

## In Brief...

Corporate grant donations from Square D Foundation, Motorola Foundation, Omron Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, and McGraw Foundation totaled over \$500,000 in support of scholarships and programs.

The Foundation Board welcomes two new board members – David Fairburn and Ken Nykiel.

Harper College will kick-off its 40th Anniversary with a 40th Anniversary Celebration Gala on Saturday, September 29, 2007.

Former Foundation Board members Patrick Botterman and Rita Canning are elected to the Harper College Board of Trustees. Rita will continue to serve on the Foundation board as the Trustee Liaison.

Foundation scholarships are awarded to 250 students during the 2006-2007 academic year.

## Square D Solarium Unveiled at Avanté



*Dr. Breuder with David Petratis, President and CEO of The North America Operating Division Square D.*

Harper College and the Harper College Educational Foundation recently celebrated a major gift from the Square D Foundation with a holiday fete in Avanté Center for Science, Health Careers and Emerging Technologies at Harper College. The Square D Foundation has provided \$1 million in support of the College over their lifetime philanthropic relationship with the Harper Foundation. Most recently, the Square D Foundation pledged a \$160,000 special initiative grant to support Centers of Excellence in science, nursing and public safety.

Square D executives, Harper administrators, students, faculty members and Harper Foundation members joined Square D scholarship recipients David Gleissner and Jeff Hene at the event, which officially named the Solarium in the Avanté Center. The Square D Solarium was named in honor of Square D and in recognition of their ongoing support of Harper College through gifts to programs and scholarships that

serve students such as Gleissner and Hene. The crowd enjoyed delicious drinks and festive fare during the event.

"Square D continues to be a most generous neighbor. Annually, they provide philanthropic support for student scholarship, our women's program and to help advance technology on our campus – particularly in the classroom.

"This gift is a special initiative in which they will support Science, one of Harper's Centers of Excellence, by providing funding for science scholarship, program and faculty development. We are most grateful for this timely gift as the documented need for more and better training in the sciences continues to grow both nationally and within our own economic region," said Foundation Executive Director Catherine Brod.

The Harper College Educational Foundation family thanks Square D for their inspiring support and ongoing commitment to educational excellence and student success at Harper College. ■



## Executive Director's Report

If we succeed in giving the love of learning, the learning itself is sure to follow.

—Sir John Lubbock

As with other milestones and celebrations in life, Harper College's 40th anniversary as an educational leader in Illinois has inspired all of us to reflect on the impact the college has made on the lives of our students, educators and community members. Today, four decades after our doors first opened and our first students attended classes, we are a thriving world-class community college that serves approximately 40,000 students annually. The campus is filled with young adults, professionals, children, grandparents, international students and business professionals who attend classes, seminars, theatrical performances, training sessions and special events.

The Harper College Educational Foundation has helped position Harper College in the community. The Foundation has successfully assisted the College's growth by creating programs and funding opportunities that support the educational goals of the College, assist the school in providing broader educational opportunities for students, alumni, citizens and employees, and attract private funding for Harper.

This issue of Community Catalyst also reflects the diverse fabric woven into our institution's history. Over the years, the Foundation and College have created opportunities for educational advancement that have led to the development of courses, scholarships, programs and services. In addition to providing professional skills development and a solid education to students from an array of backgrounds, these advancements promote regional economic development, community building and organizing, advanced skill development for students and working professionals and advancement opportunities for students who must overcome barriers in obtaining their education (first generation students, women re-entering the workforce, etc.)

I encourage you to read our Recent Gift Announcements section for a sample of the numerous institutions such as Motorola, JP Morgan Chase, Square D, OMRON, and the McGraw Foundation that support programs serving a wide variety of students and programs.

Alumni and philanthropists such as the Pankros family illustrate the power of giving in this issue through their support of endowed scholarships and other funds that are designed to serve a myriad of students and needs on campus. Without the private support of individuals like these and without the support of foundations and corporations like Square D, Motorola and Omron, Harper would not be where it is today: celebrating 40 years of inspired educational excellence.

I am also pleased to announce that Foundation Board Directors Patrick Botterman and Rita Canning were recently elected to the Harper College Board of Trustees. Congratulations Patrick and Rita! And, on behalf of the board and staff of the Harper College Educational Foundation, we welcome new board directors Ken Nykiel and David Fairburn, both of whom are featured in this issue.

Finally, over the next year, there will be many opportunities for you to participate in Harper's anniversary celebration and I urge you to consider attending an event on campus to celebrate or reconnect.

Thank you for your support of Harper College. I look forward to seeing you on campus. ■

**Catherine M. Brod**  
**Vice President of Community Relations,**  
**Harper College**  
**Executive Director,**  
**Harper College Educational Foundation**

# Support for Vital Programs

## **Summer Fun: Private donor supports camp for at-risk, low-income Palatine youths**

A private gift to the Harper College Educational Foundation helped to underwrite a portion of the tuition for 100 children from the Northeast Palatine Summer Camp to attend Harper's In Zone Program last summer. The Northeast Palatine Summer Camp is a unique partnership of several public and private entities that work together in a spirit of cooperation to provide 100 at-risk, low-income youth with a three-week traditional camp experience.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, In Zone camp goers enjoyed sports, recreation, games and team activities for four days. Mary, one of the participants wrote, "Spending time at Harper In Zone Camp this summer was amazing and unforgettable. I want to thank every person who made this possible a million times. This has been the best time."

*"Being at Harper College was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever witnessed in my life. I really enjoyed doing all those fun activities with our teachers. I will never forget how much fun I had at camp. Thank you!"*



## **Jugemos a Tocar! Ethnically diverse music education arrives on campus**

The Community Music Center (formerly the Music Academy) of the Continuing Education Division of Harper College was awarded a Resource for Excellence grant to establish bilingual group instruction on guitar for children at Harper's Northeast Center in Prospect Heights.

The program includes 16 hours of instruction per semester and is designed for children ages 7-10, with an emphasis on low-income Hispanic children. Harper's Northeast Center is conveniently located for participants who will be taught by experienced bilingual instructors. A successful pilot program was tested at the Center in September 2005, which was one of the primary reasons Henrietta Neeley of the Community Music Center applied for a grant from the Educational Foundation to support the program long-term.

"The bilingual group guitar class is a response to the growing need in the community for ethnically diverse music education," Neeley wrote in her Resource for Excellence application. "Choosing the

guitar as the instrument for instruction speaks to the Hispanic heritage of this population. The children who will benefit from this program will have a unique opportunity to learn a musical instrument with a bilingual music instructor who understands their culture and speaks Spanish." The program is unique in the community and Neeley is confident that the classes will promote an appreciation of music and give class participants a foundation for further individual study of music.

Each student is required to pay \$29 for the program. The rest of the program fees are supported through the Resource for Excellence grant and in-kind support from the Continuing Education and Marketing Services departments at Harper. More than 30 guitars and foot rests have been purchased for the program, whose total annual budget is approximately \$7,000.

For more information on this program or to make a gift in support of the Community Music Center, please contact Heather Engel Zoldak at 847.925.6610.

*See Support for Vital Programs on Page 9*

# Scholarships And Awards



*Susan Waldman, Harper Foundation Board member and Motorola Vice President. Human Resources with Roxana Batea*

## **Motorola Award for Excellence**

Roxana Batea is the 2006-2007 Motorola Award for Excellence Scholarship Recipient. Roxana, along with her parents, moved to the United States four years ago from their home in Romania. Roxana attended the College of Lake County briefly, when she decided that she wanted to attend Harper College and major in dental hygiene. During her two years at Harper, Roxana has been involved in Phi Theta Kappa (Harper's international honors organization), the Honors Program and the eXcel leadership program. She works part-time as a pediatric dental assistant and maintains a 3.87 GPA. Since enrolling at Harper College, Roxana has also received the Dr. Ernest B. and Mrs. D. Kris Howard Endowment for Community Service and the Elizabeth Schmik Hull Scholarship.

Roxana was selected as the 2006-2007 Motorola Award for Excellence recipient because of her active involvement at Harper and in her community, her commitment to education and her ongoing determination. "I am so happy to receive the Motorola Award for Excellence. It is truly a reward for all of my hard work and it proves that I have successfully overcome obstacles like language, a new culture and adapting to a new way of life, to achieve excellence. I am very appreciative of this award," said Batea. Batea spoke to her fellow graduates at Harper College Graduation ceremony on May 18. ■

## **Shirley Gross Moore Endowment Fund for Minority Students**



*Shirley Gross Moore*

Educational Foundation Board Member and former Barrington business owner Shirley Gross Moore believes that a solid education is paramount in the lives of minority students.

That's why she established the Shirley Gross Moore Endowment Fund for Minority Students with her generous gift of \$10,000. "I was fortunate myself to acquire an education but I realize how wonderful it would have been to have relied upon additional resources to offset the expenses of my education. That's what I want this fund to do for minority students at Harper College. I want them to have opportunities to excel in school without the burden of financial constraints," said Moore.

Moore owned and operated the Barrington Dodge car dealership for many years before selling the business three years ago. She had served on the Educational Foundation board for a time in the mid 1990s. She remembers her impressions of Harper at that time. "I was absolutely impressed with the Harper staff members and administrators as well as the other board members. Everyone was dedicated to the students and the quality of their work was evident."

If you would like to contribute to this fund and help minority students at Harper College, or if you are considering a fund in honor of someone you love, please call the Educational Foundation office at 847.925.6610. ■



*Dr. Robert Breuder, Kate Kniest, and Susan Waldman*

## **Motorola Distinguished Faculty Award**

The 2006-2007 Motorola Distinguished Faculty Award recipient is Katherine Kniest, Professor of Nursing. Kate joined the Harper nursing program in 1991. While her passion and clinical expertise is pediatric nursing, Kate recognized early on that her professional role is that of educator and so she has actively participated in post-graduate course and continuing education offerings.

Kate was responsible for overseeing courses and thoughtfully considering alternatives and opportunities for changes. She and a department colleague successfully piloted the use of PDAs (Blackberry, Palm devices) as clinical resource learning tools this year and Kate is in the process of collaborating with Harper's ESL department to establish curriculum and strategies to promote the success of ESL students enrolled in health careers programs at Harper.

According to the Distinguished Faculty Award Committee that selected Kate, one of her greatest attributes is the role she plays as a student advocate and mentor. "Her humanistic approach and demonstrated caring makes her a respected and highly regarded faculty member by Harper's nursing students," the committee wrote in its announcement of their selection. ■

# Our Generous Donors

## **OMRON Foundation Supports Access and Disability Services Center with Major Gift**

The Educational Foundation is pleased to announce a \$25,000 major gift from the OMRON Foundation in support of assistive technology improvements to Harper's Access and Disability Services Center.

In the past 20 years, Harper College has ensured that students with physical disabilities can easily navigate throughout campuses and participate in all Harper programs. This was done through physical improvements to the campus that improved mobility and access for students who might rely on assistive devices such as wheel chairs for mobility. In the past several years, Harper leaders have identified a need to provide improved electronic access (often referred to as assistive technology) for students with physical disabilities that include deafness and blindness. Because of the increasing number of enrolled students who rely on this technology and the constant advances in assistive technology, Harper's Access and Disability Services Center has sought partners and funding that will help serve students with digital books, text to speech software, digital and Braille note taking devices, e-text versions of print materials, audio and digital versions of tests, and other assistive technology.

The OMRON Foundation answered Harper's invitation for help and provided a generous grant of \$25,000 that will purchase numerous devices such as two Braille note PK devices, a portable print magnification device, a dozen Aloha Smart Notetaker devices, Perkins Braille manual typewriters, laptop computers, CD Readers, and much more.

"The Omron grant is going to enable the Access and Disability Services department to put valuable equipment in the hands of students which will equip them to participate more fully in their education. They will have access to assistive technology software and hardware that they could not afford to purchase on their own," says Tom Thompson, Director of Access and Disability Services at Harper College.

Other major supporters of Access and Disability Services include Allstate. They partnered with the College in 1989 to help build Harper's Assistive Technology Lab and purchase and upgrade hardware and software. Allstate has donated over \$150,000 since that time.

David and Diane Hill, who respectively serve on the Board of Trustees of Harper College and on the Foundation Board provided \$200,000 to create the Kimball Hill Family Institute for Deafness in support of Harper's deaf and hard of hearing students. The Hill family's support has enabled the College to renovate a former classroom to become a Shared Multimedia Access to Resources for Teaching (SMART) classroom, which provides state-of-the-art technology to students with disabilities. Additionally, David and Diane Hill's gifts have allowed Harper to purchase commercial-quality captioning equipment, training for proper equipment use and other assistive technology upgrades.

Thanks to the passion and support of funders including Allstate, David and Diane Hill and most recently, the OMRON Foundation, the Access and Disability Services Center will continue to lead Illinois in assistive technology and programs for the visually impaired and physically disabled. In five years, the need for this technology, these services, and this support has increased tremendously. And, according to Tom Thompson, continued growth is expected over the next five years.

"On behalf of the Harper College Educational Foundation and all of its students who rely upon the Access and Disability Services Center for programming and assistive technology that enables them to fully participate and enjoy their Harper educational experience, we thank the OMRON Foundation for their \$25,000 gift. We look forward to a continued relationship with OMRON employees in bringing the benefits of advanced technology to students who need it the most, but are often exposed to it least," said Foundation Executive Director Catherine Brod.

For more information about this program or to make a gift in support of the Access and Disability Services Center or assistive technology at Harper College, please call the Foundation office at 847.925.6185. ■

*See **Our Generous Donors** on Page 6*

## Our Generous Donors

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### Betty and Matt Cockrell Endowed Scholarship Celebration

For more than ten years, a local family has helped support nearly 200 Harper students with \$135,000 in scholarship awards in addition to a scholarship endowment. Betty and Matt Cockrell created the Betty and Matt Cockrell Endowed Scholarship Fund with a \$250,000 gift to the Educational Foundation in 1996. In fact, the Cockrell Dining Room in Harper's Student Center was named after Betty and Matt after they created their endowed scholarship fund. Carol Pankros, daughter of Betty and Matt, has actively supported Harper through volunteerism and generous gifts to the Foundation, which included a donation of \$25,000 made on behalf of Carol and her husband Paul in December 2006.

In celebration of their legacy of giving at Harper College, the Educational Foundation honored Betty and Matt, Carol and Paul and their daughter Carin Pankros Roman at the December board meeting of the Foundation. The Pankros family officially presented their \$25,000 gift to the Foundation at the event.

At the event, Dr. Robert Breuder thanked the families for their outstanding intergenerational support of Harper and their ongoing example of how scholarships can change and enhance the quality of life for others.



*Jeff Butterfield, Harper Foundation Board President and Dr. Robert Breuder with members of the Cockrell Family: Matt and Betty Cockrell, Carol and Paul Pankros, Carin Pankros Roman and Liz Wilmes.*

In turn, the Cockrell and Pankros families effused their passion for Harper College and the importance of providing funding that enables individuals to advance their education, enhance skills, secure additional professional training or retool for a new career.

"Thank you to Harper for all of the community services you provide to so many. Through Harper and the scholarship founded by Matt and Betty Cockrell, we have seen the benefits in the lives of the many recipients. Paul and I were really pleased to add to the endowment started by my parents knowing that the funds serve those students looking to enhance their life and work skills," said Carol Pankros.

According to Educational Foundation Executive Director Catherine Brod, the Cockrell and Pankros families are an integral part of Harper College's educational history and the Foundation's history of philanthropy. "It is always a pleasure to host Matt and Betty Cockrell at Harper, particularly as we celebrated their daughter and son-in-law's (Carol and Paul Pankros) generous gift to the endowed scholarship program that Matt and Betty created more than ten years ago. Since that time, nearly 100 working students have benefited from the program. With the additional gift to the principle of the scholarship fund, an additional 3-5 working students per year will benefit," she said.

The Educational Foundation is proud to work with Betty and Matt Cockrell, Carol and Paul Pankros and Carin Pankros Roman to enhance the lives of Harper students and employees.

For more information on the Betty and Matt Cockrell Endowed Scholarship at Harper College, please call the Educational Foundation at 847.925.6610. ■

# Ready! Set! Grow!

The Harper College Educational Foundation is pleased to announce that JP Morgan Chase has awarded a planning grant to the Foundation in support of the college's plan to develop and premiere its own Small Business Development Center in 2007-2008.

For the last eight years, the Small Business Development Center has provided counseling to existing and prospective small business owners in the community through an off-site satellite office affiliated with Elgin Community College. Through their work with local businesses, the Center contributes to the growth and prosperity of existing businesses and enhances the success rate of new businesses.

A hallmark service of the Small Business Development Center is its excellent one-on-one counseling, which served more than 400 individuals last year. In 2005, \$461,800 was contributed to the local economy and many jobs were created and retained as a result of new and expanding businesses in the college district.

To map the road to success for small business professionals, Harper also provides continuing education courses in small business development. These courses are offered to new or established business owners, employees, career changes or people interested in exploring entrepreneurial options such as getting started, expansion, marketing and cash flow.

The Educational Foundation applied for a grant from JP Morgan Chase to secure funding that would develop a strategic implementation plan for a Small Business Development Center that will operate in the College's district and provide enhanced services including financing, market development, regulatory compliance and training. Additionally, an independent Center located on campus would increase the number of businesses served through outreach and counseling by approximately 50% according to Maria Coons, Managing Director of the Harper College for Businesses Department at Harper College.

JP Morgan Chase's funding will support a strategic implementation plan. Under the direction of the Managing Director of Harper College for Business, business cases for support and a comprehensive implementation plan will be developed through the collaborative work of Harper staff, consultants and other business leaders. The grant was awarded in July 2006. Implementation is expected to be completed in July 2007 with operations beginning immediately thereafter.

The Harper College Educational Foundation family thanks JP Morgan Chase for its ongoing support of Harper College and their recent support of a Small Business Development Center on campus.

For more information on Harper's Small Business Development Center plan, please call Maria Coons at 847.925.6143. ■

# Welcome New Board Members

## Kenneth J. Nykiel



Ken Nykiel is a partner in the firm of Clifton Gunderson LLP. Ken specializes in consulting services to small and medium sized businesses. Prior to joining Clifton Gunderson through a merger on November 1, 2006, Ken was the co-founding partner of

Nykiel, Carlin & Co., Ltd., a Certified Public Accounting and Business Consulting firm with four offices and more than 100 personnel in the Chicagoland area. The firm was well known for the quality and integrity of its numbers, and the depth of its insights for the benefit of clients. In December of 2005 Nykiel Carlin celebrated its 30 year anniversary.

Born and raised in the Chicago area, Ken, after serving two years of active military service, started his professional career, spending four years in the small business division of a big six accounting firm.

Ken received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Loyola University, Chicago, and his M.B.A. from Northwestern. The first president of the O'Hare Chapter of Certified Public Accountants and past member and chairman of the Ethics committee of the Illinois C.P.A. Society, he also holds memberships in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois C.P.A. Society.

Ken is an active Rotary member, previously having held offices of assistant governor, district treasurer and district secretary.

Ken resides in Inverness with his wife Anne. Ken and Anne have three daughters and one granddaughter.

## David M. Fairburn



David Fairburn is the District Manager for Krueger International located in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. KI is an industry leading manufacturer of commercial furniture that specializes in various vertical markets. KI is a

privately held company with sales approaching one billion dollars. Dave has served in this capacity for the past 26 years.

Dave is currently a Mt. Prospect Park District elected commissioner. He has served the MPD for the past 6 years holding various board positions. Dave is also very active with the Mt. Prospect Lions Club along with School Districts 57 and 214 where he serves on various committees.

Dave received a B.A. in Business with honors from Eastern Illinois University in 1978. He resides in Mount Prospect with his wife, Jeanine and three children. His children currently attend college at Illinois State University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

## Support for Vital Programs

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### **Educational Jump Start!**

#### **Center for Multicultural Learning offers a summer bridge program for at-risk students**

Funded by a grant from the Harper College Educational Foundation, Harper's Summer Bridge program helps at-risk students successfully transition from high school to college through workshops and skill building training sessions that familiarize students with resources which will help them move forward academically.

Students participate in the two-week Summer Bridge program just one month before classes start at Harper. Classes are free. Geared primarily for first-generation college students, Summer Bridge 2006 served 80 students. While the intense workshops conclude just three weeks before classes begin, students who complete the program work on assignments throughout their first semester on campus. According to Travaris Harris, a counselor in Harper's Center for Multicultural Learning, a student whose parents didn't go to college or didn't attend college in the United States is most likely unfamiliar with how to navigate the college system. Summer Bridge increases their chances of success.

"At first students seem resistant to attending summer school, but once they start the program and get to know some of their peers they really develop a sense of comfort and readiness for the upcoming fall semester. By the end of the program, most students are thankful, appreciative and eager to begin classes," said Travaris.

"We teach them the transfer process, ways to finance college and what it takes to be successful once they transfer to a four-year school," he said.

Travaris is thrilled that the Summer Bridge program was selected as a Resource for Excellence grant recipient. "The funding provided to us through the Resource for Excellence grant is of paramount importance to the implementation of Summer Bridge. Without this funding, the program would not exist and 34 at-risk students could not boast a fall semester cumulative grade point last year of more than 3.0. We are confident that the program positively impacts these students and improves their ability to successfully adapt to college."

Harris and his colleagues plan to recruit more students to the program this year and ensure that the majority of them move forward academically. "I want to thank the Harper College Educational Foundation and its supporters on behalf of all of the students who participate in the Summer Bridge program for making their academic success possible," he said.

To make a gift in support of Summer Bridge, please call Stasia Zwislser at 847.925.6185. ■

# International Students Supported by McGraw Foundation

Over the years, students representing more than 70 countries have selected Harper College for their educational advancement. Many international students are attracted to the institution because of its renowned Intensive English Program. In partnership with the McGraw Foundation, five international students will receive a one-year \$2,000 tuition assistance scholarship through the International Student Office at Harper to continue their English as a Second Language (ESL) studies.

The International Student Office (ISO) serves Harper's international students with all aspects of their educational and non-immigrant needs; therefore ISO advisors are frequently the first to be aware when students and their families encounter economic hardship. Since the burden of an economic setback can negatively impact the educational and cultural experience of the student, this McGraw scholarship program will financially support individual students in conjunction with solid academic planning so students can realize their goals of graduating from Harper and continuing their education at four-year institution.

By providing financial support to these students, the McGraw Foundation assists the college's diversity goals as outlined in Harper's Diversity Plan and increases international student success and retention.

"We are very appreciative of this generous gift from the McGraw Foundation. The Scholarship has tremendously helped our international students in the Intensive English Program attain their educational goals," said Lin Cui of Harper College.

The McGraw Foundation has invested nearly \$100,000 in several major projects for Harper College over the last ten years.

For more information about this program or to make a gift in support of international students at Harper College, please call Stasia Zwislser at 847.925.6185. ■

# Motorola Award for Excellence

## Margaret Buchen, Curator, Joins Harper College



Margaret Buchen joined the Harper College Educational Foundation staff last fall as the Foundation's Art Curator. Margaret's experience writing

about art, developing, curating and promoting art exhibitions, teaching and presenting art to a variety of audiences and writing for publications like Chicago Artists News prepared her well for her position as art curator at Harper. Buchen, a Chicago resident, served as a museum technician for the Illinois Artisans Program at Illinois State Museum prior to joining Harper's staff.

Margaret's recent projects as Art Curator have included managing the 2007 Small Art Works Event and re-siting many of the Foundation's Art Collection throughout campus. ■

Harper's top scholarship program just received additional funding from sponsor Motorola Foundation that will provide two Motorola Award for Excellence Scholarships annually for the next five years, awarding ten scholarships in total to both traditional aged students (18-23) and non-traditionally aged students (24+).

The Motorola Award for Excellence is the highest award a Harper student may earn. It is distinguished for the significant dollars awarded and for the honor vested on the student," said Catherine Brod, executive director of the Harper Educational Foundation. Over the years, the award has provided a monetary gift of \$2,500 for a Harper student to use to offset their educational expenses. Beginning in 2007, the annual award amount will increase to \$3,000 per student, which will support approximately 30 credit hours, as well as books, supplies and fees for one year at Harper.

"Clearly, in times like this when federal and state student assistance appropriations have not kept pace with the cost of higher education, Harper College supporters including the Motorola Foundation have allowed us to attract the best and brightest students. Motorola Award for Excellence Scholars are active contributors to our community, both in the classroom and around the campus. On behalf of the entire campus community, I thank our friends at Motorola," said Ed Dowling, Director of Financial Aid at Harper College.

The Award for Excellence was established in 1980 and Motorola began sponsoring the award three years later. As the most outstanding achievement for a Harper student, applicants participate in a competitive process that emphasizes academic standing, community service and leadership. Applicants must have at least a 3.75 GPA, submit three letters of recommendation and a written statement of their educational goals.

For more information about this prestigious award, please contact Heather Engel Zoldak at 847.925.6610. ■

# Alumni Focus: Al Larson



Al Larson, Mayor of Schaumburg, credits Harper College with providing him with the tools needed to begin his 35-year career in public service.

Mayor Larson was a science major in college, but a public speaking course at Harper College helped prepare Larson with the tools needed to begin his career as a public relations director with the Village of Schaumburg, which led to a nearly 35-year career of excellence in public service.

Mayor Larson's leadership and inspirational impact in his local community has positioned the Village of Schaumburg as an innovative leader among communities in the state of Illinois as well as across the nation.

Much of Schaumburg's success and growth over the past 19 years can be attributed to the dynamic, visionary, and inspirational leadership of Harper College graduate Mayor Al Larson.

Today, with a daytime population of 150,000, thousands of businesses, and a highly educated workforce, Schaumburg is the largest centers of economic activity in the state of Illinois, outside the city of Chicago. But, under Mayor Larson's leadership, Schaumburg is also a vibrant, eco-friendly community, known statewide and on a national level for its high standard of living, growing artistic community and small town sensibility. ■

## Mark Your Calendars

### 40th Anniversary Celebration Gala

Please save the date to celebrate Harper's 40th anniversary at a festive black-tie affair on Saturday, September 29, 2007. The event will be held at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center.

The Gala will honor Harper's 40 years as an educational and community resource, while raising money to help future Harper students go forward with their dreams. "This is a special year for Harper in that we are celebrating our 40th anniversary. We have several major donors who are enthusiastically supporting our Gala and we look forward to your support as well. The proceeds from the event will provide more funding for scholarships; thus furthering our mission to provide an affordable and excellent education to all students." says Rita Canning, who is chairing the event along with Diane Hill. Tickets to the event are \$500 and sponsorships are available.

Please call Heather Engel Zoldak at 847.925.6610 for more information. ■

### Share Your Harper Story

How has Harper College had a positive impact on your life? When you discuss Harper with a friend or associate, what are some of the first things that come to mind? What stories about or experiences with the College would you like to share with others?

Harper College is collecting stories from its alumni, donors, students, faculty, staff and community members at large to share during its 40th anniversary year. We invite you to share your stories.

To submit your story, visit [harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu) and search "success story" or contact Mike Barzacchini, Director of Marketing Services at [mbarzacc@harpercollege.edu](mailto:mbarzacc@harpercollege.edu).

Thank you in advance for sharing your good news about Harper College.

# William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation 2007-2008 Members

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## Harper College

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