



Shared Perspectives

By Dr. Linda Spink

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda W. Spink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

February 4, 2009

It is time to start off a new semester once again. And now we get to begin in three of our new buildings. This is such a significant, exciting time for all of our students and us. The campus is beginning to take shape; now when you walk around you can begin to see our vision from so many years ago as it comes to fruition.

Welcome back to the faculty that have been off during the semester break. I hope everyone has now gotten their office keys and are getting settled in new quarters. I know it will take a while to get all of the kinks worked out in a new building but we will get there. If there are things not working correctly in your new office be sure to tell your division chair so he/she can get the information to the right people for repair. The folks from PinnacleOne have been great about staying on top of issues as they arise. If any of you have done construction on your own homes you know there are always issues to be worked out. Together we will get this all working well.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the NEA and SSA buildings went well and was a lot of fun for all. Folks from the community were thrilled to have the chance to see and tour the new buildings, too. We'll have an open house and tours of the Tech building in a few months when all is settled but you certainly can feel free to tour on your own.

Parking continues to be a challenge and will be significant for the first month of the semester, I fear. We have worked with Rec/Parks to try to rent more space from them but they have not been willing to expand by much. We've added about 75 spots on the other side of L Street from the city. In addition, you will see a temporary parking lot in front of the new technology building. As much as we hated to cover up the grassy area we desperately needed the parking and so it is there for faculty/staff parking only. When the library begins construction we may lose some of that lot but that is 8 months away, give/take. There are additional faculty/staff spots just North of the football field. If you work at that end of campus please try to use those.

The parking lot resurfacing and solar panel project has begun which has taken away the southern part of Lot 8, adding to the challenges of parking. This will last for about 3 months and will rotate through the lots until all but the area in lot 8 that is slated to house a parking structure are completed. Additional student parking has been added west of Lot 6, near the baseball field.

Please remember for the next few weeks our students will be wandering around trying to find either admissions, financial aid or their new classrooms. Let's everyone try to help them get where they need to be. We have signage planned for all classes as to where the class has been moved. The intent is to have faculty meet their class in the regularly assigned old building. The faculty will escort the students to their new classroom. There will be signage posted at both the old location and the new location for what classes are where/when. Hopefully the disruption will be minimal without too much confusion. If everyone pitches in, it will be helpful. The Academic Affairs Office will get information to the campus so that we can help students as well.

I hope your semester gets off to a good start. Welcome to the NEW Harbor College.