WEMS Responds to Campus Emergencies

WILLAMETTE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES is a student group that provides free, quick-response emergency medical care to all members of the campus community. WEMS is a licensed EMS agency in the state of Oregon, and all student members are learning that WEMS also presents students with a great opportunity to take a leadership position on campus and explore the medical field.

“WEMS is a combination of helpful types wanting to volunteer and people who want to get involved with medicine and try out the field, get some experience,” explains Stout. “One past WEMS member was an English/French double major and had absolutely no intention of pursuing a medical degree,” Stout says, but many of the WEMS students see this as a way to prepare for medical school and to build leadership skills. Strandberg says he chose to be involved in WEMS because he has “aspired to be a paramedic or work in the ER. I really want to keep my skills up to date.” Gorham also says estimated 80 percent since its beginning in 1989. “WEMS serves as a buffer,” explains Stout. Members of the campus community call 911 less frequently when there is someone on campus who can quickly respond to the situation and evaluate the injury or illness to determine what the most appropriate care will be. If an ambulance is required, the WEMS student can start the care process and medical record documentation before the ambulance arrives. “Of course, we are on the side of safety,” says Stout. “There are some situations where we understand from the call that we need to call 911 directly, but there are a lot of sprained ankles, injuries from intramural sports, and stomach flu that can be cared for.”

In 2004 the Salem Fire Department recognized WEMS with a special award for helping reduce the number of on-campus calls for emergency response by an estimated 90 percent since its beginning in 1997.

From the Registrar’s Office

Occasionally, having a conversation with parents about their student’s academic progress can be difficult.

By law, we are not allowed to discuss anything about a student’s academic record or progress at the University unless the student has given us written permission. We understand this can be quite frustrating for concerned parents. That’s why we strongly encourage students and parents to discuss what information to share about their academic record and experience at Willamette and how that information will be shared.

Here are some tips to get you started:

Grades are no longer mailed to students’ homes. Instead, students have access to their academic record and degree audits reports that shows how a student is progressing toward completing graduation requirements via the web.

Most students officially declare their major during the sophomore year. If students haven’t declared a major in their junior year, they won’t be allowed to register for classes the next term. This motivates students to make progress toward graduation. Students must complete one major, general education requirements and 31 course credits to graduate from Willamette University.

Information about deadlines and requirements can be found at www.willamette.edu/registrar. The academic calendar and College of Liberal Arts catalog can also be accessed from this site. These are also great starting points for conversations with your student about his or her academic experience at Willamette.

Ron & Mary Williams, founding members of the Parents Advisory Council

The primary goals of the Parents Advisory Council are to raise money for the Parents Fund, increase parent engagement and support student recruitment. If you are interested in learning more about the Parents Fund or Parents Advisory Council, visit www.willamette.edu/support/parents or call Jesse Finch Gehrman ’98, director of parent giving, at 1-888-777-8122.

More than Fans

WHEN YOU ENTER THE BALLPARK, you can’t help but notice the Bearcat pride. Along the wall as you enter are Willamette University pennants, photos and, of course, the jersey of former Bearcat footballer Jimmy Williams’ ’07, MAT’08. This isn’t McCulloch Stadium, however; this is Ron and Mary Williams’ bar in Santa Clara, Calif.

Ron and Mary aren’t just proud parents and Bearcat boosters. They are two of the founding members of the Parents Advisory Council and leadership donors to the Parents Fund. “The vast majority of the students at Willamette get scholarship support. It’s part of how the school attracts top-quality students. We look at our gifts to the Parents Fund as a way to pay back Jimmy’s scholarship,” says Ron. In addition to scholarships, the Parents Fund also supports campus life, technology innovation and the Mark O. Hatfield Library. This year’s goal is to raise $350,000 and have 40 percent of all parents make a contribution to the fund.

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