

# From the Chancellor

Budget problems in post-secondary education throughout the country have been a dreary theme in the press. The structure of public higher education seems threatened by the fiscal climate of most states.

While budget problems persist everywhere, as I told the campus community at this year's Convocation, here and now at UW-Parkside we have never been so alive and optimistic about our future. This optimism is not based on daydreams, but our hope is built on the continuing solid performance of the campus and several spectacular events over the last several months.

To pick just one of these events ... the world came to UW-Parkside this summer when 69 countries each sent their top four high school programmers (selected through national competitions of tens of thousands of participants) to compete in the International Olympiad in Informatics (see story page 5). Microsoft underwrote the weeklong event held in the United States for the first time. International press coverage was extensive and once again reminded the state that UW-Parkside is a quality institution especially equipped to respond to the needs of a "brain-based economy."

But the year's most important recognition of the institution came from our national accreditation organization which, after a visitation, recommended the highest possible renewal term, 10 years. Even more gratifying than the 10-year renewal was the report that accompanied this recommendation that praised the focus of the campus on its mission and the coherence of faculty, staff, students, and administration in striving to achieve the goals of our mission.

UW-Parkside is not immune from the budget issues that face every campus of post-secondary education. But this campus is determined to serve our region by delivering the quality of education that is our promise and hallmark. We remain a campus that you can be proud to support.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jack Keating". The signature is fluid and cursive.

education and literature," Vopat said of her teaching philosophy. "I try to open their minds and hearts through literature ... so that they may transcend the lives they were given, and realize that they don't have to play the cards they were dealt: literature—education—can deal them a whole new hand."

UW-Parkside Chancellor Jack Keating praised Vopat for setting uncompromising standards for herself and her students. "She has never shied away from tackling tough subjects or from exploring sensitive issues," Keating said.

UW-Parkside graduate and current UW-Milwaukee English doctoral student Christine Tutlewski credits courses in Shakespeare and advanced composition for sparking her interest in the study of English. "But it was Carole's class that set the fire ablaze," Tutlewski said. "She inspired me to model myself after her as a scholar, a teacher, and a human being. Her teaching in that course changed my life."



## Carole Vopat Earns Regents Award

English professor Carole Vopat was named a recipient of the UW System's Regents Teaching Excellence Award. The award, given annually to two System faculty members and one department, recognizes outstanding career achievements.

Vopat joined the UW-Parkside faculty in 1970 after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. She quickly

built a reputation for developing cutting-edge curriculum in literature. Her courses have dealt with the literature of the Holocaust, Asian American and Latina literature, gay and lesbian literature, and the work of African-American women writers. She is an award-winning writer of fiction and poetry, a frequently published author, and the recipient of several grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board that support her writing.

"I want to give my students what was given to me: a world transformed through

English Department chair Walter Graffin said Vopat almost single-handedly gave credence to the department's claim that it offers courses attuned to its diverse student body. "And almost single-handedly, Carole has created student demand for what were once taboo or unpopular topics," he said.

The Regents Teaching Excellence Award was established in 1992. UW-Parkside senior English lecturer Patrick McGuire became the university's first recipient of the award in 1999.