

3-1-2005

The Troubadour, Issue 29 (March 1, 2005)

Cardinal Stritch University

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Cardinal Stritch University, "The Troubadour, Issue 29 (March 1, 2005)" (2005). *Troubadour*. 12.
<https://digitalcommons.stritch.edu/troubadour/12>

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THE TROUBADOUR

March 1, 2005

Issue 29

Online training available for faculty, staff

Have you wanted an opportunity to brush up on your professional skills that was free, simple, and available whenever you are? If so, online training is available for you.

According to Suzy Richards, institutional training coordinator at Stritch, on-demand learning is available online for Stritch faculty and staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week through host site elementk.com.

The site is designed to provide e-learning opportunities and training in many different areas, including the Microsoft Office suite, various design and media programs, business productivity skills, and more.

“The course library is broad and deep – there are a lot of programs to choose from,” Richards said. A major advantage of having such a diverse array of training opportunities available online is the convenience factor, she added. “This gives users the opportunity to learn when it’s convenient for them.”

Designed to address both short- and long-term needs, the site allows users to have a quick question answered or to learn the ins and outs of an entirely new program. Within the next six months, Richards plans to offer classroom training as a supplement to the site. She pointed out that the anonymity of the online format might be attractive to those too intimidated to ask questions in a group setting.

“However you prefer to learn, there’s an option available here,” Richards said. She feels that professional development opportunities such as these are a part of the University’s goal of becoming a learning community. “Not only does it add to your computer competency, it builds your skill set and makes you more of an asset to a learning community.”

Richards held rollout sessions in late January and early February and reminds faculty and staff that, although they have already received a login, password, and directions via email, logging on is quick and easy:

1. Go to elementk.com. The student login box is located at the upper right of the page.

2. In the login box, enter your Stritch username followed by an underscore and the letters ‘csu.’ For example; `jtsmith_csu`.

3. The password for your initial login is “training.”

4. After that initial login, users will be prompted to change their password. In the “password” field, enter “training.” In the “new password” field, enter whatever new password you like. The following field asks you to re-enter that new password.

5. Click on UPDATE. This will create your user profile based on the new password you’ve entered. You will be redirected to Stritch’s own customized elementk site.

6. The “Student Orientation Guide” will help you learn to navigate the site. Otherwise, the search tool is located at the top left of the page.



Stritch in partnership with Torah Academy

Stritch is involved in a partnership this semester with the Torah Academy, 6787 N. Green Bay Ave., which educates Jewish girls.

Through the partnership, about a dozen Torah students are taking History 101 for college credit. Next semester, they will take History 102. The students will be able to earn a total of six credits from Stritch.

Courses are taught at the academy by Torah faculty members who are approved by Stritch and who follow the University's curriculum.

"They called us and asked us to do this," said Sister Mary Ann Polasek, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Although Torah is not a feeder school to Stritch, and this partnership really will not provide us with an increase in enrollment, we decided to get involved as a service to the community."

Peter Holbrook, vice president for Enrollment Management, said academic departments that become involved in such partnerships may use some of the proceeds generated from the tuition income to supplement their departmental budgets, as long as the income exceeds expenses associated with the program and the funds are used for non-reoccurring activities or expenses.

Stritch is looking to offer more courses in partnership with Torah Academy at a later date, Sister Mary Ann said.



College of Nursing increasing services to Agape Center

The Ruth S. Coleman College of Nursing recently received a grant that enables Stritch, in collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin, to expand services at the Agape Community Center, 6400 N. 42nd St., and to increase that central city community's capacity to understand and come up with solutions to its own health concerns.



Agape, which is a non-profit facility, serves the community with meal and after-school programs, job and computer-skills training and other similar ventures. In the community it serves, nearly 80% of the residents are African-American, 75% of the households are headed by a single parent, 19% of the people live in poverty and many are uninsured or underinsured.

Stritch nursing students have worked with Agape clientele, which ranges from babies to the elderly, for a decade. As part of their clinical class work, they have provided services that run the gamut from helping out at meal programs to conducting health screenings. They also discuss drugs with youths, explain career options, promote healthy lifestyles, and help seniors manage their medications.

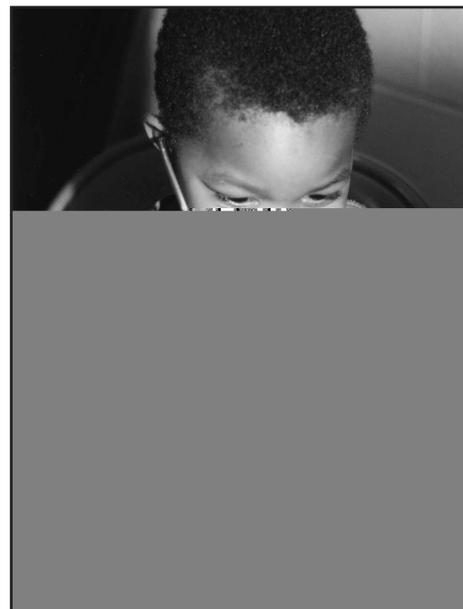
Through Project Hope, MSN and BSN Completion students will help the community conduct a study of its health status and — as a community — establish priorities to resolve any problems it uncovers. The students will work with Sharon Garrett and Christine Miller, both Assistant

Professors at Stritch, a sociologist from the Medical College and Agape personnel.

"Through this project, community members will learn skills that could translate into jobs in addition to acquiring general health knowledge," Garrett said. "They also will be empowered to articulate their own problems and formulate solutions. The key is that everything is community-based."

As the project progresses, Miller, who is a nurse, will be on site to provide health-promotion services four hours a week for the entire semester. Garrett will be at Agape for four hours a week working with students, and she will spend an additional four hours working with community members on the project itself. This contrasts with the prior Stritch presence there of about four hours a week for ten weeks during the fall and spring semesters.

Garrett plans to bring kids from the Agape Center to campus March 30. She hopes that by spending a day at the University, some may become interested in health careers. The day will also orient them to a college environment. The kids, who are in fifth through 12th grades, will visit labs and residence halls and will be introduced to the admissions process.



NCATE team to be on campus March 4-8

A group of seven examiners from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) will be at Stritch starting this Friday, March 4. They will meet with a variety of representatives of the campus community to determine if they believe Stritch should be reaccredited by NCATE, which the University has since the organization was founded 50 years ago. NCATE is based in Washington, D.C.

“This is a very rigorous process,” said JoAnne Caldwell, associate dean of the College of Education, who is also an examiner for NCATE and conducts such visits at other schools around the country. “But NCATE accreditation is prestigious and it sets us apart from other colleges and universities. Fewer than a third of institutions of higher education in Wisconsin even seek it out.

“It’s a distinct mark of quality if you are NCATE accredited; it shows you’ve met some very high standards.”

Five representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will join NCATE in the site visit, to determine if Stritch meets required state standards. Although the requirements of the two bodies are somewhat different, the partnership allows Stritch to use the same report it must prepare for NCATE with DPI.

Caldwell wrote the 100-page report, which had to be submitted 60 days before the upcoming visit. It addresses six required standards: students’ knowledge, skills and dispositions; assessment and evaluation; field experience and clinical practice; diversity; faculty qualifications, performance and development; and governance and resources.

As part of the visit, the NCATE team will go to eight area schools with which the University is affiliated and to three sites at which the College of Education has accelerated Outreach programs. At the schools, the visitors may observe student teaching, and they will meet with principals and teachers as well as students to get a feel for the quality of Stritch’s presence at the schools.

NCATE’s requirements are very data-based, Caldwell said. “We have to show our students know the required content and demonstrate it with data. You can’t just say,

‘Everybody in the class got a B, so that means they’re OK.’” She pointed out multiple charts in the report illustrating student achievement in great detail, including such things as a compilation of ratings on individual students’ teaching experiences.

“It’s a distinct mark of quality if you are NCATE accredited; it shows you’ve met some very high standards.”

- JoAnne Caldwell

The team will tell the University on March 8 in an exit interview whether it will recommend that Stritch passes, passes with weaknesses, or passes with commendations. If the team notes weaknesses, Stritch will have to submit additional data. Final approval of the team’s recommendation will come from the Unit Accrediting Board of NCATE, in October.

Stritch is one of six independent colleges and universities in Wisconsin with NCATE accreditation. The others are Alverno College, Marian College (in Fond du Lac), and Viterbo University (in La Crosse). Marquette University and Edgewood College (in Madison) have accreditation, but they are on probation with NCATE.

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.

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