Peer to peer
Program puts students in advising role

When Mansfield senior Kaci Danhauer became a peer interest advisor three years ago, she had no idea the impact she could have on hundreds of lives.

Danhauer is one of 11 peer interest advisers for the Best Expectation Programs. She helps students who are on academic probation or who have received low ACT scores, said Jessica Staten, assistant director of the Academic Advising and Retention Center.

“A lot of students blame their bad grades on work, but I work too,” Danhauer said. “I wanted to show students you can be involved in campus activities, work and maintain a good GPA.”

Apart from working 20 hours per week, Danhauer is a member of Kappa Delta sorority and a non-profit policy-research organization. Apart from working 20 hours per week, Danhauer is a member of Kappa Delta sorority and a non-profit policy-research organization.

The survey, released in February, was conducted by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and Public Agenda, a non-profit policy-research organization.

About 60 percent of people who responded to the survey said they think colleges are run like a business and care more about the bottom line, rather than the educational experience of students, according to the article. That number has increased from the 52 percent of people who said they felt that way in 2007, according to the article. Americans are reportedly losing confidence in the way colleges are managed, but some Western administrators and students say they don’t think that’s happening here.

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For others, including Louisville junior L’Oréal Carthan, the week-long vacation is a little darker and more fit before spring break, she said. “Working out has been hit or miss, but tanning I can stick with.”

Whether by cramming extra crunches into their exercise routines, going easy on the bread and chocolate or soaking up the sun, many Western students, like Almes, are itching to escape. The sun is out, the skies are clear, and though local temperatures are hardly compared beyond 50 degrees, for many, that means party time.

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For others, including Louisville junior L’Oréal Carthan, the week-long vacation is a chance to serve. She and about 20 others will go to Charlotte, S.C., for volunteer work.

The next Herald is March 19. Have a great spring break.
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CRIME REPORTS

Reports

- A fire alarm was activated on March 4 on the 14th floor of Pearce-Ford Tower. No smoke or fire was found.
- Albert Dow, PFT, reported on March 3 that his cell phone was stolen from his room. The value of the theft was $400.
- Bernadette Mullin, an office associate in the communication disorders department, reported on March 2 that a Dell laptop computer was stolen from Room 115 in Tate Page Hall. The value of the theft was $2,824.
- Barry Caprangetan, Bowling Green, reported on March 1 that his wallet was stolen from his book bag in the men's locker room at the Preston Center on Feb. 25.
- Charles Harrison, an employee in Facilities Management, reported on March 1 that three light poles were torn down from their bases in the rear courtyard of Colonial Court. The value of the damage was $960.

Arrests

- James Ryan Panchisin, PFT, was arrested on March 4 and charged with being under the influence of a controlled substance and being a danger to himself and others. He was released the same day on a court order.
- Christopher Paladino was arrested on March 2 and charged with careless driving, child restraint violation and operating on a suspended license. He was released the same day on a $386.35 cash bond.

Danhauer said she tells students to check their e-mail accounts daily, attend class and start studying now. They’ll set themselves up for failure if they put things off to the last minute, she said.

This spring, there are 986 students registered in BEP. 20 of whom are already in good standing and registered themselves in the program voluntarily, Staten said.

“I had a student who was in the program for three semesters, and we finally got him back to good standing,” Danhauer said.

He came back last semester, and he just had a new attitude. Now when I see him, he always thanks me, and he’s just very appreciative of our help.”

Bowling Green senior Alicia Reece, an academic adviser, hosts orientation meetings for new students. She said advisers take many things into account, including work and study habits, classroom attendance and fifth-week assessments for freshmen.

At the end of the semester, the peer advisers are always anxious to see how many students met their academic goals, Danhauer said.

“We want to know how helpful we were to our peers,” she said.

Out of the 435 students registered in the program last semester, 64 percent maintained at least a 2.0 GPA, Staten said.

“That’s a good thing for us to see students succeed,” Danhauer said.

“Students who are on academic probation must also complete six study hours per week, participate in two workshops from the Academic Advantage Series and develop a plan to get off academic probation,” Staten said.

“Just because a student is in this program — it doesn’t mean they can’t do the work...” Reece said.

“They’re more than capable — they just need that little push to get them there.”

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Ransdell said the proof that Western is not run like a business can be found in the campus community. “Look at the quality of the student,” he said. “You can’t run a facility that defers on our projects.”

And some Western students, she said, don’t think the university is run like a business. Florence freshman Amanda Piotrowski said she hasn’t seen a business aspect to Western. “I feel like it’s a university more than its students,” she said.

“Just like I get an education here, so do they. I’m not just making money,” she said. “I have students that do a pretty good job compared with other schools,” he said.

“Western is almost a two-career school,” said Carthan, who volunteered in Savannah, Ga. “It’s not just about Western,” she said. “It’s about making things better for students.”

For the past fiscal year, the cuts amounted to 2.9 percent, not including the $5.4 million reduction that was replaced with federal stimulus money, Mead said.

House leaders met last Friday with Kentucky’s six university presidents, including President Gary Ransdell. At the meeting, legislators told university presidents about their budget plans and asked universities to be more accountable for their spending, Wilkerson said.

“It was a positive meeting,” he said. Ransdell said in an e-mailed statement that his conversation with House leaders was encouraging, in that they’re trying to minimize cuts to higher education.

He said there’s an important give and take relationship between universities and the General Assembly. “We must continue to demonstrate growth, retention and degree productivity and give them reasons to help us,” Ransdell said.

House Democrats met outside of the legislative session earlier this week to discuss the budget committee’s plan to save money, Wilkerson said. Once the committee finalizes the budget, it will go up for vote at the full House, he said.

HB 33

On Wednesday, the House unanimously passed a bill that would allow faculty below the rank of assistant professor to vote in faculty regent elections, according to the legislature’s Web site. Western faculty and administrators had worked to change the law since 2008 after they discovered that faculty at the instructor level weren’t eligible to vote.
New dorm room selection process lets students have control of living arrangements

The process allows students to work with their friends to set up rooms close to each other. Unfortunately, networking around a specific group of people doesn’t encourage students to meet new people and could take away from the on-campus experience HRL promotes.

But this program is still a good move because it allows students to have more control over what room they have. Some students who jump into rooms right after spring break don’t pull someone in quickly enough and discover they already have a roommate. If either of those situations happen, Westerners should utilize Wikipedia—a Web site that allows users to read a brief synopsis of their roommate and discover the person’s interests.

This commentary represents the majority opinion of the Herald’s 11-member editorial board.

ONLINE
SUBMISSIONS
The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be about 500 words.
2. Originality counts. Please submit unattributed plagiarized writing.
3. To verify letters and commentaries must include your name, phone number, hometown and classification.
4. Letters may not run more than 500 words.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar and length.
6. The Herald does not print Braille submissions. Letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, hometown and classification.

YOUR FRUITY BEVERAGE AND YOUR ALGEBRA BOOK, SIR...

FLIP THIS PAGE TO... TOPS to teachers Signing homework over the break — isn’t the point of a break to not have homework?

BOTTOMS to spring break Finally getting here.

THE ISSUE: Housing and Residence Life started a new process for room assignments this semester that allows students to choose their dorm room and roommate without the middleman of HRL.

OUR VIEW: The new selection process for assigning rooms in dorms has run smoothly so far. HRL successfully promotes the room assignment process and students seem to like the experience HRL promotes.

But this program is still a good move because it allows students to have more control over what room they have. Some students who jump into rooms right after spring break don’t pull someone in quickly enough and discover they already have a roommate. If either of those situations happen, Westerners should utilize Wikipedia—a Web site that allows users to read a brief synopsis of their roommate and discover the person’s interests.

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Slaughter said. “But we’ve got to expect that from everybody. Everybody wants to win. Everybody wants to go the NCAA tournament."
Resilient Toppers look to three-peat at Sun Belt tournament

By JONATHAN LINTNER
jlintner@wkuherald.com

The Lady Toppers have experienced the highs and the lows of the Sun Belt tournament two years ago. After a tie, while last season ended with a loss to Louisiana-Monroe in the tournament final game in Diddle Arena — the Lady Toppers could even make it to the NCAA, Ark.

But Western (20-9, 14-4 Sun Belt Conference) is hoping a first-round bye and a chance to relax on Saturday and scout potential opponents. Western then meets the winner of the first-round game between No. 6 South Alabama and No. 11 Louisiana-Lafayette. The Lady Toppers split their two games with South Alabama this season and beat Lafayette 65-61 at home.

But senior forward Amanda Brown said that success doesn’t mean anything now.

“We’re making up for lost time,” Head Coach Ken McDonald said. “We had a sport where we weren’t playing well. We can’t take that back, but we can sure as hell go forward and keep this thing going. Western (19-12, 12-6 Sun Belt) is on a six-game winning streak and earned NCAA-4 seed in the Sun Belt tournament after blowing out Florida International last Saturday. The Toppers wanted the No. 3 seed, which would have guaranteed a first-round bye in the Sun Belt tournament. Senior guard A.J. Slaughter wanted to add to his impressive accolades and win Sun Belt Player of the Year. And senior forward Jeremy Evans just wanted to be included on the All-Conference Team.

Western didn’t get any of that, and we picked it back up and showed what we’re capable of,” Slaughter said. “A lot of people were doubting us, but we picked it back up and showed what we’re capable of,” Slaughter said. “A lot of people were doubting us, but we picked it back up and showed what we’re capable of,” Slaughter said. “A lot of people were doubting us, but we picked it back up and showed what we’re capable of,” Slaughter said.