

THE PHILANTHROPIC  
MAGAZINE OF  
HARPER COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

# CATALYST

THE POWER OF GIVING: HELPING PEOPLE GO FORWARD

SUMMER 2015

“ ALL OUR  
DREAMS CAN  
COME TRUE,  
IF WE HAVE  
THE COURAGE TO  
PURSUE THEM. ”

— WALT DISNEY

THE PROMISE OF A  
BRIGHTER FUTURE:

The Promise  
Campaign  
Kick-off

WE THANK OUR  
DONORS FOR HELPING  
HARPER STUDENTS  
**GO FORWARD.**

DONOR RECOGNITION  
CELEBRATION

GRADUATION

DONORS HONORED

NURSING ALUMNI  
SYMPOSIUM

Harper College  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION



## FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT KATHLEEN A. GILMER

As my first year as Foundation Board President draws to a close, I am excited about our accomplishments and the plans we put in place that will move us forward over the course of this next year.

Our major initiative was laying the groundwork for a multi-year comprehensive fund raising campaign to support student scholarships and programs. This initiative includes the Campaign for Promise, focusing on growing our endowed funds and ensuring long-lasting opportunities for students to attend college through our scholarship programs.

Another highlight of Foundation Board membership is attending the Donor Recognition Breakfast, Convocation and Graduation each year. During these events, students share their stories and their dreams for the future as they begin their journey on from Harper College. I am able to hear first-hand about the achievements of these Foundation Scholarship recipients. None of these achievements would be possible, if not for the commitment and contributions from our thousands of donors and friends who recognize the value of education as a path to a better future. A recent quote from a scholarship recipient speaks to the impact donors have on Harper College students.

*"Their generosity has not only helped and inspired me, but many other scholarship recipients as well. Because of the donors, I truly feel the desire to do the best that I possibly could academically simply because of their confidence in me. They've inspired me to not only set strong goals, but to actually work toward them and eventually achieve them."*

— Caroline W.

As Board President, I am very fortunate to have colleagues, donors, friends and community partners who are committed to advancing the mission and work of the Educational Foundation. Thank you for supporting the Educational Foundation and helping to build a vibrant community.



Xavier Aguirre

## XAVIER AGUIRRE HARPER COLLEGE GRADUATE Class of 2015 and Harper College Educational Foundation Scholarship Recipient

### What degree or certificate did you receive?

I will be receiving my Associate in Arts degree. I have also received my Computer Support Technician Certificate as well as my A+ computer repair certificate.

### What are your plans for the future?

I wish to transfer to Fresno State University in California, NIU, SIU or Roosevelt University. My major is information technology and a minor in environmental studies. I will eventually receive my Masters degree so I can become a professor and teach information technology, as well as continue my habitat restoration in the park districts. I will also continue my passion in theatre throughout my career.

### What does receiving a scholarship mean to you?

Receiving my award means that I can afford college without resorting to loans. Choosing my transfer school truly depends on affordability. After receiving my scholarship I now know that I have a chance to win and it's not like winning the lottery.

### Favorite memory at Harper College?

Favorite memory must be of stage managing Sweeney Todd. The cast was fantastic and the music was beautiful. While it was stressful and nerve racking, I persevered and have only fond memories.

## SCHOLARSHIPS ALLOCATION FOR FY 2015

98%

of scholarships were awarded

462

Total number of students awarded scholarships

\$469,487

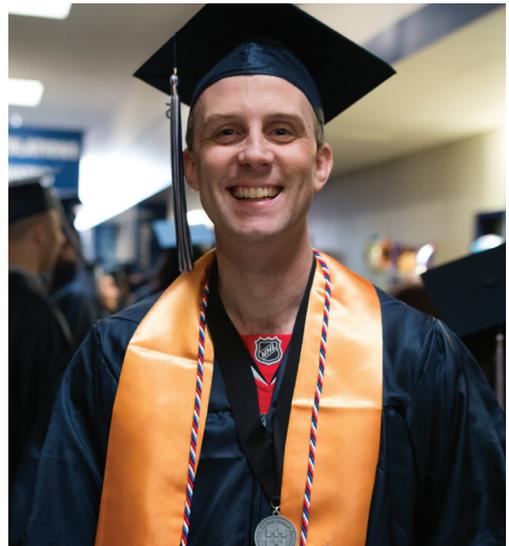
Annual total of scholarship awards

5%

of total full-time equivalent received a foundation scholarship

# GRADUATION

# 2015





## FROM THE DESK OF LAURA J. BROWN

Collaborative, diverse and inclusive describes the learning environment we strive to create at Harper College. It also describes the evolving workplace Harper College graduates are entering when they leave college.

Graduating from college is a major life accomplishment - our new class of Harper College Alumni should be proud. As this new class of alumni enters the workplace, many will reflect on the support and guidance they received during their time at Harper and how the scholarship opportunities were instrumental in their journey. These opportunities would not be possible without donors like you!

In 2015, Educational Foundation scholarship donors provided financial assistance to more than 460 students which afforded these individuals to overcome many financial hurdles to attend college.

Our donors know the value of a quality education and give back so others are afforded the opportunity to earn a degree.

On May 16, as I watched the graduates cross the stage with smiles of accomplishments, I also smiled in appreciation and gratitude for our donors. These individuals have created more than 150 scholarships that have helped 462 students who have, or are currently earning a degree.

Thank you for investing in our students and our community.

Thank you for making an impact in the lives of students.

Warm regards,

Laura J. Brown

Chief Advancement Officer

Harper College Educational Foundation



Elizabeth Franke and Family

## ELIZABETH FRANKE HARPER COLLEGE GRADUATE Class of 2015 and Harper College Educational Foundation Scholarship Recipient

### What degree or certificate did you receive?

Associates in Applied Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

### What are your plans for the future?

My future plans are to take my boards this summer and be a certified sonographer in both abdominal and OB, earning the credentials of RDMS (Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer). Once I finish my last 400 clinical hours this August and pass my boards I hope to secure a full-time position at an area hospital. Through Harper College I have made some great relationships at my clinical site so I certainly hope to work there.

### What does receiving a scholarship mean to you?

#### How did it help you achieve your goals?

I was deeply honored to be chosen to receive a scholarship through the Harper College Educational Foundation. The Sonography program is a highly competitive limited enrollment program and due to the sophisticated technical training and equipment needed, it costs double the standard tuition rates for all DMS coursework. Also, it is a set schedule program, once you start you have to continue for six consecutive semesters to finish. I did not have the option to work full-time and complete my coursework at my own pace, so the financial help I received from scholarships was a key factor to my success. I am able to leave Harper College with top-notch training in a field of high-demand with very limited debt. My family and I are set up for a great future and I have Harper College and the donors of my scholarships to thank for that.

### Favorite memory at Harper College?

My favorite memory at Harper College would be when I volunteered to speak to a group of area middle school kids who came to visit Harper for the day. We showed them our lab and how the machines allowed us to look inside the human body. When they saw the images we could create their faces lit up with excitement. I could tell this was something they were going to remember for a long time and possibly even shape their future career choices. As they were leaving and saying good-bye one student shouted, "See you in college!" A huge smile comes to my face every time I think of that moment.



**HARPER COLLEGE ALUMNI  
LET'S TALK!**

If you attended Harper College, we would love to reconnect with you! Join the Harper College Alumni Community by signing up today at [harpercollege.edu/alumni](http://harpercollege.edu/alumni).

We also invite you to build or expand your professional network and connect with other Harper College alumni. Join the Harper College Alumni LinkedIn group.

With a brand new alumni program underway, we are continually looking for ways to engage, educate and reconnect alumni to Harper College, and we look forward to your input, ideas and involvement. As part of the alumni program, we are creating:

- Increased opportunities for alumni to network with one another
- Special events and programs that are of interest to alumni
- Volunteer opportunities for alumni to get involved with the College and support current students
- New communication vehicles to keep alumni updated on College developments and activities

**START CONNECTING TODAY**



Kelley Clancy, Senior VP of Advocacy, Alexian Brothers Health System and Jim Meier, Harper College Educational Foundation Board Member and Chair, Harper College Alumni Committee

**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED**

The Harper College Educational Foundation honored AMITA Health and Alexian Brothers employees who are Harper College alumni at a special ceremony at AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Women and Children's Hospital in Hoffman Estates on May 7, 2015 and at the Alexian Brothers Medical Center on May 15, 2015.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2015 DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI RECEPTION AND  
AWARDS CEREMONY**

– OCTOBER 28, 2015

**HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067  
847.925.6490  
[foundation@harpercollege.edu](mailto:foundation@harpercollege.edu)  
[harpercollege.edu/foundation](http://harpercollege.edu/foundation)

HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# DONOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION



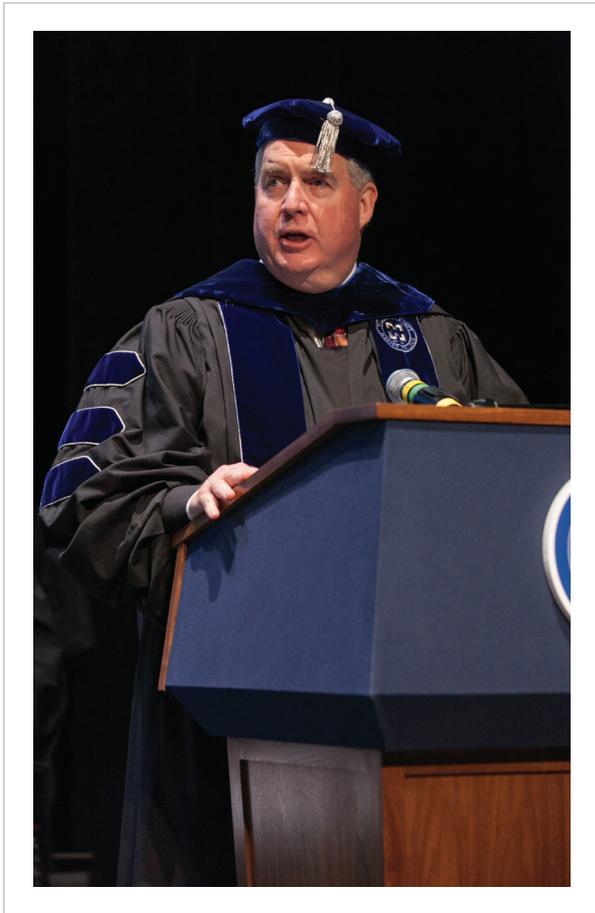
## DONOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

This year, 462 Harper students received a Harper College Educational Foundation scholarship. These scholarships are only possible because of the generosity of our donors.

On Saturday, April 25, 2015 the Harper College Educational Foundation hosted a Donor Recognition Breakfast to thank scholarship donors as well as recognize members of the Dean's Circle Society (donors who give \$1,000 or more to the Harper College Educational Foundation annually).

Joe Haynes, a Foundation scholarship recipient, current Harper Student Government President and incoming Student Trustee spoke to donors about the impact receiving a scholarship has made in his life. Guests also heard from Michelé Robinson, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion at Harper College and the founding donor of the BJ Lawrence Future Educators Scholarship, who shared why she created this scholarship in honor of her mother.

Current scholarship recipients attended the event as well, allowing scholarship donors and recipients the opportunity to meet and share with each other.



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

# BILL KELLEY

William "Bill" Kelley was recognized as the 2015 recipient of the McGrath Award at Harper College's Convocation Ceremony on May 6. The McGrath Award was started by former Harper College President, James McGrath as a tribute to those special people who have unselfishly given time, effort and funds to uphold the excellence of the institution. The McGrath Award has been awarded to 30 recipients since its inception in 1986. With Bill Kelley's wide range of community involvement and his outstanding time and commitment to Harper College, there is not a more deserving individual to receive the 2015 McGrath Award.

Bill attended Harper College in 1973 upon graduation from St. Viator High School and went on to graduate (cum laude) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago in 1977. He completed his Juris Doctor (cum laude) from Loyola University School of Law in 1980.

Bill has a strong commitment to community service and involvement. His contribution includes board membership with the Schaumburg Park District Foundation Board, St. Hubert Finance Board, Advisory Board to the Northwest Suburban Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Board of Governors to the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, President of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Public Policy Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees and Secretary of the Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Rotary Club.

Bill is the Managing Partner of Kelley, Kelley & Kelley, a Schaumburg-area law firm. Bill and his wife, Jeanne, live in Schaumburg. They have three children - Monica, Billy and Michelle.

Additionally, Bill has served on the Harper College Board of Trustees for the past twelve years. In April 2015 he was reelected to another six year term. In 2010 Bill was recognized and received the Harper College Distinguished Alumni Award. Bill and Jeanne are members of the Harper Heritage Society and have included the Harper College Educational Foundation in their estate plans.

*"If you seek ways to serve and contribute, you will eventually find something that truly touches your heart, and the ways you will receive will be tenfold, not in dollars and cents, but in personal satisfaction and contentment. Just as we each have a basic spiritual need to grow, to learn and to strive, so too do we have a deep need to help, to give and to make a contribution to this world."*

— Kelley's advice to the graduates



*“The Harper Promise Scholarship is a huge relief. It means so much to us. They’re going to take away a big financial burden.”*

—Tanya Williams



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# The PROMISE of a BRIGHTER FUTURE

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## PROMISE KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

An ambitious new initiative will provide public high school students in the Northwest suburbs with two years of free tuition at Harper College – if they're willing to earn it. Harper College developed the Promise Scholarship in partnership with area public high schools and Northwest suburban business leaders with the goal of removing financial barriers for hardworking students while fostering the responsibility and life skills that will help them succeed in school, on the job and beyond.

The Harper College Promise Scholarship program was formally announced at a kickoff event Monday, March 30, at the Wojcik Conference Center on the main campus in Palatine. In attendance was Motorola Solutions Chairman and CEO Greg Brown and his wife, Anna, who are chairing the Promise Scholarship campaign to raise \$10 million to fund the program today and into the future. At the event Greg and Anna Brown pledged a gift of \$250,000 to support the Promise Scholarship and Harper College President Dr. Ken Ender and his wife, Dr. Cathy Ender, pledged a personal gift of \$100,000 for the program.

Tanya Williams, a single mom whose son Tyler enters Palatine High School next year, said the Harper Promise Scholarship is a huge relief, because she wouldn't be able to afford tuition on what she makes as a bus driver and massage therapist.

"It means so much to us," she said. "They're going to take away a big financial burden. It's really a blessing to get an opportunity like that."

To support the Harper College Promise Scholarship program, please visit [harpercollege.edu/foundation](http://harpercollege.edu/foundation)



HARPER COLLEGE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# NURSING ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM



On April 22, 2015 more than 250 people attended the fifth annual Harper College Nursing Alumni Symposium. This innovative forum brings together nursing alumni, current nursing students and faculty, and other community partners for a full day of learning, nationally recognized speakers, and networking opportunities to advance excellence and leadership in the nursing field. This annual event is unique in that there is not a similar program that provides opportunities for nursing alumni to engage with the program and with current students after graduation.

During the event, attendees had the opportunity to support current and future nursing students by donating to the Harper College Nursing Alumni Fund for Student Success. This scholarship, established in 2012 has raised more than \$16,000 and has now raised enough money to be fully endowed, allowing it to support students in perpetuity.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

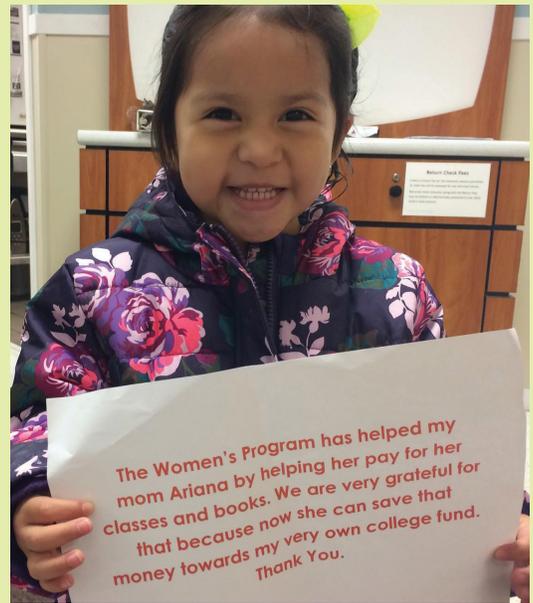
PREMIER SPONSOR



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Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital  
Northwest Community Healthcare





## A **THANK YOU** FROM A LIFE YOU'VE TOUCHED...

Carolina thanks you for supporting her mom....

Carolina's mom, Ariana, has been pursuing her dream of obtaining an Associate's degree in Education with the hope of someday teaching English.

Despite the struggles of raising a three year old by herself, Ariana has maintained a 3.7 GPA while also working. She knows that receiving her degree is the key to a better future for both her and her daughter.

Ariana is one of more than 400 students who received a Harper College Educational Foundation scholarship this year. A first generation college student, Ariana's scholarship has allowed her to focus on academics without the worry of paying for school.

A Harper College education represents the promise of a better life. For many of our students, that promise is fulfilled because of financial support provided to the Educational Foundation by donors like you. Your donation to Harper College Educational Foundation supports students like Ariana to open doors for a better future and in some cases, change lives.

# DONORS HONORED WITH ROOM NAMINGS

## TURPIN FASHION DESIGN EQUIPMENT ROOM IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY L. TURPIN

On May 12, 2015, the Education Foundation honored The Turpin family with the naming of the Turpin Fashion Design Equipment Room in honor of Shirley L. Turpin in the Career and Technical Education Center (Building H).

Shirley Turpin also received a special tribute award of Harper College Alumni Achievement Award for Lifelong Learning.

The Turpin family has been involved and attended Harper College spanning over an almost 50 year period. Shirley Turpin started at Harper College in 1968 where she received a degree in fashion design. She continued to take classes in theatre, art and speech for the next 20 years.

Following in Shirley's footsteps, all three of Shirley and Howard Turpin's children (Robin, Carron and Laurie), attended and

graduated from Harper College. In addition, Howard was an adjunct marketing professor at the College. Through the passion for education and their ongoing generosity in supporting student access, the Turpin Family established the Shirley L. and Howard A. Turpin Scholarship for Dreamers. This scholarship allows students who have dreams for the future, regardless of age, receive support to achieve their goals.



Shirley Turpin and her daughters; Laurie, Carron and Robin



Linda J. Lang

## LANG SPEECH CLASSROOM DEDICATION

On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, Harper College officially dedicated classroom L204 the Lang Speech Classroom in honor of Linda J. Lang.

Linda J. Lang began her decades-long relationship in 1983 when she began taking classes at Harper College to brush up on her business skills in order to reenter the job market after raising three children and going through a divorce. During the next 32 years, Linda's relationship with Harper College continued – she returned to Harper in 1995 to teach Speech 101 as an adjunct faculty member, while also serving as Assistant Speech Team Coach. Most recently, Linda has become an active volunteer with the Harper College Educational Foundation, serving on the Annual Giving and Alumni Committees. Linda received the Harper College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.

In 2004, Linda established the Linda J. Lang Endowed Speech Scholarship to support Speech Team students. In recognition of Linda's generosity to her scholarship, L204 (the classroom where Linda taught her Speech 101 classes) was officially dedicated in honor of Linda. On behalf of the students that Linda has helped over the years, we thank her for her generosity, kindness and leadership.



**JEANNE PANKANIN AND HAZEL RILKI** – Retirees Jeanne Pankanin and Hazel Rilki at the Harper Heritage Society luncheon. Jeanne and Hazel have made accommodations for Harper College in their estate plans.



**MARY JO WILLIS AND LINDA LANG** – Mary Jo Willis and Linda Lang have both established endowed scholarships to support students in theatre and those who are a part of Harper College’s speech team.



**JANET ZILKOWSKI, MARY ANN JIRAK, BOB ZILKOWSKI AND DON JIRAK** – Mary Ann and Bob are Harper retirees who, along with their spouses, established endowed scholarships. Mary Ann and Don support students enrolled in the women’s program while Bob and Janet support women enrolled in management and business courses. Both families have included Harper College in their estate plans and are members of the Harper Heritage Society.



**STEVE CATLIN** – Steve Catlin (center) at a Foundation Board meeting announces his gift to help support faculty development.

## HARPER COLLEGE RETIREES LEGACY

The Harper College Educational Foundation appreciates and respects the history and knowledge of our Harper College retirees. The Foundation works closely with Harper faculty and staff to award scholarships, distribute grants and even engage as donors.

Given the relationship we have with our colleagues, it only makes sense that this relationship continues when faculty and staff retire. Retirees volunteer on Foundation committees, assist with the alumni program and help plan events. Many have chosen to continue their philanthropic relationship with the College to support students even in their retirement. Through the creation of scholarships, planned gifts or yearly gifts, we are grateful for our retiree volunteers and donors and thank them for their continuing support.

*“Through (my) scholarship, I continue to pass on my love for theatre and to encourage students who share that passion. It is my gift to them. It is their gift to me.”*

— Mary Jo Willis, Retired Harper College Faculty

## CREATING A LEGACY...

Are you interested in creating your legacy at Harper College? Making a gift through your IRA, will or trust allows you to help future generations of Harper College students pursue and achieve their dreams. After making provisions for family and friends, you can make a gift to Harper College.

Three ways to do this includes leaving a specified sum of money, a percentage of your estate or a particular piece of property or other assets. For more information on how you can create your legacy at Harper College, please call Heather Zoldak, CFRE at 847.925.6319 or [hzoldak@harpercollege.edu](mailto:hzoldak@harpercollege.edu).

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THE HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
WELCOMES OUR NEWEST FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

# WELCOME

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**Donald D. Torisky**  
Century Solutions, L.L.C.

\*Deceased



FORMER FOUNDATION  
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

## EARNs EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER STATUS

Jack Lloyd has been a member of the Harper College Educational Foundation Board since 2006. During his tenure, Jack served as the Vice President, Board Members for six years and chaired the Committee on Directors, Major Gifts Committee and Golf Open. Jack and his wife, Linda, established the Jack and Linda Lloyd Family Scholarship Endowment for Criminal Justice. Jack was honored with Emeritus Board member status at the Foundation's Annual board meeting in June.



### KELLEY CLANCY

- Joined the Foundation board because she has a long standing relationship with Harper both as an alum and as a representative of Alexian Brothers Health System which has partnered with Harper on many initiatives over many years.
- Views Harper as a premier community asset that shares our vision of a vibrant community which provides residents with the opportunities to achieve their goals
- Senior Vice President, Advocacy, Alexian Brothers Health System



### BARBARA MICHELIN

- Received her American RN from Harper College
- Worked for more than 30 years in all areas of reproductive health rights and issues of social justice for women. Channeled her professional energy towards developing Crossroads Health Care Center, Inc. founded in response to the needs of sexually active teenagers
- Semi-Retired RN



### JOE DELANEY

- Lifelong resident of the northwest suburbs, received an A.A. from Harper College in 1981, his A.B. from Georgetown University in 1983, and his J.D. from DePaul University in 1986.
- Attorney at Law, DKMO, LLC



### MONICA MUELLER

- Serves on the Executive Committee of the Civic Federation of Chicago and is a board member of the Public Affairs Council and their PAC conference advisory committee. In addition, she is a member of the Illinois Chamber's government affairs committee and serves on the board of their Political Action Committee.
- Director Government Affairs & the Motorola Solutions, Political Action Committee, Motorola Solutions



### BILL PROVAN

- Interested in serving on the Foundation Board after learning about one of the many programs available at Harper such as the Engineer Pathways program that allows students to begin their engineering education at Harper and then transfer their junior year to the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana's Engineering program.
- Active in many area youth, recreational and school coaching programs, including coaching basketball, baseball and soccer in Rolling Meadows, at the Rolling Meadows Park District. Serves as a board member for the Buehler YMCA.
- Group Senior Vice President, American Chartered Bank

THANK YOU RETIRING MEMBERS:  
**TOM PYRA, NANCY ROBB AND JIM SCHWANTZ**

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# THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW

## **NEW SCHOLARSHIPS DEVELOPED**

The Harper College Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the following scholarships:

### **DONNA PENKAVA GRZEGOREK DENTAL HYGIENE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

This endowed scholarship was established by Harper alumna Sandy Penkava, Mike Grzegorek, Betty Penkava and Harper Distinguished Alumna Donna Grzegorek. The scholarship will be awarded to Harper College students in the Dental Hygiene program.

### **ELIZABETH A. TROYER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

This endowed scholarship was established by Philip A. Troyer in memory of his wife Betsy, a former Harper Alum. This scholarship will be awarded for the first-time in 2015/16 to participants in the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College.

### **KELLEY FAMILY ENDOWED CAREER FOUNDATIONS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Kelley Family Endowed Career Foundations Scholarship Funds is an existing annual scholarship, and recently reached the endowed level through additional contributions made by Bill Kelley and his wife Jeanne, as well as contributions received in honor of Bill's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The scholarship is designated for Continuing Education students with developmental disabilities.

### **WINTRUST BANK LEARNING AND CAREER CENTER SCHOLARSHIP**

Northbrook Bank and Village Bank are proactively reaching out to serve the Harper College Learning and Career Center through a number of other proposed initiatives. As a result the Wintrust Bank Learning and Career Center Scholarship is an annual scholarship established by Susan Zecca and Marisol Wallscetti, for Prospect Heights and Wheeling residents and small business owners with financial need. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in Spring 2015.

### **YOUNG FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

This annual scholarship was established and awarded for the first time in Spring 2015 to participants in the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College.