

Panel to address transition

WIT serves busy women

By Lori Steinhauer
Of the Emerald

They are jugglers but not the kind that toss colored beanbags and juggling pins on stage at the Saturday Market. They are women in transition, performing a balancing act that involves dividing time between studying, raising children and earning money.

On the third floor of the EMU, nestled behind the Women's Referral and Resource Services, is a cozy room where these women can share their struggles and successes with one another.

In the back of Room 336 EMU, people stop by the Women in Transition office for support, scholarship information and resource referrals, "but not in as large of numbers as I would like to see," WIT director Alana Lines says.

Lines sits in the WIT office, sipping herb tea and glinting with enthusiasm as she describes her role as WIT director. "Most of what I do is interpersonal counseling," says the senior psychology student and mother of two.

"I feel like, hey, if I can do it you can do it," Lines says. "We've been there, we care."

Since becoming WIT director last spring, Lines has seen about 75 women and has received twice that many calls at WIT.

Lines says that while Women's Referral and Resource Services advocates women's issues in the mainstream of the University community, WIT serves the needs of older women students, most of whom are 25 years and older. WIT also works with some women who are not students.



Photo by Dean Guernsey

Pat Stuart, Gale Caress and Alana Lines (from left) meet at the Women in Transition office to share the best and worst moments they've experienced while balancing parenting, working and attending school.

Lines tells of one woman who came to the office feeling burdened. The woman's daily responsibilities included caring for three children and her husband's parents, attending school full-time and working.

Lines suggested some stress-reduction options to the woman, including changing some classes to pass/no pass and explaining her situation to her professors. The woman later stopped by WIT to tell Lines the visit had helped.

"I have a lot of people coming back just because they enjoyed coming up and sitting down and talking," Lines says. She adds that impromptu support groups have started with people

who have come into the office with shared concerns.

"What I've learned is how strong the women who come in here are — the challenges they're meeting and overcoming," Lines says. "And for the most part they are extremely good students."

Lines adds, "With those kind of challenges, school gets knocked down on the priority list, and we want the people who come in to know they can keep school as a priority."

Some students who have stopped by WIT have gone on to take WIT practicum jobs for University credit through the Women's Studies Program,

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University solicits comment on proposed fee, fine changes

Students may have to pay more next year for parking permits and physical education classes, but they can comment Wednesday on these and other proposed fee changes during a University public hearing.

The administration will accept comment on amendments to its permanent list of special fees, fines, penalties and service charges at 3 p.m. in the EMU Dad's Room.

Of the 61 academic and administrative departments that list fees or charges, 30 are proposing to increase present fees or to add new fees.

The amendments will reflect the anticipated costs of the academic or administrative department during the coming fiscal year.

Some of the proposed amendments include increasing one-term parking permits by \$1 and increasing the fines on six types of parking violations. The College of Human Development and Performance is proposing 22 new fees and 16 increases in current fees.

The hearing will be conducted by Muriel Jackson, assistant to the vice president for

administration.

Among departments entered in the University fee book are admissions, athletics, continuing education, counseling and testing, the EMU, housing, and the various schools, colleges and academic departments. Also listed are parking fees and fines and proposed charges for the Computing Center, the Printing Department and the Physical Plant.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available during regular business hours at several campus locations, including the reference desk at the main library; the president's office, Room 110 Johnson Hall; and the ASUO, Suite 4 EMU.

Written or oral statements may be presented at the hearing. Written data, views or arguments may also be submitted on or before the hearing date to Jackson in Room 110 Johnson Hall.

After the comment period of the public hearing, Dan Williams, vice president for administration, will evaluate the public comments and all other available information and make a final decision about the fees. The approved fees would become effective July 1.

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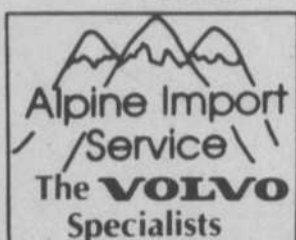
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