

September 2010

# Academic & issues ideas

Notes from the Wichita State University  
Office of Academic Affairs and Research



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For the latest information and  
communication from the Provost,  
check out:

[www.wichita.edu/provost](http://www.wichita.edu/provost)



## RENEWING *Our commitment to mission*

Fall Semester always brings great promise, and usually delivers. New and returning students and refreshed faculty bring a sense of renewal to our mission as the state's only urban-serving research university.

Even as we continue to deal with challenging budget issues, there are exciting projects underway in each of our colleges to expand WSU's classroom excellence, research resources and impact.

### Reshaping efforts continue

Looking back, the academic year 2009-2010 was remarkable. Facing a chaotic environment of budget reductions and a future of economic uncertainty, we plowed ahead with a *Reduce-Reshape-Rebuild* initiative to prepare for positive change.

Reshaping efforts emerged in nearly all of the colleges. In an extraordinary act of university service, the members of the Faculty Senate Planning and Budget Committee educated themselves about the complexities of university resource dynamics and offered extremely important input into a number of division-wide initiatives.

In this time of budget uncertainty, the commitment of the faculty allowed us to accommodate increased enrollments without sacrificing quality.

In the coming year, we will focus the Reshaping initiative toward the urban serving research mission of the university. The goal will be to reaffirm the priorities of that mission and renew

our commitment to building intellectual capital for the future.

We continued to enjoy a productive and collegial relationship with the Kansas Board of Regents. President Beggs, now the second most senior of the chief executives in the system, is highly respected by the Board for his direct and fiscally responsible management approach and his commitment to accountability.

### A new strategic framework

The Board has approved a new strategic framework designed to significantly advance research, retention and graduation rates among state universities. The goals of the framework represent significant challenges. But, they also address some of the most important issues in higher education and they are fully congruent with the work we have been doing on campus as part of the reshaping initiative. We are supportive of the aspirations of the KBOR strategic framework.

**For you at WSU:** St. Petersburg String Quartet debuts on campus Oct. 7 at Wilner Auditorium. Information: 978-3233.



**Wichita State & The World** went on location to the Ulrich Museum to tape the first episode of the 2010-11 season. Gary Miller interviewed Ulrich Director Patricia McDonnell (right) and Advisory Board Chair Kelly Callen.

## Ulrich Museum on WSU TV broadcasts

The third season of *Wichita State & The World* begins Sept. 9 with a show about one of the cultural gems of the city and the campus, the Ulrich Museum of Art.

The broadcast crew from the Media Resources Center moved cameras, lights and sound equipment to the Joan S. Beren Gallery at the museum to tape the show.

It will be broadcast on WSU TV, Channel 13 on Cox Cable, and later posted on YouTube.

It can be seen on Channel 13:  
Sept. 9, 8 p.m., Sept. 10, 1 a.m.,  
Sept. 12, 8 p.m., Sept. 13, 9 a.m.,  
Sept. 14, 3 p.m., Sept. 16, 8 p.m.,  
Sept. 17, 1 a.m., Sept. 19, 8 p.m.,  
Sept. 20, 9 a.m., Sept. 21, 3 p.m.,  
Sept. 23, 8 p.m., Sept. 24, 1 a.m.,  
Sept. 26, 8 p.m., Sept. 27, 9 a.m.,  
Sept. 28, 3 p.m., Sept. 30, 8 p.m.,  
Oct. 3, 8 p.m., Oct. 4, 9 a.m. and  
Oct. 5, 3 p.m.

## Coming in October

The next episode focuses on student success. It debuts Oct. 7.

# Learn More *on the web*

## REDUCE/RESHAPE/REBUILD PROCESS

<http://wichita.edu/reshaping>

## WSU FACULTY DEVELOPMENT/STUDENT SUCCESS

<http://wichita.edu/ofdss>

### Budget outlook

While the actions of Gov. Parkinson and state legislature have given us a bit of a reprieve from the most severe budget cuts, we do not expect the state or national budget situation to improve rapidly enough to avoid further difficulties in the coming year and beyond.

Because of this, we will continue to re-imagine how we do our work while we begin the process of rebuilding in strategic areas.

### Leaders in the spotlight

In these important days for the university, deans of the colleges, members of the Faculty Senate and university alumni, financial supporters and public officials will all play crucial leadership roles in moving Wichita State forward.

Internally, our efforts this past year gave rise to a large number of innovative ideas, initiatives, and new ways of doing business that trace at least some of their origin or sustaining energy from the Reshaping process. Among those are efforts to focus on degree completion for both traditional undergraduates and returning adult students; continued progress in moving courses to on-line formats; substantial growth of university research and outreach programs; a new partnership with the KU medical school; strategic reinvestment in faculty positions; initiation of a new period of innovation in the University Libraries; substantial curricular innovations; and increased global outreach.

### Community connections

Externally, we continue to focus on our

commitment as the only urban-serving university in Kansas.

This summer we broke ground for the state's first dental training facility, a donor-supported, \$6.6 million building on the grounds of the Hughes Metroplex, at Oliver & 29<sup>th</sup>.

It will put Wichita State at the forefront in attacking the severe shortage of dentists in the state.

In the College of Education, we are moving ahead on a nationally prominent program to work with USD 259 to train teachers, especially in areas of crucial shortage, such as science and math.

In the College of Fine Arts, we have brought the highly regarded St. Petersburg String Quartet to campus as a resident ensemble, and two of its members are joining our faculty.

### Defining success

New to campus this fall is our Office for Faculty Development and Student Success. It will support and promote a new culture where student success should come to mean not just staying in school, but successfully finishing school.

As our campus-wide Reshaping process enters its second year, our high priorities remain advancing the urban serving research mission, building on partnership-driven sponsored research programs, developing a stronger core liberal arts and sciences model and, continuing high levels of community engagement.

All of us in the Division of Academic Affairs and Research appreciate your continued support.

Please contact us throughout the year with your ideas.

*Gary L. Miller*

**For you at WSU:** Lake Afton Observatory is open to public Friday and Saturday evenings. Information: 978-7827.