

# BARB'S Wire



Summer, 2011

**Summer Vacation:** I hope that all of you have had or will have a vacation this summer – a time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. Whether it is a “stay”-cation at home or a visit to family or sights here in the US or somewhere abroad, we all need time to “recharge our batteries.” A great camping trip, fishing on an area lake or river, a weekend with family or friends, or just enjoying a walk at sunset can reinvigorate us. So, please take some time for yourself and bring back a refreshed perspective to SouthArk. I had the great opportunity for a family reunion/vacation in the mountains of Colorado. While the trip was not so relaxing, it was rejuvenating. As you can see in the picture above, our family rafted the cold and wild Arkansas River in the beautiful Brown Canyon. I look forward to hearing about your interesting summer adventures when you return. While some of us have been in and out this summer, others have been keeping the campus humming with summer classes, renovations, advising, registration, grant-writing, and planning for fall. Some updates follow below:

## Planning Retreats:

**Board of Trustees:** The Board of Trustees will be retreating in July to review the College accomplishments, financial status, and college outcome assessments. They will use these findings and the input of community leaders to set priorities for the future of the College.

**College Administrators:** College administrators will also hold a planning retreat in July to make plans. The focus of the planning retreat will be on college completion, performance based funding, and retention. They will use assessment data to set goals and make plans for the future. We will report more at the fall convocation

## Projects:

- The Whitfield Renovation project has begun. The construction crew is busy with the demolition aspects of the project. They have already begun to paint many rooms. We appreciate the hard work of the maintenance and IT staff to move furniture and equipment. Also, thanks to the faculty that came in to pack up their offices. New desks and chairs have been ordered for most classrooms. We apologize for the inconvenience, but the building should be refreshed and new for classes in the fall.
- South West Avenue landscaping/sidewalks and Computer Tech patio projects. The contractors should begin these projects within the next few days. The parking in front of the Whitfield building will be blocked off.
- The roofing bids for the Library and Welding buildings will be opened this week. These roofing projects are funded through ARRA funds. The roof projects should be completed by the end of August.

We are working to provide a pleasant and safe learning environment and campuses for the well-being and success of our students and employees.

**Sound status at Conference Center:** We know that many of you have experienced or heard of the issues related to the poor sound quality at the Conference Center in Murphy Hall. To keep you up-to-date, a sound consultant was brought in by Polk, Stanley, Wilcox Architects. The consultant tested the sound quality in facility in many different ways. She submitted a thorough report with several recommendations. The primary recommendations were to place sound absorption panels in the ceiling of Murphy Hall and some batting in alcoves above the entrance doors. This work will be done the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>. After complete, more testing will be done. The report also gave some recommendations related to the equipment. We will continue to work with the City and the architects to make this a top-notch conference facility in all aspects.

**Bistro:** If you have not had a chance, please stop in and enjoy lunch at the Bistro. The lunch specials are going over well with students, faculty/staff, and community patrons. I know that I really enjoy the fruit smoothies and summer salads! It is so nice to have food service on campus.

**Summer Enrollment:** Our summer enrollment in classes is up over last summer! Dr. Tully-Dartez reports that Summer I is up 10%, Summer II – 17% and long summer – 3%. Thank you to all the faculty that offered classes and staff that are assisting these students to be successful.

**Fall 2012:** We are mid-summer and beginning to make plans for the fall convocation. Students are registering for fall classes. New student orientation is being planned. The cycle of college life continues. The 2011-12 academic year will bring us new opportunities and new challenges. Come prepared to be an active participant in helping our students to be successful in the classroom, in the workplace, and in life! I hope to see you around campus or in the community.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

*Barbara R. Jones*

**Upcoming Events:**

Noon Symposium – July 13 – *Did You Remember Our Anniversary? History, Memory, and Celebration* – East Campus

New Student Orientation, Advising, & Registration – August 17

Regular Registration via Campus Connect – August 19-23

Fall Convocation – August 18

On-campus Registration – August 19

First Day of Classes – August 22

Outdoor Expo – September 10