**Message from Interim Chair, Sue Schwager**

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring, 2009 Semester. I hope you all had a great holiday and you are enjoying the mid-semester break. As you savor the last week before classes begin, I invite you to review the information in this inaugural issue of the Department Newsletter. If you have any information you would like included in the next issue, please forward to me by January 22\textsuperscript{nd}. Thanks, and I'm looking forward to a great semester.

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**Items of Interest**

**Strategic Planning:**

As many of you may know, Strategic Planning is upon us and we will be submitting our Departmental Strategic Plan to the Dean by the middle of March. More to follow on this adventure.
Faculty Happenings

Tim Sullivan is in his final semester in his transition to retirement. He will be teaching a Management on Fridays.

Domenica Desiderioscioli and Rob Gilbert will be honored at the NJAHPERD Awards Banquet on February 22nd.

Melissa Alexander will be traveling to Boise Idaho as part of a research grand with Special Olympics this semester

Carolyn Masterson is the recipient of a grant to further develop e-portfolios

Many of us will be participating in the NJAHPERD Spring Convention – February 22-24, 2009. I encourage those of you presenting to forward the information about your presentation for our next newsletter.

Adjunct Happenings

We have two new adjuncts this semester.

Catherine Walsh who will be teaching Fitness Activities with Carolyn.

Phyllis Woestemeyer who will be teaching a section of Emergency Care.

Welcome back to all our returning adjuncts. We appreciate your contributions to our department.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Richard Taubald, an adjunct who helps us with supervision of student teachers and who became a first time grandfather on Christmas Day. Congratulations Dr. Taubald!

Staff Happenings

Please join me in welcoming back our Department Secretary, Angel Herbert, who is returning to service after a lengthy medical leave. Angel returned January 5th, thankfully in good health, and has been very helpful in bringing our new adjuncts aboard and generally helping me become acclimated to the Interim Chair.
responsibilities.

Thanks also to Ed who has been doing his usual wonderful job keeping me apprised of course enrollment numbers, overload requests, and a variety of advisement issues.

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**Upcoming Dates of Interest**

January 20th – First day of classes, Spring 2009 semester

January 23rd – Promotion deadline to DPAC

February 3rd – First Department meeting of the semester. Please note – this meeting will go from 2:30 – 5:00 and will be devoted to Strategic Planning

February 22 – 23 – NJAHPERD Spring Convention

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**Graduate Ass't Highlight**

We currently have four Graduate Assistants:

- Chris Staunch
- Curtis Sylvester
- Michele Okumura
- Courtney Cunningham

I am currently seeking information on the precise assignments of these individuals in preparation for filing requests for GA's for the 2009-2010 academic year. If you work with any of these students, please let me know (if you have not already done so) the nature of their assignments with you.