Jenny Mueller-Roebke has begun her work as provost of Concordia University, Nebraska, taking the position her father held from 1964 until his death in 1971.

Called by the university’s Board of Regents in the fall, Mueller-Roebke assumed her duties Jan. 2 as chief academic officer for the three colleges that make up the institution. Her father, Walter Mueller, taught English and served as the academic dean (the equivalent of provost).

“We are extremely pleased that Dr. Mueller-Roebke has accepted the call to serve in the office of provost,” said the Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, president of Concordia. “Higher education is in a time of profound change, and her dedication and insight will help to guide Concordia University, Nebraska.”

Mueller-Roebke has been a faculty member at Concordia for 27 years, teaching English, freshman seminar and general studies courses. She has been a department chair since 1995 and was instrumental in the development and implementation of the general studies program.

Her mother, Laura Mueller, was the first dean of women at the school. The Mueller family lived across the street from campus during Mueller-Roebke’s childhood, and she and her siblings grew up knowing college life firsthand.

“We were always involved in the student activities—square dances, picnics, athletic events and watching TV in the student center,” she said.

Mueller-Roebke was a member of one of the last classes to graduate from Concordia High School and went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in teaching from Concordia. After teaching in Milwaukee and at Seward Junior High, she joined the English faculty at Concordia in 1980. She earned her master’s degree from Concordia in 1982 and her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1990.

“This is an exciting time, and I think what we are doing at Concordia is excellent,” said Mueller-Roebke. “but things are changing rapidly in higher education. We have to explore opportunities while remaining faithful to our mission and our identity.”

She will occupy the same office space in Weller Hall that her father used when he was academic dean.
BEWARE! Internet Dangers can Creep up as a Method of Coping

Steven B. Blum, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
Concordia Counseling Office

The internet is fantastic! It connects users worldwide to valuable information, resources, and opportunities. But there are several dangers inherent in such a powerful means of communication. We have heard horror stories involving identity theft, scams, spam, and malicious computer viruses through the inappropriate, often illegal activities of others.

Another danger involving internet use creeps up on users, often subtly and seemingly harmlessly. This process and pattern is similar to the classic process of addiction. Addictions are destructive behaviors that an individual acquires as a method of coping with the pressures and stressors of life. If I begin to consistently cope with loneliness, rejection, boredom, and/or stress, through some form of escape, such as alcohol, drugs, gambling, eating, or sexual behavior, than those behaviors may become compulsive and out of control.

Three areas of internet use I have frequently observed to become addictive are…using the internet for sexual arousal and gratification (including pornographic pictures, videos, sexually oriented chat rooms, cybersex, and services that link people together for the purpose of sexual encounter), internet gambling, and gaming. People with internet addiction spend more and more time on the internet, often neglecting family, friends, and life responsibilities. They are unable to set and keep boundaries regarding internet use, and often lie about or hide their compulsive use from others.

For those caught in internet addictions, help is available. Concordia’s counseling office provides free services and referrals for students. Developing an accountability relationship with a friend, pastor, counselor, or family member is an extremely important first step in overcoming the power of addictive behavior. Seward and Lincoln have support groups for people struggling with addictions. Students can call the counseling office at 402-643-7398 and request an appointment with a counselor for assistance or to just talk things over and gain another perspective.

DLL, I-Pod, MP-3 players, Blogs, T-VO... A Blessing or a Curse?

Michelle Chaffee  
VP of Student Servant  
Leadership Development,  
Dean of Student Services

This Concordia Link touches on a variety of digital communication issues. A friend recently reminded me that we parents are DLL (digital language learners) while our children are native speakers! Text messages, I-Pods, internet, MP-3 players, cell phones, i-phones, blogs, live journals, Blackberrys, lap tops, blue tooth, T-VO, DVRs, e-mail...who can keep up with it all? As with most tools all can be great blessings, or destructive curses depending on how they are used.

It is helpful as parents to keep informed and continue to engage our college students in dialogue about appropriate use. A beneficial site is: www.i-safe.org.

Also take a look at Concordia University, Nebraska Student handbook http://www.cune.edu/84/ 1.17 Computer Technology, The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA); 1.118 Computer Technology.

Concordia is currently researching companies that provide text messaging to student cell phones for “Timely Warnings;” we are committed to finding one that can handle the variety of cell providers, guarantee the privacy of student information and not expose students to advertising spam.

Internet Cap allows for an equal distribution of internet resources

Rachel Woolery  
Junior, Homestead, IA  
Student Senate, President

The Internet cap was reestablished at the beginning of the fall semester. The purpose was to make an “equal” distribution of the resources available to students. The cap prevents a small percentage of students from using all the space available to download and upload information from the Internet, leaving many students without their share of the resource.

At the beginning of the semester, the cap was set at 800 megabytes. Student Senate voted to increase the cap to 1 gigabyte. This amount of information can be held on one and a half data CD’s. In the future, Student Senate may adjust the cap as necessary. This decision will depend on the needs of the students.

Currently the internet cap is a simple solution to the fair use and distribution of a valuable resource.
Stay Informed: Guide Your Student on How to Facebook Safely

Laura B. Duerr  
Senior, Warren, MI  
Paraprofessional

“Facebook did not create a community where one never existed before; rather they provided an important information and communication service to a pre-existing offline community.” (Nisan Gabbay).

Facebook is a popular online social network for college students. It invites students to build networks and create a self-profile in the online world (the real world).

As college students we are warned by faculty and staff of the dangers of the internet, temptations to cheat, plagiarize, and the lack of real scholarly information. Now professors, college students, and parents, take heed! Any information shared on Facebook can be used by Facebook and anyone else who has access to your information. In order to have access a student accepts or requests someone as a “friend.”

So, is Facebook safe? This is for each individual to decide. But, here are some tips that may help in your decision-making process.

1. First, know about the Privacy settings that Facebook provides. (i.e. only “friends” can read “friend’s” information.)
2. Second, discuss setting personal boundaries regarding the information shared.
3. Third, although Facebook is designed to limit access, you may contact the computer support staff at your university with any questions you may have regarding security.
4. Finally, be aware of the risks, for example; online predators, job interviews, emotional health, and physical well-being.

Taking all of this into consideration this social network creates new challenges as well as opportunities. Make sure to Facebook safely!


Consider these Safeguards When Students Post Resumes Online

Rob Giesbrecht  
Assistant Manager  
Career Services

Just as the job market continues to change, so does the job seeking process. It’s common for parents of today’s college students to be fearful of the potential dangers associated with students seeking employment on-line. According to the FBI, identity theft is the number one fraud perpetrated on the Internet. How can today’s college student protect themselves while posting their resume on-line? When searching on-line for employment, it’s crucial that the student learns to manage the risks. Consider these tips to help the students stay safe:

1. Check for a privacy policy: Be sure the site has a policy and read it carefully. Make sure you can delete your resume as easily as you can post it!
2. Take advantage of site features: Legitimate job search sites offer varying levels of privacy protection.
3. Safeguard your identity: Conceal your identity by replacing your name on your resume with a generic identifier.
4. Establish an email address for your search: Use a nondescript email address that doesn’t contain references to your name, identity, or other information.
5. Protect your references: Remove reference names and contact information.
6. Keep information confidential: Don’t provide confidential information, even if they say the information is needed to perform a background check. Don’t put your social security number on your resume, or share password, etc.

Turning 21: A Rite That Doesn’t Have to Go Wrong

Will your student turn 21 in 2008? If so, consider having some proactive conversations about birthday celebrations.

• Many 21st birthdays include “21 shots” of alcohol. This is extremely dangerous and has lead to alcohol poisoning and death in some instances.
• Friends and acquaintances may have ideas about how they think your student “should” spend a 21st birthday (i.e. going out, getting drunk, etc.). However, he knows himself best and it’s all about what he want to do! Encourage him not to be swayed into doing something that’s uncomfortable.
• A 21st birthday is a great opportunity to do something memorable! Being compromised by alcohol takes away those memories.
• No matter how your student chooses to celebrate, encourage her to be with people she really trusts. This is the key to safety and having a good time.

A non-judgmental conversation that begins with “So, what are you thinking about for your 21st birthday?” can lead to some positive, thought-provoking planning. As a result, your student is less likely to fall into the “I’m going to go drink myself silly” cliché and to really think about a memorable way to mark this milestone.

Many students are guilty of it at one point or another: holding “I had less sleep than you did” or “I’m SO busy!” contests. This tends to be a particular phenomenon among student leaders. They swap tales of all-nighters, crammed schedules and three-page To Do lists, almost as a badge of honor, to prove that they are in demand and working hard. Yet, this approach isn’t good for them. After all, it’s NOT a contest!

If your student seems caught up in this type of frenzy, there are a few discussion points you can tap into to help him assess what is really going on. For instance:

• What drives him to do all that he is doing? Interest? Fear of life after college? Competition? An inability to say “no”? By getting deep into the “why” behind his actions, you can help him break it down into a healthier approach.

• What does she enjoy about certain involvements? And does the negative-speak you hear about others (i.e. when she complains about the inefficiency of her student government group) indicate that maybe that’s not a healthy use of her time and energy?

• How does he feel valued by others, whether it’s you, his siblings, his professors, his advisors or his fellow students? Is he looking for approval or trying to meet perceived expectations?

• What are her reactions when someone else talks about being so busy? Admiration? Thinking that he is showing off? Empathy? Feeling bad for her and offering to help? Help your student examine WHY she might have those reactions.

• Is he “working smart” to manage time and tasks? Maybe he needs assistance with time management to juggle the many things on his plate.

• Does she feel that anything in her life is suffering due to her hectic schedule? Sleep? Grades? Making friends? Time to exercise? Help her look at her life to see what’s good and what might be missing.

By addressing this with your busy student before he crashes and burns out, you can help him determine how he wants to spend his time and the healthiest ways to accomplish that. Involvement and experiencing all that college has to offer is wise; acting like you’re in a “busy contest” is not. You can help him see the difference.


Feb. 9, 2008
Women’s BB vs. Northwestern
Men’s BB vs. Northwestern

Feb. 15, 2008
Trivia Night, Cattle Conf Rm

Feb. 21, 2008
Pre-Career Fair, Cattle Conf Rm

Feb. 22, 2008
Movie Night, Rivoli Theatre

Feb. 23, 2008
Women’s BB vs. Dana
Men’s BB vs. Dana

Feb. 28, 2008
Career Fair, Cattle Conf Rm

Feb. 29, 2008
Bingo/Bunco Night, Cattle Conf Rm

Mar. 2, 2008
Singers Home Concert, St. Gregory Acting Company Moby Dick, Seward HS

Mar. 5, 2008
4th quarter begins
Health Fair, Cattle Conf Rm

Mar. 7, 2008
Bowling, Seward Bowl

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