



Shared Perspectives

Dr. Linda Spink

December 5, 2007

I know I say this every year... where does the time go anyhow. How could it be that we are looking at celebrating the holidays already? And Thanksgiving has gone by in a blink of an eye.

It has been a busy semester for everyone. I know we all feel the pressure as we have become a year-round college. It is a challenge for all. And for that, I do hope everyone knows how appreciative we all are of your efforts. In that light, please join us for a holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 11 for a time to be yourself, laugh and just relax a bit while we enjoy a luncheon prepared by our Culinary Arts students.

As many of you know, we have the Harbor Teacher Prep Academy on campus...a collaborative project with LA Unified School District. This program has been recognized both in the state and the nation as one of the best "early college" programs. As you may know, in each of the first two graduating classes half of the students actually completed their AA degree the week before getting their high school diploma. What you may not know is that the Gates Foundation provides some funding to us to help with the management of the program. Last week, the Foundation's CEO and Melinda Gates were on campus. They met with senior staff to talk with us about the program and our students. It was an exciting opportunity to meet these women who have such a critical role to play in this country. Their foundation is one of the largest in the world and provides much support financially to programs that help educate young people around the world.

Construction continues and as always, things change. Fortunately we have a very flexible faculty as their patience will be tried over the next few months. As they say, "timing is everything". And in this case it is nothing. It looks like we will need to take down Tech 2 before the new northeast academic building (to be called the NE Academic Hall) will be completed. And the faculty that were temporarily (2 years) located in Tech 2 will have to move again temporarily! We tried everything to have that not come to pass but alas, it is what it is. Our new faculty offices in NEA will not be ready until sometime in the summer. So, you will be seeing some modular units being added to the parking lot area between the two tech buildings and shortly after that you will see the mathematics and communications divisions moving in. This should be occurring over the winter break so that when classes begin in February folks will hopefully be settled. I am very

appreciative that the faculty and staff have been so flexible and willing to deal with this inconvenience in order to get the campus projects moving forward. Thanks very much to both divisions.

Just a reminder to everyone that the Board of Trustees will be meeting on our campus Wednesday, January 30. The meeting usually begins at 3:30 so watch for the posting on campus if you are interested in attending a meeting.

Several folks have been out ill for a while so we send them our best wishes for a healthful recovery.

I do hope everyone will join us for some holiday celebrating next week...Tuesday, December 11 in the cafeteria. Come share a break with friends and have some lunch on us.

As you all know, we always run the holiday schedule as lightly as possible to allow folks to be home with their families. We have to keep the college open for registration December 26th and 27th. We hope to have many offices around the campus closed to save on heating costs, but the administration building will be open for business. A&R, Financial Aid, EOP & S, Counseling and the Business Office will be open. If there is a need for you to do overtime between now and then, we can make that work so that you can take those two days off. But please work it out with your supervisor.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda M. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L" and a flourish at the end.