Online course registration runs without complications

By Valerie Cedeno

It’s that time of year again. Students who are planning out their new schedules have been undergoing course selection and, according to members of the Registrar’s office, the process has improved since last year.

Most students now have the option of registering online instead of visiting the Registrar’s office. This is the second year that the Registrar’s office has offered this online option to second-year undergraduate students and the first semester that grad students are able to register online.

“This is the first time that the graduate students don’t have to wait in line,” said Associate Director Joanne Ceres. “They don’t have to wait until 4:30 p.m.—they can register any time of the day and even though that adds more people on the system, it doesn’t create any load problems.”

Ceres also mentioned that the “load” problems over all have also seemed to be reduced. The load problems occur when students register for their respective days according to the amount of credits they have, and everyone logs on at the same time. This usually occurs around 4:30 p.m., the beginning time for students with enough credits to register on those days. Last year, this created problems for students because the system wouldn’t load fast enough because of the bulk of so many logins. She also said that she has not been receiving that many phone calls from students with problems.

“I noticed that things are going a lot smoother,” said Ceres.

Although this method has been available for quite some time, many students remain unaware of this development, especially graduate students who have never registered online before this semester. Some freshmen also want to benefit from this option, since first semester freshmen cannot use this process. They must meet with their advisers and register for courses at the Registrar’s office in the bottom level of the Fine Arts building.

“I think freshmen should be offered this opportunity,” said freshman Amanda Boone. “As a first year student, online registration can facilitate course selection.”

Through WebAdvisor, students may access the “Online Course Selection” link among other academic-related links from any PC that has access to the Internet. In a matter of minutes, students can schedule their classes without the wait and paperwork. First, however, they meet with their advisers and get electronically “greenlighted” by them, which allows them to logon and register. Students still have to do paperwork for classes that require special permission before they register courses with WebAdvisor, since it recognizes the individual course requirements for each student, such as prerequisites and required permission for certain courses.

This method was organized by the combined effort of the Registrar’s office and the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Many computer applications were added among other elements that facilitate the selection process.

Registrar Susan A. Stefanick finds this method to be very convenient and less challenging.

“A high percentage of students have been using WebAdvisor,” she said. “Many are taking advantage of it and that is great.

“Now that I have the option to register online, I can schedule my courses faster and easier,” said sophomore Morgan Levina.

Correction officers engage in degree program through Continuing Studies

By Andrew Silver

A new program was initiated in May of 2004 at the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) headquarters in Ewing for correctional officers and personnel who are working towards attaining a degree from Rider. The students in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree program currently work at several facilities in central New Jersey and the city of Trenton. Correctional officers initially attend and graduate from an academy as well as routinely receive training to maintain their skills, according to Frances Markunas, the associate dean of the College of Continuing Studies and director of Strategic Alliances.

The correctional officers personnel enrolled in the program as a cohort and remain a group while taking classes together, she said.

“Fourteen students, who were admitted as a cohort, are taking two classes a semester,” said Markunas.

“The classes that the students are taking this semester include Race, Class and Gender in America, taught by Dr. Frank Rusciano, professor of the Political Science Department, and Expository Writing with Dr. Glenn Goldberg, an adjunct instructor of the English Department.

Rusciano said that the class that he teaches every Wednesday night from 5 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at the Department of Corrections headquarters is a very interesting group to teach.

“The difference [between the correctional personnel and normal day students] is that they have a different set of life experiences,” said Rusciano. “A class like Race and Gender is very useful to them.”

Rusciano also pointed out that the students, of which one is a detective and another is focusing on working with computers, really like the program.

“They definitely want to get their degrees from Rider,” he said.

If the students receive their degrees from Rider, more opportunities will be available for them, according to Markunas.

“They can get professional development and promotional opportunities,” Markunas said.

The University has been approached by different organizations to offer degree programs to others outside of Rider, as it has been offering programs for adults since it was founded.

“This is just a continuation of the offer,” said Markunas.

It seems as if the current students in the program are enjoying their classes. Since they were admitted, they have bonded with each other.

“I have gone to visit them, and talk to them, and they are doing great,” said Markunas.

SPECIAL AUDITION

for the character of

Paul

(an African-American character) for the

The Fine Arts Department’s

spring production of

Six Degrees of Separation

Tuesday, December 7th
11:30 a.m.

The Yvonne Theater

Audition packet available in Fine Arts 166
or call the Fine Arts Department at ext. 5168 for further information

Six Degrees of Separation

SEC PRESENTS:

HORATIO SANS

and his sketch comedy troupe from

Saturday Night Live

Monday, November 29th
in the Yvonne Theater
Doors @ 9:30 pm
Free!

Only open to Rider Students with valid ID
(no guests)

Funded by SAF

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