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## Celebrating Meri Phillips

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# Celebrating Meri Phillips

Sheila Wellington

In *medias res* is an appropriate term for our Director of Student Activities, Meri Phillips. She always hits the ground running and is graceful when she shows up in the middle of the action. She has worked hard to bring students from all over the College of DuPage together for the past 18 years. The Prairie Light Review would like to dedicate this issue to one of the strongest proponents for students on campus, Meri Phillips.

Meri's greatest gift to students was the creation of the Student Activities Fund Advisory Committee. This committee allows students from the campus organizations, the Courier, the Prairie Light Review, Forensics, Student Leadership Council, Student Activities Program Board, and the National Honors Society, PTK, to sit in on meetings and decide on the student body's behalf what they can do to meet the students' needs and expectations here on campus. She gave the students a voice in determining where the student activities fees would be best spent for the benefit of all who will flourish from extracurricular activities here on campus.

This past summer, Meri put together tours of other colleges to help determine the best layout for the future Student Center. Students from different clubs and organizations were able to attend and submit their suggestions of what they saw that would best suit the student body here at C.O.D. By the time the Student Center is built, Meri will not be here, but she continues to put her heart and soul into the effort of making it the best it can possibly be for everyone who will be able to enjoy it in the future. We students will miss this passion and her commitment to including students in the college decision-making processes.

Meri has also taken on the extra responsibility of bringing back the Child Care Service for parents who are students and who need child care. This has been a huge undertaking, and Meri would like for this service to be self-sustaining so that every semester parents are aware of this option for their young children. She always places the well being of students (and future students) first.

She is close to our hearts at PLR because she helps *The Prairie Light Review* with a lot of different concerns throughout the year, and she has even stepped in as advisor to PLR. The publication wouldn't be the same without her support.

My own experience with Meri has been a delight. I have never seen her without a smile; she says hello to everyone, and she treats students with respect. The PLR editorial staff and I look up to her. Meri has been wonderful to all of us, and we will miss her dearly. She will be retiring in June 2009, after 31 years as a Student Activities professional, and we would like to give our many thanks to her for her dedication to the past, present, and future students of the College of DuPage.

Meri Phillips, you will be missed!