Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second edition of “On The Wharf”. I hope that you will find items of interest to the whole Institute community and to our faculty, in particular. As we look toward commencement, another beautiful spring in the Navy Yard, our NEASC visit, and so much more I hope that you are finding time to reflect on this great Institute and all we offer to our students, the community, and the health disciplines that we represent.

Over the past 12 months we have worked with faculty leadership and our programs to restructure the academic organization. We now have two schools! Some have asked “who cares?” “Why is this important?” Let me take a few moments to reflect on this important change:

- This new structure is consistent with models used by other strong educational programs and therefore is understandable to potential students and faculty.
- Our Institute is based on interdisciplinary competencies and collaboration across disciplines. This will be preserved.
- At the same time it is important to acknowledge the distinctive identities of our programs and we hope to communicate this strength through our new schools.
- The new structure has already facilitated efficiencies in reducing some unnecessary “cross-talk” on matters that are primarily disciplinary.
- The structure is supportive and informs the discussion that is occurring among our faculty around their new governance model.

So...what next? Well, in 2010 and 2011 we will continue to emphasize excellence and distinctiveness in an inter-professional and interdisciplinary context. We will soon roll out our new Center for Interprofessional Studies which will provide a home (and a heart) for those themes and concentrations that affect all of our disciplines. At the same time we will continue to emphasize outstanding entry level (and beyond) professional education in our two schools. The new Center (details in the next few months) will house our programs in Informatics, Education, Prerequisite Studies, and hopefully, our new PhD. These are all areas that need focus and growth (and nurturing). Most important, they support all of our professional programs in the schools.

Happy Spring!!

Alex F. Johnson
School of Nursing – Proud to Welcome New Dean, Laurie Lauzon Clabo, PhD, RN

Dr. Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Associate Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island, will become the new Dean of the MGH Institute School of Nursing. Dr. Lauzon Clabo, who will begin her duties on June 1, will succeed Dean Margery Chisholm, EdD, RN, CS, ABPP, who will return to a full-time faculty role upon arrival of the new dean.

Expansion of the Science Prerequisites for the Health Professions Courses

Starting this spring semester 2010, Science Prerequisites (formerly called science summer) are being offered year round in an online format. All courses are now 3 credits, and the course content is comparable to other universities health science prerequisite courses. New courses this semester include online life science chemistry and exercise physiology. Enrollment numbers were excellent, with 126 students registering for the 4 courses offered. This summer human anatomy, human physiology, microbiology, and nutrition are offered.

Help of the Compass Knowledge Group (www.CompassKnowledge.com), which is a well established academic group who partners with select academic institutions to help them develop online programs that are academically superior and economically successful, the Institute is expanding the program to attract students who are interested in pursing careers in the health professions from all over the country and beyond. To that end, the tuition structure for all 400 level courses (non-graduate courses) is now competitive with other schools at a tuition rate of $1,416 per course plus applicable fees. More courses will be added over the next academic year with the goal that the Institute will become known as the place to come for Science Prerequisite Coursework.

The Planning Committee includes: BA Harris and Jim Vitagliano, co chairs; Denis Stratford, Paul Murphy, Alex Paul-Simon, Gregory Lof, Marianne Beninato, Chuck Vanderburg, and Pramila Vivek, staff.

Faculty Governance Update

The faculty governance review has been in progress since November of 2009 and we’re happy to report that much progress has been made. During the December Faculty Meeting, we focused on examination of the current structure. At the January Faculty Workshop, we agreed to a commitment to shared governance and endorsed the concept that our current governance construct and methods of operation weren’t ideal for accomplishing our business. The primary goal of the current governance review is to create an efficient/effective representative structure for the faculty to accomplish its stated purpose. The new structure is intended to address the major changes that have occurred with the growth of the Institute and the re-organization of schools and administration. Any proposed new model for governance has the goals of building trust among all constituencies, being understandable to all those within the structure and who work with its components, (e.g. committees) and to remain transparent in terms of operations and communications. The structure will create effective and efficient:

* Communication among all members
* Reasonable representation/schools/programs/faculty
* Balance of power in decision making/schools/programs/faculty
* Practical and feasible within scope of what needs to be done

The draft of the new governance model was presented to the faculty at its February meeting. The new structure as currently designed would leave the committee structure intact to accomplish the faculty responsibilities, but, would expand to include appropriate representation from all schools/programs and convert the committee positions to elected rather than appointed posts. The sum total of the elected committee members will form the body of the Faculty Senate.

This structure will be supported by an Annual Calendar of scheduled meetings and elections as follows. There will be annual elections in March by electronic voting and all committee members and officers will be elected to three-year terms that will begin each May first. A three-year rotation will support election of 1/3 of the positions each year. All elected committee members and officers will make up the Faculty Senate. Positions for election will be designated to be elected by the individual schools or by the faculty as a whole. The leadership role for the faculty will be a three-year term: where the first year will be served as Clerk of the Senate, the second year as Chair-Elect, and the third year as Chair of Faculty. The standing Annual Calendar will include an all Institute Faculty Meeting in September and June of each year. Faculty Senate Meetings will be held in November, January, March, and May while Committee Meetings will be held in October, December, February, April, July, and August. The first Friday of each month will be designated as the governance time period to be kept available for these activities. Bylaws will be configured to support this new structure.
March is National Women’s History Month – National Women’s History Month’s roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City staged a protest over working conditions. International Women’s Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn’t until 1981 that Congress established National Women’s History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women’s History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

The Office of Diversity invites you to participate in the Worlds Apart Competence in Health Care Dialogues. Our next video and discussion will take place on March 31st at noon in room 305 A&B. All are welcome.

Searching for new faculty? As a reminder, if your department will be seeking full time faculty for the 2010/2011 Academic year, you are required to comply with the new faculty hiring guidelines found on the Human Resource intranet site. For information on faculty hiring guidelines, please contact Pat Edwards, Director of Human Resources.

New Student Computer Policy

As of May 10, 2010, the start of summer semester, each student entering the MGH Institute of Health Professions is required to bring a laptop computer to campus. This policy change will facilitate continued efforts on the part of the Institute to encourage the infusion of blended learning modalities into classes, encourage greater student participation in evaluations, and continue our “Go Green” efforts by reducing paper usage across the Institute. Additionally, at the conclusion of this spring semester, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) will no longer support loaner laptops on campus.

Faculty Graduation News

The Institute’s 30th Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010. The location and format for this year’s event has changed. Hooding and Award Ceremonies as well as the main Commencement Ceremony will all be held on the same day and will be housed at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. We are very excited about the new format and location and look forward to having comfortable, spacious, and elegant surroundings for this year’s event.

The detailed schedule of Commencement events for Saturday, May 8, can always be found on the Web site under the “Student Life” tab on the home page. Faculty should expect to arrive at the Hynes by no later than 9:00 a.m. on the morning of May 8. Hooding and Award Ceremonies will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude at 11:30 a.m. Class photos with faculty will take place between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. A luncheon will be served between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. and line-up for the main Ceremony will begin at 1:15 p.m. The main ceremony will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and should last for no longer than 1 hour and 45 minutes.

We have changed the seating arrangements for the main ceremony and faculty will now be seated on stage facing the graduates. We expect that this change will provide a grand stage setting deserving of this grand event! We all look forward to a wonderful day and hope that your experience with the new format and venue is positive and memorable.

Submitted by: James V. Vitagliano
Assistant Dean of Students/ Registrar
On the Wharf March 2010

Upcoming Dates

March 28-31 – NEASC Site Visit
April 2 – April Faculty Meeting
April 7 – Open Office Hours with Provost Johnson
April 8-9 – CSD Accreditation Site Visit
April 9 – Deadline for Faculty Award Nominations (Watts Award)
April 20 – Research Opportunities with Dr. Robert Hillman
May 7 – May Faculty Meeting
May 8 – Commencement
May 9-15 – Spaulding Rehabilitation/ MGH Institute Celebration
June 28 – MGH Tent Event for Clinical Educators at MGH

Haiti Update

In the hours and days following the Haiti earthquake, the Institute has come together to offer assistance to those affected by the disaster. This includes both the victims in Haiti and their family members in the Institute community who are struggling to cope with the ordeal.

Brenda Smith NS ’98, was one of 17 workers on the International Medical Surgical Response Team East, a MGH-sponsored clinical outreach team, deployed on January 14.

On March 15, nursing students Katie Seamon, Nixon Cornay, Sigrid Bergenstein, and Leila Hepp gave insight into Haiti with their presentation “Understanding Haiti: Before and After the Quake”. Hepp also discussed her experience as a volunteer nurse in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

Meanwhile, several faculty, students, and alumni are awaiting word regarding their request to volunteer in the relief efforts.

From the Office of Student Affairs

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Holds First Interdisciplinary Faculty Retreat

On December 11, the Faculty of the newly designated School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences met to talk about their vision for the school. Thirty-nine faculty from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Department of Physical Therapy and the Program in Medical Imaging worked together to discuss how their mutual concerns could be addressed within the new school framework. The retreat started with a luncheon, where faculty met in interdisciplinary groups, where they shared their individual and program priorities, research interests and clinical expertise.

The afternoon continued with a session facilitated by Harriet Tolpin, who is a Workforce Development Specialist with Partners HealthCare, and former Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Simmons College. Faculty started the session by sharing their newfound perspectives on what they had learned about the other programs over lunch, an exercise that demonstrated many common themes as well as newfound understanding of our various disciplines.

The group ended the day with a discussion of our new school identity, and how we are all committed to clinical and academic excellence, diversity and cultural competence, innovation in education, professionalism, leadership, and fostering our students’ capacity to advocate for their profession, and improve quality of care through communication and autonomous decision making. This was an excellent start to our identifying how the SHRS can strengthen our academic and clinical missions, and provides a rich environment for our professions to work together.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences was officially named in August, 2009. Leslie Portney, DPT, PhD, FAPTA, who is Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, has been appointed as the Interim Dean. The SHRS joins the School of Nursing as the second school within the Institute.

Thanks to the efforts of OSA and the Provost's Office, there was a record increase in the projected enrollments for this spring, largely attributable to the Science Prerequisites being offered. Both prospective as well as deposited entry-level students enrolled, resulting in a 1.27% increase in projected credits. There is optimism that the new Science Prerequisites for the Health Care Professions will continue to generate even higher enrollments and a greater national market, since the majority of them are online and designed for students seeking to satisfy science prerequisites for a variety of health care graduate programs.

Although Admissions activity continues for summer and fall applicants in the Post-Professional programs, all of the entry-level programs, except Medical Imaging, have passed their deadlines. Applications were up across the majority of these programs with CSD seeing the largest increase (18%). The BSN program is the first to receive deposits and its yield was an impressive 85%, a clear tribute to the excellence of its faculty and success of its students.

Orientation 101 will debut on D2L with the BSN students joining in early March. Soon thereafter DPT will go live and CSD and DEN will welcome new students both onsite with their respective Open Houses as well as online.

The annual Multicultural Food Fest on Wednesday, March 24th was a rousing success! Rumor has it that Locke's Irish Soda bread may have finally trumped Mahoney's bread.

Submitted by: Carolyn F. Locke, Dean
Office of Student Affairs