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Troubadour

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Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

JANUARY 9, 2009

ISSUE 92

UPDATE ON PABST REDEVELOPMENT, COUSINS CENTER

Stritch has been written about in local newspapers, featured on television, and talked about on blogs numerous times recently due to the announcement that it will create a City Center location at the Pabst Brewery and because of its ongoing efforts to purchase the Cousins Center and WE Energies properties in St. Francis.

At a news conference on Dec. 22, President Dr. Helen Sobehart unveiled plans to rent three floors of building #14 of the Pabst Brewery redevelopment in downtown Milwaukee for Stritch's City Center location. The College of Education and Leadership will move many of its offices and classrooms to this new venue, adjacent to northbound Interstate 43.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett spoke during the news conference about the value of educational institutions like Stritch building and expanding their presences in the city, and specifically lauded Stritch for its commitment to serving the underserved through a number of programs in education, business and nursing.

Dr. Sobehart revealed that when summer vacation begins, the COEL building on campus will be remodeled into an 87-bed residence hall for underclassmen. Both the City Center site and the new residence hall, which has not yet been named, should be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2009.

The public hearing that took place in St. Francis on Jan. 5 regarding Stritch's proposal to purchase the Cousins Center and WE Energies properties saw nearly 400 people show up. With the room past its capacity, people spilling into the hall and stairway, and waiting outside to get in the building, the St. Francis city attorney recommended that the hearing be postponed because not everyone who wished to listen or speak was able to.

The hearing will now take place Monday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis High School, 4225 S. Lake Drive. This larger venue should allow those attending the hearing, which is open

to anyone, to share their take on the University's proposal in advance of the rezoning vote by the St. Francis Common Council, which will take place shortly thereafter.

Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer Tom VanHimbergen, Vice President for Public Relations and Marketing Joanne Williams and others have been working closely with St. Francis officials, the properties' owners, local environmental groups, and developers to ensure that all parties are well informed about the impact and benefits of Stritch's proposal.

Stritch officials remain optimistic that the council will vote in favor of rezoning the property for PUD (planned unit development). A favorable vote will allow the University to sign all the papers buying the properties and begin planning of its new campus.



Dr. Sobehart announces Stritch's plans for the City Center site at a Dec. 22 news conference at the Pabst.

TAMMY HOWARD HIRED AS NEW CONTROLLER/VP FOR FINANCE



Tammy M. Howard began work at Stritch Monday as the University's new controller/vice president for finance.

Howard was the Diocesan fiscal services director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the last four years. In that role, she had complete responsibility for the financial activities of the

Archdiocese and St. Francis de Sales Seminary.

Prior to her position at the Archdiocese, Howard worked in financial analyst positions for a variety of Milwaukee-area corporations.

A licensed CPA, Howard received an MBA from Marquette University and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Carroll College.

Howard has witnessed news of Stritch's growth first hand at the Archdiocese, and ultimately decided that the University's robust expansion was something she was enthused to take part in.

"The energy and growth of the University is a very exciting thing," she said. "Stritch is generating a lot of positive press that you can be proud of."

Having worked at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Howard is no stranger to non-profit organizations, and the positive impact that Stritch is having in the lives of its students and the larger community is quite attractive to her.

"It's very fulfilling to work with an organization that makes a

difference in the world by shaping people's minds and lives," she said. "I've been very impressed with the environment here and the warm and welcoming nature of the people."

Howard has closely followed news of Stritch's proposed expansion to St. Francis, and has watched it from a uniquely appropriate vantage point, as her old office was inside the Cousins Center. As a result, she's anticipating a possible reunion of sorts in the years ahead.

"Someone said to me, 'Wouldn't it be ironic if you end up moving back into your old office?'" she recalled.

In addition to assisting in the ongoing University efforts to acquire the St. Francis and Brewery properties, one of her initial priorities in her new position is the continuing implementation of the Jenzabar system, which will allow her to conduct a more comprehensive financial analysis of the University and its programs.

"We're very excited to have Tammy join our community," said Stritch President Dr. Helen C. Sobehart. "Tammy's genuine warmth and friendliness are apparent to all who meet her, and her extensive financial experience with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WE Energies, and other organizations will be invaluable assets to Stritch as we continue to evolve and grow."

Howard, a Muskego resident, has two adopted daughters from China: Sophie, 8; and Emily, 6; and she looks forward to their help in decorating her new office in Bonaventure Hall. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, biking, and has been a recent participant in several power walking marathons, most recently in Appleton.

STRITCH CREATES NEW DIRECTOR OF GRANTS AND FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP POSITION



Stritch has hired Abigail Amissah-Arthur, Ph.D., for the newly created position of director of grants and faculty scholarship. In this role, she will lead the University's scholarship initiatives, expand internal support, and build relationships with external entities and resources to help raise Stritch's scholarship profile. She began Jan. 5.

Amissah-Arthur was most recently an assistant professor of geography at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Before that she was a research scientist at the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University, New York. She comes to Stritch with 18 years of experience

as a scholar and teacher in the areas of environmental science, geography and agriculture.

Her responsibilities include serving as the primary contact for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements, as well as helping faculty develop proposals. She will also encourage faculty to publish their scholarly work, promote the creation of faculty/student research teams, and chair two committees: the Committee on Research, which will distribute internal seed funding for scholarly projects and build University research culture; and the Stritch Intellectual Property Board, which will advise faculty on copyright, trademark, and patent matters.

"Abigail brings to this position not only a solid understanding of the grant seeking and scholarship process, but also the personal experience of a faculty member who was able to

manage a full teaching load while actively pursuing scholarship and grant opportunities,” said Dr. Peter Holbrook, executive director of leadership and organizational learning, to whom Amissah-Arthur reports. “Her experience, character and global perspective will help faculty become more aware of how their interests and work can be turned into grants and scholarship opportunities.”

In addition to her grants work and fostering faculty professional development and scholarship through workshops and short courses, Amissah-Arthur will also host an annual Distinguished Scholars Reception to recognize the many scholarly accomplishments of faculty during the past year. She will serve as academic liaison to the Office of University Advancement by ensuring coordination and communication of solicitation strategies for grants and gifts.

Amissah-Arthur has B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where her academic work centered on sub-Saharan African agricultural and environmental issues. Her scientific research explores the value of using climate forecasts by small scale producers to minimize risks in agricultural production while conserving natural resources.

A recipient of many local, national and international grants, Amissah-Arthur has also written 10 successful proposals. As convener of the Teaching Learning and Technology Roundtable

at Slippery Rock University, she jointly managed an annual grant budget that provided support ranging \$1,000 to \$10,000 to multiple recipients every semester on a competitive basis.

Her extensive experience in faculty development and scholarship includes publishing more than 16 articles in peer referred journals, organizing local and international workshops, and working collaboratively with faculty and students on research projects. She works with the Association of American Geographers as the chair for the 350-member Africa Specialty Group and the chief budget officer. She has served as a reviewer for several journals and research grant funding agencies, including the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“This is a great time to be at Cardinal Stritch University as we come together to implement our vision for faculty scholarship, which includes supporting the goals and aspirations of our faculty as teacher scholars,” she said. “The office of grants and faculty scholarship will continue developing the systems that make research management more straightforward and supportive and that strengthen the relationships among all the groups that are part of this infrastructure.”

Faculty and staff are encouraged to visit Amissah-Arthur in her office in the Library, rooms 192 and 193. She can be reached at Ext. 4972 or aamissah-arthur@stritch.edu.

MAYOR BARRETT DECLARES JAN. 8 “JOANNE WILLIAMS DAY” AS PART OF WBMA HONOR

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, State Senator Lena Taylor, local officials, current and former broadcast and print journalists, and others joined the Wisconsin Black Media Association (WBMA) Thursday night in honoring Joanne Williams, vice president for public relations and marketing, for her work as WITI-TV Fox 6 education reporter and midday news anchor.

At a party held at ZenDen inside the InterContinental Hotel, Mayor Barrett declared Jan. 8 “Joanne Williams Day” and presented her with an engraved proclamation after speaking about her numerous contributions to the city of Milwaukee and the journalism profession.

Those who spoke thanked Williams for helping to blaze a trail for black journalists in southeast Wisconsin. State Senator Lena Taylor read laudatory letters and presented plaques to Williams on behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl and herself.

Williams, who is a past president of the WBMA, spent 29 years at Fox 6 as an as news anchor, medical reporter and education reporter. She is past president of the Milwaukee Press Club and also served as regional director of the National Association of Black Journalists, the parent organization of the WBMA.

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.



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