

As we are nearing the end of the year-long 60th anniversary celebration, we are well into the spring semester and on the cusp of some exciting times and events. The spring play, *A Case of Libel*, made its Broadway debut 60 years ago, just like Jefferson College. Be sure to put the upcoming production on your must-see calendar (more information below).

Jazz Ensemble Earns Best-In-State Accolade

The Jefferson College Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Joel Vanderheyden, Professor of Music, was recognized by the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) as best-in-state and performed at the annual MMEA Conference on January 25. I was honored to introduce the Ensemble and attend with Dr. Chris DeGeare, where we joined a standing-room-only crowd to enjoy and celebrate the College's talented students. Dr. Vanderheyden sent me an email following the event: "...one of my proudest moments as a Jefferson College faculty member. The students really rose to the occasion, and I can't even put into words how it felt for all of us to share our slice of music from Jefferson County with all of those musicians and educators from all over the state. It was a tremendous honor, and a very, very special moment in time." I completely agree with Joel's sentiments.



A Case of Libel: February 29 - March 2

As part of the 2024 PACE (Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment) series, a cast of students, community members, and staff will present the spring play, "*A Case of Libel*," directed by Communication and Theater Professor Dr. Rebecca Ellison. Performances are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 29; 7 p.m. on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, in the Fine Arts Theater. Advance tickets and reservations are available online at jeffcopace.ludus.com. Tickets will also be sold at the box office (cash only) depending on availability.

The courtroom drama debuted on October 10, 1963, at the Longacre Theater on Broadway and ran for more than eight months at the pinnacle of performing arts in our nation. Its First Amendment themes and challenges remain just as relevant these days. Please support our players and production.

Preview Day Scheduled for March 2

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective new students and their guests at the annual Preview Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 2, on the Hillsboro campus. The open house event will include the opportunity for students to explore degree and certificate options, tour the campus and Viking Woods housing, speak with faculty and staff, learn about admissions and financial aid, and visit the bookstore. Thank you to co-chairs Carrie Greer and Suzie Welch, the planning team, and all of the staff and faculty who have volunteered to set up and those that will be there on Saturday to make that positive first impression for future students and their families. Please help spread the word by inviting family and friends to attend via Facebook.

JOIN US FOR
PREVIEW DAY
Jefferson College

OPEN HOUSE

Preview Day is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to:

- **TOUR** our campus
- **EXPLORE** degree & certificate options
- **MEET** our faculty & staff
- **LEARN** about student services
- **ASK** questions

FREE T-SHIRT
for participants!
(while supplies last)

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
9 AM - NOON · HILLSBORO CAMPUS

Board of Trustees Action

In addition to approving the appointment of John Linhorst as Vice President of Finance and Administration at the Feb. 8 meeting, the College Board of Trustees approved roof replacements for the Fine Arts Building and Technology Center. Meinershagen Roofing of Farmington submitted the lowest of eight bids for the project at \$302,412.

The Board of Trustees held first readings for updates to the Grievance Policy and Procedures at the meeting. The second and final readings for the documents and approval by the board is scheduled for March 14. As a reminder, faculty and staff are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

New VP of Finance and Administration

After a comprehensive search that was advertised nationally, I am pleased to share that the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of John Linhorst as Vice President of Finance and Administration. John is a familiar face here on campus. A Jefferson College graduate, he started his career as a Computer Support Specialist in the Information Services Department in 2004, and he has been serving as the interim Director of Operations this year. In addition to his associate's degree, he holds a bachelor's degree from University of Missouri - St. Louis and a master's in Business Administration from Western Governors University. Professional development is always needed when transitioning into an executive role for the first time. John and I have already reviewed his goals for the coming year, and John will be taking advantage of training provided by the national and regional Association of College and University Business Officers. Thank you to everyone who attended the Open Forum and provided feedback on the potential appointment. A special thanks also goes to the search committee for their work on filing this important position (co-chairs Kim Harvey-Manus and Kathy Johnson, as well as members Kenny Wilson, Paula Carpenter, Cyndy Draper, Daniel Boyer, Leslie Hoff, and board trustee Krystal Hargis).

Ground-breaking Ceremony

Thank you to everyone (people and pets) who joined in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Veterinary Technology building on Thursday, Feb. 8. Work is underway on the new building on campus, which will allow expansion of the popular program on the Hillsboro campus. The event provided the launch of the public phase of the capital fund-raising campaign for the project.

The Jefferson College Foundation Dinner Auction with a special Jazz performance will take place on Saturday, May 4, in the Field House. Mark your calendars now to support this important fundraiser. This year's proceeds will support the capital campaign for the Vet Tech building campaign. Donations and volunteer opportunities are available.



Baseball and Softball are Back

The Vikings return to the diamond after successful campaigns last season and strong performances during the fall sessions. The softball team won their home opener on Saturday, February 25, against Heartland Community College 11-1 and 5-3, and another twin-bill is scheduled at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, versus Crowder. The baseball team's first home games will be part of a double-header at noon on Thursday, March 7, facing Metropolitan Community College.

Save the Date: April 30

The annual spring Retiree and Years of Services Recognition and Budget Town Hall is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 30, with a reception following for retirees and years of service milestonees. This year, we hope to have both in-person and virtual options for the Town Hall portion of the event.



You can view previous editions of the President's Updates (January 2023 - present) on the President's Office webpage. As always, I am a phone call or email away.

I look forward to our collective success.

- Dena

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