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The Troubadour, Issue 7 (January 6, 2004)

Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

Jan. 6, 2004

Issue 7

Sr. Barbara gets \$151,001 NSF grant for geometry project

The National Science Foundation has awarded \$151,001 to Sr. Barbara E. Reynolds of Stritch and a colleague, Dr. William E. Fenton of Bellarmine University, for a project called "Integrating Computer Explorations into College Geometry."

The grant funds their continued work on developing materials and a textbook for a college-level geometry course using computer software called The Geometer's Sketchpad.

Working in computer labs in learning groups, students can construct interactive sketches of geometric figures. Because the program helps

them visualize the geometric objects, an improved ability to construct mathematical proofs results, Sister Barbara said. The course materials and textbook she and Fenton are developing are designed to take full advantage of the software's capabilities.

"To our knowledge, this combination of cooperative learning and an integrated technology component is unique to college geometry," Sister Barbara said. "Learning theory research suggests that students studying mathematics in this kind of interactive environment develop a deeper understanding of

the underlying mathematical concepts and remember more of what they learn for a longer period of time."

Reynolds and Fenton have used this approach effectively in teaching courses from pre-calculus and calculus through discrete mathematics and abstract algebra. Both have co-authored other textbooks using these methods.

A preliminary edition of the textbook being developed under this grant project, "College Geometry: A Computer Activity Approach Using The Geometer's Sketchpad," is expected to appear in September 2005.

Buying through select vendors encouraged

In an effort to save money through economies of scale, the University is reminding faculty and staff to use select vendors when purchasing office supplies.

"Some departments are trying to save money by buying office supplies or other items on sale from different stores or vendors, but it's discouraged because we are trying to look at the University as a whole," said Karen Walrath, vice president of business and finance. "The University as a whole saves by using the same vendors."

By using one vendor to purchase toner cartridges, for instance, Stritch saves money, she said. "The printers are then serviced for free by this same vendor, so our overall savings are greater," Walrath said. It's more expensive to pay for repairs done independently.

The same is true for office supplies. The University saves more when all orders go to either Corporate Express or Boise Cascade, the two companies used by Stritch.

Employees who are concerned about their budgets

and are looking for ways to save money are encouraged to use these vendors. Although a department might save several dollars by purchasing discounted office supplies from other vendors, the University as a whole benefits when the items are bought from the same supplier. And every individual department's budget comes from the University as a whole, so saving money whenever possible ultimately makes more money available.

"Based on quantity, we get a volume discount, and we need to take advantage of those discounts wherever possible," Walrath said.

Saving money on airline flights and hotels is another common concern Walrath hears. Stritch uses the services of the Travel Gallery. But

because many people find better deals on the Internet, the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities is exploring online and direct-contact travel agencies as alternatives for WAICU schools.

"Stritch is anxiously waiting to utilize this option, which will be available in 2004," she said.

"Based on quantity, we get a volume discount, and we need to take advantage of those discounts wherever possible."

– Karen Walrath

McGowan Scholarship open to business students

Stritch recently received notice that the University has been accepted into the William G. McGowan Scholars Program, which will fund a full-tuition scholarship for one exceptional student in the College of Business in the 2004-05 academic year.

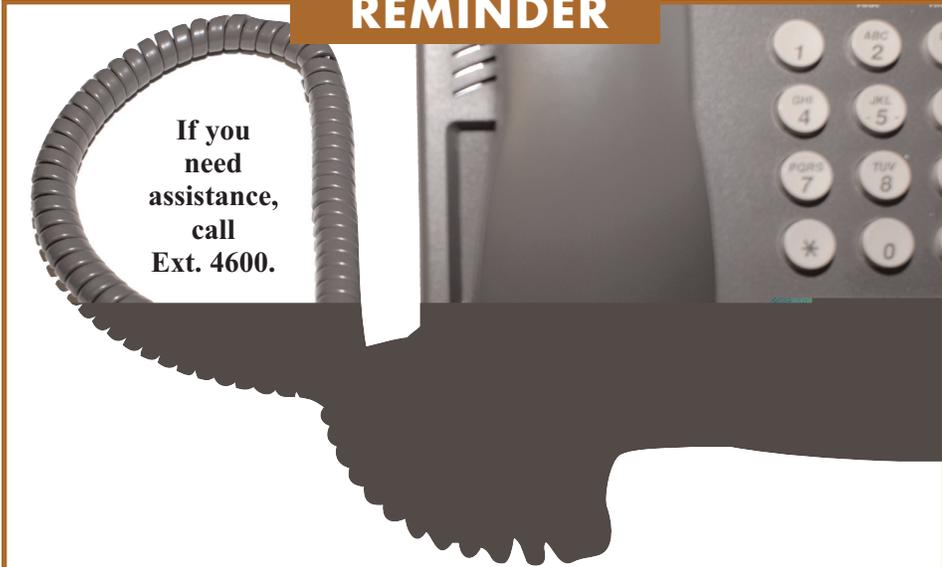
Acceptance recognizes that

Stritch is an accredited institution that adheres to the standards and values of the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. The scholarship program heightens awareness of the contributions of McGowan, founder and chairman of MCI Communications Corp., to the fields of business, telecommunications

and entrepreneurship.

Scholars are chosen on the basis of academic performance, grade point average, a submitted essay and other selected criteria. Each scholarship is valid for one year, during which time the student will be known as the William G. McGowan Scholar.

REMINDER



If you
need
assistance,
call
Ext. 4600.

Change voice mail when you're gone

With an eye toward streamlining University business – internal and external – faculty and staff are being reminded of the importance of changing their voice mail messages when they are out of the office.

“We encourage people to change their voice mail to announce their absence, especially if they are on vacation, at a meeting, or taking a personal or sick day,” said David Kimmel, vice president for Planning, Technology and Assessment.

Changing voice mail is a courtesy that allows callers – who may need information to proceed with a project of their own, schedule a meeting, etc. – to know if the person they are trying to reach is merely away from the phone, tied up for a short period of time or out of the office and unavailable entirely, said Linda Steiner, vice president for Public Relations and Communications. “This really is a PR issue, one that speaks to how we inform our colleagues and the

outside world about our availability and willingness to do business with them,” she said.

“To better serve callers, faculty and staff should record a message that says when they will be out of the office and how they intend to address calls during this period,” Kimmel said. The Audix system allows revising a message from home or on the road, if someone forgets or is unable to record the message before leaving the office.

Many people on campus already record daily or weekly messages outlining their availability, which is a great help to callers, Steiner said.

To change your voice mail, log in to the voice mail system. Press 3 when prompted, then press 1 to create, change or delete a greeting. At this time, you will be asked to identify a greeting number; choose between 1 and 9. Continue to follow the prompts to record your outgoing message. If you have any questions or need help, call Ext. 4600.

Laptops for sale

A variety of laptop computers are available for purchase through Computer Support.

Students in the College of Business' computer-enhanced programs were given the option to buy the laptops when their program ended. Many chose to buy, but equipment that was returned is now for sale.

Anyone, including the general public, can log onto Computer Support's Web site at <http://pcsupport.stritch.edu/> to learn more about the computers and how to buy one. Click on Computer Sales at the left of the screen for equipment descriptions and prices. All available computers are Toshibas, which are very reliable, said David Kimmel, vice president of Planning, Technology and Assessment.

The equipment is in good working condition, but is being sold “as is,” with a 30-day warranty.

“Although the program ended in August, there are still a significant number of students in the COB computer-enhanced programs who will be graduating over the next 24 months,” Kimmel said. “Some of those students will be returning their computers to us, so we'll have equipment for sale for at least the next two years.”

Locate previous issues

All copy in *The Troubadour* is written by Linda Steiner and Amanda Freiberg of Public Relations. If you have story ideas or feedback, e-mail us at prdept@stritch.edu. Previous issues of *The Troubadour* can be found in StritchNet. Log in, then click on the public documents pull-down menu at the bottom right of the page.