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## The Troubadour, Issue 59 (July 21, 2006)

Cardinal Stritch University

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# THE TROUBADOUR

JULY 21, 2006

ISSUE 59

## BOARD APPROVES BUDGET THAT INCLUDES 3% RAISES

Stritch's Board of Trustees approved a \$47.2 million budget this morning (7/21) that includes 3% raises. Additionally, the University will give all employees two extra days off after the Wednesday, July 4, 2007, holiday, creating a five-day weekend.

Although health insurance costs rose 26%, or \$375,250, the University will absorb the increase, so employee premiums will not rise.

Raises will go into effect Aug. 1, the date by which letters of appointment also should be received.

The budget includes a 6.8% tuition increase. Stritch's tuition traditionally has been among the lowest of schools in the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and that is not expected to change.



"This was a very intense budget process, which began nearly eight months ago with input-gathering meetings that involved about 40 representatives of faculty and staff, including people from the regions,"

President Sister Mary Lea Schneider said. "I thank everyone who contributed their time and ideas to help us move through the process and to arrive

at a very challenging budget, but one that includes raises."

In budget discussions with the campus representatives and with administration, Executive Vice President Peter Holbrook stressed that any cost reductions must uphold Stritch's mission, vision and values as well as academic quality.

"We understand that we need to protect our assets -- our students, faculty and staff -- and we were careful to ensure that any cuts would not harm students nor hinder anyone in supporting and carrying out our mission with students," Holbrook said.

Because of those caveats, reductions are targeted for the general areas of food, printing and postage.

"Every office and department will need to examine those categories and provide us with information on how they can be cut," said Karen Walrath, vice president for Business and Finance. "We realize that some areas will be able to cut more than others in the various individual categories, but we are relying on people to pull together so we can make our overall targets."

After the data is collected, individual departmental and office budgets are expected to go out by Sept. 15, she said.

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“This budget will require all of us to be continually aware of ways to save on costs and to generate revenue,” Sister Mary Lea said.

Means to continue to grow revenue that already are in progress include expanding the Master of Arts in Teaching degree to Kenosha and adding another MAT cohort in Madison, both in January. The Master of Education will be offered online in January. The new Master of Arts in Ministry is launching next month, and the BSN completion program is expanding to Kenosha in October.

Several other expansion programs and partnerships are in the works that also should increase revenue, Holbrook said.

Increased income also is expected with expanded rental of Stritch facilities, including the Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center, and increased fundraising goals, particularly for the unrestricted Annual Fund.

“Part of being a learning community involves sharing information and allowing people to come up with their own recommendations, particularly on how to reduce spending or increase income,” Holbrook said.

“People around here continue to exhibit their dedication to Cardinal Stritch University by working diligently to help move us forward and not lose ground in what is an increasingly competitive market. That dedication pleases me immeasurably, and I’m confident that it will be the key to allowing us to meet our budget and to progress together.”

## LIBRARY UNVEILS REDESIGNED WEB SITE

The University library unveiled a redesigned library Web site July 16 that will provide improved navigation, organization and structure.

The new site was created by Chantelle Brown, the library’s Web/digital resources librarian, after an almost year-long redesign process that involved detailed research on what library patrons are looking for and how best to meet their needs.

Brown said the new site better categorizes the major areas of content, which should allow researchers to more quickly find what they are looking for. It also utilizes more advanced technology, which should result in faster load times for users.

“This new site should be a lot easier for users,” she said. “A person can get just about anywhere from the first page of the site. This will allow them to find their information and get their work done as quickly as possible.”

Brown collaborated with Technology Services and Public Relations in creation of the site.

The library Web site’s address is: <http://library.stritch.edu>. For a limited time, the old site will continue to be accessible via a link on the new site’s home page.

Updates and enhancements to the site are ongoing, and feedback is encouraged. Click on “Contact Us” on the library home page to offer comments or suggestions, or contact Brown at [cbrown@stritch.edu](mailto:cbrown@stritch.edu).

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## THE TROUBADOUR

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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).

For complete information on university public relations, media relations and publications, please see the PR brochure, which is available in My Stritch by clicking on “Public Relations Information” in the “Other Employee Info Pages” folder under the “Employee Info” tab.

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and Scott Rudie

### DESIGN

Kou Vang

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