

1-25-2005

## The Troubadour, Issue 27 (January 25, 2005)

Cardinal Stritch University

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# THE TROUBADOUR

January 25, 2005

Issue 27

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take a moment to update the campus community on the progress of the visioning and planning process.

A group of 21 individuals from across the University were invited to serve as members of the core planning committee, bringing together the experiences, roles, and expertise of faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, and the OSF community. Ten of these 21 members are co-chairs of five working subcommittees, which were formed around five focus areas:



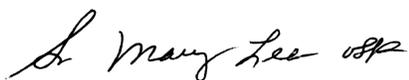
1. Students
2. Relational culture
3. Franciscan culture
4. Learning community
5. Organizational systems

Each of these subcommittees has at least six members and some, such as the student subcommittee, have more because of the nature of the focus area. They will set their own meeting times and stay in touch with Peter Holbrook, who I have named as the internal consultant for this process. Peter will coordinate the work of the core planning committee, oversee the work of the subcommittees, and handle communications with the rest of the University community via StritchNet and the Troubadour. Sr. Dorothy Monikowski, who has facilitated the visioning process thus far, will continue in her role as external consultant.

The planning committee met for the first time on Jan. 10 at the Motherhouse to set a timeline for the work of each of the separate sub-committees. Suggestions and comments from the Nov. 20 University Planning Day were collated and given to the planning committee at this meeting. The next meeting, Feb. 11, will be an all-day session with the full committee to learn more about the nature of a learning community. All planning will be based on shared input. More detailed information, including a timeline for strategies and action plans, will be circulated this week.

Again, I want to thank the members of the visioning committee for giving us a statement through which we can build a future. I also want to recognize the members of the new planning committee for what is sure to be a fruitful and productive time of service to this institution.

With God's blessings for a new year,



## Stritch offering courses at Italian international school; goal is to promote Franciscan values, tradition

Stritch is taking the first steps toward creating a permanent presence for the University in the Italian province of Umbria, the birthplace of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi and the Franciscan movement.

This spring, a group of Stritch undergraduates will attend classes at the Pieve International School, which is owned by a family named Vasta. Rossella Vasta, an internationally renowned artist and a philosopher, is currently being exhibited in Stritch's art gallery, and she gave a presentation to faculty and staff on the Franciscan international tradition at the Faculty Institute held Jan. 14. She also has helped found the American University in Corciano, Italy, and a program at the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia, as well as the Pieve International School.

Pieve is in the Vasta family's villa, walking distance from Corciano and about 15 minutes from Assisi. From May 24-June 10, Stritch students will take three-credit courses at the school, in communications, art history and studio art for non-majors, or a similar course for art majors.

The goal is to eventually offer core courses for Stritch students in various programs and to perhaps make Pieve's program a component of the doctoral program, said Teri Wagner, an assistant



Rossella Vasta

professor of art who has been instrumental in setting up the program. President Sister Mary Lea Schneider, who visited the Vasta family and the school in December, says she hopes many faculty and staff will eventually be able to visit the school and the area, to take part in cultural activities and retreats, and to get a true experience of the Franciscan tradition in its birthplace.

Although Pieve has all the modern conveniences necessary to enhancing learning, including a conference center and computer labs, it sits on beautiful park-like grounds in a medieval area across the street from a castle. The villa itself, which can accommodate up to 20 students at a time, is a former archbishop's residence.

Rossella Vasta has many connections with culture, art and education in the area, and as part of her duties, she interacts closely with students, escorts them to sites of interest around the area, and helps them to better understand the Franciscan tradition. Pieve has permanent relationships with Montana State University and the University of Illinois. Stritch's will be the first Franciscan-centered program there.

"There is so much richness in Umbria, and there are so many ways to relate history, symbolism and Franciscan tradition with new things," said Vasta, who has been inspired by Francis since she was a young girl, and who won first place in the 2003 Florence Biennale international art exhibition with a painting of the woods around LaVerna, the place where he received the stigmata. "To jump into the life of a human being for a little time, to plant the seed that they will cherish is really the meaning of what I'm doing."

Wagner said that eventually it is hoped Franciscan-based courses could be set up to draw students from other Franciscan universities as well as other institutions all over the world.



Pieve International School

## Stritch names Ellis associate VP of Outreach

After the holiday break, Dr. Pat Ellis began her role in the newly created position of associate vice president of University Outreach.

Ellis formerly was the director of the Office of Academic Excellence for Milwaukee Public Schools. Graduating from James Madison High School, she became familiar with MPS at an early age. She taught in the system for 12 years, at 9th Street Elementary, Sholes Middle School, and Clarke Street Elementary, and was an administrator in MPS for an additional 10 years. Before her Academic Excellence directorship, she held several positions, including the assistant chief academic officer, program manager, and acting chief academic officer.

**“It’s important to have a spiritual underpinning both in academics and in life.”**

**-- Dr. Pat Ellis**

Ellis earned a bachelor of science degree from Carroll College. She then attended Stritch, from which she received MEds in professional development and educational leadership and a doctorate in leadership. She also recently completed superintendent’s coursework at Stritch. Having spent a great deal of time on campus with many instructors, she was quick to praise the quality of her education.

“The instructors at Stritch really practice the Franciscan values and encourage students to develop

as individuals. It’s important to have a spiritual underpinning both in academics and in life,” she said.

The staff, she said, has been similarly warm, nurturing, and supportive.

“They have a unique way of encouraging you to identify your skills, abilities, and interests, and then helping to nurture them. They help you understand that it’s okay to change directions. The staff really supports you in broadening your horizons and helps you use and further develop your unique gifts and talents.”

Ellis’s main goal for her new position is to support and enhance the amount of outreach the University does with various organizations, groups, and school districts that can further support Stritch’s mission. She stressed that part of her job will be to focus on outreach that is more reflective of the city’s diversity.

Ellis is the recipient of numerous community and professional awards and has been trained by the Metropolitan Opera Guild in working with students to create original opera. Her hobbies of interior decorating and floral arrangement are abundantly evident in her office in the Coventry building, which is colorful and strewn with teddy bears given to her as gifts. She also adores theatre and was a member of the Carroll Players at Carroll College.



## T H E T R O U B A D O U R

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.

If you have feedback or story ideas, please contact Public Relations at [prdept@stritch.edu](mailto:prdept@stritch.edu).

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