Tens all Around

Ten, ten, ten at ten. What does this mean? According to UWM freshman Seth Kaempfer, it means “All of the hard work and struggles in high school were worth it.”

Kaempfer is the 2010 Panther Prowl Scholar. This one-time $2,000 award is one of five scholarships the UWM Alumni Association gives annually to incoming freshmen. Funds for the award are supported by UWM’s annual Panther Prowl competitive walk/run event, which this year begins October 10, 2010 at 10:00 AM (10/10/10 at 10).

The UWM Alumni Association’s Honors committee selected Kaempfer out of nearly 100 applicants. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate a strong academic record, volunteer experience, and involvement in extracurricular activities.

“I was a pretty busy student,” Kaempfer recalls of his days at Greenfield High School. There he took part in drama club, student senate, National Art Honor Society, National German Honor Society, and National Honor Society. He also competed with the volleyball and tennis teams.

Kaempfer found time to volunteer by tutoring elementary students and giving back at the Greenfield High School Holiday Sharing program. Through his church, he participated in mission trips to St. Louis and New Orleans. On these trips he helped clean schools and prepared them for the upcoming year.

Now a UWM student, Kaempfer continues his involvement. When asked about this year’s Panther Prowl, he says, “I am participating along with my family. I am very excited and pumped to do it. It’s for such a great cause, and it is something fun to do.”

“We’re proud to provide scholarships and excited that Seth is the 2010 recipient,” says UWM Alumni Association Director Andrea Simpson.

For more information on the 2011 Panther Prowl, visit www.uwm.edu/pantherprowl/.

S Stretch Your Budget

Did you know that there are discounts available to UWM Faculty, Staff and students for your phone? Here are a few of the carriers. Make sure to check with your carrier and bring your UWM ID.

AT&T - Register online at http://www.wireless.att.com/businesscenter or stop by your AT&T retail store. Reference FAN number 02447469.
Sprint - Register online http://www.evpdiscout.com or stop by your nearest retail store.
US Cellular - call or stop by your US Cellular retail store.
Verizon – call or stop by a Verizon Retail store.
Academic Staff Classifications

“Who’s where and why?”

- Anna Johnson

As an employee fairly new to the University, four years, I am still coming to terms with my place in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee system. Attending an Academic Staff Meeting can be very eye opening. Who are all of these people and how do we come to be in the same room sharing the same concerns? After some inquiries and with invaluable guidance from Kimberly S. Kimpel in the Office of the Secretary of the University, I sat down to peruse the Unclassified Personnel Guidelines at http://www.uwsa.edu/hr/upgs/upg.htm, a lengthy and verbose congregation of documents whose purpose is to describe our system of unclassified titles. Below is a sliver of a summary. It will not totally demystify our system for you, but rather give a brief overview of how we are placed.

Prior to the late 1960’s the former Wisconsin State Universities did not describe faculty, academic staff, limited or other unclassified positions. Instead, the pre-Chapter 36 Wisconsin Statutes had established six categories of unclassified staff: probationary faculty; tenured faculty; administrative staff; visiting and clinical staff; professional, scientific and specialist staff; and graduate assistants.

In 1969, with an eye to creating an equitable and accountable System-wide framework for title usage, the Board of Regents adopted the “Laws and Regulations of the University of Wisconsin.” Some of the charges of this document were to describe System and institution authority for assignment of unclassified titles; offer general descriptions of unclassified titles; and, furnish each institution with the official list of title codes for budget and payroll purposes. Essentially it divided the previous six categories into two broad groupings: one of university faculty and academic staff. At that point faculty became recognized by the four ranked titles that we are now used to seeing (professor, associate professor, assistant professor and instructor), while academic staff continued as an umbrella term that included other unclassified staff categories.

With the enactment in 1973 of Wisconsin Act 335, the merged UW System was created in Chapter 36, Wisconsin Statutes. Unlike the pre-merger statutory chapters, the revised Chapter 36 specified four separate categories of unclassified personnel: faculty, academic staff, limited and other. These categorizations are the basis for our Category A - non-teaching/non-research staff and Category B - teaching/research staff under the Academic Staff governance system. Work continued to stabilize the formation of titles and salary structures in the State Legislature in the 1985 - 1987 session and again in 1991.

As with any effort to classify and categorize a large number of positions, items or people that are very different, or sometimes only slightly different, there are exceptions to every rule. Thus positions that would seem obviously belonging in one or the other category often do not. Sometimes the deciding factor can be as simple, or as complicated, as a single phrase in a job description that throws that position into one category or another. Interestingly enough, each university in the Wisconsin System can use the Unclassified Personnel Guidelines to interpret job classifications and positions in ways different than their contemporaries as the need arises.

You’d think that Category B teaching/research staff would be pretty straightforward, but it’s not. Category A is a true hodgepodge of positions ranging from Athletic Trainers to University Legal Counsel! For a deeper understanding or just out of curiosity I recommend that you grab a cold soda, a big bag of popcorn and visit the website above to take a closer look at the very fascinating list of positions that fall under Category A.
CAMPUS SAFETY

With the start of the academic year, campus is once again bustling with activity. Unfortunately, this will include the inevitable rise in crime around the campus as students return, many of them experiencing college for the first time. The UWM Police Department and campus have several initiatives and resources to keep our community as safe as possible. Their efforts along with vigilance and some common sense measures on everyone’s part can greatly reduce the number of opportunities for crime to occur.

In recent years the UWM Police Department has extended its presence in the neighborhood around campus. Campus SAFE Patrols (Safety Awareness for Everyone) started in 2008. This program sends teams of trained security officers to walk the campus area (Edgewood to Locust, Oakland to Downer, and the Kenilworth, RiverView, and Cambridge Commons areas). These officers make observations and report crime or suspicious activity to the police department who respond as needed. Police foot, bicycle and squad patrols have also increased.

In addition, there are several other resources available to the UWM community to help keep us safe and informed.

- B.O.S.S. (Be On the Safe Side) service provides rides in the campus area to students who do not want to walk after dark and the housing shuttles that operate around the clock all week can be used by all students and staff.

- Students and staff can sign up to receive S.A.F.E. alert text messages for notices of any campus emergencies. You can register to receive those messages at https://www4.uwm.edu/safety/safe_alert_register_all.cfm.


- Campus also periodically offers personal safety training. These are usually announced in Employee Development email notices or on the University Safety and Assurances department website: http://www4.uwm.edu/usa/safety/general_safety/training.cfm. There will be two self defense classes offered through the Women’s Resource Center in October and an active shooter presentation in October as well.

Theft is the most common crime on campus, largely because such a setting provides ample opportunity for it. Targeted items include electronics, laptop computers, backpacks and purses—items that are very common in such a setting. Below are a few simple measures to help reduce your risk and keep you a little safer on and off campus.

- Keep valuable items in a locked area. It’s easy to wander away from your desk or office for just a few minutes without locking things up, but these are exactly the kind of opportunities that thieves look for. It only takes a few seconds for someone to duck into an office and take a cell phone or purse. So even if you are just stepping out for a minute, lock up your valuables.

- Don’t carry things on your person that you cannot afford to lose. It’s a terrible thing, but people do get mugged in the campus area. If such a situation ever happens, do not try to fight off the mugger. It’s best to surrender your belongings and get to a safe place to call the police. Avoid carrying things like your social security card, PINs for ATM or other cards, and excessive cash.

- Observe what’s around you when you’re walking, don’t be distracted with a cell phone call, listening to music, etc. Criminals like easy targets, so don’t be one. If you are paying attention to your surroundings, you are more likely to notice suspicious behavior, get a good look at the people around you, and know where you can run if needed.

- Avoid walking alone when possible, especially after dark. People by themselves are better targets than people in a group.

- Carrying pepper spray can be a good safety measure, but get proper training to be able to use it. If you don’t know how to use it properly, pepper spray can end up being a liability.