

STUDENT LIFE @

Roger Williams University
Learning to Bridge the World

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

VOLUME 4 NOVEMBER 2008



Dear Parents and Students,

At the end of October, a spirit- and event-filled Homecoming & Family Weekend, which attracted more than 2,000 participants, brought many parents, students and alumni together on campus. Among the featured events were a casino night and a comedy show on Saturday. Our students' talents were on display through a theater production of "Happy Hour" – a variety show featuring our stage company, musicians guild and dance club members – along with a one-act comedy, "The Bear," by Anton Chekhov. We also had a successful Homecoming day on the playing fields as both women's and men's soccer won with shutouts over New England College, while women's volleyball swept Suffolk University. More recently, after a strong voter registration drive, the University hosted a polling precinct on campus for the national election, and our students assisted as volunteers at other precincts across Bristol.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reminded of how quickly the fall semester moves and how important it is for our students to strive for academic and personal development. This semester we introduced some new opportunities to assist students in achieving balance as they navigate through the semester. An outdoor farmers' market featuring fresh, local produce for sale at wholesale prices took place every Friday for six weeks. Students, faculty and staff were also treated to on-site cooking demonstrations using fresh fruits and vegetables with tasting opportunities. At the end of September, our dining staff participated in the Eat Local Challenge along with other Bon Appétit sites across the country. Students experienced meal choices during lunch that were prepared with 100 percent locally sourced ingredients – try that at home!

Thanksgiving is a time for renewal and appreciation of all the gifts in our lives – especially our family. We are thankful for all of our students' contributions and the support they and the University receive from their parents and guardians. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and encourage you to let us know how we can improve it.

Sincerely,

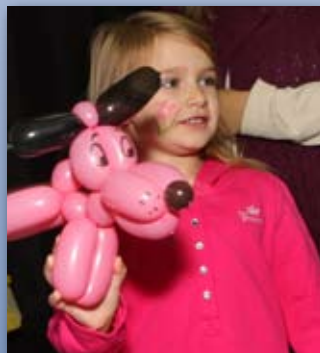


Dr. John J. King
Vice President of Student Affairs

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HOMECOMING 2008



Homecoming & Family Weekend took place on Friday, Oct. 24, through Sunday, Oct. 26. More than 2,500 students, families, alumni, faculty and staff participated in the weekend activities. More photos and article on page 10.

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL CAPTAIN REACHES CAREER MILESTONE

The score was 11-4 and the RWU Hawks women's volleyball team stormed the floor in celebration. A shocked and confused Kirsten Bosworth exclaimed, "What does that mean?"

The Centerville, Mass., native was the only player unaware she was just seven assists shy of reaching the impressive milestone of 3,000 career assists.

"Coach gave me a goal of reaching seven assists before the other team, as a way to ensure we got off to a good start," said the senior captain. "They all kept counting each one and all of the sudden coach called a timeout and everybody ran onto the court congratulating me!"

The congratulations were well deserved. In fact, Kirsten is one of only two players in the 27-year history of the volleyball program to have recorded over 2,000 assists. Kristin Travis set the previous school record at 2,037 before Kirsten eclipsed that mark midway through her junior year.

The elementary education major, currently boasting a 3.2 cumulative GPA while student teaching in Newport this semester, will continue assisting others after her graduation this spring.

"I can't wait to be a teacher and help kids grow and learn, but I'll definitely miss RWU and the volleyball team. This is a place filled with so many great memories."

Having set such an impressive record, Kirsten can be sure she will remain a big part of RWU history and all of our memories as well.



THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Concerts, Community Connections highlight the annual RWU Weeks of Welcome

For some, August means warm summer days and afternoons on the beaches. For first year students at Roger Williams University, August meant the start of a new stage in their lives – the beginning of their higher education journey. To welcome new students to be a part of the RWU Community and to foster new friendships, the Office of New Student & Family Orientation, in collaboration with the Department of Student Programs & Leadership, presented Weeks of Welcome (WOW). Student organizations such as the Campus Entertainment Network (CEN), Student Senate, Inter-Class Council (ICC), WQRI, Inter-Residence Hall Association (IRHA), and the Multicultural Student Union (MSU) greatly contributed to WOW's success. Students Raschel Harer '09 and Justin Cirisoli '10 served as co-coordinators.

WOW's theme this year celebrated the Summer Olympics in Beijing and comprised various activities and educational events to help the students' transition to college life. They had the opportunity to meet new friends, learn about diversity issues, personal safety, alcohol education and other issues facing college students today.

Cirisoli explained, "Weeks of Welcome 2008: Roger Williams Olympics was a wonderful six weeks filled with diverse programs for all students, especially new students, to enjoy. Student leaders volunteered their time to help the new students move into their residence halls, followed by a weekend of fun activities such as Playfair, an icebreaker designed to help new students connect with each other, and Chris Carter, a

(continued on page 3)

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mind-blowing mentalist, who likes to freak people out with his mind-bending tricks.”

Weeks of Welcome continued throughout the months of August and September. Events included performances by Breakin Norms, “All You Need is Laughs,” a concert by Josh Cramoy Band and Eve 6, a merchants’ fair, an 80’s Dance, comedian Bernie McGrenahan, and trips to Dave & Busters and Chameleon Club. “It was an amazing time. WOW was just that...wow.” said Cirisoli with a smile on his face.

After attending Convocation on Saturday August 23, approximately 900 students were introduced to one another in the Campus Recreation Center Field House. Freshmen were reunited with their summer orientation advisors for large group icebreakers. After an hour of high-energy laughing and fun, the RWU student radio station, WQRI, entertained students who then started a dance party outside of Cedar Hall with pizza provided thanks to CEN and WQRI.

The following morning approximately 700 first year students piled into buses and spent the afternoon in Providence, R.I., shopping and taking in the sights before they returned to campus for the evening events. Author Tim Wise kicked off the night with a talk about white privilege. According to his website, “Tim Wise is among the most respected antiracist writers and educators in the U.S., having spoken in 48 states and on 400 college campuses.” Following Mr. Wise’s lecture, the ICC and MSU sponsored a Game Night for students to come play board games and get to know one another.

Also included in the 2008 Weeks of Welcome was RWU’s annual Community Connections day of service. This year 913 new students joined faculty, staff and student leaders in the community on Monday, August 25, to work on projects such as cleaning up the shoreline, spending time at local service agencies and working with senior citizens.



After a short break for dinner, students joined each other for “Drawing the Shades,” a student-produced performance addressing the issues of sexual assault. Counselors were available during and after the performance for students who needed to talk. After the event, IRHA sponsored an ice cream social where students socialized and received additional information about the organization.



The day before classes started, students were treated to Olympic caricatures in the Commons and an information session presented by the PEERs (Peer Educators with Expertise in Referrals). That evening, a group of first year students joined President Nirschel in his own backyard to watch the movie Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skulls.

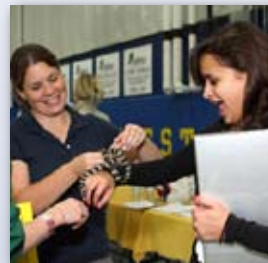
Weeks of Welcome is a tradition that the RWU community looks forward to each and every year as it marks the beginning of the new academic year with the welcoming of a new class of students into the RWU family.

THE CAREER CENTER

The Career Center kicked off the new academic year with The Academic Expo, a program for first and second year students to introduce them to all of the majors and minors that the University has to offer. Attendees also had the chance to meet with study abroad officials, multiple service organizations for volunteer experiences and the various student support services available on campus, such as the Registrar's Office, the Library, the new University Advising Center and the Center for Academic Development. Approximately 250 students and 50 faculty members attended this annual event.

The fall semester continues to offer a variety of career advising programs for all students. New events this semester include networking receptions for specific industries. The School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management teamed up with the Career Center for a successful reception that brought 25 employers together with approximately 100 students to network and learn about each other, resulting in a multitude of internships and job interviews. The Accounting Reception brought a dozen accounting firms and other organizations to campus to meet with three-dozen students. The Career Center will also offer a reception for School of Justice Studies students to interact with employers seeking interns and new graduates for positions in law enforcement, crime scene investigations, the courts, corrections and private security. And, for our students studying the liberal arts, we are offering a panel of employers who hire from those majors to discuss career opportunities. Students contemplating service attended the Peace Corps Open House, which was co-sponsored by the Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement.

To bring our students directly to potential employers, we are hosting three bus trips this semester. The first is to the University of Rhode Island, which hosts a large job fair geared toward engineering and technology. Our second trip will be to New York City to the John Jay College Career Fair for students seeking careers or graduate studies in Criminal Justice. Our final trip of the semester also will take us to New York City to visit advertising agencies and public relations firms.



Students considering graduate school can attend the “Secrets of Getting Into Graduate School Revealed” panel discussion featuring six graduate school admissions representatives who will tell the attendees what they look for in successful graduate school applicants. Students seeking teaching jobs will benefit from “From Lesson Plans to Job Search Plans,” a three-hour comprehensive workshop covering everything from resumes and cover letters to portfolio creations and interviews.

All of these exciting events took place as the Career Center continued to offer preparation workshops for students about to begin their cooperative education/ internship experiences. On-campus interviewing for summer internships and post-commencement jobs began in early October and will continue throughout the school year.

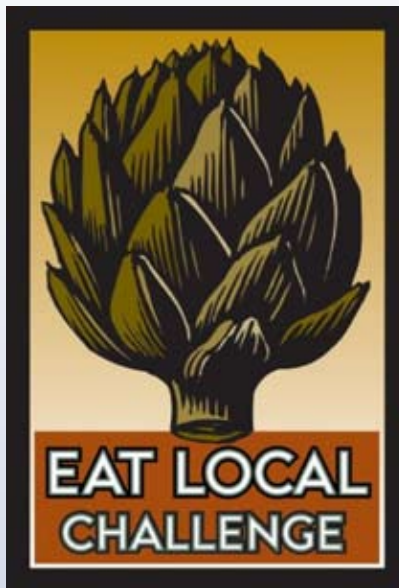
As a partner in your student's academic and career success, we ask that you please encourage them to utilize all that the Career Center can offer. We are located in the Center for Student Development. Your student can email us at careers@rwu.edu or call us at x3224.

THINKING GLOBALLY, EATING LOCALLY

The RWU Eat Local Challenge 2008 highlights tasty, eco-friendly food choices.

On September 30, 2008, Roger Williams University dining service Bon Appétit hosted its annual Eat Local Challenge. Lunch that day was made from local, fresh ingredients from within 150 miles of our café location – right down to a Bristol, R.I., soda company.

The Eat Local Challenge highlights our chefs' creativity with the superb flavor of local, seasonal ingredients during peak harvest season. Locally produced food is harvested at the height of freshness, often making it to market within 24 hours of being picked. Food that is grown locally is fresher and dramatically more flavorful than food that is harvested early so that it can be transported great distances. Transporting food from long distances, especially via airfreight, does incredible damage to the environment in the form of global warming and air pollution. Eating locally therefore helps reduce the immense amount of non-renewable resources wasted in transporting food.



Fuel conservation is not only about driving less – it is also about buying goods that do not travel halfway across the globe. By buying from local farmers, Bon Appétit is helping to support sustainable farming practices that nourish and replenish the local land rather than

strip it. While learning that supporting local farms is as easy as eating lunch, diners also discover how fresh, flavorful and full of variety their local food landscapes are. These connections with individual producers extend beyond one lunch. Year round, the Bon Appétit Management Company purchases a minimum of 20% local ingredients for all of its cafés through the Farm to Fork program. When you consider the impact this can have when multiplied by the more than 400 cafés across the country, Farm to Fork marks the beginning of a viable local food system.

THE COUNSELING CENTER

The recent upheaval of our financial institutions has affected everyone in one way or another. In this time of national and global uncertainty, it is difficult not to be touched by the free-floating anxiety and doubt hovering over us. Students, too, experience this stress in a number of ways depending on their own particular circumstances. The Counseling Center has been available to help students cope during these trying times.

For incoming freshmen, the fall semester often presents additional adjustment issues. The Counseling Center can help ease this transition period for many students. For example, we address learning how to balance increased responsibility and less supervision, finding a social niche, negotiating conflict with roommates and peers and reexamining personal goals, values and priorities. There is a great deal support available to students, though for some seeking it out may be a new skill.

The Center also utilized the National Depression



Screening Day as another means of reaching out to students. The screening survey quickly provided students information about their particular levels of depression and anxiety. Students had an opportunity to immediately meet with a counselor and express their concerns. They were also invited to make an appointment with a counselor for a longer session if they were interested.

Our services are confidential, which means we cannot share information about the fact or nature of students' visits to the Center without their permission. However, as a parent you are welcome to call us to share your concerns or to consult with one of the counselors. All full-time and residential undergraduate students are eligible for all of our services, free of charge. CCSD is located on the 2nd floor of the Center for Student Development, and we may be reached at (401) 254-3124.

RETHINKING THE DRINKING AGE

By Donna Lynn Darmody, Director of Health Education/Alcohol and Drug Prevention Coordinator

Recently, there has been a lot of media attention regarding the question of whether or not the current minimum legal drinking age of 21 years old should be reexamined. John McCardell, former president of Middlebury College, has been the primary proponent of this change and has created an organization called Choose Responsibility. In July 2008, the organization launched the Amethyst Initiative, announcing that 129 presidents of higher education institutions support opening a debate on the minimum legal drinking age.

After addressing parents and students on college alcohol issues during freshman orientation this year, a few parents proposed to me that drinking problems on college campuses might not be such an issue if the legal age were lowered to 18. Although this change might make it easier for colleges to set policies and create sanctions for minors in possession of alcohol, the real question that must be addressed is whether or not a change to the minimum age would prevent the negative consequences associated with alcohol use among college students. My answer is no.

In an article for the Chronicle of Higher Education, William DeJong, an expert in the field of alcohol and drug prevention, stated it quite simply: “To have a debate, there must be an issue that is debatable, and that’s not the case here: The scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that the age-21 law is saving lives.”

In a review of more than four dozen studies, researchers found that in the 1970s and 1980s, when many states reduced the minimum drinking age to 18 or 19 years old, alcohol-related traffic accidents among drivers under 21 increased by 10 percent. Once the minimum legal age of 21 was reinstated, alcohol-related crashes for this same group decreased by 16 percent, they said, and the proportion of alcohol-related traffic deaths among drivers under 21 decreased by nearly half (from 44 to 23 percent). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that maintaining the legal minimum drinking age at 21 years of age has saved more than 21,000 traffic deaths to date.

Based on more than 30 years of research and conclusions by social scientists on this topic, I’ve concluded that setting the minimum drinking age

at 21 years old has been one of the most successful public health interventions in America. The current laws and their enforcement are a part of the many environmental strategies that have proven effective at reducing negative consequences. Among 16- to 20-year-olds with blood alcohol levels above .08 percent, the risk of a fatal traffic accident increased by more than 50 percent as compared to all drivers with 0 percent blood alcohol levels, NHTSA data shows.

Data from the 1978 to 2007 Monitoring the Future study (conducted by a variety of researchers working at the University of Michigan) supports this point, as the percentage of high school seniors reporting at least monthly drinking activity drastically decreased from 72 to 44 percent. Likewise, a 2004 Institute of Medicine report concluded that the consequences of underage drinking are no less severe in countries with lower drinking ages, but in fact rates of alcoholism are sometimes higher.

Also consider the trickle-down effects associated with lowering the minimum drinking age. If 18-year-olds can legally purchase alcohol, it may become more accessible to those even younger, especially 14- to 17-year-olds; and research shows that the younger people begin drinking alcohol, the greater the risk of future dependency problems. Add to this the recent discovery that alcohol has a permanent detrimental effect to the developing adolescent brain, and I can’t help but agree with Dr. DeJong that the issue is not debatable.

President Ronald Reagan signed into law the current age-21 minimum drinking age restriction on July 17, 1984 – at the time, 79 percent of the American public supported the change, according to research published by the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention. This acceptance rate has remained steady. A 2005 poll by the Washington Post showed that 78 percent of Americans support the current age restrictions. I think the lessons learned when the drinking age was lowered in the 1970’s were sobering. For the safety of our teenagers and young adults, I think those mistakes should not be made again.



SPEAKING OUT FOR A CAUSE & WALKING FOR A CURE

RWU Women's Center boosts campus efforts supporting breast cancer and domestic violence awareness.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and events for both kept the members of the RWU Women's Center very busy, both on and off of campus.

On October 18, members of the RWU Women's Center participated in the 11th Annual March to End the Silence, held in Providence, R.I. Coordinated by the Silent Witness Initiative of Rhode Island, the march is a traveling memorial of life-sized red silhouettes, each honoring the life and death of our state's women, men and children who were murdered in an act of domestic violence. In an effort to break the cycle of violence, the project honors the lives of the individuals lost and works to promote awareness of and educate others about dating and domestic violence issues. Roger Williams University is one of the most active chapters of the Silent Witness Initiative in Rhode Island, using the silhouettes housed on campus to help raise awareness and educate students about this very



important issue. Currently, the project exists in all 50 states and 24 other countries.

Also, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, more than 65 Roger Williams University students, staff and friends attended the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Roger Williams Park in Providence, R.I. on Sunday, October 19. This year's team of walkers raised more than \$1,000 to help in the fight against breast cancer.



RWU IS GOING GREEN!

**Students, please sign up for EBill online at: <http://www.rwu.edu/about/administration/bursar/ebilling/>
You may also register your parents/guardians to receive EBILL at this site.**



In keeping with Roger Williams University's commitment to sustainability, the Bursar's Office is going green. We are doing our part to conserve the environment, save trees and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by moving to EBill. As of May 2009 EBill will be RWU's official method for sending student account statements. Paper statements will no longer be mailed. Instead, you will receive an email notification when a new statement is available online. EBills save paper and postage, are accessible 24 hours a day from anywhere with Internet access, allow easy access for parents and other authorized third parties and eliminate the need to wait by the mailbox for a bill to arrive. We hope you will find this new, secure method of notification and payment a much more convenient way of conducting business with the University.

SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS!

Coordinated by the Department of Student Programs & Leadership, the SOAR Leadership Development program reached new heights this fall. Students began their SOAR experience on September 20 with an off-campus, overnight retreat at Camp Chimney Corners in Becket, Mass. A record-number 60 students have enrolled in the Emerge tier of the program, focusing on individual leadership values such as developing consciousness of self, congruence, and commitment. Another record-setting 19 students have enrolled in the Develop tier of the program, focusing on group leadership values such as building common purpose, collaborating, and managing controversy with civility.

A number of RWU administrators are working with SOAR this semester including Coordinator of Residence Education Caitlin Coddling (Willow Hall), Assistant Director of Student Programs & Leadership Adrienne Henderson, Assistant Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards Seann Kalagher, Assistant Director of Orientation Trung Nguyen, Assistant Director of Student Programs & Leadership Gretchen Streiff, and Assistant Director of Residence Life Patrick Tanner.

Unveiled in 2007, the Lead tier of the SOAR program affords students who have completed the Emerge and Develop tiers the opportunity to practice citizenship and engage in creating social change within the community. This year, the six students participating in Lead have entered into a partnership with the Bristol / Warren School District to create a Freshman Mentorship Program at Mt. Hope High School. In coordination with the high school administration, the Lead students interviewed and selected 54 high school juniors and seniors to serve in the inaugural class of mentors. On September 19, the mentors spent the day at RWU for a special training session entirely designed

and lead by the Lead students. The day was a huge success, and as the year continues the RWU students will be providing ongoing leadership development and skills training to the high school mentors as they work to create a stronger community within their high school.

In October, Lead student Ted Beatty accompanied Associate Director of Student Programs & Leadership Josh Hiscock to make a presentation about the partnership program during the Showcase of Model Programs sponsored by the Commission on Public Secondary Schools of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the body that accredits all high schools, colleges and universities within the region.

For more information about the spring session of SOAR - Emerge, please contact the Department of Student Programs & Leadership. Applications will be available in early November. Do not miss out!



THE SOAR PROGRAM AFFORDS STUDENTS...THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE CITIZENSHIP AND ENGAGE IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE.

THE INTERCULTURAL CENTER

This fall has been an exciting time at the Intercultural Center (IC). We have new staff, vibrant programming and an engaged community. Reverend Dr. Tom Sullivan is our new Multi-faith Chaplain. He previously spent nine years as the Director of Spiritual Life at Babson College. We also welcome Kathleen Tucciarone who joins us as our new Administrative Assistant. She brings great experience with the U.S. Coast Guard and the business sector. Kathy sends a big “hello” to all the new freshmen and encourages them to come by and check out the IC!

Our international student enrollment has increased dramatically and we welcomed a record number of 41 new international students this semester. Currently there are 124 international students from 45 countries across the globe. This semester they already have enjoyed a Boston Harbor cruise and a trip to see Cirque du Soleil. The “Hour With” series, which gives international students a chance to share their culture and geography with the campus community, got off to a great start with “An Hour with the Dominican Republic.” The students have an exciting line up of events this fall including a paintball trip in Providence, a field trip to the Plimouth Plantation in Plymouth, Mass., and a lecture from a Native American speaker.

The Multicultural Student Union (MSU) had a very full agenda for the fall semester including Latin Heritage Month, a Step show for Homecoming, a series of civil discourse sessions including discussions on the historic presidential election, community service projects and celebrations of Ramadan, Thanksgiving and Kwanzaa. This fall the LBGT club of SAFE has grown in membership and scope of programming. Their list of activities includes National Coming Out Day activities, the annual Halloween screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show and the World AIDS Day memorial.

Our Spiritual Life Program is also off to a strong start. Each of the student organizations has been active with worship, fellowship, service and other fun activities are underway. Our Hillel Club is more active than it has been in years, with more than 20 students regularly attending services and about 35 attending bimonthly social events. Hillel also has partnered with local

synagogues and colleges for High Holiday celebrations as well as planning

a ski trip in the late fall or winter. The Muslim Student Association celebrated the month of Ramadan with daily breakfast at 5 am at the Intercultural Center, and weekly break-the-fast dinners on Saturday nights. The final Eid celebration, which marks the end of Ramadan, drew over fifty people.

The Newman Club has been active as well, hosting a Pro-Life program, raising money for charities, and planning programs. Averages of almost fifty students per week are attending Roman Catholic Mass. Our new Roman Catholic chaplain, Father Michael Sisco, is an alumnus! The InterVarsity Christian Fellowship has also been building their membership. They have held a campus prayer walk, and several smaller programs, as well as their weekly fellowship meetings.

Besides Father Sisco, we have two other chaplains: the Rev. Dan Randall, our Protestant, chaplain, and Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer, our Jewish chaplain. We are currently seeking a Muslim chaplain. Special thanks go to our faculty/staff advisors, Madge Thombs for the Newman Club, Josh Stein for Hillel, Maria Adkins for the Muslim Student Association and Jade Alves for the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

This year the Bridge to Success academic year program has more than twenty undergraduate mentors tutoring at six high schools. Along with on-site tutoring and mentoring in each school, we invite mentees to a variety of campus visits and field trips designed to help them prepare for college. This past summer we hosted the Bridge to Success Summer Institute a 10-day residential SAT prep initiative for high school students. This was supported with grants from Bank of America and the College Crusade of RI. Days were split between morning classes and afternoon groups featuring topics such as time and money management, job interviewing skills and public speaking.

<http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/multiculturalaffairs/>



HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2008

Homecoming & Family Weekend took place on Friday, October 24, through Sunday, October 26. More than 2,500 students, families, alumni, faculty and staff participated in the weekend activities. The weekend kicked off with Casino Night and Midnight Madness. Saturday morning began with family workshops covering issues such as freshman adjustment, study abroad and internships. The Homecoming King and Queen, Kevin Clark and Lorin Richardson, were crowned at the women's soccer game. This year's event had several new activities, including Autumn Festival, which occurred on Saturday afternoon in front of the Campus Recreation Center. One highlight of the festival was the step show sponsored by the Multicultural Student Union. Saturday night's comedy show featured the Sklar brothers, and the weekend's activities concluded on Sunday with the President's Brunch and the InterClass Council's Fall Classic Flag Football Tournament. Be sure to save the date for next year's Homecoming & Family Weekend, which will take place Oct. 23-25, 2009!



If you know others who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or care to change your email address, please send current email addresses to advancement@rwu.edu

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