

UGS Newsletter

Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2006

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

UMR begins re-accreditation self study

Special points of interest:

- Re-Accreditation Self Study
- New CERTI Program Coordinator
- UMR Honor's Academy
- Highlights from Hit the Ground Running- 2006
- Academic Alert System
- UMR Advising Awards
- UGS Open House

During the 2008-09 academic year, UMR will undergo an institution-wide accreditation review. University of Missouri-Rolla is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. We were last re-viewed in 1998 and received re-accreditation for ten years.

Accreditation is an activity of great importance for the University. Evaluating the past and present and planning for our future ensures currency, quality, and viability. Every unit on this campus contributes to the learning environment we strive to create.

Being accredited is the gateway to participating in federal and state programs of benefit to higher education. UMR students received over eighteen million dollars in federal financial aid in FY05 alone---and only accredited institutions may participate in financial aid programs.

The accreditation process has changed dramatically in the last ten years. It now requires evidence-based reporting linked to assessment and the strategic plan. Over the next year, all departments will be asked to provide such evidence-based reporting. **Vice-Provost Harvest L. Collier** is directing the campus-wide reaccreditation self-study. He has composed a cross-University team to assist in steering the self-study and to consult widely with students, faculty, staff, and administrators in assembling its report. The team will begin visiting departments soon with specific details and information requests.

Preparing for our institutional re-accreditation will require cooperation and assistance by all academic and non-academic units on campus. The process of self study in which we are now engaged is intended to encourage our ongoing efforts in as-



During the 2008-09 academic year, UMR will undergo an institution-wide accreditation

assessment and improvement, and give us an opportunity to demonstrate our many strengths and points of excellence. For additional information about UMR Accreditation contact:

**UMR Re-accreditation
Self Study
Office of Undergraduate &
Graduate Studies**
209 Norwood Hall
(573)-341-7276

E-mail: accredit@umr.edu
Website: <http://accreditation.umr.edu/>

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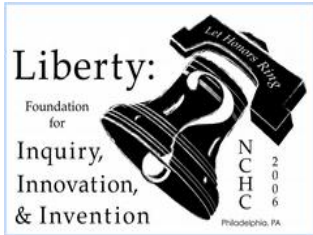
CERTI welcomes new program coordinator

The Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies welcomes **Angela Perkins**, Program/Project Support Specialist for the Center for Educational Research & Teaching Innovation (CERTI). Mrs. Perkins joins us from Northwest Missouri State University, where she served as Coordinator of Volunteer Programs and Ser-

vice Learning and Assistant Program Director for Kauffman Scholars summer programs.

In addition to her time at Northwest, her background includes coordination of programs for non-profits and residential life experience as a counselor at the Illinois Math and Science Academy.

CERTI is hosting a "**Clickers in the Classroom**" workshop on September 22, 2006 at 3:00 PM. This workshop is designed for UMR instructors who are interested in utilizing clicker technology in their classrooms during the Spring 2007 semester. For more information, please contact the CERTI office at 341-7648.



The theme of the 2006 NCHC annual conference November 15-19, 2006 is "Liberty: Foundation for Inquiry, Innovation, and Invention."

"With 80 new members, UMR has tripled the number of new students entering the Honor's Academy and doubled the number of New Student Honors Seminars offered throughout the year."

UMR Honor's Academy expanding

A healthy turnout of UMR faculty, staff and 80 new Honors Academy students attended the 2006 Honors Academy Welcome Reception event held Wednesday, August 23, 2006. Guests heard inspiring welcome remarks from Chancellor Carney, Provost Wray, Vice Provost Harvest Collier, and Dean Jay Goff, with gala reception following in the Miner Lounge.

The event launched a dramatic year of growth for the UMR Honors Academy. With 80 new members, UMR has tripled the number of new students entering the Honor's Academy and doubled the number of New Student Honors Seminars offered throughout the year. The dynamic growth includes doubling the social events, Distinguished Speakers and contests, expanding the gala Honors for-

mals and dinners and adding the potential for a National Collegiate Honors Council Conference trip.

This year, UMR and the Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies (UGS) will welcome three new students to the Master Student Fellowship Program (MSFP). The MSFP is an elite group of Honor's Academy students who are earning bachelors and masters degrees at the same time. UGS is hosting a series of events throughout the year to build a sense of community to address common issues of concern among MSFP students and their academic advisors.

To learn more about the UMR Honors Academy and MSFP, visit:

<http://campus.UMR.edu/ugs/honors.htm>

New Student Honor's Seminar Schedule

* Fall 2006 *

Honor's Academy Welcome
August 23, 2006

Dare to Develop-Your Honor's Participation
September 13, 2006

Honor's Academy Etiquette Dinner
September 24, 2006

UMR Research
October 11, 2006

Ultimate Teaching & Learning
October 25, 2006

Discover Undergraduate Research
November 8, 2006

National Collegiate Honor's Council Conference
November 15-19, 2006

Eighty-nine new students 'Hit the Ground Running'



Eighty-nine new students participated in HGR, a four week summer program designed to enhance student academic skills.

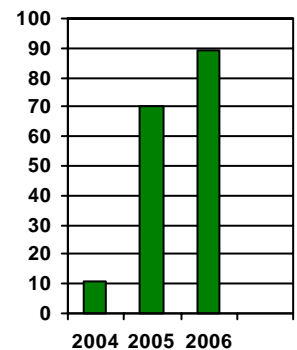
Hit the Ground Running (HGR) is a four week summer program focused on assisting students with adjusting to college life, adopting academic excellence strategies, developing leadership skills, and adopting strategies that encourage student responsibility and ownership of realistic academic expectations.

The eighty-nine scholars who participated this summer each lived in the Thomas Jefferson Residence Hall and took courses in Mathematics, Chemistry, English and Leadership Development. The program provided graduate teaching assistants and

upper-class students to facilitate the transition from high school to college. "This is an excellent opportunity to sharpen skills and develop good study habits, critical to becoming a success both at UMR and in the workforce," said JP Fransaw, Coordinator of the MEP Program at UMR, also a 1998 HGR program participant.

The program has demonstrated its impact in contributing to the first semester success of student participants as reflected in consistently higher GPAs compared to the average freshmen GPA. (3.02 vs. 2.87 in FS2005).

HGR Enrollment



HGR enrollment has increased from 11 students in 2004, to 89 students in 2006.

Academic Alert: a valuable tool for UMR instructors

The University of Missouri Rolla is committed to the success of its students by providing an environment conducive to teaching and learning. To ensure that every student takes full advantage of the educational opportunities and support programs on campus, the university has implemented the Academic Alert System.

The Academic Alert System is a web-based application that supports communication among instructors, advisors, and students. The system was a collaborative effort, developed and implemented by the UMR Retention Committee, Information Technology (IT) and the Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies (UGS). The purpose of the Academic Alert System is to improve the overall academic success of students by improving communication among students, instructors and advisors; reducing the time required for students to be informed of their academic status; and informing students of actions necessary by them in order to meet the academic requirements in the courses they are taking.

Approximately 855 alerts were issued during the 2005-06 academic year. The root causes identified for the majority of alerts were lack of attendance and poor performance in the course.

Key Outcomes:

- ✓ Improved communication among students, instructors and advisors.
- ✓ Communication of student responsibility.
- ✓ Increased accountability of academic advisors
- ✓ Improved mechanism for monitoring student and advisor engagement.

Data indicate that the Academic Alert System is a critical component in the retention of first year students, as the majority of academic alerts were issued to students in the Freshman Engineering Program last year. Therefore, UMR faculty are encouraged to utilize the system within the first few weeks of class, and throughout the semester as needed.

In addition to the important information that is typically included in a course syllabus, instructors

are encouraged to include information about UMR's Academic Alert System. Students who receive an alert should be encouraged to take action by visiting with their instructor or academic advisor.

The Academic Alert System includes a customized reporting function which is available for use by all UMR departments at <http://campus.UMR.edu/acalert/>. Departments are encouraged to utilize the reporting function during mid term and at the end of each semester, and to remind faculty of the importance of using the Academic Alert System.

Planned improvements for 2006-2007 include raising awareness to improve the utilization of the system by UMR instructors, advisors and students, and improving the mechanism for closing alerts and measuring the positive impact on student academic success.

For more information, please visit the on-line tutorial at: <http://campus.UMR.edu/acalert/>, or contact UGS at 341-7276.



Students who receive an alert should be encouraged to take action by visiting with their instructor or academic advisor.

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Awards promote outstanding advising practices

April 2006, UGS announced six winners of the 2005-06 Outstanding Academic Advisor Awards during an awards luncheon on the campus:

- **Dr. Diana L. Ahmad**, assistant professor of history
- **Dr. William Canu**, assistant professor of psychology
- **Krista Chambers**, senior

secretary in engineering management and system engineering

- **Dr. Douglas Ludlow**, professor and chair of chemical engineering
- **Dr. F. Scott Miller**, assistant professor of materials science and engineering
- **Dr. David Richardson**, associate professor of civil engineering

Upcoming NACADA Events

(National Academic Advising Association)

- ✓ 2006 National Conference— Oct. 18-21, Indianapolis, IN
- ✓ 2007 Administrator's Institute- Jan. 28-30, San Antonio, TX
- ✓ 2007 Assessment Institute- Jan. 31- Feb. 2, San Antonio, TX
- ✓ Missouri Academic Advising Association (MACADA), Conference- Sept. 14-15, Lake Ozark, MO

<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/>



Recipients of the 2005-06 Outstanding Academic Advising Award at the awards luncheon on April 26.

Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies

209 Norwood Hall
1870 Miner Circle
University of Missouri-Rolla
Rolla, Missouri 65409

Phone: 573-341-7276
E-mail: ugs@umr.edu

Web: <http://campus.umr.edu/ugs/>



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.



Upcoming Events

For Faculty

September 6

UGS Open House-Celebrate UMR Student Academic Success Programs, 2:00-4:00 PM, Second Floor Norwood Hall

September 11

Advising Conference: Academic Alert System, 12:00-1:30 PM, Havener Center

September 13

New Faculty Teaching Scholars Luncheon

September 14

OURE Department Coordinators Meeting, 12:00-1:00 PM, Havener Center

September 15

Freshman Faculty Welcome & Orientation- Havener Center

September 22

"Clickers in the Classroom" CERTI Workshop
3:00 PM, Havener Center

For Students

September 6

UGS Open House-Celebrate UMR Student Academic Success Programs, 2:00-4:00 PM, Second Floor Norwood Hall

September 8

Voyager Seminar: Academic Alert System, 3:00 PM, TJ Hall

September 13

Honor's Seminar: Dare to Develop-Your Honor's Participation, 7:00 PM, Location TBA

September 13

Voyager Seminar: Diversity Fulfilled, 6:00 PM, TJ Hall

September 18

Voyager Seminar: Campus Life, 3:00 PM, TJ Hall

September 24

Honor's Seminar: Honor's Academy Etiquette Dinner, 4:45 PM, Zeno's Motel & Steak House

Please Join Us!

Help us celebrate UMR Programs that promote student academic success.

September 6, 2006

2:00-4:00 PM
2nd Floor -
Norwood Hall

Refreshments! * Door Prizes!

Hosted by
The Office of Undergraduate &
Graduate Studies

209 Norwood Hall

The new home of:

The Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies
Dr. Harvest Collier,
Vice Provost

New Faculty Programs

Dr. Ron Bieniek,
Director