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The Troubadour, Issue 72 (February 20, 2007)

Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

ISSUE 72

STRITCH GETS NEW DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, DEBORAH JOHNSON

Deborah Johnson, who recently returned to Wisconsin in winter after spending four and half years in Hawaii, is Stritch's new director of human resources. She started Feb. 14.

Johnson has 22 years of experience in the human resources field, most recently at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She worked there for five years, starting as the director and rising to assistant vice president for human resources.

Then, some friends asked her to help out with properties they owned on the island of Maui, and she couldn't resist.

"I vacationed in Hawaii for years, and I thought it would be nice to work there," Johnson said. "I always intended to resume my HR career. I thought I would spend one or two years in Hawaii, but it turned out to be four and a half years!"

She said it was a wonderful and challenging experience, working with real estate development and property management, and she feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn new skills and live in a beautiful place.

While on vacation in Milwaukee last summer, she saw the Stritch ad for a new director of human resources, applied and ultimately was hired. Vice President Karen Walrath, who oversees the area, described Johnson as knowledgeable and forward thinking and she expects her to do very well at the University.

One of Johnson's new tasks will be to work with Walrath on a study of Stritch's HR structure that is called for in the new strategic plan. Walrath said she expects the study will call for streamlining HR

operations, particularly making better use of technology, and might result in a call for more in-services and training for employees. "We will be open to whatever the study points out as needs, and Deborah will be involved in coordinating a lot of these things," Walrath said.



Johnson is from southern Indiana, near Evansville. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree from Indiana University at Bloomington, the prior in telecommunications and theater and drama, the latter in university and college personnel administration.

She enjoys working in a higher education environment for a number of reasons, she said, not the least of which is that it involves contact with people who are involved with many different disciplines and interests. She added that when going through the hiring process she was impressed with Stritch's commitment to its mission and core values, as she was seeking a work environment where HR has the opportunity to implement such values in employee-related programs.

"I enjoy working in human resources because of the variety of tasks involved in the HR field," she said. "Obviously, a lot of it is people-related, but it also involves analytical work, such as designing programs and implementing benefits. You're not just doing one thing, and you get a nice balance."

Johnson's hobbies include reading and playing the piano. She also likes attending cultural events and added that, although she did not miss the area's below-zero wind chill factors while she was in Hawaii, "I did miss the Milwaukee arts community."

REMINDER:

Bavarian Inn shuttle tomorrow

Staff members in Milwaukee should park at the Bavarian Inn and take shuttle buses to Stritch tomorrow, Feb. 21. Buses will run from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 4:30 to 6 p.m. If you have an emergency during the day, call Nick Spaeth at Ext. 4055 or his cell, (262) 339-7727. The Bavarian Inn is at 700 W. Lexington Blvd. Turn west on Lexington off of Port Washington Road, south of Silver Spring Drive.

BUDGET HEARINGS

Informational meetings will be held in Schroeder Auditorium Feb. 20, 3:30-5 p.m.; Feb. 21, 2-3:30 p.m.; Feb 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Feb 23, 9:30-11 a.m.