

4-29-2009

The Troubadour, Issue 105 (April 29, 2009)

Cardinal Stritch University

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Cardinal Stritch University, "The Troubadour, Issue 105 (April 29, 2009)" (2009). *Troubadour*. 106.
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THE TROUBADOUR

APRIL 29, 2009

SPECIAL ALL-UNIVERSITY EDITION

ISSUE 105

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues,

I write to you today with a heavy heart following the news you received via e-mail late yesterday that we have decided to end negotiations to purchase the Cousins Center property from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

This decision was not an easy one to make, but was one that our Board of Trustees and I felt was most prudent given the financial challenges faced by so many in this current economy. Our strategic plan reminds us of our vision statement, which calls on us to act courageously and with integrity.

Over the last several months, we have been reviewing and analyzing not only our own budget processes and financial health, but also the many financial aspects related to purchasing the Cousins Center property.

Because of the efforts of our business and finance team, we now have a clearer picture of our financial health, which remains viable. However, we need to continue to take a very conservative approach to spending and fiscal planning given the turbulence of our economy.

I want to stress that although we have endured this setback in our ongoing efforts to expand our mission of transforming lives, this fine university and our entire community continues to be a beacon of light in dark times. Our faculty, staff and students continue to work together in ways that enrich not only the University community, but communities in Milwaukee and beyond.

In the next few years, Stritch will decide whether to look for additional space to accommodate our growing enrollment and expand our undergraduate programs. In the meantime, it's important to note that the decision regarding the Cousins Center does not affect the impending opening of our City Center campus downtown, the remodeling of the Education building into a new student residence hall, or the remodeling of the lower level of Clare Hall into faculty and staff offices.

All of those projects will continue as planned.

I speak on behalf of our Board of Trustees when I say that the support and encouragement of the entire Stritch community over the past 11 months regarding our future plans has been greatly appreciated. We're also grateful for the support of the City of St. Francis and the many residents and businesses who welcomed the campus we envisioned on Lake Drive. We also commend the Archdiocese for its open and fair negotiations.

We must be aware that this difficult decision regarding the Cousins Center was made in part to protect our financial health and our ability to effectively advance our mission. Unfortunately, one of our own faculty or staff members alerted the media before we had the opportunity to communicate the news to outside constituents through the appropriate channels. I am extremely disappointed that this occurred, and would strongly encourage anyone with questions or concerns share them via the questions@stritch.edu e-mail address, so that everyone may be heard and concerns may be addressed.

Any speculation or discussion, especially with local media, is harmful to our efforts to communicate only the most accurate information to the community. Information shared internally is privileged and is not necessarily the same information appropriate for outside consumption. It is the responsibility of the Public Relations office to craft and share messages with certain audiences at the appropriate time. Please consider this as we move forward.

Thank you all for your professionalism, understanding and grace during this difficult time. Though we may not be moving in the direction we had planned, one of the gifts the Lord often gives is the gift of new opportunities. We hope that the Lord may yet provide the guidance to help his work be further accomplished.

Blessings,

Dr. Helen C. Soberant

SWINE FLU INFORMATION AND UPDATE

You have probably either heard or read recent reports regarding the swine flu outbreak in Mexico and parts of the United States. Please be alerted that we have been in contact with both the Milwaukee Health Department and the North Shore Health Department. Both agencies confirm there have been NO cases of the swine flu in Milwaukee or Wisconsin.

Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people. The typical time from exposure to symptoms (incubation period) for the swine flu is approximately 48 hours.

You are encouraged to call your health care provider if you have the following symptoms: Fever (usually over 102 degrees), headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches. If you do exhibit these symptoms, please call your health care provider before presenting at the office, as special precautions or protocols may be needed prior to your visit.

In the unlikely event you would have a suspected or confirmed case of the swine flu, please contact the Student Health Center immediately at (414) 410-4096. This pertains to all students, staff and faculty at all Stritch locations. This will allow us to track and respond to any potential outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization have created the following Web sites to provide more information and answer questions you might have related to the swine flu. The Milwaukee County Health Department has also set up a Swine Flu Hotline at: (414) 286-3616.

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

If you have any concerns, please contact the Student Health Center at (414) 410-4096.

STRITCH ALUMNI SURPASS 1,000 MEMBERS ON LINKEDIN

On April 15, Stritch surpassed 1,000 alumni members on the professional networking Web site LinkedIn.

More and more alumni are participating in discussions, networking and posting job opportunities. Erin Brauer, director of Alumni Relations, said that she has increasingly been using the site as a tool to distribute information on current news and events to Stritch alumni.

University faculty and staff are also encouraged to join the network if they have not already, and students who will soon be graduating are also encouraged to utilize this tool. To join, visit the link below and enter your information.

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=53543>

In addition, Stritch now has a presence on Twitter, the popular and fast-growing social networking tool. Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people and organizations like Stritch through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to the question: "What are you doing?"

Please visit <http://twitter.com/stritchuniv>, or click on the link on the www.stritch.edu home page. If you haven't already, make sure you sign up for your own Twitter account while you are there.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Staff Institute Day to explore trust, change and credibility

The annual Staff Institute Day facilitated by the Staff Development Committee will take place on Monday, May 18, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center. It will focus on the themes of trust, change and credibility, and will include large and small group discussions facilitated by staff members who attended special training sessions prior to the institute.

Description:

Perhaps the one certainty we have in our world is that change is constant. Our university is no different. How do you respond to change? How do trust and credibility factor in? Your contribution to creating a culture of trust is essential to the success of any organization. In addition, your credibility impacts how you navigate change and build trust.

During this session, participants will:

- Explore the concept and process of change
- Examine your orientation towards change
- Define trust and identify boosts and blocks to building trust
- Examine ways to build your credibility in the workplace
- Boost your confidence as a professional in these times of rapid change

A working lunch will be provided in the conference center during the institute.

Register by Monday, May 11, at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=0_2b_2bVZOBxzs8mQGJ7ETHbw_3d_3d

Other upcoming events:



Spring Choral Concert

Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.
Nancy Kendall Theater
Free admission
Jerrad J. Fenske, conductor/harpsichordist, Amelia Spierer, soprano
Performing Bach and “Jesus Loving Hearts’ Desire,” a new text setting by Stritch music faculty
Sr. Marion Verhaalen



New Music Concert

Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Nancy Kendall Theater
Free admission
Featuring contemporary works and original compositions.



The Clarus Piano Trio

Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m.
Nancy Kendall Theater
Free admission
Timothy Klabunde, violin;
Adrien Zitoun, cello;
Eun-Joo Kwak, piano
Performing Beethoven, Debussy, Schoenfield



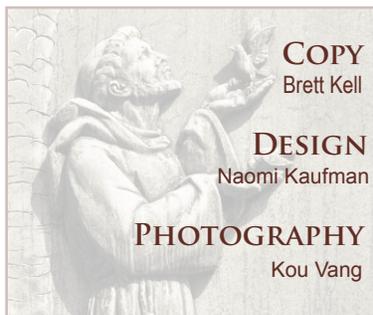
Day of reflection

Thursday, May 21, 2009
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
OSF Motherhouse –
Troubadour Room
Vans will leave Stritch at 8:10 a.m. from outside Serra Dining Hall
Event is free, lunch included
RSVP by May 15 to Sister Mary Jeanne Michels, OSF, at michelsmj@stritch.edu or ext. 4968

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.

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.



Looking for back issues of The Troubadour?

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