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President's Newsletter



June 2010

Commencement

Although commencement 2010 is now in our collective rear-view mirrors, we all have reason to be proud of the ceremonies provided for our graduates and their families. Special kudos to Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Scott James and his "team of many" for choreographing three graduations—in entirely new formats, and with numerous

changes, improvements and enhancements—and executing them flawlessly. My deep thanks, also, to staff from all corners of this remarkable community of ours who contributed in ways both seen and unseen. Your teamwork is so very much appreciated.

Click on the media gallery to the right to view more commencement images.

Electrical Relocation Project

With the planned razing of the old library in preparation for construction of our new library and learning commons (razing date not yet determined), it is necessary that we provide the five North Campus buildings that currently obtain their power from an electrical room in the present library with a new source. The electrical relocation project is well underway, as you may have already noted from the community emails. Over the course of the summer, new electrical service will be provided to the old wing of Meier Hall, the

new wing of Meier, the Ellison Campus Center, Bowditch Hall, and Peabody Hall. In addition, electrical service will be brought to the site of the new library and learning commons in anticipation of its construction. At the present time, we do not expect the work to adversely affect either campus access or parking. With exception of brief power outages on Saturdays in June (this Saturday, June 26 being one of them), normal activities should continue in Meier Hall. The electrical relocation project is scheduled to be completed before the start of the fall 2010 semester. In my July campus newsletter, I will apprise you of work being done that month along with updates.



Library Update

Demolition of the old library should begin early this fall, although the exact plan and schedule are not yet known. The process is expected to take three to six months. The demolition method will not be known until a contractor is selected through competitive bidding, but it will not be done by implosion. The new library and learning

commons will be located slightly west of the old library. It will be L-shaped and will wrap around the south and west edges of the existing tennis courts, which will be removed to allow development of a quadrangle that will anchor the center of the campus. Design of the new library/learning commons is well underway. This month, the architects began the preparation of the final construction documents that will guide the actual construction of the building. Also in June, the state's Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) began the selection process for determining the construction management firm to oversee construction of the building. Construction could begin this fall, with completion and occupancy possible for fall semester 2012.

Budget Update

The board of trustees has approved a pro forma budget for fiscal year 2011 of \$105,728,000. This budget includes the following increases in student fees:

Undergraduate: 5.55% (or \$190 per semester)

Evening undergraduate: 6.82% (or \$15 per credit hour)

Graduate: 5.45% (or \$15 per credit hour)

The continuing decline in state support, along with increasing personnel and other costs, necessitated the fee increases. Be assured that the increases were kept as low as we could keep them while still maintaining the level of service and quality academic programming our students have come to enjoy. Although any tuition or fee increase is difficult for our student population, those approved for Salem State are among the lowest approved by any of the Massachusetts state colleges for fiscal year 2011.



Kudos

Congratulations to Salem State Trustee Larry McCully, who was honored by the Salem State Alumni Association with its Elizabeth Williams Wade Award as part of alumni weekend festivities recently. The award, which was bestowed during the Sunday Jazz Brunch



was bestowed during the January 2022 election on June 6, honors "an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Salem State College through his or her activities with the alumni association." Trustee McCully is a

member of the Class of 1980, and the senior member of the board of trustees, having served Salem State in that capacity for over nine years. Also honored by the alumni association on June 6 was President Emerita Nancy D. Harrington '60, who received the Distinguished Alumna Award, and Jane Moroney '60, who was honored with the George H. Ellison Volunteer of the Year Award.

Three members of our faculty were recently honored for their work and commitment: Accounting Professor Paul McGee was honored with the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants' Career Achievement Award for Excellence in Accounting Education; history Professor Li Li received the Massachusetts Governor's Citation in recognition of his unwavering commitment to students with diverse needs; and psychology Professor Dr. Martin Krugman received the Paul E. Tsongas Profiles in Preservation Award from Preservation Massachusetts. Each of these scholars is a strong contributor to the academic life of our community and we congratulate them on their well deserved recognition.

Please let me know about the accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff so I can share this news with our campus community.

Farewell

I'd like to bid a fond farewell to student trustee Kyle Meadows, with whom I had the pleasure of working for three years. Kyle was first elected by his fellow students to the board of trustees in 2007 at around the time I took office and we have worked together during his unprecedented three terms. I also had the pleasure of meeting his parents, Peter and Joyce, at commencement, and wish him well as he heads off to Sacred Heart University in Connecticut for graduate work in criminal justice. Kyle leaves big shoes to fill for his successor, incoming student trustee Angel M. Rodriguez. Angel, a Salem resident, is about to start his junior year as a criminal justice major. The enthusiasm he has already shown for assuming his new trustee position bodes well for his work on the board. Angel is eager to get started and has already begun sitting in on board of trustees' meetings and reviewing minutes from past meetings so that he can hit the ground running. I look forward to working with him in the coming year.

I'd like to close by expressing my appreciation for your hard work throughout this past academic year, and by wishing you a pleasant and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Patricia Maguire Meservey
President

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