

THE EXPLORER

Promoting connections across borders



Hello from the Office

By Angelica Rackow

Ever since I wrote the first edition of this newsletter, I missed the presence of the other international side of Harper College. I often explain to people that the Office of International Education supports on-campus and outbound (students going out) efforts and that a different department, International Students Services, supports inbound (students coming to Harper). In reality, this fragmented view of our international efforts only disserves us and our students since both departments have similar goals: create and nurture an environment at Harper where different countries, languages, and cultures should exist, exchange, understand, and respect each other.

While both departments operate in different ways and have different operational focuses and responsibilities, there is way too much room for collaboration. And here is one of them! From this edition forward, we hope to bring you a student newsletter presenting useful and interesting information from both sides of the "house." You will continue to find helpful information on how to get involved with global opportunities while recognizing much of the international exchange that already exists within our walls through the presence of our international students. To a domestic student, it will bring perspective to being an international student at Harper, while for international students, it will highlight how our domestic students engage with global opportunities. We hope this effort will continue highlighting the importance of intercultural competencies and how we should continue developing these skills to better navigate and make changes in the interconnected world we all share.

IN THIS ISSUE

**HELLO FROM THE
OFFICE
UPDATES**

**IMPORTANT DATES:
STUDY ABROAD AND
SCHOLARSHIPS**

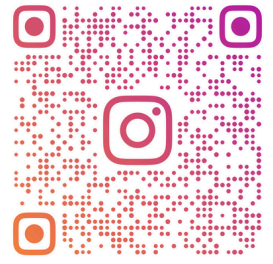
PAGE 7, 8, AND 10

**HAPPENING
NEAR AND FAR**

**GETTING SOCIAL
WITH OIE**

OIE IN PICTURES

Honors students visited Kenya in the Spring as part of GEG111 and BIO 103. Students examined environmental realities and local/global challenges during their time there.



HARPER_OIE



Jill Izumikawa reconnected with a student she advised years ago, Mr. Clinton D. White. He currently serves as the Counselor for the United States Agency for

International Development and was a speaker at the national CCID conference, in February.

Prof. Gramlich took students to London as part of his SOC 101 course. Students did a comparative study of the US and the UK to explore the structures and dynamics of human societies.



This Summer our team visited partner schools in Italy. One of them was the Accademia Italiana, and this is one of their classrooms



Meet New OIE Director

We are excited to share that Richard Johnson, a faculty member in the English department, will once again lead OIE's efforts at Harper College.

Prof. Johnson officially founded the Office of International Education in 2014 and has advocated for international education at Harper ever since. His vision allowed our office to grow in size and capacity, implementing numerous efforts that impacted and benefited our students, employees, and community.

His leadership comes at a convoluted moment in global affairs, exemplifying the importance of what our office does. "Now more than ever, we need globally educated citizens who understand the interconnectedness of "the world and will act with compassion and empathy toward their fellow humans," Johnson said.



And because most beginnings are followed by conclusions, in the name of the Harper Community, we want to thank Nellie Khalil, the former OIE Director, for her support and dedication in leading the office from 2021 to 2024. Nellie did a fantastic job strengthening OIE partnerships inside and outside of Harper, further infusing social justice lenses in our efforts and resuming mobility after COVID-19. We look forward to continuing to have her involved with the OIE efforts and advocating for more extensive social transformation education opportunities at Harper.

Global Scholar Report

Have you heard of the Global Scholar Distinction?

It's a graduation distinction for students interested in exploring intercultural and international perspectives while pursuing their major at Harper College. The capstone project is the conclusion of this distinction, and students pursuing it for the 23-24 school year presented their projects in May. Some of the projects selected and developed by this cohort include:

Michelle Montano- "Exploring Biodiversity Conservation Strategies"

Zain Raza - "Koranic Arabic: Necessity or Tradition"

Zahir Nunez - "Deaf Culture: Their Struggle/ Their Challenges"

Briana Manzo - "Breaking Barriers: A Personal Narrative on Study Abroad Access"

Want to learn more about the distinctions? Contact our office.

Students pursuing the distinctions work closely with a faculty mentor that they choose, or that can be assigned to them. Jess Unger, one of the students completing the capstone this Spring, said that the professors made her journey "fulfilling, inspiring, and educational". She shared that the program empowered her to become a more active citizen and ally.



Bianca Di Sandro, and mentor Ranjani Murali (English), Jess Unger, with mentor Judi Nitsch (English), Zahir Nunez and mentor Marcos Aguilar (World Languages).



International Students Services Report

The purpose of the International Student Office (ISO) is to enhance the educational, cultural and social experiences of non-immigrant students by providing knowledge and expertise in such areas as admissions, immigration, culture and additional advising concerns.

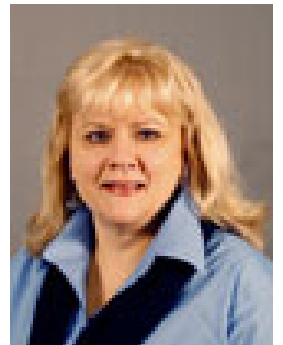
The ISO also acts as a referral source for other offices and departments in the college. It serves as Harper College's link with the United States Departments of State and Homeland Security, and works closely with the Admissions Department to ensure that the college remains in compliance with U.S. Immigration requirements.

Ahead of the International Students Office is Jill Izumikawa. She has been supporting international students for over 25 years and is incredibly knowledgeable and caring.

Jill's office is in D131 and she looks forward to welcoming many more international students to the Harper campus and community.

International Student Highlight: Meet Jill Izumikawa

Ms. Jill Izumikawa has worked with international students for more than 40 years. She has been at Harper College for 18 of those years. For the first two years of Jill's university experience, she was an international student in the country of Mexico. She has held many leadership positions with national professional organizations related to international education and was received a Fulbright to South Korea in 2010. Jill's primary goal at Harper College is to support international students as they pursue their education objectives.



Meet Liman Lei

Liman enrolled at Harper in the fall of 2022, not long after arriving at O'Hare Airport from his hometown, the small Longtan Village in China's Sichuan province. Now living in Rolling Meadows, he's working on his Associate in Engineering Science degree with plans to transfer to a university in Illinois or California to get his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering.

Lei has sought to broaden the outlook of those around him and give back to his communities – whether it was his international elementary school in China, his middle school in San Marcos, Texas, or his high school in Kingsville, Texas. Lei's time at Harper has been no different. He served as president of the International Students Association, enlisting consulates (including the

Philippines, India, Mexico and Taiwan) to participate in new events that foster cross-cultural exchange. He also helped found the Asian Student Association in 2022 with 2023-24 Student Trustee Kei Smith.

This past Spring students elected Liman Lei to serve as the board's student trustee for the 2024-25 academic year. As trustee, Lei hopes to create positive change for students. He hopes to expand the support offered to students by Hawks Care so that students of all identities can see themselves reflected in counselors. Lei also seeks to encourage students to understand the ways Harper can help them and become more involved on campus, increasing connections among the Harper community. Connect with Liman or/and our offices to find out more ways you can get involved.



Study Abroad and Scholarships

Study Abroad: To be or not to be.... in London



“There is no better place to learn
Shakespeare than London”



London, UK

THE 213 - Acting II

SIGN UP

In Spring 2025, Professor Kevin Long is taking students enrolled in Acting II to London. In an experience-based course involving advanced study of the craft of acting, students will visit sites, attend master classes, learn from guest speakers, and attend performances at the Globe Theater. It will be an immersion in the life and work of William Shakespeare.

"As a Shakespeare student, I felt so fortunate walking in his footsteps. I felt him there in the walls, in the floorboards, and I got chills when standing by his grave. He has given so much to the English language, and I could not believe how lucky I was to be visiting his hometown." said Carly Neduscin, an AIFS student who did a faculty-led program last Spring.

<https://blog.aifsabroad.com/2017/04/22/london-theater-five-benefits-studying-london-theater-major/>

INFO SESSION:
STUDY ABROAD AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
9/11 @ 11AM

Other Faculty-Led Programs in 2025



German Language in Germany



Japanese Literature

Study Abroad and Scholarships

Experience Seville, Spain



“Off to Seville I go, to lose my mind and find my soul”

Spain continues to be one of our most popular destinations for studying abroad, and we are happy to promote opportunities for summer and semester-long programs in Seville. Seville is the capital of southern Spain's Andalusia region, located on the banks of the Guadalquivir River in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. The streets and squares in the historic quarter tell a story of the culture and beauty of the region.

“Imagine this: a small, private college where tuition is more than affordable and every student feels like they have found their second home,” says Evan Kindle, the head of Communication at ICS. And if the idea is to be a home away from home, being welcomed by Evan will feel like reconnecting with a distant relative: Evan is also a former Harper employee himself! “Our intimate class sizes guarantee personalized attention, creating an environment where students excel academically and undergo profound personal growth,” he says.

ICS has been a beacon for U.S. university students seeking academic excellence and adventure in the vibrant city of Seville. Their course offerings were designed to ignite passion and curiosity in every student and they also partner with the University of Seville and [EUSA University Center](#), as a part of our ‘Three Campus’ initiative, opening doors to endless learning opportunities.

The organized guided trips (Cordoba and Morrocco included in the price of the program) are designed to be eye-opening on different levels. What to explore Seville for your Summer or Semester Abroad?

Scholarships

APPLICATIONS FOR
SPRING CYCLE ARE
OPEN

We understand that many students need to overcome financial challenges to partake in studying abroad and other global opportunities. OIE is committed to making studying abroad more accessible and affordable to students from all backgrounds with the unique qualities needed to succeed in our transformative programs. Below are some scholarships available. Note that they all have different dates and criteria.

Institutional Scholarships: Harper Foundation



These scholarships are available through the Harper College Foundation. By completing the donor general scholarship application, the foundation team determines the best scholarship and grant opportunities for you. Awards vary from **\$400 to \$1,200** and are available to **faculty-led and ICISP programs**.

To apply, complete the [General Scholarship application](#). Deadlines are the same as the program's application deadlines. More information [here](#).

Apply Now

FEA: Fund for Education Abroad



Fund for
Education Abroad

The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) mission is to provide scholarships and ongoing support to underrepresented students in the U.S. study abroad population. FEA makes life-changing, international experiences accessible to all by supporting students of color, community college, and first-generation college students before, during, and after they participate in education abroad programs. Learn more [here](#).

NOW!
OPEN!

Spring 2025 Application is OPEN

Deadline is September 18

Watch their Spring 2025 Applicant Webinar

HERE

Scholarships

ICISP: Founders' Study Abroad Scholarship

ICISP (Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs) Scholarships are available to ICISP-owned or sponsored programs. Scholarships range from \$500 for summer to \$1,000 for semester programs. Students participating in an ICISP program are eligible to apply.

Applications for Spring 2025 is OPEN NOW

Application deadlines:

- October 10 for Spring program
- February 10 for Summer programs

More information is available in the ICISP application.

APPLICATIONS FOR
SPRING CYCLE ARE
OPEN NOW

Gilman and Gilman-McCain - OPEN UNTIL OCT 10



The Gilman and Gilman McCain are prestigious academic awards funded by the State Department. Awards range up to **\$5,000**. Applications are open now for Spring and Summer. Contact the Office if you plan to apply for this scholarship, as we can advise you through the process. More information is available [here](#).

Gilman Eligibility

- U.S. citizen or national
- Undergraduate student
- Federal Pell Grant recipient
- In a country or area with an overall Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2, or approved Level 3 exception location
- No minimum length requirement!

CLS: Critical Language Scholarship - Opens in Spring

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is an immersive summer opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world. Destinations vary in different countries where languages are spoken.

Languages Offered:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Arabic | • Indonesian | • Portuguese |
| • Azerbaijani | • Japanese | • Russian |
| • Chinese | • Korean | • Swahili |
| • Hindi | • Persian | • Turkish |
| | | • Urdu |



Scholarships

Highlight: CLS Spark




CLS Spark is an amazing opportunity for students who can't or are not available to travel abroad (Yes! It's all VIRTUAL). It offers U.S. undergrads a fantastic chance to delve into key languages crucial to America's global interactions. Created by the CLS Program, this virtual initiative adopts top-notch online learning methods developed during the pandemic. It's perfect for Harper students since our campus lacks access to these languages.

Over the summer, participants can choose Arabic, Chinese, or Russian and immerse themselves in online classes and activities led by native speakers abroad. This program, under the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, aligns with a broader effort to boost American proficiency in languages vital for national security and economic growth.

The program takes approximately 8 weeks during the summer, learning either Arabic, Chinese, or Russian through online classes and activities facilitated by native speakers at a CLS partner institution abroad.

- 10 hours of intensive live group instruction a week;
- Cultural activities and individual consultations with language instructors at host institute; and
- Monthly professional development workshops and inclusive support.

This new program, which was launched in 2022, already has a Harper recipient. Dechen Atsatsang, who just graduated from Harper this past May, is currently finishing her Chinese CLS Spark program. She shared a little bit about her experience in the program. Check our YouTube Channel for the entire conversation. 



Program Benefits:

- Language instruction and cultural programming;
- Textbooks and language learning materials
- Language gains certified using the widely-recognized ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) assessment
- Non-competitive eligibility for U.S. government employment for up to three years after the program completion;
- Academic credit issued through Bryn Mawr College; and
- A stipend towards equipment and connectivity costs (for example, a web camera or microphone).

The following costs will not be covered:

- The cost of necessary equipment (for example, a new laptop);
- The cost of phone or internet connectivity plans
- Living expenses; or
- Physical and mental health expenses.



Applications open in October and close in November

If you would like to explore pursuing this scholarship, start working with the office as soon as possible. While this is not required, we highly recommend it.

Global Opportunities Info Session and Table Events

OIE and faculty leading study abroad in the 24-25 academic year will host info sessions and table events throughout the semester. Same dates and dates for the first months of the semester are:

**Missed us at Hullabaloo and/or the Info Session?
Don't fear!**

**9/17: Info Table, 11:30am to 1pm and 5pm to 6pm,
Building L**

**9/18 Info Table, 12pm to 1 pm, Building D Rotunda
(NEW LOCATION)**

10/28 - 11/1: International Education Week

Follow us on Instagram (@harper_oie) or check our websites for more updates soon.



APPLICATION DEADLINES

Spring Semester:

Application Deadline: October

Orientation: November

Departure: January

Summer:

Application: February/March

Orientation: May

Departure: May/June/July

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES:

Fund for Education Abroad: September 18

(Spring) and February (Summer)

Gilman: October 10 (Spring), March (Summer)

CLS and CLS Spark: November (date not announced yet)

Harper Foundation Scholarship: due on the same date as the program application

ICISP: October 10 (Spring).

and February 15 (Summer).

Happening Near and Far

Careers in Global Affairs

Do you enjoy traveling and cross-cultural exchange? Would you like to work serving your community or representing the USA? Are you interested in a career representing the USA to the world? Want to acquire lifelong skills to work in a global environment?

OIE, in partnership with Liman Lei, the student Trustee, is developing an opportunity for you to hear from professionals acting in global affairs roles, discussing different ways you can pursue a career in the field. Unlike what many people think, the State Department seeks professionals from many other fields of study beyond Political Science, such as Computer Science, Human Resources, Management, and Communication, to name a few.

Check the US Department State website for current positions and follow us on Instagram for updates. We'll soon announce the dates for these exciting visits.



Image from the State Department Website

International Education Week

International Education Week (IEW) is an annual event celebrating global differences and the benefits of international education. While it is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education and is often celebrated nationally on the third week of November, Harper will be hosting this week's celebration from October 28 to November 1.

Since this event is for you, please get in touch with the office if you would like to be interested in helping us organize it. In the past, we had students making presentations about topics they were passionate about, sharing their experiences, or helping us identify great speakers. If it's global-minded, we invite you to share.

International Education Week

Help us plan the "International Education Week" this Fall

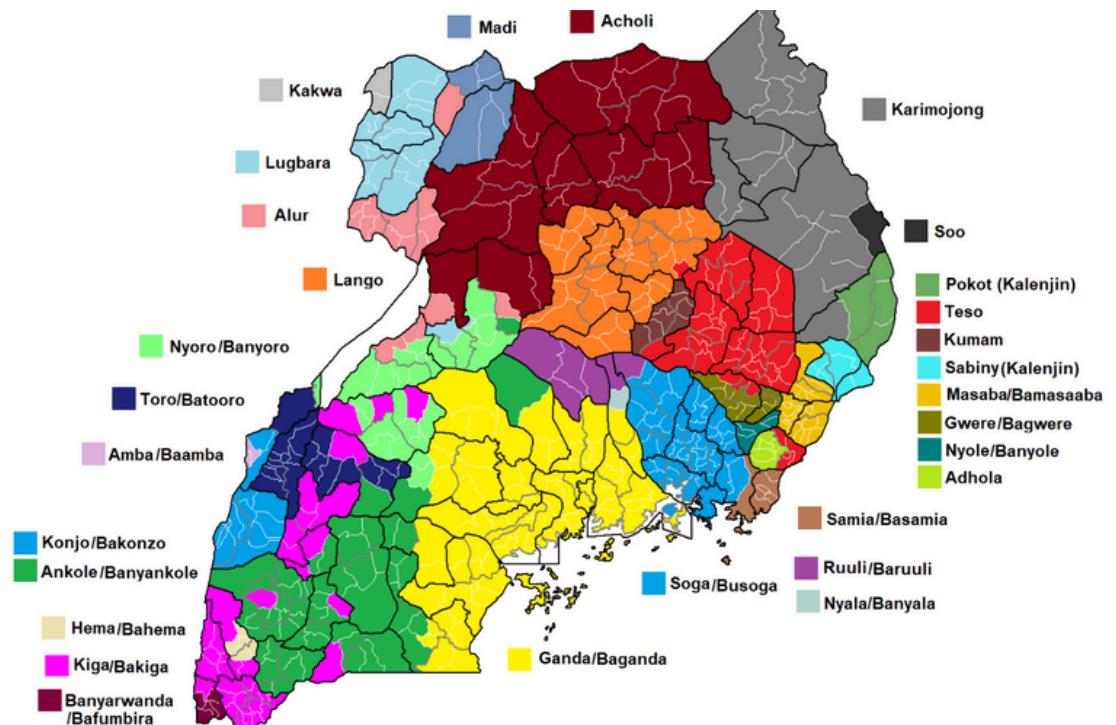


Happening Near and Far

Ndere Visit

This past spring, we welcomed Ndere to Harper. Ndere is a premier Ugandan cultural organization that promotes universal unity through music, dance, and drama. The group also taught our students about their country. Uganda, located in East Africa, is home to various ethnic groups, and the troupe showed just that: all seven members visiting us came from different groups and spoke different languages, representing the following groups:

- Busoga
- Banyankole
- Buguisho/Masaba
- Lango
- Acholi
- Baganda
- Karimojong



Uganda is also a symphony of languages, with more than 30 languages being spoken. Typical Ugandans live in villages, and about 80 percent of the population work in agriculture. Nationally, they cultivate cotton, corn, tea, and coffee.

Uganda has one of the best wildernesses on the African continent. It is home to Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake and chief source of the Nile River, 6.8% of the world's butterfly species, and 11% of the world's bird population. Uganda is also famous for having the highest percentage of mountain gorillas in the world.

During their week with us, they visited classes and schools in the community and performed in the Harper community. Check their performance on our YouTube channel.



Happening Near and Far

International Film Screening

Books, shows, and movies are great ways to get exposed to global topics without leaving the comfort of your home. They can introduce you to traditions, culture, and history from around the world. This Fall, Harper will be hosting The Spanish Film Festival, which will feature the screening of five films on campus in the new Film Studies Classroom in Building E.

Films will screen on days listed at 2 pm and 6 pm, in Building E, Room E109, and are free and open to the public.

Seating is limited to 52 persons per screening.

Despite the name, the festival will also bring movies from Brazil (where the native language is Portuguese). All films will be in their original language with English subtitles.

This event has been made possible with a grant from the Government of Spain through their Spanish Film Club program PRAGDA with additional support from the Harper Cultural Arts Committee.

For information, contact Brian Shelton, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts, by emailing: bshelton@harpercollege.edu



HARPER COLLEGE
SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
 FALL 2024

9/24 • CARAJITA
 SILVINA SCHNICER, ULISES PORRA / 2021
 ARGENTINA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / SPANISH

10/1 • ALEGRÍA
 VIOLETA SALAMA / 2021 / SPAIN / SPANISH

10/8 • A BRUDDAH'S MIND
 DÉO CARDOSO / 2020 / BRAZIL / PORTUGUESE

10/15 • ALICE JÚNIOR
 GIL BARONI / 2019 / BRAZIL / PORTUGUESE

10/22 • CASSANDRO
 ROGER ROSS WILLIAMS / 2024
 MEXICO, UNITED STATES / SPANISH

FREE • E109 • 2PM & 6PM
 MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE & PRAGDA



MINISTERIO
DE EDUCACIÓN, CULTURA
Y DEPORTE

SECRETARÍA
DE ESTADO
DE CULTURA



Harper College

Full schedule is available [here](#)

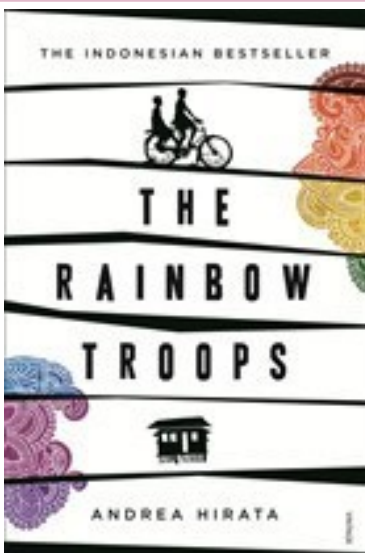
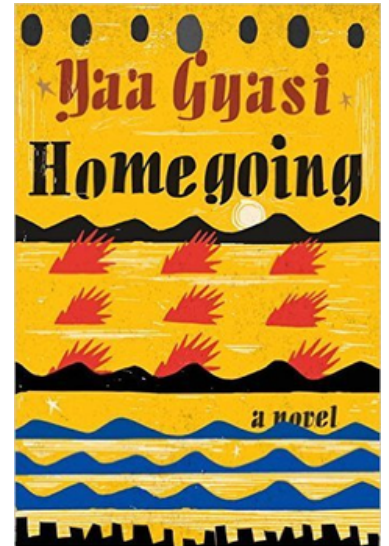
From our bookshelf



Books are an invaluable resource when it comes to learning about other countries and cultures. They offer a window into different perspectives, traditions, and histories, allowing readers to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Through books, we can explore the customs, values, and social dynamics that shape societies across the globe. In every newsletter, I'll highlight one or two books available in the Harper Library so that you can explore a little bit of the world from the comfort of your favorite reading nook.

HOMEGOING, by Yaa Gyasi

Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of Homegoing follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, Homegoing makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation. Generation after generation, Yaa Gyasi's magisterial first novel sets the fate of the individual against the obliterating movements of time, delivering unforgettable characters whose lives were shaped by historical forces beyond their control. Homegoing is a tremendous reading experience, not to be missed, by an astonishingly gifted young writer.
(from Goodreads.com)



RAINBOW TROOPS, by Andrea Hirata

A true story from Indonesia, Rainbow Troops (or Laskar Pelangi, as it's known in its native language) follows the events of ten Indonesian students and their teachers who learn the importance of concepts like sacrifice, dedication, optimism, and friendship. This Indonesian bestseller, is written in the tradition of Slumdog Millionaire. Ikal is a Elementary School student, on the Indonesian island of Belitung. Graduating from sixth grade is a major achievement. His school is constantly under threat of closure. Ikal and his friends form a group called the Rainbow Troops – who are threatened by corrupt government officials and greedy corporations. The book also has two hero teachers, and a barefoot student who's a maths genius competing against wealthy academic students.(from iloveteach101.com)

International Students on Campus

This fall term, Harper College welcomed more than 50 new international students from 24 countries. Total international student enrollment for fall semester 2024 is 184. This is a record high enrollment number for Harper College. We understand and appreciate the strength and hard work it takes to choose to study in a foreign country let along in a new language or higher education culture. We admire your success in arriving on Harper's campus and look forward to seeing you achieve your goals.



International Students Club

Experience global perspectives right here at Harper College! The International Students Club promotes friendship and understanding among students from the United States and around the world, and creates a cultural learning experience for its members through activities on and off campus.

The Club meets on Thursdays, at 3:30 pm, in D-195

[Join the email list to receive the schedule and location for the next meetings.](#)



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



847-925-6436



harper_oie



<https://www.youtube.com/@harpercollegeofficeofinter3741>

Want more
information about
something you
saw here?

