



## Shared Perspectives

By Dr. Linda M. Spink

August 27, 2008

Summer is coming to a close. How on earth did that happen? I hope that everyone has had some time away to refresh and renew. I had several friends from back east come out to visit and we spent 5 great days in San Diego. As many times as I've been there I've never played tourist before and it was great fun. And then the storms back east hit big time and two of the 3 of them got stranded at my place for an additional few days. It is always wonderful spending time with old friends. And so the days have moved along and here we are at the start of a new academic year once again.

We continue to face many challenges over the next year, but we are also faced with many exciting new changes and opportunities. As always, it seems we continue the battle of the budget. Somehow we need to find the right mix of class offerings along with managing the effectiveness of our enrollments and allow for growth, at the same time as reducing our number of sections of classes. We will continue to work to improve our efficiency. I know many departments will feel the crunch with fewer sub-relief folks to help.

We are also expecting some major exciting changes in the completion of three of our new buildings. The NEA (Northeast Academic Hall) and SSA (Students Services/ Administration) buildings should have substantial completion by the end of October; however there are still many things that will need to fall into place after substantial completion before we can move in. That will likely be over the winter intersession. The Technology building will soon be substantially completed and I expect we'll start moving in (assuming DSA does the final approvals) mid-semester. But, don't hold your breath on the approvals coming in a timely fashion.

The array of staff development/flex activities developed for this year looks exciting and I hope folks will take advantage of the sessions to learn something new or reinforce something known. The committee has done a nice job putting together a wide variety of topics. I'll take shameful advantage and 'advertise' my two sessions. We'll be doing a construction update for one session where I'll show you pictures of the new buildings and sum up all we have accomplished with Prop A and AA. If there are any questions about Proposition J, which will be on the ballot in November, I can answer them at that time as well. And then at another session I'll be showing the PBS documentary "Discounted Dreams," which came out last year, discussing both the challenges and successes that face community colleges. There is discussion about our need for providing so much basic skills remedial work and also discussion regarding our attrition and retention rates. Hopefully we'll get a lively discussion going after the airing of the film. Classified staff is welcome to attend any of the staff development sessions if they can work it out with their supervisors. I know it is a difficult week for folks to get away even for a short while. The mandatory day for faculty will be Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>. The first hour is an update on the campus and after that the faculty will be having a retreat on basic skills.

This upcoming year will be our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. How timely that we'll be ushering in a new look on our campus while honoring the past. The anniversary committee will be holding several meetings over the next few weeks to discuss how we can celebrate our past and welcome in the new. While we need to do things inexpensively we also need to do them right. And we should recognize the achievements of our past faculty and staff in some manner as they were so critical in making this the fine institution that it is. We are open to ideas/suggestions from folks as to how to recognize and celebrate our 60 years. If anyone knows of any former faculty/staff that would like to work on the committee, have them give my office a call.

We have begun construction on two new projects over the past few weeks. The new PE/Wellness Center has begun in earnest. This project is the one on L Street, south of the old PE center. The new building should be completed in about 15 months. The other project now underway is the new Child Development Center. Their new site is on the 'old' site and so the CDC has moved temporarily to the areas south of the old racquet ball courts and north of the football field.

As everyone is well aware, parking will be a significant challenge for at least one more year, if not longer. We have a new agreement with Recreation/Parks of the City of Los Angeles which will allow student (or staff) parking in the west end of their lot on L Street at no cost to the students or staff IF they have a Harbor College parking sticker on their car.. This will be the area west of the gated area almost directly across the street from lot 8. We will be posting signs as soon as the paperwork with the city is completed.

The Chancellor will be visiting the campus for an open forum on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The open forum will be held in Seahawk Center beginning at 12:30. As a part of that meeting we will have a discussion about centralization vs. decentralization and the roles of the District Office vs. the role of the Campuses. In the response to our accreditation report submitted last March we were directed to hold such a discussion. Apparently when the visiting team was here two years ago some folks must have indicated a lack of understanding of the roles. Hence the open discussion about the topic.

As long as we are on the topic of accreditation...we have to submit another report to the ACCJC. It is due this October and has to deal with the program review process and assessment process of our student learning outcomes. Faculty has been working through the summer on this effort and will continue dialogue with the varying divisions and clusters as to the status of their program reviews and assessments. We expect to have a short visit some time in October or November.

Ending on a pleasant note, welcome back to Joan Chappell, who had been out on medical leave for some time. We're all very happy to have her here again.

This new era for Harbor College will be an exciting one for us all. Let's work together to make the next 60 years even better than the first 60.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila M. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

