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The Troubadour, Issue 21 (October 5, 2004)

Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

October 5, 2004

Issue 21

Study group hopes to infuse Franciscan identity into College of Business operations, curriculum

A group of Quality Assurance employees in the College of Business have taken the initiative to establish a Franciscan Study Group in hopes of bringing more of the Franciscan tradition into the college.

The group meets every two to three weeks for at least an hour to discuss an article chosen by one member. The articles focus on some aspect of the Franciscan tradition and the core values of creating community, compassion, reverencing creation, and peacemaking held by Saints Francis and Clare. The first article the group discussed examined the role of a Franciscan university, as well as the roles of individuals within it. The next one focuses on St. Bonaventure.

Associate Dean Gwen Rivkin initiated the study group in hopes of bringing a positive, service-based atmosphere to the college. She said her pilgrimage to Assisi last year profoundly influenced her decision to help make the Franciscan values an integral part of college operations.

“We have a special responsibility to make a connection between how St. Francis treated others and the way we do our jobs and treat each other,” she said. With Kathleen Radionoff named as the new dean and a slew of new staff enlisted to help improve services to students, the timing of the study group’s efforts is opportune.

“Keeping students at the center of all that we do is something we talk about very consciously,” Rivkin said, adding that because the Quality Assurance team creates and delivers curriculum to COB students, they are perhaps the ideal group to undertake this endeavor. For instance, all of the college’s new undergraduate and graduate programs have a community

“We have a special responsibility to make a connection between how St. Francis treated others and the way we do our jobs and treat each other.” - Gwen Rivkin

service project as part of the first course. The pilot was tested last April in the bachelor’s program and was fully instituted Aug. 1. Rivkin said she has seen this group-based service learning component bring students closer together, creating a bond that exemplifies the Franciscan spirit.

Another important aspect of using the Franciscan values to shape the way the college operates relates to commuter and off-campus students.

“There is a special challenge in helping students not on campus feel a part of the University. Hopefully the curriculum changes will bring every-

one together a little more.”

One of the most valuable assets of the Franciscan Study Group, she said, is the diverse faiths of its members. They are Jewish, Catholic, and Lutheran, proving that the Franciscan tradition transcends religious lines and draws on what she calls “the parallels between the Franciscan values and our own spiritual traditions.”

Group member Rod Ventura said he felt learning more about the Franciscan tradition “centers us and reminds us what the University is about. It gives us a sense of calm and focus.”

Nancy DeRubertis agreed. “The casual, informal way we have discussions makes it easy for us, despite dealing with busy workdays. And it’s a great way for returning pilgrims like Gwen to share what they experience in Assisi with the rest of us.”

The Troubadour is celebrating its first birthday!

The first issue made its debut on Sept. 30, 2003. We hope that we’ve brought a great deal of important information to the campus community. We hope you continue to read and enjoy The Troubadour.

Pilgrimage participants chosen for 2005

On behalf of the entire Stritch community, Father Jim Lobacz of the Franciscan Mission Office extends congratulations to the six members of the campus community who have been selected to participate in the 2005 Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimages. They are:

- Janet Beitz, Enrollment Management, recruiter for College of Nursing
- Linda Plagman, executive director of University Outreach
- Ruth Waite, associate professor, College of Nursing
- David Wegener, director of Undergraduate Admissions
- Katie Pagel, student
- Missy Theisen, student

Faculty and staff will travel to Assisi and Rome next October; students will go in January.

"I also want to thank the people in the four discernment groups who met to review applications, conduct interviews, and discern this slate of participants," Father Jim said.

The faculty and staff pilgrims for this year, Sister Barbara Reynolds, Paula Friedman, Tom Kipp and John Pfaffl, will

depart from Parking Lot 7 tomorrow, Oct. 6, at 12:30 p.m. Members of the campus community are invited to wish them well as they begin their journey.

The University provides yearly funding for faculty, staff, administration and students to participate in the Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage in an effort to deepen the understanding of Franciscan Values as the number of Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi declines.



Students Katie Pagel and Missy Theisen with Father Jim Lobacz

Pilgrims spend six days in Assisi and three in Rome along with leaders of various faith traditions from Franciscan institutions across the world. They experience the vision and values of Saints Francis and Clare in a program designed to illuminate fundamental Franciscan principles on a personal and institutional level.

Caption-for-Charlie Contest

What do you think Monica Steele's dog, Charlie, was thinking when this photo of her, Charlie and Father Jim was snapped by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel photographer Jack Orton at last Saturday's third-annual Blessing of the Animals on the Stritch campus? Put your own words into Charlie's mouth and the Troubadour will publish its own top-10 list in our next edition, Oct. 19. You won't win anything except our sincere gratitude and a chance to see your name beside your entry in the campuswide newsletter. And, of course, we hope Charlie's mood and demeanor will improve when Monica shares this with him!

Please e-mail your entries to prdept@stritch.edu. Judging will be conducted by the



ever-risible staff of the Public Relations office, with advice from our President, Sr. Mary Lea, who always enjoys a good laugh.

Clarification

A story in the last edition of The Troubadour incorrectly stated that the Brookfield off-campus site in the College of Business is the first to have on-site student services as part of a decentralization effort. The College's site in Rochester, Minn., has had a full time academic counselor and an enrollment counselor for some time.

THE TROUBADOUR

The Troubadour supports the overall mission, goals, and objectives of Cardinal Stritch University, and is meant to serve as a communications tool for the campus community.

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If you have feedback or story ideas, please contact Public Relations at prdept@stritch.edu.

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New Stritch Faculty & Staff



Kirsten Anglea
Instructor
College of Education



Trisha Downs
Program Representative
Graduate admissions



Emmy Gaerthofner
Assistant Director
Admissions



Carolyn Marohl
Program Representative
Graduate Admissions



Nancy Marsho
PI 34 Coordinator
University Outreach



Kara Morningstar
Intern
International Programs



Debra Mumm-Hill
Programs Coordinator
Admissions



Lance Richey
Associate Professor
Religious Studies



Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon
Director
Technology Services



Sarah Trost
Assistant Professor
Psychology



Chrishirella Warthen
School to Profession Coordinator
University Outreach

**Watch for
more new
faculty and
staff in the
coming
issues of *The
Troubadour*.**

