

3-8-2006

## The Troubadour, Issue 49 (March 8, 2006)

Cardinal Stritch University

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# THE TROUBADOUR

MARCH 8, 2006

ISSUE 49



The following is a brief synopsis of activities being undertaken by the five subcommittees involved in Stritch's Visioning and Planning process.

## LEARNING COMMUNITY

This subcommittee wants to sponsor lunchtime learning opportunities, such as Brownbag Lunches, on how to become a learning community and how to create an environment in which dialogue can occur. Sessions are scheduled for Fridays April 28 and May 19. The group also is working with the Relational Committee and the Staff Development Committee on how to integrate such learning into the staff Development Day scheduled for May 23. Faculty will be invited to the event.

## RELATIONAL CULTURE

The group is exploring ways to develop conflict management training.

## ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS

This subcommittee plans to review systems at Stritch that were identified in a planning session in 2004. They are: communication, decision-making processes, service and how it is promoted, how departments get resources, the budgeting process, student support after 5 p.m., academic support, the realigning of systems in order to build trust, and the coordination of professional planning, training and development.

## FRANCISCAN CULTURE

A High Tea with the Sisters is scheduled for April 25, at which faculty, staff and students will meet with members of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi to gain a better appreciation of Stritch's Franciscan heritage and to discuss the issues that now face the University in the context of its history. Sisters Camille Kliebhan and Justine Peter will be joint keynote speakers and several Sisters who are serving or have served at Stritch will join with participants at round tables to discuss these issues. The group also is formulating a survey to determine how best to provide everyone at Stritch with opportunities for personal growth



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A University-wide assembly will be held at 3:10 p.m. on

Friday, March 17, in Schroeder Auditorium. Besides getting some brief updates, you will hear more on how our budgeting process is continuing and how we anticipate moving to a new way of doing our budgeting that will give us more of the flexibility we need when we find new opportunities to advance the University's mission.

You'll also get a look at how the new paradigm and processes fit into our Visioning and Planning process as it has unfolded to date and continues to unfold.

Sharing information is an important part of being a learning community, so please take this opportunity to learn more about what is happening around the University and how we all play a role in ensuring its success.

Sincerely,

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and to get a better understanding of the Franciscan heritage.

#### STUDENT PLANNING

The subcommittee plans to review University assessment results and create forums to evaluate the quality of student programs and services, inside and outside the classroom.

The group also has created a pilot program for academically at-risk students in Arts and Sciences aimed at increasing retention. Students in the program volunteer to, among other things, meet with an academic coach, counselors from Career Services, Mental Health and Wellness, Financial Aid and Vocation Development. They also get instruction on time management, study skills, test taking and test anxiety and agree to attend all their classes.

Another program is being studied for implementation in the fall aimed at trying to get high-achieving students more engaged in the University. Plans include bringing these students together as a community, providing them with social activities, encouraging them to be tutors, etc.

A special task force of the subcommittee will hold faculty and student focus groups to gather recommendations on how to improve student learning in the classroom. The first sessions will be conducted this spring, and the remaining in fall of 2006.

## SISTER THOMASITA'S ART RETURNS TO STRITCH

Three paintings by Sister Thomasita Fessler, OSF, founder and former chair of the Art Department, have been donated to the University by alumna Alice Nelson, '68, to honor Sister Thomasita after she died last spring.

One hangs in the office of President Sister Mary Lea Schneider and the others will be placed around the University shortly.

"After Sister Mary Lea named Sister Thomasita a professor emerita in 2004, I thought that it would be very nice for her to have a presence on the walls of Stritch," said Nelson, who purchased the paintings in the 1970s. "She influenced so many lives."

Nelson earned her first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of California-Berkeley in 1942, but she said her biggest artistic influence came more than a decade later, when she took an aesthetics class from Sister Thomasita with other adults.



"She sent us all back to our homes with a new sense of beauty and love," said Nelson, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Stritch in 1968.

This fall, the three paintings Nelson donated will be part of a retrospective exhibit in the Northwestern Mutual Art Gallery on campus honoring Sister Thomasita.

## TITLE III EQUIPMENT DISPLAYED AT OPEN HOUSE FEB. 24

Alumni, former faculty, and current staff, faculty and students attending an open house in Duns Scotus Feb. 24 saw the many improvements and equipment acquisitions the Department of Natural Sciences made over the last five years thanks to a \$1.75 million Title III grant.

“While working on older equipment certainly teaches resourcefulness, by learning on this current equipment Stritch students will be able to step into any research setting after graduation without too much trouble,” said Dan Meer, '89, biology assistant professor and graduate of Stritch's biology and math departments.



Assistant professor Tom Barnard shows guests some lab equipment

Senior Keith Naps, one of the students who shared his research at the event, said graduate schools to which he is applying have been impressed with the equipment he has used as at Stritch.

“I am afraid to touch the equipment,” joked former Natural Sciences chair William McAsey, who designed the first chemistry lab and acquired some chemistry and physics instruments still in use three decades later. He was greeted by Laurel LeBeck Gambia, a 1970s chemistry graduate who came from Alabama to attend the open house, as well as others who remember his influence on the department. Former chair Sister Ann Ferschel also attended.

Grant coordinators Susmita Acharya and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sister Mary Ann Polasek were lauded for writing the grant and overseeing the many details related to it.



Guest Mary Pawlak helps a young girl look into a microscope

In turn, they thanked the many individuals and departments who made it all possible and presented certificates recognizing five for their extra efforts: Chuck Gadzichowski and Mike Wolff, director and assistant director of physical plant; Jack Glynn, vice president for Facilities; Sister Margaret Ruddy, coordinator of public services for Stritch's library; and Joyce Shiels, assistant vice president for Business and Finance.

They also presented president Sister Mary Lea Schneider with a floral arrangement, “to thank you for what you have done for us and what you need to do next,” said Acharya, referring to plans to pursue another Title III grant in two years when Stritch is eligible again.



Former Natural Sciences chair William McAsey and Laurel LeBeck Gambia check out the lab.

## IRISH DANCERS TO PERFORM MARCH 17

The Kinsella Academy of Irish Dance will perform in Schroeder Auditorium on Friday, March 17 from 11-11:30 a.m.

Faculty and staff are invited to the performance, which is part of a Feast Day of St. Patrick celebration in honor of Stritch's founding Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.



### PHONES HAVE NEW CONFERENCING FEATURE

Stritch's recently upgraded phone system has a new and improved conference-call capability.

The conference bridge allows a maximum of six callers to be linked by dialing into a special number and entering a security code.

Telecommunications will develop a conference bridge number and security code for each department or office that wants them. Department heads and directors are encouraged to set the numbers up even if they may not use the feature very often.

"The conference bridge facilitates meetings with people off and on

campus, and it costs the University nothing to link callers this way, beyond the cost of an ordinary phone call," said Ralph Brown, director of telecommunications. "It's a convenience and cost-saving move.

"All people have to do is schedule a call and send the participants the time, number and security code."

To test-drive the feature, call (414) 410-4860 and enter the security code 123456. Remember, only six people can be linked at once, so you may be told the bridge is full if more than six people try it out at the same time.

Department heads and directors are asked to e-mail [rhbrown@stritch.edu](mailto:rhbrown@stritch.edu) to set up their own conference bridge numbers and codes.

*New  
Stritch  
staff*



**Delilah Richardson**  
Programmer  
Technology Services

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

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