

THE PHILANTHROPIC
MAGAZINE OF
HARPER COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

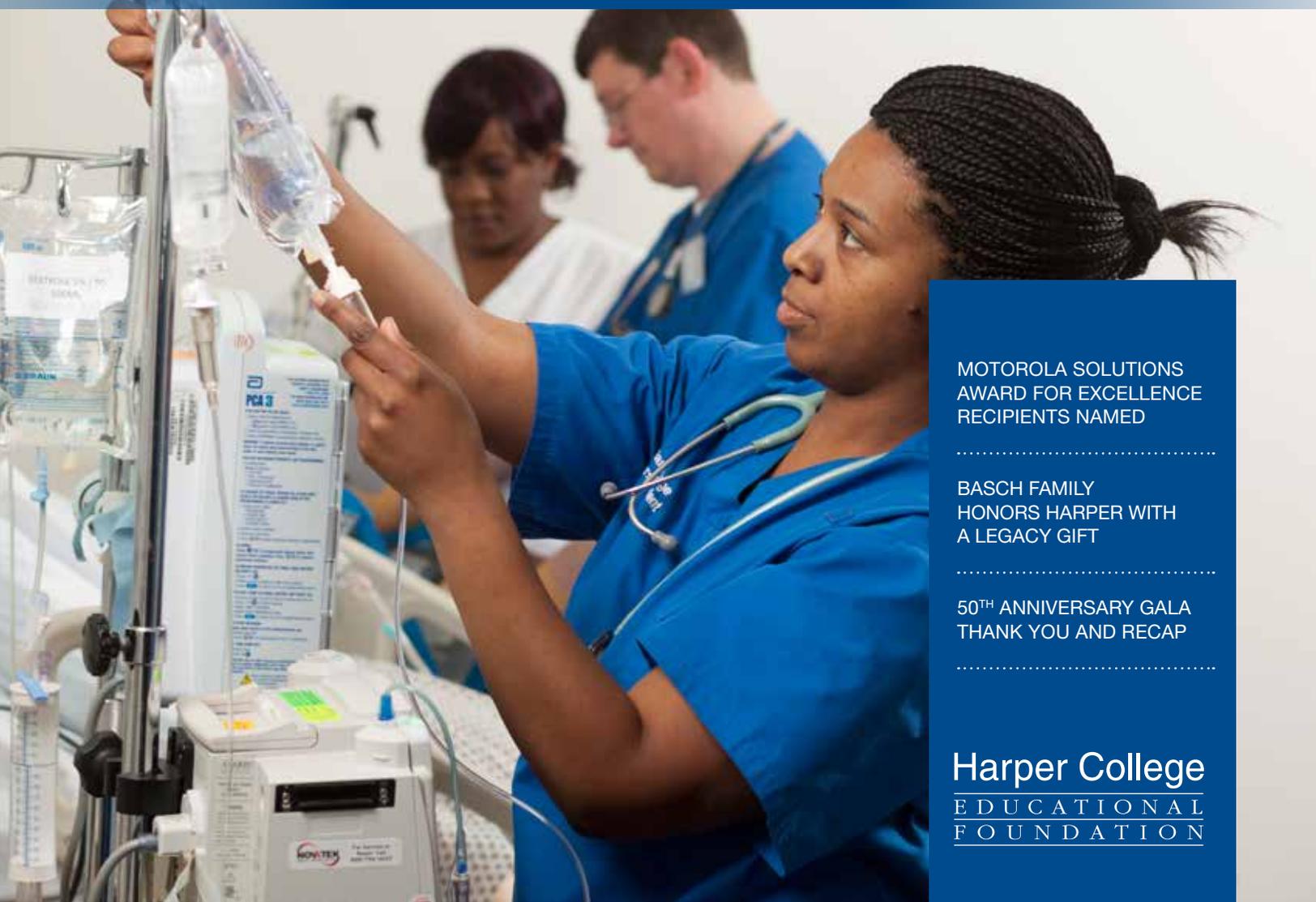
CATALYST

THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

FALL 2017



CELEBRATING OUR PROUD PAST
AS WE LOOK TO OUR STRONG FUTURE.



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
RECIPIENTS NAMED

BASCH FAMILY
HONORS HARPER WITH
A LEGACY GIFT

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
THANK YOU AND RECAP

Harper College
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

WELCOME LETTER FROM
LAURA BROWN
VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF
ADVANCEMENT OFFICER
ADVANCEMENT/FOUNDATION

This issue of the Catalyst is dedicated on highlighting Harper College's 50th anniversary and the Educational Foundation's Proud Past of achievements. There are two very significant years in our rich history which have established our directions and outline our road for success—1967 when Harper College opened its doors to the community and 1973 when the Educational Foundation was established to ensure every student at Harper College have every opportunity to thrive, succeed, and create positive change.

I am pleased to report that the Foundation has never been in a stronger position to support this vital mission. Much of this significant progress has been overseen by 44 years of

outstanding members who have made up the Foundation's Board of Directors. Their leadership and philanthropic support has been nothing short of transformative. In 2016/17 the reported foundation's audited fund balance was \$18,901,680. This is a significant increase from the first audited report of the foundation in 1979 of \$21,811.

As Harper College takes time to reflect on 50 years of accomplishments, the foundation also takes pause to say thank you to the thousands of donors who have been committed to supporting the mission of the College and propel students to higher levels of achievement.

Thank you again for all of your continued support and we look forward to all we can accomplish together as we march forward to the next 50 years of teaching, learning and student success at Harper College.

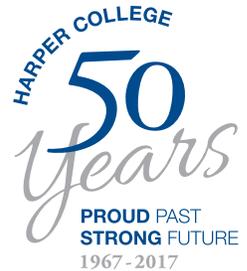
Sincerely,



Laura J. Brown

HARPER COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

During this 50th anniversary year, Harper will honor its proud past, affirm its present mission and impact, and aspire to an even stronger future. The community, whose unwavering support has helped Harper emerge as a leader in community colleges across the country, is invited to join in the celebration:



- How did open farmland and horse stables in Palatine give rise to a vast brick-and-glass complex serving some 35,000 students annually? Retired Harper Professor Trygve Thoreson captures Harper's proud past in "Harper College: The First 50 Years." An e-edition can be downloaded for free at harpercollege.edu/50 or pick up a hard copy (suggested donation is \$20).
- Hundreds of employees volunteered at schools throughout Harper's 11 area school districts for the Doing More Together initiative during the week of October 23-29.
- Community Day on April 14, 2018, will be an opportunity to experience, learn, reconnect and realize all that Harper has to offer through a series of on-campus events. They include the College and Career Expo, Inspire U Experience Expo, Alumni Reunion, Alumni Art Exhibit, Annuitants and Retiree Reunion (with Founding Faculty Celebration) and a performance by Harper Ensemble Theatre Company alumni.

To learn more about Harper's 50th anniversary celebration and how the College helped shape the region, **visit harpercollege.edu/50**.

HONORING OUR PROUD PAST

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 HARPER COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS!

In honor of the College's 50th Anniversary, five stand-out alumni – one from each decade of the College's history – were honored at the annual Distinguished Alumni Reception and Awards Ceremony on November 2, 2017. These five stand-out Harper alumni were recognized for their professional accomplishments, leadership and service to the community. The awards program was launched in 2008, as part of the College's 40th Anniversary. To date, 58 individuals have received this prestigious award.

For more information about this year's recipients, visit harpercollege.edu/alumni.



1967-1976

Ann Ryan
Retired, Nurse
Retired, Senior Planner
Mitchell Planning Associates



1997-2006

Royal Hartwig
Founder and President
The Royal Family Real Estate



1977-1986

Craig B. Johnson
Mayor, Elk Grove Village



2007-2017

Dr. Alexander Kantorovich
Clinical Associate Professor
of Pharmacy Practice
Chicago State University
College of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Advocate Christ Medical Center



1987-1996

Dr. Susan Grant
Program Coordinator
Health Science Core
Harper College

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PROUD PAST

A LOOK BACK AT THE HISTORY OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation was established in 1973 as a not-for-profit organization to provide funding and resources for the College not available through normal government and tax sources. Money and resources raised by the Foundation are used to enhance College programs and services.

The Foundation was organized under the leadership of the first Harper College president, Dr. Robert E. Lahti, and the Board of Directors. The first meeting, convened on September 27, 1973, consisted of the following directors who were all recognized community and business leaders committed to the mission of the institution:

Robert Atcher (Schaumburg)

Ray H. Blakeman (Spotnails)

Roger A. Bjorvik (Ebers, Metskas & Bjorvik)

Virginia Hayter (Village of Hoffman Estates)

John Kuranz (G.D. Searle and Company)

Robert E. Lahti (Harper College)

James R. Lancaster (Bank of Elk Grove)

Marilyn Marier (Harper Board Representative)

William Pailey Sr.

Jack Pahl (State Farm Insurance)

William Simpson (645 Electronic Distributors Corp.)

John Woods (Universal Oil Products Company)

AT ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 30, 1973, THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD DEFINED ITS PURPOSE OF:

- Supporting the educational goals of the College
- Acquiring additional assets for the College and administering those assets for the good of the College
- Encouraging corporations, foundations and individuals to bestow on the College gifts, grants or bequests of money or property to be used for instruction, research, scholarships and enrichment / development programs.



First Amersham Award in 1982



Foundation Board circa mid 1990s



Tom Woods (left) and Robert Lahti (right)
Foundation Board Meeting, 1975

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Virginia Hayter was selected to the first board of the Educational Foundation in 1973 and retired after serving 12 years. At the time of her appointment to the Board she was serving as Village President of Hoffman Estates.



Jim Lancaster became involved with the Harper Educational Foundation Board when he was Executive Vice President of First Chicago NBD Corporation. After being appointed to the founding Board of the Foundation Jim served a total of 13 years.



Robert Atcher was elected mayor of Schaumburg, where he served for 16 years. During which time the town experienced unprecedented growth, but in an orderly, planned, way that was attributed largely to his vision and leadership. During his tenure, Woodfield Mall was built. Atcher retired from politics in 1974.



Jim Lancaster (left) and Virginia Hayter (center)

FUN FACTS

PROUD PAST



From 1973 – 2016 (43 years) the foundation has raised **\$30,426,019** in contributions.



In 1979 the foundation's fund balance was **\$21,811**.



The first Foundation scholarship was established in **1981**.

STRONG FUTURE



In 2016/2017:
The foundation's fund balance (audited) was **\$18,901,680**.



The Foundation awarded more than **\$857,132** in scholarships, grants and awards.



194 individual scholarship and program funds which were granted to **545** individual students.



98% of the available scholarships were awarded.

HARPER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: TIES RUN DEEP FOR MANY FAMILIES LIKE THE BASCHES



Clara and Ricardo Basch

It's often said that immigrants are woven into the fabric of America. That's certainly true of the Basch family, who left Cuba's new communist regime in 1960 to plant roots in Chicago's Northwest suburbs. Embodying certain values—hard work and contributing to one's community, to name a couple—have been integral to their journey. So has a belief that education opens doors to opportunity.

For many of the Basches, that gateway has been Harper College. Throughout the College's 50-year history, several in the family chose Harper to begin their path toward advanced degrees and rewarding careers. "Harper College has always been there for us," said Arlington Heights resident Clara Basch Stone, Class of 1970. "It's really been the stepping stone to our success."

Clara was nine years old and brother Ricardo was 10 when their family left Havana for New York City. Their father, Gerardo, worked for a U.S. company and secured a sponsor who drove them to Chicago and housed them for a month.

Since the Basches had German ties, they chose to make Mount Prospect – a village with plenty of German influences – home.

The family bought and operated a convenience store on Main Street that flourished for several years.

Although Clara and Ricardo had attended a bilingual school in Cuba, the transition was a challenge. "We were very behind with our English and misunderstood a lot of basic instructions," Clara said. "It took us a while."

Clara decided to attend Harper in fall 1968 after graduating from Prospect High School. Tuition was a fraction of what a four-year institution cost, an important factor considering her father was ill and the family business was struggling to keep up with increased competition. Harper had opened the previous year, and classes still took place at Elk Grove High School while the Palatine campus' original six buildings were under construction.

Nearly five decades later, Clara looks back fondly at her teachers, her time on the Harper Pompon Corps and the friends who carpooled with her to class. "It felt like going to a community college really meant you participated in your community," Clara said. "A journalism class included a tour of a newspaper, art class visited the Art Institute, theater class took a trip to the Lyric Opera. Part of my class on exceptional children had us volunteering at a local organization. I picked Little City, and I've supported them ever since."

Clara went on to transfer to Eastern Illinois University and become a bilingual teacher in Wheeling Community Consolidated School District 21. She earned a master's degree in special education and worked at the Midwest Multifunctional Resource Center in Des Plaines teaching adults before wrapping up her career at the Illinois State Board of Education.

Although excelling at sports, Ricardo Basch averaged C's and D's while attending Forest View, Wheeling and eventually Prospect High School. Figuring he'd get drafted upon graduating in 1967—Harper opened its doors later that year—he joined the Navy and served four years during the Vietnam War, much of it as a jet mechanic on the USS Kitty Hawk supporting operations in Southeast Asia.

When Ricardo returned to civilian life in 1971, he followed Clara's footsteps and came to Harper for two years. "After Ricardo left the service, he didn't know what he wanted to do," Clara said. "Harper was there for him." His newfound discipline aided in his success, and he transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he graduated with honors. He went on to earn a Master's of Business Administration degree from the University of Chicago and to work as a financial analyst for companies such as Kraft and CNA Financial Corp.

Before he died in 2016, Ricardo was an active volunteer with WFMT public radio, the Audubon Society and numerous other groups. He left money to 10 organizations including \$25,000 to Harper College.

The Basches' connections to Harper don't end there. Clara and Ricardo's younger sister, Margaret, also attended Harper and is now a practicing attorney. While in her early 70s, their mother, Sarah E. "Emma" Basch, took a German class at Harper. Margaret's daughter, Emma, graduated from Harper this past year with an Associate of Arts degree—at just 14 years old. And Margaret's husband attended Harper as an adult student to help further his career.

"No matter what point we've been at in our lives, Harper has been the place that helped get us pointed in the right direction,"

— Clara Basch Stone
Harper College Class of 1970

"No matter what point we've been at in our lives, Harper has been the place that helped get us pointed in the right direction," Clara said.

With Harper serving more than 35,000 students annually, it's not difficult to find families such as the Basches with deep, long-standing ties to the College.

LEGACY GIFTS

The Harper College Educational Foundation was honored to receive a gift from the **Ricardo Basch Estate**. Mr. Basch made the Foundation a beneficiary of his IRA, which allowed him to support the dreams of future Harper College students. In honor of his generosity, a classroom will be named for Mr. Basch.

Have you included the Harper College Educational Foundation in your will or as a beneficiary of your IRA? Are you considering doing so? If so, please let us know. We want to express our gratitude for your gift and welcome you to the Harper Heritage Society, which honors everyone who has included the Harper College Educational Foundation in their estate plans. Harper Heritage Society members are accorded the special recognition that goes with those who believe in sustaining educational opportunities for future generations of Harper College students. Your gift may also inspire others to give!

In addition, and most importantly, we can have a conversation about how you wish your donation to be used – depending on the size of the gift, your donation may create a scholarship or support a specific program based on your interests, and may even include recognition opportunities on campus.

Please contact Heather Zoldak, CFRE at 847.925.6319 or hzoldak@harpercollege.edu to discuss your legacy gift. You may also visit our planned gift website at <http://harpercollege.plannedgiving.org/>

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE

How Time Flies

HARPER COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

On Saturday, September 16, 2017, more than 400 people attended the Harper College 50th Anniversary Gala. Community leaders, faculty, retirees, past and present Trustees and Foundation Board members, and alumni joined together to celebrate Harper's proud past and secure a strong future for Harper College and its students. The event, held in the airplane hangars of Priester Aviation, raised \$1,082,000 (gross) for the Harper College Promise Program.

The Harper College Educational Foundation expresses our deep appreciation with all that supported the gala whether as an honorary event chair, committee member, sponsor or attendee. Thank you for making the event such a resounding success and ensuring a strong future for Harper students.

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FROM THE DESK OF
GEORGEANNA MEHR
FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT



The Harper College Educational Foundation has been serving Harper College for 44 years! I feel so fortunate to serve as the Foundation's President at such a dynamic time as the college celebrates its 50th anniversary. Standing on the sturdy footing of my predecessors, the Foundation's assets now top over \$18 million and community and donor support is thriving.

On behalf of the dedicated volunteers, staff, students, and the Harper College Educational Foundation Board of Directors, THANK YOU for the incredible difference that you make for Harper College. Your engagement and support enables Harper College to continue to push forward as a powerhouse of teaching, service excellence, and advancing our student success and completion agendas. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment.

Philanthropic support makes Harper College's cutting-edge vision a reality and allows us to truly harness the brilliant minds and creative genius at Harper College. Donor funds have expanded access to education for our extraordinarily bright students, increased faculty and academic program support and inspired interdisciplinary projects.

Congratulations to Harper College for 50 years of a Proud Past and look forward to the Strong Future which awaits us.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgeanna Mehr". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Georgeanna Mehr

A SCHOLARSHIP GIFT MADE IN 1981 CONTINUES HELPING TODAY'S STUDENTS

The Amersham Corporation made a \$6,000 gift in 1981 to create the Educational Foundation's first endowed scholarship. The scholarship awarded two full-time semesters of tuition. Back then, the tuition rate at Harper was \$22 per semester hour, and a full year of tuition was \$660. The scholarship recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. The Amersham Endowment Scholarship candidates are interviewed by the Foundation Board's Scholarship and Awards Committee. Since the Amersham Endowed Scholarship is endowed, the Educational Foundation continues to give out the scholarship every year to a top student.

In the past 43 years, 116 endowed scholarships have been created to support and encourage students as they pursue their academic goals. Endowed scholarships are funded with a commitment of \$10,000. They exist in perpetuity and often grow in size. Scholarship donors are offered the opportunity to meet with their scholarship recipients throughout the year.

If you would like more information about creating a scholarship, please contact Lauren Chilvers at 847.925.6305 or lchilver@harpercollege.edu

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Since 1981, Motorola Solutions has sponsored its Award for Excellence, which is the highest honor a Harper College student can earn. The Award honors a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in STEM academics, extracurricular activities and community service, while attending Harper College. Last year, Motorola Solutions committed to sponsoring two Awards for Excellence.

This year's recipients of the Motorola Solutions Award for Excellence given through the Harper College Educational Foundation were **Christian Hyde and Faustas Udrenas**. These students will receive awards for \$5,000 each (\$2,500 per semester).

Christian Hyde is in his second year of the Harper Engineering Pathways Program with the goal of transferring to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's mechanical engineering program. Christian has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout leadership service project was refurbishing a recreation room at Clearbrook Center, a non-profit that provides services and supports for people with disabilities. Christian competes on the Harper soccer team, and was rated a top-ten national goalie for community colleges. Christian is also a member of Harper's Phi Beta Kappa.

Faustas Udrenas is in his second year at Harper with plans to transfer next year and complete a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. Faustus is involved with Harper's Honors Program and is secretary of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest honors society. Faustus was one of five teens to help open a teen center in Crystal Lake, Illinois. As sophomores, this group collaborated to form a non-profit and open their doors after only one and a half years of raising funds. The center, The Crystal Lake Teen Center-The BREAK, has been extremely successful in the community thanks to the hard work of Faustus and his group.



Christian Hyde



Faustas Udrenas

HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women in the community with a common goal of supporting women pursuing higher education at Harper College and empowering them to reach their full potential through scholarship support, mentoring and leadership development opportunities. The program provides financial support and on-going mentoring for female Harper College students who are completing their final year at Harper and continuing on to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree. Each HOPE Scholarship award is valued at \$10,000. 100 percent of donations to the HOPE Giving Circle are tax deductible.

MEET THE 2017-2018 HOPE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

There wasn't a dry eye to be found at the 2nd Annual HOPE Scholarship Awards Reception, where two remarkable young women were awarded \$10,000 scholarships. Recipients Michelle Feigler and Rachel Kereszturi, both entering their second year at Harper College, each shared their journeys and highlighted the tremendous impact that the HOPE Giving Circle is already making on their lives.

Each recipient can use her \$10,000 scholarship at Harper and/or a four-year institution when she transfers. They also benefit from a different mentor who provides guidance and support.



Michelle Feigler completed her freshman year at Harper College after receiving her GED, also from Harper, in the summer of 2016. An incredibly motivated student, Michelle maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA and is a member of the Speech and Debate Team, the Honors Program, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Michelle is not only a stand-out student, she is also passionate about giving back to help others and to benefit the community. Outside of Harper, she has been an active volunteer at her synagogue, park district and summer camp. Dr. Elizabeth Hull, professor emerita and HOPE Giving Circle member, also introduced Michelle to the League of Women Voters. Michelle is currently exploring four-year institutions including Northwestern University. She plans to study English and political science and is considering law school.

"From this day forward, I will be able to say there was a group of women, full of compassion, full of generosity, who gave me hope and a chance at a future – a future I thought I was incapable of ever seeing," Michelle says.



Rachel Kereszturi completed her first year at Harper College with a near perfect GPA and was admitted to the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. A hard-working and dedicated student, Rachel has embraced her passion for math. She sees working with numbers as a never-ending puzzle and loves the challenge that it gives, as well as the feeling of fitting all the pieces together when she figures out a problem. Outside of Harper, she volunteers at the Buddy Foundation, a no-kill animal shelter in Arlington Heights and plays the cello in the choir at Northwest Community Healthcare, where she works as a files clerk.

"My mom has been my source of inspiration," Rachel says. "But I know that the strong, independent and successful women of the HOPE Giving Circle will inspire me as well."

After graduating from Harper in the spring of 2018, Rachel plans to transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to pursue a bachelor's degree in actuarial science.

National Trends in Women's Philanthropy

The results of a 2016 study conducted by the Women's Philanthropy Institute at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (Indiana University) discovered there are significant differences between the giving patterns of women and men.

Highlights from the study include:

- Women baby-boomers and older gave **89%** more to charity than men their age.
- Women in the top **25%** of permanent income give **156%** more than men in that same category.
- **Women give more** than their male peers at virtually all income levels, even though women in general earn less and have less money in retirement than men, and have a greater life expectancy.
- Women tend to be **more altruistic** and **more empathetic** than men, partly because of the way men and women are socialized.
- For men, money may represent power, achievement, or prestige, while women tend to view money in terms of **personal security, freedom** and a **way to achieve goals**.

JOIN THE HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

The HOPE Giving Circle currently has 25 members.

Membership in the HOPE Giving Circle is on an annual basis and begins with a minimum gift or pledge of \$1,000. 100 percent of your donation is tax deductible and will be directed to the HOPE Scholarship Fund.

To join or learn more, contact Fredia Martin at **847.925.6701** or at **fmartin1@harpercollege.edu**

Please Save the Date for the Next HOPE Giving Circle Event

Thursday, January 11, 2018
5 – 7 p.m.

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THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Patty Moyer



Susan Rogers



Young Chung

Patricia (Patty) Moyer is the Vice President at Cedar Creek Investments LLC & Terra Cotta Corners LLC. She is also a long-term Special Education substitute at various school districts.

Patty earned her B.S Journalism/Public Relations from Northern Illinois University and her Masters of Arts, Special Education from National Louis University. Patty is an alumnus of Harper College as well.

Patty is a several time national champion in US Masters National Synchronized Swimming Champion, 1987-2016, and medalist in the Pan American Games Masters Championship. She was the Co-Chair of the Harper College 2012 Gala Planning Committee; and Director of Marketing/Communications for the Hotel-Motel Association of Illinois.

Patty together with her husband Lane Moyer funded the Lane and Patricia Moyer Endowment for GED Scholars at Harper College in 2007.

Patty lives in Deer Park with her husband Lane and two children Christopher and Megan. She enjoys coaching and competing in masters level synchronized swimming, hiking and spending time with family.

Susan Rogers has worked for School Health Corporation for the past 24 years and holds the position of C.P.O./Chief People Officer. School Health Corporation is a national, full-service provider of medical supplies and services which support the health of students to enable them to learn and perform to the best of their ability.

Ms. Rogers earned her B.A in Communications (Speech) at Indiana University and M.B.A. from Lewis University. Her other accomplishments include a leadership role in fighting blindness and saving sight among children through Prevent Blindness America; District 15 Health and Safety Chairman 2010-2014. She is currently a Board Member at the Buehler YMCA.

Susan resides in Inverness with her husband Robert and their two children Emily and Dalton. She enjoys golf, exercise, skiing, cooking and travel.

Young Chung is retired from Elgin Barrington Neurosurgery. Young received his MD in 1986 from Feinberg School of Medicine (Northwestern University) with his neurosurgery residency at University of Minnesota.

Dr. Chung is Vice President of the Barrington Area Community Foundation; Board Member of Fit MS Neurobalance Center; Volunteer, Manager for the American Red Cross Disaster Health Services; on the Illinois Emergency Medical Services Children's Advisory Board (IDPH); Community Organization Representative (American Red Cross) Board Member and Governing Council; Community Member for Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. Other volunteer commitments include: National HQ for partner Services in Community Partners; Healthier Barrington Coalition; Scripps College (Clairmont, CA); Parent Leadership Council.

Young resides in Barrington Hills with his two children and enjoys tennis, scuba diving and travel.

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