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Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

MAY 19, 2008

ISSUE 81

PRESIDENT-ELECT DR. HELEN SOBEHART SPENDS 3 DAYS ON CAMPUS, SELECTS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Helen Sobehart, Stritch's president-elect, spent three days on campus last week, continuing to acquaint herself with the University, members of the campus community, and the administrative team of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi -- and, in her spare time, purchasing a home in Bayside she will share with her husband, Joe.



"There was a lot on my plate last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and it was time very well spent," she said. "I continue to be thrilled by the commitment to excellence that is displayed by everyone connected to Stritch and the energy and enthusiasm for carrying out the mission that they exude. I am delighted to

be joining this University, and I know that the spirit and drive that characterize this place will allow us to make great strides together."

Although Dr. Sobehart will not start officially at Stritch until July 1, she met with a number of administrators and sat in on meetings to learn more about procedures, gather ideas, and become better acquainted with University business. For instance, she spent a half-day last Thursday at a presentation on various scenarios for Stritch's campus master space plan presented by Performa Higher Education, and she met with Vice President Karen Walrath for a budget orientation.

She started her visit on Wednesday

interviewing and selecting her new administrative staff. Mary Graf, who has been at Stritch for 17 years, most recently as the administrative assistant to Executive Vice President Peter Holbrook, will become Dr. Sobehart's new administrative assistant. Lynn Olcott, who started at Stritch in 2003 and is currently a presidential special events coordinator and the assistant to VP Mike Brauer, was selected for the new position of assistant to the president. Kathy Freuler, who served 28 years at Stritch as the secretary for first President Sister Camille Kliebhan, then later President Sister Mary Lea Schneider, will move to the main entrance desk at the south end of Bonaventure Hall, welcoming and directing visitors -- a position she sought and believes will be fun as well as helpful.

Dr. Sobehart's visit also included a meeting with State Senator Alberta Darling, and a taped interview with host Jane Hampden for Milwaukee Public Radio's "Lake Effect" show, which is scheduled to air on WUWM, 89.7 FM, at 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. this Thursday.

Dr. Sobehart will be back at Stritch on June 18 for this year's joint Picnic With the Presidents, at which Sister Mary Lea will introduce her to friends and donors, then she will move to Bayside at the end of June.

"I intend to do all that I can to make the transition from Sister Mary Lea's presidency to mine as smooth and seamless as humanly possible," she said. "And with God's continued blessings and the dedication of the Stritch community, I believe things will work out beautifully."