



Shared Perspectives

Dr. Linda M. Spink

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I hope everyone has had an enjoyable celebration of the birth of our country, 202 years ago. I had the opportunity to hear Professor Jim Stanbery give a talk about the constitution of this great country and appreciated the reminder of the work our founding fathers did to secure our rights as citizens. Jim made Thomas Jefferson sound a whole lot more interesting than I remember when reading his and Hamilton's works when I was a student in college. Also, I had forgotten that in the beginning we were actually more of a federation of states rather than one great nation and that after the Civil War, Lincoln was the one who really started focusing us as a nation and one America rather than many individual states. At any rate, I hope that as you celebrated the 4th of July you had time to not only enjoy the extra day off but to appreciate the country in which we live.

Now on to the business of the college. If you attended the most recent CPC meeting you would have heard many sagas or tales of woe of many things. Let me start with the construction projects. The GOOD news is that the construction of the new PE/Wellness Center will be starting. The Child Development Center will begin in earnest shortly after that. You may have noticed that there are now some temporary bungalows on the land near the old racquetball courts. That is the temporary home of the CDC while their new space is under construction. The facility is almost ready for occupancy; just waiting on the final state approval. And then you will begin to see the demolition of the old bungalows. And so we continue with the significant progress of the Propositions A/AA. These two projects are the last ones for us of the Prop A/AA bonds passed in 2001/2002.

Now for the not-so-good news... we will be losing more parking areas. Lot 2 and part of 3 will be closing for the duration of the construction of the PE building and Lot 9 will be closed for the construction of the CDC. The impact will be significant on our staff and our students. We have been in negotiations for several months with the city for use of the lot across the street. If any of you have influence with the Recreation and Parks Department, now is the time to use it. The discussions have been a bit frustrating. We will continue to work on this endeavor for additional parking off site. and hopefully have some solution worked out by fall semester. In the meantime, the Work Environment Committee is meeting to make recommendations on how to move our handicapped spots and where to locate parking for faculty/staff and administration.

Budget woes continue to plague this college. I know how everyone feels short-staffed and over-worked. And still we continue to face budget deficits. The chancellor has given directions that we must reduce our expenditures, even if it means cutting back on ftes. We will have to look carefully at our class schedule and try to increase the numbers of students in classes to increase our efficiency so as not to impact students in such a way that they cannot get the classes they need for graduation. I know you've all felt we've been tightening our belts... it will continue. We need to look at how we can change things to save money without impacting our students. The budget committee will meet to review this in short order.

I do hope everyone will have the opportunity to take some time off this summer and get to relax with loved ones.

Lula M. Jones