual.

Official notification for autumn transfer admission takes place from May through July and comes only through the postal mail. Everyone who completes an application will receive a result. Here are some things to expect and some action steps to take for those who have received their admission decision.

When students are offered admission to the UW, they receive a Welcome Booklet. The booklet should be read carefully as it explains the offer of admission and describes the programs that will ensure a student's smooth transition to the UW.

Confirm Enrollment

Students confirm their intention to attend the UW by submitting the Enrollment Confirmation Form, the Payment Checklist, and the New Student Enrollment & Orientation Fee or deferral request. Materials should be submitted as soon as the decision to attend the UW is made, but no later than the date indicated on the Enrollment Confirmation Form.

The Offer of Admission

An offer of admission is extended on the basis of information provided in the application. Final transcripts should be sent to Admissions as soon as the completed work is recorded on the transcript(s) but no later than July 1 (September 1 for those completing coursework in the summer). Final transcripts are used to verify that students maintained scholastic standing, followed through with courses projected on the application and for the transfer credit evaluation.

Immunization Requirement

Enrolling UW students are required to provide proof of measles immunity to ensure the transmission of the measles disease is limited in the event of an outbreak on campus. The Measles Immunity Verification Form needs to be complete and sent to Hall Heath Primary Care Center on campus. Students will be blocked from course registration until completed documents are received and processed.

English Language Proficiency

The University of Washington requires students who are not US citizens to demonstrate English Language Proficiency and notification of this requirement is sent along with a student's Welcome Booklet. English proficiency must be verified, either via submission of minimum test scores before the start of classes OR by completing English course work through the UW's Academic English Program (AEP).

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Staying Connected

Entering UW students need to establish their University identity, called a UW NetID, and password that allows them to access personal information, email, and campus services. Part of the UW NetID creation process will be the activation of the UW email account. The University will use this account to share important information including Advising & Orientation registration confirmation, electronic billing for tuition, and correspondence from faculty and staff. Additionally, each student at the UW has his or her own homepage called MyUW. This portal allows students to find personalized UW information related to classes, tuition, housing, and athletics. Students were supplied information to create their MyUW account after receipt of their application for admission.

Advising & Orientation (A&O)

First Year Programs is the primary office that will assist students through their transition to the UW. All entering students must attend a First Year Program's Advising & Orientation session between June and September. During A&O students are introduced to many campus resources and opportunities. A&O is time to meet other transfers, receive academic advising, and register for classes. Additionally, First Year Programs coordinates Dawg Daze Welcome Week as students begin classes and Transfer and Returning Interest Groups (TRIGs) during the first quarter at the UW.

Housing

At the UW, students are free to make their own housing arrangements and are encouraged to choose the type of accommodations best suited to their academic and personal needs. Options include Residence Halls, Single-Student Apartments, Family Housing and off-campus housing including fraternity and sorority houses. For a review of housing options published in a previous issue of the Transfer eNewsletter, click [here](#).

Inevitably, not all applicants will receive a positive admission decision. While this news may be difficult to accept, students should put the decision in the context of our very selective review. The UW always receives applications from more students than we can accommodate. Taking into consideration application assessment and enrollment priorities, we try to select those applicants who stood out in the assessment and look like the best fit for the University community in that particular quarter.

We cannot stress the importance of finding and truly considering other college and university options. There are many public and private institutions in Washington and around the country that students should consider early in their college search.

Given the University's commitment to community college transfers who earn academic associate's degrees and plan well for their intended majors, students who are still early in their college careers may benefit from continuing their studies and making improvements for a future application to the UW. If applicants want to have productive conversations about their admission decision and their college transfer plans, they are welcome to contact Admissions for counseling. Students who are also strongly encouraged to attend a Transfer Thursday to assist with planning that may aid in gaining admission as well as ensuring a smooth transition. ❖

Women in Science and Engineering Program (WISE)

By Cathryne Jordan, WISE Coordinator

The Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program is designed to increase the recruitment and retention of women in engineering. We are committed to supporting and inspiring the next generation of female engineers and leaders. National statistics indicate that many females who enter college with the intent to study science and engineering will drop out of the pre-engineering and science track before they reach their junior year. In an effort to decrease this trend, WiSE is focused on enhancing the experience for women engineering students by providing resources and tools for academic support, guidance, networking, professional development, creating a community to build a foundation for future study and success within the STEM fields.

WiSE is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Members are encouraged to make use of a variety of academic resources which are offered as early as the summer of their freshman year and continue through completion of their degrees. First and foremost among these include academic advising and mentoring. In addition, some of the WiSE endeavors that may be of interest to incoming transfer students include:

Academic Learning and Study Workshops

These workshops support women engineering students as they study and learn together. Students can register for a one-credit seminar course that includes one hour of discussion per week facilitated by an advanced engineering student plus three to four required additional hours in the study center. In addition, as part of WiSE community, students are privy to learning workshops that help them with their first-year math, chemistry and physics curricula. Participants benefit from a welcoming environment and an academic community in which to excel.

Student Societies

* Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is a national student organization that encourages and supports the educational goals and aspiration of female student engineers. UW SWE provides opportunities for leadership development, community outreach, career fairs and professional development.

* Phi Sigma Rho is a national and campus sorority for the female engineering and technology major.

Student Success Seminars and Symposia

Seminars offered quarterly, cover a range of topics such as research opportunities, career options, resume development, and making and sustaining the grade.

Scholarships

Financial resources (merit- and need-based) are available for students through a variety of college and national resources.

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UW WiSE Conference

This annual conference, offered in Winter quarter, is designed to empower women in the STEM fields to discover new opportunities, identify personal strengths, and to increase overall confidence in embarking on new academic and professional ventures. Throughout the day, students from all academic levels (pre-college, college and graduate level) engage with one another and participate in workshops and presentations on such topics as: transitions to university life, surviving and succeeding in school, enhancement of your personal development, developing your leadership potential, balancing life and school, and networking with industry and academia professionals, to name a few.

If you are coming to the UW to fulfill your goals and dreams of pursuing engineering, consider yourself invited to become a member of WiSE and take advantage of a community geared for academic success and achievement. If you are interested and motivated, than just Go To Loew. WiSE is located in the College of Engineering (COE), Engineering Advising and Diversity Center (EADC), in 301 Loew Hall. Take a moment to visit the UW WiSE web page and learn more about WiSE and how to get involved. Also, feel free to stop by or call UW WiSE Coordinator, Cathryne Jordan at 206-543-1770. ❖

TRIG is Highly Recommended for All New Transfer Students (And We're Not Talking Trigonometry!)

By Terry Hill, Program Coordinator, First Year Programs

Attention transfer students coming fall of 2008! There's a program designed for you and aimed at helping you get acclimated to the UW environment. Transfer students sometimes come into UW and get overwhelmed by the size and scope of programs available. Some transfer students fail to find all that UW has to offer and never take advantage of the large number of resources and opportunities available here. For many students, the community college campus is a place they come primarily to take their classes. However, when they get to UW they find that there is so much here that they would miss out on if they take that same approach to their education at UW. The UW is a large community with events happening at all times. Students at UW are encouraged to take advantage of undergraduate research, internships, volunteer opportunities, and study abroad. In addition, UW students are attending plays, seminars, concerts, and Division One sporting events. The UW also has two museums on campus! In addition, some transfer students find it difficult to find a community of other students like them that they can explore and experience the campus with. If you are a transfer student coming this fall, you should consider registering for a Transfer and Returning Interest Group (TRIG) so that you can make the connections with people and opportunities that will help you have a successful and rich educational experience at UW.

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The TRIG program is intended to provide a supportive structure where students will be challenged to discover ways to become integrated into the new UW environment and see the practical application of many UW resources and services in light of their own past experience and future goals. TRIGs are 2-credit seminars that are led by former transfer students and sponsored by academic departments. For example the following TRIGs will be available this Fall:

- * Architecture
- * Biology
- * Business
- * Comparative History of Ideas
- * International Student TRIG
- * Political Science
- * Psychology
- * Sociology
- * Social Sciences

Most TRIGs are also linked with a departmental course so that you will have more opportunities to interact with other students in your TRIG seminar. The linked course or courses are often high-demand classes that we reserve specifically for transfer students in this program. This gives you the opportunity to take a class that would likely not be available to other new students because the space would otherwise be taken by students already enrolled at UW. The 2008 TRIGs will be posted in June. You will be eligible to register for a TRIG when you register for your fall classes at Orientation this summer.

Below are samples of comments made about the TRIG program from past participants:

"I loved my TRIG so much! It really helped me feel like I was part of the UW.

"The TRIG program should be a required class for all transfer students. I don't know how I would have learned so much about UW if it hadn't been for my TRIG instructor.

"I like that the TRIG is lead by former transfer students in my major. I really felt like they could relate to me and my experience. They made me feel like I could take advantage of UW, without feeling stupid.

"TRIGs are really great. I learned more than I thought I could and made some amazing friends along the way. This says a lot coming from an older student with a full-time job and family!

The TRIG Program is excited to have you join us at UW this fall! Come be a part of our community! For questions about the program feel free to email us at trigs@u.washington.edu or call us at (206)543-4905. ❖

What About If I Speak A Language Other Than English at Home?

By Ann Trail, Academic Counselor, Gateway Center, UW-Seattle

“Heritage” language speakers can frequently use the language they speak at home to meet the University of Washington’s language proficiency requirement. Any student who has been educated in their heritage language through the seventh grade is classified as a “native speaker” and will have the language proficiency requirement waived. Students who were not schooled to that extent may still be able to use their language. If the language is one taught at the University of Washington, the student should approach the department that teaches the language in question. Different departments have different procedures, but all are prepared to test students.

For students who are speakers of a language not taught at the UW, and who were not schooled through the 7th grade in the language, it is still possible to use their language for the proficiency requirement. Students contact the Gateway Advising Center for an intake appointment to discuss their knowledge of the language with our language specialist. If it does seem that the student’s knowledge is strong enough to pass a proficiency exam, the student will be given permission to set one up.

It is important for students to know that they need to be literate in the language as well as fluent. For students who can speak but are unable to read, the exam will not be a viable option. It will probably be easier for these students to pursue proficiency in the language they studied in high school. ❖

For Community College Advisers: Highway to Husky Admission is the On-Ramp to the UW

By Kay Balston, Academic Counselor, Gateway Center

This summer the Office of Admissions and the Undergraduate Gateway Center are offering a workshop called Mastering the Highway to Husky Admission. Two identical sessions will be offered, one on July 23 and one on August 20. Each all-day workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of the transfer admission process and a student’s transfer orientation and transition to the university. A special section will look at issues facing Running Start students. This is a hands-on event where community college advisers, faculty advisers, counselors, and Running Start coordinators can actually evaluate some transfer applications and decide who gets in and who doesn’t. You’ll have a chance to “be” a UW adviser for an afternoon and help transfer students figure out what they have, what they need, and how to get the major they want. Each session is limited to 20 people. Details will be sent out soon on the UW/CC listserv and reservations will be accepted at that time. In the meantime—save the date! And please pass the word along to others on your campuses who may be interested! ❖

Selected Upcoming UW and Departmental Application Deadlines

Departments

School of Art design entrance exam (Autumn entrance)	June 17, 2008
Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Bioengineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Chemical Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Civil & Environmental Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Computer Science & Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Electrical Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Industrial Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Materials Science & Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Mechanical Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Paper Science Engineering (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Technical Communication (Autumn entrance)	July 1, 2008
Environmental Health (Autumn entrance)	July 11, 2008

The above programs require separate application to the UW for the appropriate quarter, which means the applicant would have already had to apply to the UW for Autumn quarter, since the UW application deadline has already passed.

Business School (Winter entrance)	October 5, 2008
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Students who applied to the UW for Autumn already or those who are applying to the UW for Winter are eligible to use this application deadline.

For longer range planning, the following are the next application deadlines for the University of Washington, Seattle.

UW Evening Degree Program, Autumn Quarter	July 15, 2008
UW Admission, Winter Quarter	September 15, 2008
UW Evening Degree Program, Winter Quarter	October 31, 2008
UW Admission, International Students (Autumn '09 entrance)	January 15, 2009

UW Tacoma Open House and Downtown Tacoma's ArtWalk

By Erica Coker, UW-Tacoma Admissions

Been to Tacoma lately? The city of Tacoma has undergone a major transformation in recent years, thanks in large part to the University of Washington Tacoma. Located in a part of the city that, for years, sat vacant and unused, UW Tacoma set out to revitalize architecture and intellectual life, and almost 20 years later downtown Tacoma is vibrant and full of life.

Every 3rd Thursday of the month, UW Tacoma is proud to host its Open House, an event that highlights the vibrancy of both the city and the University. Held from 4 to 7 p.m., prospective students can have questions answered and get acquainted with the campus. Representatives from undergraduate and graduate programs, financial aid, and admissions advising are present to answer questions and provide information. Campus tours and program-specific workshops are also scheduled throughout the event. The tours are a great opportunity to learn more about some of Tacoma's history and to view this beautiful campus from an insider's perspective. Workshops help prospective students who have already decided on a program of study learn how to put together a competitive application.

UW Tacoma's Open House coincides with downtown Tacoma's 3rd Thursday ArtWalk. The Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, and Washington State History Museum are all within two blocks of campus and admission is free during ArtWalk. There are also numerous smaller art galleries, accessible by the free Link light rail system, that participate in ArtWalk, and downtown Tacoma boasts a wide variety of restaurants, from fun and funky cafes to world-class seafood and steak houses, so there are plenty of opportunities to create a memorable evening out while gathering information on the University.

Join UW Tacoma every 3rd Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the GWP Atrium. For more information, please visit: www.artwalktacoma.com.

For a map of the campus and driving directions, please visit: www.tacoma.washington.edu/campus_map.

See you there! ❖

Business Minor at UW Tacoma

By Erica Coker, UW-Tacoma Admissions

The Milgard School of Business at UW Tacoma now offers a Minor in Business Administration. The minor is designed for undergraduate students in any non-business major or program to increase their understanding of business theory, practices, and applications within a wider economic and social context. The curriculum is designed to emphasize critical competencies, including strategic thinking, integrated business knowledge, communication, and teamwork.

The minor requires 30 credits, with a minimum of 20 credits in residence. There are four required courses (for a total of 20 credits): Introduction to Financial Accounting, Introduction to Microeconomics, Managing Organizations, and Introduction to Marketing Management. An additional 10 credits of electives, which should generally be taken after completion of all required courses, are selected from an approved list of classes. Students may request to transfer in up to 10 credits to be applied toward the required courses, and must earn a 2.0 GPA in each of the required courses. In addition, at least three courses for the Business Minor must be taken at the upper-division level.

The Business Administration degree program at the Milgard School of Business is designed to prepare students for entry into professional positions in business and government. The School is committed to advancing and disseminating business knowledge and to cultivating collaborative relationships with the community. Faculty and staff strive to develop leaders who will better global business in a socially responsible manner, integrating innovative teaching, relevant scholarship, and proactive service to business and academic communities. ❖

Explore your options at UW Bothell and UW Tacoma

In...

- * Business Administration
- * Computing & Software Systems
- * Interdisciplinary Studies
- * Nursing (RN-BSN)
- * And many more!

Both campuses are still accepting applications from transfer students for admission in Autumn 2008. For more information, please visit:

UW Bothell: www.uwb.edu/students/prospective/transfer/

UW Tacoma: www.tacoma.washington.edu/transfer

Updates on Several UW Health Programs

*By Heather Clineschmidt, Academic Counselor, Gateway Center
and Kay Balston, Academic Counselor, Gateway Center*

MEDEX Northwest

The MEDEX Northwest Division of Physician Assistant Studies program has changed! The Seattle and Spokane campuses will be offering a Master's in Clinical Health Services degree, while the Anchorage and Yakima campuses will continue to offer a Bachelor's Degree option. You can learn more information about the programs at: www.washington.edu/medicine/som/depts/medex/applicants/programinformation.htm. The MEDEX program offers information sessions for prospective students. The times and locations can be found at: www.washington.edu/medicine/som/depts/medex/applicants/informationssessions.htm.

MEDEX is a regional program that educates health personnel to practice medicine with a physician's supervision. Applicants must meet prerequisite coursework and have at least 4000 hours (2 years) of paid, clinical experience.

Physical Therapy

UW's Doctor of Physical Therapy program is changing its admission procedures for the 2009 entering class. Instead of applying directly to the program, applicants will submit their application through a central application service, much like medical school admissions. The two major changes in prerequisites are in biology and behavioral sciences. The Physical Therapy website is the best resource for updated information.

Community college students who are considering a profession in PT can select any undergraduate major and include the professional prerequisites in their course of study.

Prosthetics & Orthotics

The Prosthetics-Orthotics program (B.S.) has added a new prerequisite requirement: Statistics 220 (or equivalent). Students looking for suggested courses with which to strengthen their application should consider additional psychology courses (Abnormal Psychology strongly recommended) and also courses in Medical Ethics, Business and Global Health. The application deadline is January 15 of year of anticipated fall entry into program.

The Prosthetics-Orthotics program anticipates moving to a Master's level beginning with the cohort of students entering Fall of 2011. A BS in P&O will no longer be offered after the move to a Master's. At that point, community college students who are considering a profession in P&O can select any undergraduate major and include the professional prerequisites for the graduate program in their course of study. ❖

Program website: www.depts.washington.edu/rehab/po
Contact: Vickie Corrin, 206-616-8586

Outside the Classroom: The Resources Here to Support You

By Beth Scholler, Senior in English and Comparative History of Ideas, Transfer Student from North Seattle Community College

Does the university seem huge to you? I remember thinking that I would never find my way around campus. On my first day here, I walked to each class with a map in hand (there were a lot of us, by the way). By the end of the week, I could get to my classes without maps. By the end of the quarter, I knew most of the campus. By the end of the year, I saw people I knew everywhere I went. After two years here, UW is not that big. It's a shame I wasted so much time stressing about nothing, but hopefully I can save you some stress by giving you some helpful information.

OK, about Orientation. Yes, you have to come to orientation, but you don't need to waste your time. Come prepared with questions for your adviser. Look through the time schedule before you come to orientation for classes that you want (gray-shaded classes are full), including interesting back-ups that have nothing to do with your major. If you can't get the exact class you want during your first quarter, you may as well find an intriguing alternative. Don't make orientation the only time you see your adviser!

When the Orientation Leaders explain registration, ask questions if it sounds confusing. I was an orientation leader and I found it's easy to forget that new students don't know what a DARS or an RSO or a TRIG is (Degree Audit Report, Registered Student Organization, and Transfer Interest Group). Your orientation leaders are there to answer questions; make good use of them! Also, one of the people from First Year Programs will give you their number and email in case you ever want to discuss a problem or ask a question. I have worked with these folks and they are serious about this. They want your UW experience to be the best it can be. Save their number in your planner.

Save your planner. Use your planner. You will receive it at orientation, as I did. Unlike me, hopefully, you will remember to look through it more than once. When I trained to be an orientation leader, I found that there was important information in there. Looking in my planner first would have saved me valuable time. When I tried to register for winter quarter, I thought I remembered how to do it, but it wouldn't work. I made an appointment with my adviser and she showed me what I did wrong. Guess what? Step-by-step directions were in my planner. I've also lost time trying to find contact information for various departments. They, too, are in the planner.

I'm sure you've heard a lot of the same stuff I had—UW professors have no time for students; all classes are taught by graduate students; and, there are 500 students in every class. Worried about the size of classes? As transfer students, most of your classes will be upper division, which are almost always much smaller than big intro courses. If you do take a large lecture class, you can still be more than a number: sit in the front, answer questions, and, of course, go to office hours. UW professors, for the most part, want their students to come see them. Remember that you may want recommendation letters from them and it helps if you give them a chance to know you. When you attend a large lecture class, there is almost always a smaller “quiz section” that is taught by a graduate student. The grad students are working with the professors, not replacing them. Each section will have 20-30 students and no, they do not take quizzes every week. In the quiz section, the grad student, or T.A. (teaching assistant), will explain the material in more detail and answer questions.

(Continued...)

What is the best part of UW? That's tough to call, because there are so many great things—the beauty, the reputation, the academics—but I have to say the resources are incredible. I can't list them all here. You'll have to do some exploring on your own, but here are a few:

Media equipment—check out digital cameras, laptops, projectors, and more for free with your student ID through classroom support services.

Center for Experiential Learning—found in Mary Gates Hall. Through CEXP, you can find many ways to get involved on campus and in the community. It also contains the scholarship office and the undergraduate research program. Plus, there are fellowships to be had! Check it out!

The Career Center is in the same building and can help with resumé, job interviews, jobs, and so much more.

Finally, I have to praise the IMA. Students with ID have free use of an amazing gym. There are intramural and club sports, a climbing wall, a pool, and loads of exercise equipment.

I could go on and on, but I'll stop here. I just want you to know how fantastic UW is and to ease any concerns you may have about coming here. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have now or when you're here. My email is: beths2@u.washington.edu. I look forward to meeting you!

Oh, yeah, one more thing—come to Dawg Daze the week before school starts. It's lots of fun for new and returning students alike! ❖

Martin Family Foundation Honors Scholarship Program

The Martin Family Foundation Honors Scholarship Program enables community college students of exceptional ability and outstanding achievement to complete their baccalaureate degrees at the University of Washington, Seattle Campus. Martin Scholars are encouraged to join the Honors Program at the UW and, depending on their choice of major, are eligible to graduate with Departmental or College Honors. Amount: Up to \$18,000, a maximum of \$6,000 per year subject to continuing high scholarship at the UW, award may be renewable each year for up to a total of three years of undergraduate support.

Application Deadline: July 8, 2008

For more information: www.washington.edu/students/ugrad/scholar/scholarships/s/martinfamily

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