

UGS Newsletter

Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies

Volume 3, Issue 2

October 2006

News on UMR's efforts to improve the learning environment and the learning outcomes of students.

Academic Alert System fall 2006 mid term report

Special points of interest:

- Academic Alert System Mid-Term Update
- President's Award for Outstanding Teaching
- Clickers in the UMR Classroom
- Re-accreditation Self Study Data Collection
- Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol
- Honor's Academy Hosts Social for National Service Day

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The Academic Alert System was established to serve as an on-line resource to assist students with success in their courses. The system includes a customized reporting function which is available for use by all UMR departments. The mid term report from the system indicates more academic alerts have been issued this semester to date than were issued during the entire fall 2005 semester.

Approximately 708 alerts have been issued this semester for 546 individual students. 40% of all academic alerts were issued to students in the Freshmen Engineering Program. The majority of alerts were issued due to poor performance and lack of attendance in class.

UMR faculty are encouraged to utilize the system within the first few weeks of class, and throughout the semester as an effective means of communicating with students and their

academic advisors about issues related to student academic success.

Approximately 108 UMR instructors have utilized the academic alert system this semester, and approximately 146 academic advisors have been engaged with students on academic alert issues.

When a student receives an alert, they are informed of the actions they need to take in order to improve their academic performance in the course. Students are also encouraged to meet with their academic advisor to discuss the recommended actions and the process for closing the academic alert.

Academic advisors and instructors are encouraged to communicate with students about the alert and to close out the alert by entering completion dates for each of the actions taken by the student. If a student fails to complete a

recommended action, or if the system is not updated by the advisor or instructor, an email reminder is sent to the student and their advisor indicating they have missed a required deadline. Regular electronic communication of this nature continues until the alert is closed out.

The mid term report indicates that approximately 85% of all academic alerts have not been closed out.

Planned Improvements:

- ✓ Increase utilization of the system.
- ✓ Improve the mechanism for closing alerts and measuring the positive impact on student academic success.

For more information, contact UGS at 341-7276 or visit: <http://campus.umn.edu/acaalert/>.

UMR campus call for outstanding teaching award

UMR is seeking nominations for the 2007 UM President's Award for Outstanding Teaching. A review panel, established by the Provost, will serve to review submitted dossiers (without external reference letters) and make recommendations on those that should be fully prepared and submitted into the system-wide

competition. The dossiers must be prepared so as to address the suggested criteria that is posted on the UM System web site.

In addition, it is requested that each dossier submitted for the preliminary campus consideration be accompanied by a nomination letter from both the

faculty member's department chair and college/school dean.

Preliminary materials must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies at 209 Norwood Hall by **October 31, 2006**. More information is available at:

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/aa/awards/awards2.shtml>

Clickers in the classroom having an impact at UMR



Clickers are being successfully used in ten different UMR disciplines and twenty-five different UMR courses.

“Twenty UMR faculty members currently use clicker technology with nearly 1,700 unique students, a 78 percent increase from last year”

Technology in the UMR classroom is on the rise.

Usage of clickers, a handheld remote radio frequency transmitter, that students use to answer questions, take quizzes, complete surveys, and participate in class, began as a pilot project in four Chemistry I sections two years ago, but is now being successfully used in ten UMR disciplines and twenty-five different UMR courses.

When clickers are used in a lecture or class discussion, the results of students' responses are projected immediately onto a screen, allowing the entire class to see how everyone anonymously answered as well as providing the instructor instant feedback about the students' comprehension of

the material being presented.

Twenty UMR faculty members currently use clicker technology with nearly 1,700 unique students, a 78 percent increase from last year.

Positive responses from students enrolled in clicker courses indicate that most find lectures to be more engaging and motivational, and feel that the technology enhances learning. The positive impact of the use of the technology is reflected on tests as well; Chemistry I continues to report a consistent higher level of learning as reflected in test scores.

The growth continues with new faculty users coming aboard in Spring of 2007. The new courses include Principles of

Macroeconomics (Econ 122), Engineering Physics I (Phys 23) and Civil Engineering 230 and 234, engaging over 500 UMR students.

Faculty who are interested in using clickers in their classes should contact Angela Perkins in the CERTI office at 341-7648 for the times and locations of the following workshops.

Clickers in the Classroom Workshop Series

10/26/06
Software Basic Training

11/10/06
Intermediate/Advanced Applications Training

12/13/06
Preparation Session

UMR plans data collection for HLC self study

UMR Reaccreditation Self Study Information Collection Timeline:

9/22-11/3/06
Steering Committee Response

1/8/07
Campus Wide Information Collection Begins

- **1/8-2/9/2007** -Criterion 3
- **2/12-3/25/07**-Criterion 4
- **4/2-4/23/07**- Criterion 2 & 5
- **4/23-5/7/07**-Criterion 1

May-June, 2007
Final Collection/Electronic Processing

6/26/07
Data Collection Closed

August 2007
Self-Study Report Compilation

During the 2008-09 academic year, UMR will undergo an institution-wide accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies is coordinating the effort, however, preparing for our institutional reaccreditation will require cooperation and assistance by all academic and non-academic units on campus.

During the spring semester, all UMR units will be asked to provide evidence-based reporting to demonstrate how the university is meeting or exceeding each of the HLC criterion.

The five criteria for accreditation are:

Criterion One
Mission and Integrity

Criterion Two
Preparing for the Future

Criterion Three
Student Learning and Effective Teaching

Criterion Four
Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

Criterion Five
Engagement and Service

This data collection process is intended to encourage our ongoing efforts in assessment and improvement, and give us an opportunity to demonstrate our many strengths and points of excellence.

<http://accreditation.umn.edu/>

UGS seeks student ambassadors for capitol event

The Office of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies (UGS) is currently accepting nominations for Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol, which will be held April 11, 2007 at the capitol building rotunda in Jefferson City, MO.

Faculty members are encouraged to nominate undergraduates to serve as ambassadors by sharing their undergraduate research experiences with state lawmakers during the event.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate to lawmakers in Jefferson City the unique opportunities undergraduate students have to participate with faculty in research at the University of Missouri. Successful nominees should be able to convey their research

experience and enthusiasm to state representatives, senators, and other state officials in a poster session.

UGS is seeking students from a broad range of disciplines. We are especially interested in projects that relate to the economic development of Missouri and issues important to the state legislature (e.g., education, health, agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, social services). Presentations that include visual demonstrations or displays beyond the typical poster are also encouraged.

Selection of student ambassadors will be based on geographical distribution, relevance of the project to the state, quality of the project, and distribution among the

four UM campuses.

Nominations from the UMR campus are due **December 15, 2006**. Nominations should be submitted to:

Dr. Harvest L. Collier
Vice Provost, UGS
c/o Amy Gillman
209 Norwood Hall
gillman@umr.edu

UGS will screen applications for academic discipline representation, geographical diversity within the state, and appropriateness of the research topic.

For more information about this event, and a copy of the application form, contact the Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies at 341-7600.



John Koch and William Stallard discuss the impact of their research efforts.



UM undergraduate research poster displays in the capitol building rotunda April 2006.



Trini King explains her research project to a Missouri state senator last April.

UM System Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

*** April 11, 2007 ***

Nominees for this event must meet the following criteria:

1. Students must be undergraduates at the University of Missouri during the 2006-2007 Academic Year.
2. Students must be residents of the State of Missouri.
3. Research must have been completed under the guidance of a University of Missouri faculty member.
4. Research projects must follow the methodology of the appropriate academic discipline.
5. The research project must be of sufficient quality to be presented at a professional academic meeting.

UMR celebrates programs that impact student success

The Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies held an open house event on September 6, 2006. The purpose of this event was to showcase and celebrate the many programs on campus that help students become academically successful.

A large crowd of UMR students, faculty and staff turned out for the event to socialize and visit displays.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies wishes to extend its gratitude to the following departments that helped to make this event an enjoyable one for all.

- The Center for Educational Research & Teaching Innovation (CERTI)
- Counseling & Academic Support Programs
- Information Technology

- Learning Enhancement Across Disciplines
- New Faculty Programs
- New Student Programs
- The Writing Center
- UMR Bookstore
- UMR Library
- Voyager Learning Community

Thanks again for your participation and support!



Brooke Sims of IT and Patty Frisbee of New Student Programs at the UGS Open House event on September 6, 2006.

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Student success is important at the University of Missouri-Rolla. The Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies strives to create and support programs that continually improve the UMR learning environment and the learning outcomes of students.



Honors Academy hosts Halloween social for area youth

The UMR Honors Academy students are hosting a Halloween-themed *No Tricks-Just Treats* social for High-school boys who live in transitional living and residential services provided by Alternative Opportunities, Inc. a local social services provider. The *No Tricks-Just Treats* Social is being held in the Havener

Center Game Room on Friday, October 13th, 2006 from 6-8PM.

The UMR Honors Academy is introducing the service event this year, hoping to make it an annual occurrence. The goal of the social is for the UMR Honors Academy students to mentor and provide positive influences for approximately 20 of

the AO Inc. youth. The event is being held to coincide with the National Collegiate Honors Council Student Service Day.

"I think that this is a great opportunity for UMR to get involved in the community. Who would be better to give these kids a positive

experience and set an example of making good choices than the Honors Academy students? It is important for these kids to have safe, fun Halloween festivities, and this event provides that opportunity," said Luke Smith, Director of AO Inc.

Upcoming Events

For Faculty

October 18
Freshman Faculty Forum, 4:00-5:00 PM, Silver & Gold-Havener Center

October 26
Software Basic Training- Clickers in the Classroom Series, Time/Location TBD

November 1
Freshman Faculty Forum, 4:00-5:00 PM, Silver & Gold-Havener Center

November 3
Academic Advising Conference- Advising Students on Probation, 3:00-4:30 PM, Havener Center

November 8
New Faculty Teaching Scholars Luncheon, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM, Carver Room, Havener Center

November 10
Intermediate/Advanced Applications Training-, Clickers in the Classroom Series, Time/Location TBD

For Students

October 16 & 18
Voyager Seminar-Using Joe's Self Service, 3:00 PM, TJ Hall

October 24
Voyager Seminar-UMR Library @ Your Desktop, 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM, 103 Wilson Library

October 25
Honor's Seminar-Ultimate Teaching & Learning, 7:00-8:00 PM, Havener Center

October 26
Voyager Seminar- What does SHS Offer You?, 3:00 PM, TJ Hall

November 2
Voyager Seminar-The Writing Center-Achieving Success in Writing, 3:00 PM, 113 Campus Support Facility

November 6
Voyager Seminar- Playing IT Safe, Copyright Law & Computer Ethics, 3:00 PM, TJ Hall

November 8
Honor's Seminar-Discover Undergrad. Research, 7:00-8:00 PM, Havener Center

November 15-19
National Collegiate Honor's Council Conference

November 16
Voyager Seminar-Take the Torture out of Testing, 6:00 PM, TJ Hall

Clickers in the Classroom Workshop Series

10/26/06
Software Basic Training

11/10/06
Intermediate/Advanced Applications Training

12/13/06
Preparation Session

Sponsored by CERTI & IT

Contact Angela Perkins at ext. 7648 for Times & Locations