

## President's Spring 2012 Message

**“No man is an island entire of itself . . . any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.” —John Donne**

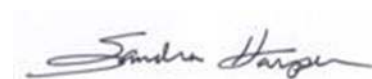
Interconnectedness. At Our Lady of the Lake College we have made a commitment to the many ways that we are able to make connections: globally by joining others to care for our planet, locally by working cooperatively to serve others, interpersonally through the relationships that we nurture in our academic community, and personally through our relationship with God.

Having learned that the most efficient way to help our community is through collaboration, we are pleased to work closely with our 61 outstanding Community Partners. Together we can begin to address some of the region's intractable problems like **hunger** (Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank), **ignorance** (Volunteers in Public Schools), and **health** (East Baton Rouge Council on Aging).

Another relationship we value is the one between institutions. OLOL College has strengthened ties with Baton Rouge Community College and Delgado Community College through recently formalized articulation agreements. The beneficiaries of these stronger connections will not only be Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) students — who can more easily advance their educational goals — but all of us who will be cared for by more knowledgeable healthcare givers.

A particularly strong aspect at the College is the collegiality among our faculty and the strength of the learning community between faculty and students. Our faculty sincerely want to connect with and grow with their students. Our focus is to develop an environment of joyful learning that challenges both faculty and student to reach their highest potential.

The fundamental reason behind our drive toward connection is the faith of the Sisters who founded this institution. In every quiet opportunity these Franciscan Sisters take to serve others, they model for us the value of interconnection. As John Donne said so eloquently, “No man is an island.” His words underscore the importance of community and the deep connectedness to others that is the inevitable basis of the spiritual life. I challenge you to find a way today to reach out to someone and find this connection.



Dr. Sandra S. Harper  
President, Our Lady of the Lake College