From the President’s Desk

Welcome to this first issue of the “President’s Newsletter,” so named until we select a more fitting title. Its purpose is to ensure that the MGH Institute community is better informed about important happenings and to improve campus communications.

It is particularly timely that we initiate this newsletter now, when we are expanding our campus from one to three buildings in the Navy Yard. Adding much needed space will be a boon to our students, faculty, and staff, and will greatly enhance the Institute’s learning and work environments. However, it will be a challenge for us to maintain the close connections we have forged in the Shouse Building. Of course, compared with our parent institution (MGH), occupying three buildings within a half block of each other makes it far easier for us to stay connected, more so than in most colleges and universities.

By the time classes begin this fall, the President’s Office will be relocated to the 3rd floor of Building 34 (above Store 24). I invite you to stop in to say hello and see our new offices and the new Trustees’ Room. For my part, I pledge to frequently visit the Shouse Building and the first floor offices in Building 39 to say hello to our students, faculty, and staff and take the opportunity to visit with and hear from you.

Our activity this summer has not been limited to expanding our campus and preparing for the new academic year. I want to formally introduce and welcome two new senior administrators to our leadership team: Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Alex Johnson, and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Calvin Hill.

Dr. Johnson joins us from Wayne State University in Detroit, where he served as department chair for Communication Sciences and Disorders. He is also a recent past president of the American Speech and Hearing Association. Dr. Hill comes to us from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, having served there as director of diversity programs. Please see their respective messages on page 2.

I’m also pleased to let you know that Carolyn Locke, director of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), been named Dean of Student Affairs. She will now report directly to Dr. Johnson to ensure that academic and student affairs are mutually linked to better benefit student learning and life. The OSA offices will be relocated to the first floor of Building 39 before the start of fall classes.

I look forward to continuing to share updates with you in future issues, as well as through our more frequent communication channel of IHP announcements. I especially look forward to welcoming our new and returning students, faculty, and staff as we begin the new academic year on September 2nd.

Until then, I hope you and your families and friends enjoy what remains of this beautiful, and all too short, New England summer.

Janis Pellock
From the Office of the Provost

I am delighted to be joining President Bellack, the Trustees, faculty, and staff of the MGH Institute of Health Professions. Having known the wonderful reputation of the Institute for many years, I am honored to be in this remarkable environment.

My charge is to continue to build on the excellent traditions of teaching, scholarship and service and to expand those important dimensions in the coming years. My promise is to work with the faculty and staff to assure that informed discussion occurs, voices are heard, and timely decisions are made as we move forward together.

I want to personally and publicly express appreciation and respect for the fantastic job that has been done by the Interim Academic Dean, Dr. Bob Hillman and Interim Associate Academic Dean, Dr. B.A. Harris. I am delighted that they will both be continuing to work in the Office of the Provost.

Dr. Hillman has been named Special Assistant for Research and Dr. Harris has been named Special Assistant for Operations. Carolyn Locke will continue in her leadership role in Student Affairs, but has been named as Dean of Student Affairs.

I plan to continue to meet individually or in small groups with all of the members of the faculty and staff. During these meetings, I hope to learn about the programs of the Institute, and also welcome the chance to learn about new opportunities. We will use this information as we plan for 2008-09 and beyond.

Feel free to stop into my office at any time (Room 263) or to be in touch by email: ajohnson@mghihp.edu. I look forward to meeting each and every member of the Institute team.

Alex Johnson

INSTITUTE TRANSACTIONS

Arrivals
Margaret Beal – Faculty, Nursing Program
Jean-Marie Bonofilio – Development Coordinator, External Relations
Calvin Hill – Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Diversity
Kris Hromann – Associate Director of Development for Individual Giving, External Relations
Alex Johnson – Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost
Douglas Mattson – Faculty, Physical Therapy Program
Mary McManus – Facilitator, Hanson Initiative for Language and Literacy
Amy Smith – Faculty, Nursing Program
Lena Sorensen – Faculty, Nursing Program
Kristen Tucker – Faculty, Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Pramila Vivek – Program Manager, Clinical Investigation Program

Departures
Sue Myers – Faculty, Nursing Program
Sandra Sumner – Program Manager, Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Sharon Weiss-Kapp – Faculty, Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Karen Wolf – Associate Program Director, Nursing Programs

Open Positions
Director of Human Resources
Operations Assistant
Nursing Program Faculty (6)
Physical Therapy Program Faculty
For more information about these opportunities, please talk to Human Resources.

From the Office of Diversity

As part of my orientation since joining the MGH Institute on July 1, I have had an opportunity to meet with many of you to learn about your programs, goals etc. These meetings have been tremendously helpful, so thank you very much. For those of you whom I have not met, I look forward to connecting in the weeks and months to come.

One of the primary reasons that this new position of Chief Diversity Officer was of interest to me was the school’s Statement on Diversity, where I found the following sentence: “We envision a community that is bound by the desire of equal consideration of all people.” To me, this statement says that we all have something to contribute and that we have a shared responsibility for its reality. We are indeed all in this together.

Therefore, you will soon receive a “climate survey” that I hope you will take the time to complete and return. This survey will allow me to, among other things, gain an understanding of the issues that you believe are most pressing for the Office of Diversity to address. From your responses, a diversity plan will be developed which will allow us to set measurable goals and objectives. It is my plan to reexamine these goals and objectives on a regular basis to determine what progress we are making and what we can do together to improve.

I am excited to have joined the Institute, and I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to create a vibrant and exciting pluralistic community here at the Institute.

Calvin Hill
Clinical Investigation
CI is happy to welcome Pramila Vivek as the new office manager. She will support our distance learning students and help coordinate activities within the department.

Communication Sciences and Disorders
The department anxiously is awaiting the remodeling and expansion to the Speech, Language and Literacy Center that will be ready for occupancy for this Fall’s academic term. This new space will be technologically state of the art, will have more space available to see more clients and conduct clinical research, and will encourage interdisciplinary usage.

A search has begun for a new Assistant or Associate Professor in the area of medical speech-language pathology. This position became available when Marjorie Nichols was promoted to Associate Director.

The clients, students, and faculty who are part of the Aphasia Group within the Speech, Language and Literacy Center will be going to Fenway Park to watch the Red Sox this month.

Hanson Initiative for Language & Literacy
After years of planning, the HILL, an outgrowth of Communication Sciences and Disorders, is launching Centers of Excellence in three locations: The Rollins Center at the Atlanta Speech School in Atlanta, GA, The Dunn Institute in Providence, RI, and Chartwell School in Seaside, CA. Each center will expand its mission, partner with the HILL, and work with local elementary schools and districts to enhance the literacy achievement of all students, particularly struggling readers. Each center will work with 2-6 schools or districts, serving close to 7,500 children over the course of the next school year.

Medical Imaging
The Medical Imaging program reaches an important milestone this academic year when the fifth class enters the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Medical Imaging. Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology accreditation site visit will occur September 18-19.

Nursing
With the addition of two new nursing programs in academic year 2007-2008 – the Doctor of Nursing Practice and Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing – the program has hired 16 new faculty with another three scheduled to come on board this fall and another seven slots to be filled.

The DNP program accepted a new class of 16 students, two of whom are men, with an average age of 48. The first three students of the program - Stephanie Ahmed, Sheila Davis, and Valerie Fuller – will complete their program requirements in August.

The Accelerated BSN’s first class admitted 52 students to its program that began in May, comprised of six men and 46 women. This first group of students, whose average age is 27, received their previously earned baccalaureate degrees from 45 different colleges or universities. Thirty-one students hold an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts, and 21 students hold a Bachelor of Science. Graduate degrees include: Master of Arts (2), Master of Science (1), and Master of Public Health (2).

Physical Therapy
The 4th Annual White Coat Ceremony was held on July 9 to honor the 43 new students who entered the DPT program as the Class of 2011. The students, who received their white coats and school pins from the third year students who this summer will complete the DPT’s academic program and will be starting their year-long clinical internships in September.

The White Coat Ceremony recognizes students’ entry into the physical therapy profession with the recitation of a Pledge of Professionalism that publicly affirms their commitment to excellence, integrity and compassion in the care of their patients.

The Post-professional Program in Physical Therapy is launching a newly developed Certificate of Advanced Study in Geriatrics this fall. This certificate will assist therapists in the development of advanced skills in preparation for a specialization in geriatric physical therapy.
**Out of the Office**

**Rachele Huelsman On Roll As Derby Damsel**

Rachele Huelsman has been the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations Manager since October 2007. But it’s her alter ego, Harley Quinn, that keeps her rolling in her spare time as a member of the roller derby teams the Boston Massacre and the Wicked Pissahs.

Q: How did you discover roller derby, and how long have you been participating?

I started roller derby in October of 2006 after a friend saw an ad in the Washington DC city paper for try outs. I had skated when I was younger and loved it, so I figured I would go down and check it out. After one practice, I was sold. Roller derby appealed to my competitive side while also giving me the opportunity to participate in a team sport, which I had never done before.

Q: How did you choose the name “Harley Quinn”?

Harley Quinn was a character from the Batman comics/tv show. She was the Joker’s sidekick and all around mischievous. I had always liked her because she was the only villain who had no special powers or weapons and yet still managed to be destructive. When it came time to pick my derby name, which is a right of passage, she was the logical choice for me.

Q: What do you like best about roller derby?

Do I have to pick just one thing? There are so many amazing things about roller derby and the women involved. Obviously the most amazing part about roller derby are the games and the fans. I love the hard-hitting action almost as much as the roar of the crowd. I think the most impressive aspect of roller derby, however, is the do-it-yourself mentality. All of the leagues, more than 300 around the world, are completely skater owned and operated. We do everything from production to making handbills to running our own Executive Board. I have learned so much from being a part of two leagues and it never ceases to amaze me how entrepreneurial these women are.

Q: How can people see you play?

Next up for the Boston Massacre are the Regionals Championships in Madison, WI in October. After that, we have a mini-off season. We will be back in Boston mixing it up with Maine’s Port Authorities on February 28th at the Shriner’s Auditorium in Wilmington, MA. After that you can see us once a month for the whole season! If you just can’t wait, Boston Derby Dames hold open scrimmages every Sunday from 6-8 pm at Joe Moakley Park in South Boston for the duration of the summer. Information can also be found at bostonderbydames.com.

**Faculty**

- **Pat Lussier-Duynstee** (Nursing) completed her year as the Institute’s Faculty Chair with a successful June 6th champagne brunch and faculty retreat, with this year’s topic being “Shared Governance at the Institute.” During her tenure, Pat took the lead in the faculty’s development of the Faculty Shared Values document and the merit review process. Pat was an active advocate for faculty throughout her tenure, known for her wonderful discussion facilitation skills.

- **Lesley Maxwell** (Communication Sciences and Disorders) takes over as chair for 2008-09, receiving from Pat the ceremonial handing over of the official “Silver Spoon of the Faculty Chair.” Cynthia Zadai (Physical Therapy) will join Lesley as Faculty Chair-Elect.

**Office of Student Affairs**

Several of the OSA staff recently have had title changes: **Brett DiMarzo** is now the Manager of Admissions; **Erin Phair** is the Manager of Student and Disability Services; and Jim Vitagliano is the Assistant Dean of Students/Registrar.

And interest from people wanting to attend the Institute continues to grow. According to preliminary data, the school saw a 38 percent increase in the number of inquiries from 2007 to 2008, while applications increased 26 percent. Although these numbers jumped in large part due to the addition of the new Accelerated BSN program, it is still significant to note that applications to Communication Sciences and Disorders and Doctor of Physical Therapy programs increased 39 percent and 23 percent, respectively.

**External Relations**

Several initiatives to expand the visibility of the Institute are currently in the works, including a new branding campaign, Web site redevelopment, and increased advertising and publicity in new and existing publications.

**From the Boardroom**

This September, the Institute will welcome three new trustees to the Institute’s governing board:

- **Mrs. Judith Fong Bressler**, a resident of Seattle, WA and Pasadena, CA, is an alumna of the MGH School of Nursing, and is sponsor of an annual student scholarship award and a faculty clinical excellence award.

- **Dr. Louis Bransford** is former president and CEO of an international telecommunications company, and now serves as a consultant to the firm. He is a resident of Alexandria, VA, and currently serves as chairman of the board of the Public Service Telecommunications Corporation.

- **Dr. Debra Weinstein** is vice president for graduate medical education at Partners HealthCare. She recently completed an American Council on Education academic leadership fellowship with President Larry Bacow at Tufts University’s main campus.

The board’s meeting schedule has been reorganized for 2008-09 to provide more concentrated time for the members to better engage with each other and with the Institute. The board and its various committees will meet in September, December, March, and June, with its executive committee convening between these scheduled meetings. Faculty and student representatives will join board members to serve on the Academic and Student Affairs and the Diversity committees. The board will meet in the new Trustees’ Room in Building 34.