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The Troubadour, Issue 37 (August 2, 2005)

Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

August 2, 2005

Issue 37

Message from the President: July 12 Picnic a Success

Dear Colleagues,

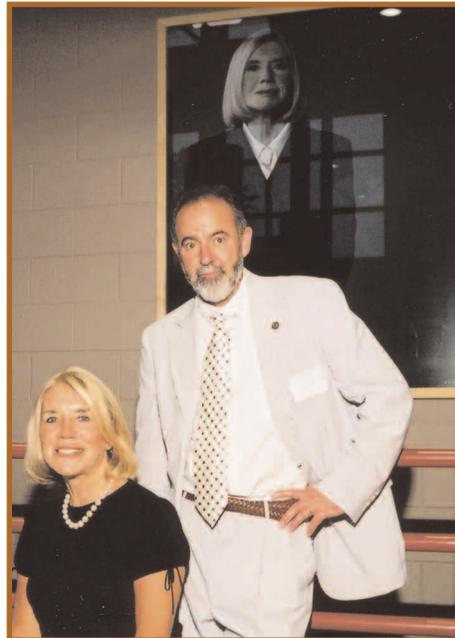
I would like to thank the many individuals at Stritch who were involved in our very successful President's Picnic, July 12. Students, staff, faculty and alumni worked together in many ways to make this event possible. I believe it was a wonderful example of how a learning community functions.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the new sign on the Center for Communication Studies/Fine Arts, naming that building for Joan Steele Stein. This is the first Stritch building named for a living individual, one who is most deserving.

A member of our Board of Trustees for many years, Joan has generously supported many of our endeavors, including helping us build the Stein Center and providing the funding for the building's beautiful lobby. She also chairs our Campaign for Cardinal Stritch University, which she and her husband, Jack, launched with a leadership gift of \$1.4 million. The Steins also have established scholarships for deserving students.

It was a festive evening, with Joan, Jack and several of their friends in attendance. They were joined by more than 300 others, including staff, faculty, students, donors and friends, government officials, alumni and Stritch trustees. Communication/Fine Arts faculty and students and the Advancement Office are responsible for much of the evening's success, and I would particularly like to thank them for their many and varied efforts.

The event included tours of the Stein



Above: A portrait of Joan Steele Stein (left) was taken by Peter Galante, associate professor of art and University creative director, for the lobby of the renamed Stein Center.



Center, which now includes a beautiful portrait of Joan in the lobby, the work of our talented Peter Galante, associate pro-

fessor of art and the University's creative director. The evening also featured musical offerings from the Stritch Jazz Trio (faculty member Mark Davis and students Jenó Somlai and Jason Spottek) and from "Caged Sparrows," a musical theater production written by alumnus Germono T. Bryant.

Student art and communications displays, as well as the gallery exhibition "Form and Function in African Art from the Mark Wentzel Collection," added to the celebratory atmosphere. Communication arts student Joel Cencius served as master of ceremonies and another student, Phil Burghgreaf, videotaped the event.

As always, our Facilities and Food Service people did a splendid job in ensuring that the food was delicious and that the overall serving and dining areas were esthetically pleasing and brought smiles to the faces of our guests. Many thanks go especially to our physical plant staff, who kept the grounds clean and who worked with the tent company.

This was an evening of great pride for me, and the type of experience I hope we can duplicate in the future. It is always a joy and a blessing to see how the many talented individuals at Stritch work together to create events that so vividly display our values of hospitality, friendship and caring.

With God's Blessing,

S. Mary Lee

The column below is the third in a series focusing on the five subcommittees working on enacting the University's vision. Each focuses on the purpose behind the subcommittee and key action plans.



Learning Community Subcommittee

By Kristine Kiefer Hipp, co-chair

This subcommittee's goal is help Stritch evolve into a place where people continually expand their capacity to achieve whatever results they desire as part of a learning community. They need to understand what a learning community is so that the University can become one and remain one over time.

Based on campus feedback, it's clear that people want the University to move toward an asset-building model in how we operate and treat one another. To do so, we need to deepen each individual's sense of being valued and appreciated and to build relationships that are based on trust and respect.

Two key elements this subcommittee feels are necessary to achieving these outcomes are improving professional development opportunities and creating ways to celebrate one another.

People need support in order to fully understand what is required of them, how to interact successfully, and how to deal with individuals and situations that stray from the ground rules. This includes recognizing different learning styles and drawing from people's varied knowledge, skills and experiences. Unfortunately, we tend to carry myths that there are right and wrong ways to be and to do things, and that other people's styles are less valid than our own.

Therefore, we propose establishing by this September a University Professional Development Committee that would include representation from the entire Stritch community. Its purpose would be to integrate professional development efforts across Stritch and to assure that everyone is operating within shared expectations and from similar knowledge base.

That group as well as members of our

subcommittee and the core visioning committee could then help people understand and practice the five disciplines that are key to a learning community, as described by writer and strategist Peter M. Senge. They are systems thinking, personal mastery, mental models, shared vision and team learning, described below:

-- Systems thinking is a way of thinking about, and a language for, describing and understanding the forces and interrelationships that shape the behavior of systems. This discipline helps us to see how to change systems more effectively and to act

more in tune with the larger processes of the natural and economic world.

-- Personal mastery is learning to expand our personal capacity to create the results we most

Our vision:

Cardinal Stritch University is a Franciscan learning community that acts courageously and with integrity to foster the transformation of lives.

desire as well as an organizational environment that encourages all its members to develop themselves toward the goals and purposes they choose.

-- Shared vision is building a sense of commitment in a group by developing shared images of the future we seek to create and the principles and guiding practices by which we hope to get there.

-- Mental models involve reflecting upon, continually clarifying, and improving our internal pictures of the world and seeing how they shape our actions and decisions.

-- Team learning involves transforming conversational and collective thinking skills so that groups of people can reliably develop intelligence and ability greater than the sum of individual members' talents.

Moreover, we believe than an emphasis on supportive conditions, with regard to both structures that promote a culture of

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Win a trip to Italy

The University Advancement Office is raffling a Franciscan pilgrimage for two to Assisi and Rome, Italy, as part of a creative fundraising effort. Tickets are \$10 each, two for \$15. The drawing will be held at noon Dec.15.

The package includes airfare, lodging and most meals, served family style, and is worth about \$7,000. Franciscan pilgrimages are held several times in a year, and the winner can arrange travel dates through the sponsoring group, Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs (www.FranciscanPilgrimages.com).

The pilgrimage is not to be considered a tour or a vacation, but rather a spiritual experience. Participants will have the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God through guided visits to major sites associated with Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, daily Masses, prayers and rituals. They also will have time to reflect, shop, enjoy the

beauty and culture of Italy, and share the company of fellow pilgrims.

The pilgrimage includes seven or eight days in Assisi, with side trips to significant places associated with Francis and Clare. Those include La Verna, where Francis received the stigmata, and Greccio, where he revitalized the custom of the Christmas crèche. During three days in Rome, pilgrims will visit St. John Lateran, which was the Vatican of Francis' day, St. Peter's Basilica and San Francisco a Ripa.

Participants must have a valid U.S. passport and be in good health. Pilgrimages involve considerable stair climbing and walking, often in hilly areas, and most international sites are not handicap or wheelchair accessible.

To purchase raffle tickets, contact the Advancement office at Ext. 4200.

Subcommittee

(from page 2)

learning and relationships that focus on trust and respect, are two characteristics from Shirley M. Hord's model of learning communities that are critical to the long-term growth of the University. They speak to how we do business and support the value-focused mission.

We believe it is necessary to identify practices that already are in place that support the learning community vision and to establish additional mechanisms to achieve it, such as University-wide development and event days, retreats, college meetings, etc. We also suggest finding ways to make performance reviews and the budget process more open and supportive and more aligned to the characteristics of a learning community.

To ensure that the vision is carried out, we propose developing and implementing a three-year plan based on prioritized professional development needs, such as conflict resolution, effective meeting resolution, e-mail etiquette and addressing diversity.

The Stritch community has been heard regarding its desires around the vision, and we believe the steps outlined above will allow each and every one of us to be what we can and want to be as part of an inclusive, Franciscan university.

Other members of this subcommittee:

Sharon Garrett
David Oswald
Kathleen Radionoff
Laurie Swartwout (co-chair)



photo by Peter Galante

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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