

THE PHILANTHROPIC
MAGAZINE OF
HARPER COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

CATALYST

THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

SPRING 2017

Honoring Our
Donors: David and
Diane Hill

“BELIEVE YOU CAN
AND YOU’RE
HALFWAY THERE.”

- Theodore Roosevelt



ON
TO THE
NEXT
DREAM

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
RECIPIENTS NAMED

CASTLE SCHOLAR SHARES
STUDY ABROAD STORY

VETERAN THANKS
DONORS FOR NEW
CAREER PATH

Harper College
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

FROM THE DESK OF
GEORGEANNA MEHR
FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT



The Harper College Educational Foundation has one very simple yet ever important mission. We raise funds to afford all residents of the Harper College district the opportunity to attend and complete a higher education degree or certificate. Each year, the Foundation awards over \$750,000 in student scholarships and supports College departments and programming from funds generously provided by local donors. The stewards of the funds are local volunteers who serve on the Harper College Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

This year has been a struggle for Harper College, as the administration and board continues to work to find work around solutions for not having a state budget or the state allocation to support the college's operations. In addition, students are anxious about the unfunded Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants. These grants provide much needed help for our financially needy students.

I have had the privilege of getting to know some our Harper students. I hear their stories and I know where they've come

from and what goals they've set for themselves. Many of our students are first-generation college students; many have families of their own and hold full-time jobs. Our students are here because they want a better life for themselves and their families. My fear is without the MAP grants some of our most needy students will drop out because they will not be able to afford college.

Donor scholarships play a vital role in bridging the financial gap for these and many more students. These scholarships support a student's dream of a better life through education. I am honored to be a small part of helping make those dreams become reality and applaud all the hundreds of foundation donors who recognize the value of a donor scholarship and helping someone else fulfill their dream.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgeanna Mehr".

Georgeanna Mehr

BELIEVING IN STUDENTS' DREAMS

WE THANK THE DONORS WHO ESTABLISHED THESE NEW SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' DREAMS AND GOALS.

ALBERT AND CHARLOTTE ARONSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Albert and Charlotte Aronson Memorial Scholarship was created by Harper College Associate Professor Leslye Smith,

Adjunct instructor Shelley Sheinkop, Elayne Hess and Ryan Hess in memory of their parents and grandparents. The scholarship is for students in the Radiologic Technology Degree program.

HONORING OUR DONORS



Diane Hill

Harper College will name its library the **David K. Hill Family Library** in recognition of **David and Diane Hill's** significant contributions.

The Hills, who have donated leadership gifts to Harper College, have been instrumental in providing funding for the Kimball Hill Family Deaf Institute, individual scholarships, capital fundraising campaigns and the Promise Scholarship Program.

David Hill served on the Harper College board of trustees from 2004 until his death in 2008. Diane Hill completed her late husband's

term and was subsequently elected to two six-year terms in 2009 and 2015. Diane also served as a Harper College Educational Foundation Board member.

"The leadership and generosity that David and Diane Hill have shown will be felt by the Harper College community for years to come," Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer Laura Brown said.

In 2006, David and Diane Hill provided a significant gift to further develop Harper's deaf and hard of hearing program, creating the Kimball Hill Family Deaf Institute. The college designed a smart classroom, expanded access services such as captioning, purchased additional equipment and increased instructional support in reading, writing and math. The institute serves between 40 and 60 students each year from Illinois and beyond.

The library is currently housed in Building D, Room 102 while Building F undergoes a renovation, which is expected to finish by the fall 2018 semester. The Harper College Educational Foundation's recommendation to name the facility was approved by the Harper Board of Trustees at the February 15 board meeting. A formal dedication of the David K. Hill Family Library will take place when the building reopens.

CASTLE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

The Castle International Studies Scholarship was established by Nancy and John Castle to support students who are enrolled in a Harper College study-abroad program.

RESPECT CARE SCHOLARSHIP

Respect Care Scholarship was established by Respect Care, an in-home care company combining quality caregivers with an intelligent use of mobile technology. Respect serves clients in Milwaukee, Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. The Respect Care scholarship is for Certified Nursing Assistant students interested in pursuing a career in home care.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

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 academics, extracurricular activities and community service, while attending Harper College. Last year, Motorola Solutions committed to sponsoring two students Award for Excellence scholarships which were awarded to a traditional aged student – one who is 23 or younger, and to a non-traditional student – one who is 24 or older.

This year's recipients of the Motorola Solutions Award for Excellence given through the Harper College Educational Foundation were Kayla Helsdingen in the traditional category and Sanja Zepcan in the non-traditional category.



Kayla Helsdingen is in her second year at Harper College with the goal of obtaining her Associates Degree in Science by the end of the spring 2017 semester. She plans to transfer to a four year school to earn a Bachelor's Degree in nursing with the goal to work directly with patients in a hospital setting. Ultimately, her plan is to continue her education and obtain a Doctorate Degree in nursing and teach nursing. Currently, Kayla works as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Little Sisters of the Poor St. Joseph's Home in Palatine. She is an active member and recently elected Vice-President of the Health Careers and Premed Club at Harper, and Kayla volunteers two hours per week for the Society for the Preservation of Human Dignity. She is one of six children in her family, and all her siblings have attended Harper or plan to attend Harper. Her younger sister is enrolled in the Promise Scholarship Program.



Sanja Zepcan is in her second year at Harper College with the goal of obtaining her Pharm-D degree. Besides taking classes at Harper, she is a working mother with 5-year old twins. Sanja works as a Certified Pharmacy Technician at Walgreens, and she enjoys the fast pace of the pharmacy and working with customers. Sanja also volunteers every Friday and Sunday at the Serbian Church as the Serbian language teacher for kindergarten aged children. Sanja's passion for chemistry and helping others directed her to the Pharmacy field. Her ultimate goal is to work as a clinical pharmacist in a hospital. Sanja will be transferring to Midwestern University this fall.

HOPE GIVING CIRCLE RECIPIENTS AND MENTOR

The HOPE (Helping Others through the Power of Education) Giving Circle Scholarship is an award of \$10,000 to be used for a student's second year at Harper and for an additional year at the institution of the student's choice. The first HOPE recipient is **Kayla Karbowski**. In addition to the scholarship, there is a mentoring component offered to each recipient.

"I was very fortunate that my application was chosen by Kayla, and after a phone interview she decided to ask me to be her mentor. This has been a great experience for both of us. We communicate on a regular basis mainly through texts. This happens almost weekly. Sometimes we discuss university application process, letters of recommendation, additional scholarship opportunities, and just general well-being checks on classes, work and life balance. Other times we celebrate great grade reports and college acceptance to her first choice university!

Fortunately, I have a background in education, including special education so sharing relevant research and recent articles on methods and materials is another part of our correspondence.

I look forward to Kayla's Harper graduation this spring and continuing to support her during her next learning experience at ISU."

Linda Kolbusz-Kosan
HOPE Giving Circle Executive Committee member
and Mentor, 2016-2017



Linda Kolbusz-Kosan and Kayla Karbowski

"What I like most about the mentor program is having someone who is there for me supporting me through my education. I know I can turn to Linda for any advice or concerns. She is such a blessing to have because I get easily anxious over little things and she helps give me a breakdown of what I need to get done first such as my FAFSA, applying to ISU, taking the ACT and looking for other scholarships to help my financial needs. I would tell the future recipients of the HOPE Scholarship to really enjoy this experience and go to their mentor for help! They won't regret asking for it nor having someone there encouraging you. It is a very awarding accomplishment and blessing to have everyone who is a part of HOPE supporting my aspirations. Thank you."

Kayla Karbowski
2016-17 HOPE Giving Circle Scholarship Recipient

FROM THE DESK OF
KENNETH L. ENDER, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT OF HARPER COLLEGE



This month we will embark on a year-long celebration commemorating our 50th anniversary — **Proud Past, Strong Future** — which will bring alumni, retirees and the community back to campus to share their stories and experiences they have had at William Rainey Harper College. It's the people that make our college so special, and people involved with Harper College — over the past 50 years and today — who are passionate about the college, the mission and philosophy of education that serves as a foundation for everything we do.

The support provided by individual donors, organizations, families and corporations has been the key difference-maker. Our most ardent supporters know that investing in our college is about more than laying bricks and mortar. Philanthropic giving often translates to powerful and compelling learning experiences for our students — ones that open new doors to discover new possibilities and ideas that alter lives and futures for the better. Perhaps it's a gift that provides students with advanced tools, empowering technologies, or state-of-the-art learning environments. Or, perhaps it's investments in engaging professors who recognize unseen potential in our students and ignite their passion for visualizing and touching their future, while instilling in them the courage to seize new opportunities in ways that transform. Whatever the investment is, the progress that has been achieved would not have been possible without

our devoted donors and their commitment to making the vision of William Rainey Harper College's future a reality.

The work we do here every day propels us forward as a community, state, region, and nation. We know from history that an educated citizenry is the real wealth of nations. A simple truth is the higher the level of educational attainment, the greater the economic development opportunities for any state or nation. To that end, our donors clearly recognize the near-priceless value that a college education creates and that the most significant benefits accrue to our society and nation. Quite simply, history has proven irrefutably that no better investment can be made toward ensuring the security and future of our nation and people, than the investment we make as donors in advancing higher education and college degree attainment.

I respectfully thank you for your loyal support of the Harper College Educational Foundation and the confidence you continue to place in our college.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Ender'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Kenneth L. Ender, Ph.D.

PROMISE SCHOLAR WILL BE FIRST IN HER FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE

When **Diana Guarneros** thinks of college, she envisions herself in an art studio surrounded by sketchbooks and sculpting tools, working to bring her ideas to life.

With her good grades and long list of co-curricular activities, the Elk Grove High School sophomore is doing everything she can to get there. There's just one problem...

"I've checked out some schools and they're pricey," Diana said. "Attending could be tricky."

That's why Diana didn't hesitate to sign up for the Promise Scholarship Program last year. The idea of earning up to two years of free tuition at Harper College by meeting certain benchmarks — all aimed at promoting life skills and habits that will help students succeed in college and in life — was an opportunity she didn't dare pass up.

The 15-year-old from Mount Prospect will be the first in her immediate family to go to college. "My parents didn't get these kinds of privileges, so they're very excited by a program like this," Diana said.

As part of the first class of Promise Scholars, Diana quickly embraced the program's community service criteria. In addition to playing on Elk Grove's girls' volleyball team, she manages the boys' volleyball team, mentors junior high students through the Estudiantes Unidos club and volunteered at a summer camp for kids in a Des Plaines-area mobile home park.



Parents Inez Delgado and Alejandro Guarneros described Promise as a very welcome stress relief.

"When we think about Diana attending college, it's hard to think about anything other than how expensive it is. It would be very difficult to handle financially," Alejandro said through an interpreter. "This is a huge opportunity for her. She's a tenacious kid who has high standards for herself. She likes to be challenged, so I know she'll be successful."

David Maya, who works as Elk Grove High School's Latino Family Liaison, agreed Promise can be a game-changer for families like Diana's. "This is such a great opportunity for these kids, especially those who don't have as many options when they graduate," David said. "Promise will allow them to fulfill their dreams."

Final Promise application comparison counts for initial sign-ups for incoming Freshman

	D211	D214	D220	D155	Total
Class of 2020 apps	2,201 (74%)	2,724 (93%)	654 (83%)	8 (32%)	5,587 (83%)
Class of 2019 apps	2,033 (65%)	2,165 (68%)	420 (58%)	7 (29%)	4,625 (65%)

HARPER ALUM HELPS STUDENTS REALIZE THEIR DREAMS



John and Nancy Castle (back row, left) with Castle International Studies Scholarship students.

Dr. Nancy Castle was 16 years old when she arrived at Harper College in 1973. During her time on campus, she explored an interest in psychology and built a foundation of skills and confidence that she later parlayed into a nationally recognized career in the field. Dr. Castle was recognized as a Harper College Distinguished Alumna in 2011. As a Harper College Educational Foundation Board Member, she values her experiences at Harper College.

"Coming from a large family, affordability was the issue that drove me to Harper," Castle says. "However, thanks to the interest taken by a handful of faculty, I left Harper with skills that served me well over the rest of my life." Nancy says that she still draws on information that she learned in Harper College classes when she attends symphony concerts or art museums. In fact, she credits her Harper classes and professors and their encouragement to try new things as one reason she attends concerts and museums.

It was with this sense of encouragement to try new experiences that **Nancy and her husband, John**, established the **Castle International Studies Scholarship** this past fall. The scholarship supports students who are enrolled in Harper's faculty-led study abroad program and helps to underwrite the cost of the program. This past year, eight recipients were chosen as Castle Scholars which helped to pay for the cost of Harper-led study abroad trips to Costa Rica and Uganda during the spring 2017 semester.

Nancy and John believe that international experiences are life-changing. Nancy herself did not travel abroad until she was in her 40s. Now, in retirement, international travel is one of her favorite pastimes. She has even taken a Board position for an international educational organization headquartered in Paris, France.

Nancy and John hope the Castle Scholars will gain an experience that will change their lives. And, based on a thank you note they received from one of their scholars, it appears as though they've achieved their goal: "Receiving this scholarship means the world to me, literally. I feel that I have been given the opportunity to expand my horizons and explore more of what the world has to offer."

BELIEVING IN THE DREAM

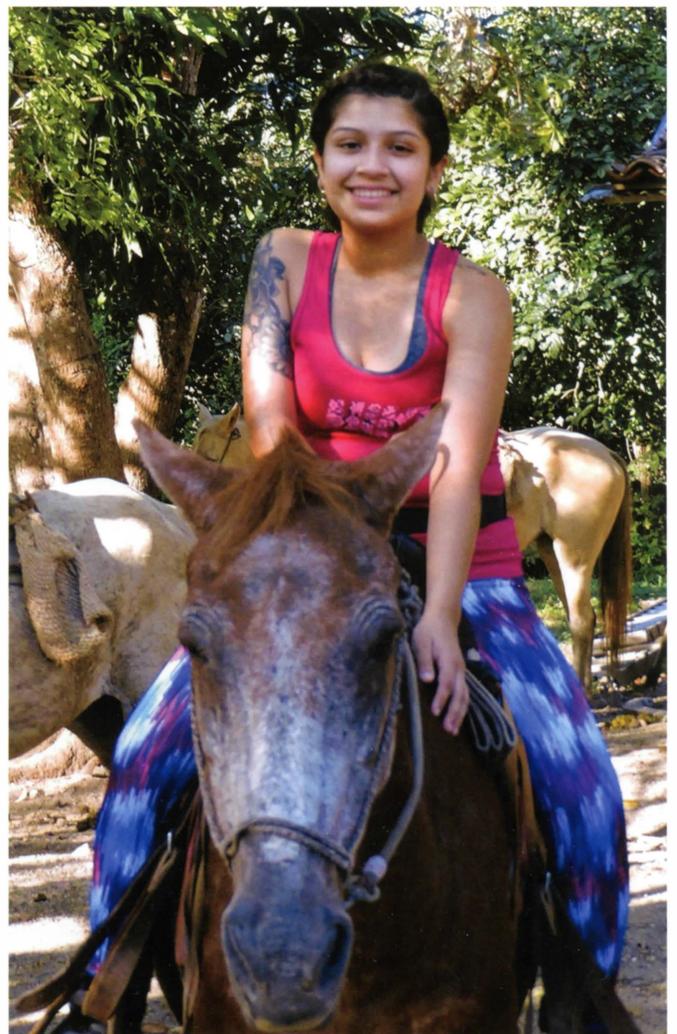
Jessica Flores' educational goal is to be a veterinarian, and she enrolled in Harper's study abroad program to Costa Rica to build her resume and gain experience in animal biology. While in Costa Rica she studied snake coloration patterns between the dry tropical forests and the tropical rain forests. Jessica

also had the opportunity to stay with a host family, which gave her a greater appreciation for life in the United States. Jessica remarked, "The housing was a surprise. People live with gaps in the walls and roofs made of plywood. Yet, the people were so happy and giving — beautiful people."

Jessica's trip to Costa Rica was partially funded by the Castle International Studies Scholarship. Without her scholarship, Jessica would not have been able to go to Costa Rica. "My scholarship funded the last payment for the trip. Without it I would not have been able to go to Costa Rica. This scholarship really helped my mom. She was able to support me emotionally without having to worry about the bill."

My scholarship funded the last payment for the trip. Without it I would not have been able to go to Costa Rica. This scholarship really helped my mom. She was able to support me emotionally without having to worry about the bill.

— Jessica Flores
2016–2017 Castle International
Studies Scholarship recipient



Jessica Flores

VETERAN EMBARKS ON NEW CHAPTER

Did you know that more than 300 military-connected students (active/reservists, veterans and eligible dependents) are currently enrolled at Harper?

One such student is **Calvin Byrd**. Calvin joined the United States Marine Corps immediately following high school. He served four years with his tours of duty taking him to both Afghanistan and Iraq. After being honorably discharged, he returned to civilian life working in hospitality management. For more than a decade, he enjoyed a rewarding career as a chef. Then two years ago, he began experiencing periods of prolonged pain, numbness in his legs, and his hands stopped working. Doctors at the VA hospital diagnosed Calvin with a neuromuscular disorder, which could be traced back to his military service. They informed him that working as a chef would exacerbate his condition.

Faced with this shocking news, Calvin's military mindset kicked in, and he thought to himself, "How can I turn this around?" Enter

Harper. "Harper helped me get on a new trajectory," noted Calvin. At 36 years old, Calvin is now pursuing a new career in engineering, with an eye toward aerospace engineering systems and the goal of obtaining a master's degree.

Calvin is focused on his end goal. He is working hard to reinvent himself and has shown his strength and resilience by having already made the transition from a military career to a civilian one. This current change is the next chapter in his life. But Calvin is quick to point out that it wouldn't have been possible without the support he has received from Harper, including critical financial support. Although Calvin is receiving assistance through the VA's education benefits, it was the Eric Holt Memorial Scholarship Fund from the Harper College Educational Foundation that allowed him to come to school this term. "The Foundation scholarship is helping me close a financial gap and enabling me to fully dedicate myself to studies and personal/professional developmental endeavors for my new career. My wife, my daughter and I thank you."

Thank You



My name is Elissa Peterson, and I am a freshman at Harper College. I am currently in the Human Services program and hope to advance to social work one day in the future. I have a passion for helping others and being as compassionate as I can.

Initially, I was supposed to go away to school. However, I found out my college fund was not available to me after my father passed away because of the financial strain of his death on my family. Because of that, I chose Harper College. I seriously considered taking a year off to gather myself in my new surroundings and save up some money. I know myself too well to know that was not a good

“The Foundation scholarship is helping me close a financial gap and enabling me to fully dedicate myself to studies and personal/professional developmental endeavors for my new career. My wife, my daughter and I thank you.”

— Calvin Byrd
2016–2017 Eric Holt Memorial
Scholarship recipient



Calvin Byrd and family

idea. I probably would've put off going back to school for so long, I might've not ever gone back. I am so glad I decided to attend Harper this year and next. Everyone is very kind and helpful.

I am beyond thankful to be receiving this scholarship. I do not have parents to help me pay for college. I am working part time and going to school full time. I have big dreams, and I don't want money to be what stands in the way of achieving them! This scholarship will go to help me pay for classes towards getting my associate's in Human Services. I have been struggling quite a bit financially, and this is really going to help! I've worked so

hard last semester and this one to keep a good grade point average in hopes of getting a scholarship. I am very glad I've been doing so well at Harper. I appreciate you considering and selecting me for this wonderful honor!

Elissa Peterson

2016-2017 Eliza Doolittle Scholarship Recipient

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

The Harper College Educational Foundation thanks retiring board members Carol Pankros and Rich Hohol for their dedicated years of service and their support of Harper College students.

Richard Hohol, EA, CFP, has worked in the financial services industry since 1976 and is president of Chartered Consultants, Inc. A Board member since 2008, Rich served as Treasurer of the Foundation for four years, and has served as Chair of the Harper Professional Advisors Committee and as an Honorary Chair of the 50th Anniversary Gala. Rich established the Hohol Family Endowment Scholarship to support students in the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College and is also a member of the Harper Heritage Society.



Carol C. Pankros, CFP®, MS is finishing her second nine-year term on the Foundation Board. She is the retired founder of CCP, Inc. and lives in Palatine. During her tenure, Carol served in many roles including Vice President of Development, Treasurer and currently is the Chair of the Annual Giving Committee. Carol is a member of the Harper Heritage Society, and her family's scholarship — the Betty and Matt Cockrell Endowed Scholarship — supports over 17 working Harper students annually.

SAVE THE DATE

for these upcoming Foundation Events

Harper College Golf Open
Monday, June 12, 2017
Inverness Golf Club, Inverness

Harper College 50th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, September 16, 2017
Priester Aviation Hangars, Chicago Executive Airport

Harper College Distinguished Alumni Event
Thursday, November 2, 2017
Wojcik Conference Center

Harper College Educational Foundation Recognition Event (Invite Only)
Friday, November 10, 2017
(in conjunction with the Harper College Theatre Ensemble Production of Hair)

Harper College 50th Anniversary Community Day Celebration
Saturday, April 14, 2018
Includes:
Annuitants/Retirees Reunion with Founding Faculty Celebration 1–3 p.m.
Alumni Co-Ed Soccer Game 1–2 p.m.
All-Class Alumni Reunion 2–5 p.m.

CREATING YOUR HARPER COLLEGE LEGACY

For half a century, thousands of students have charted their path to success at Harper College. As we celebrate the college's accomplishments, let's honor the past, celebrate the present and build the future together. By including the Harper College Educational Foundation in your estate plans, you have the opportunity to make an even greater difference in our students' lives as we continue to advance the mission of the college for the next 50 years.

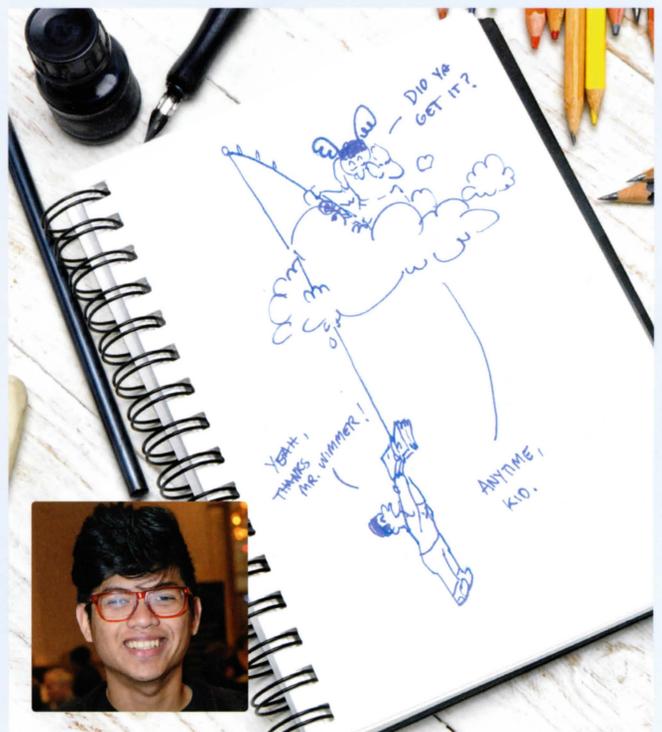
If you are thinking about including the Harper College Educational Foundation in your estate plans, please let us know. We feel it's important to express our gratitude for your gift and welcome you to the Harper Heritage Society, which honors everyone who has included the Harper College Educational Foundation 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 dialogue 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** if you have already included Harper College in your estate plans, or if you are thinking about doing so. Thank you.

GRATITUDE THROUGH ART

This year, **Jasper**, an aspiring artist and Harper student, received the **William J. Wimmer Endowed Art Scholarship**. Jasper was at risk of dropping his classes and, despite working two jobs, was still having trouble paying his tuition and day-to-day living expenses. The William J. Wimmer Endowed Art Scholarship was created in 2013 through an estate gift left by William Wimmer, an adjunct faculty member in Harper's art department. After learning about the history of his scholarship, Jasper drew this picture to share his gratitude with the thoughtful donor who believed in the importance of supporting future generations of Harper students.



Jasper and his drawing

PAVERS FOR PROMISE

Leave a lasting impression and help pave the way for future harper students.

As Harper College celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Foundation is providing an opportunity for everyone to participate in the festivities through its Pavers for Promise program. Pavers for Promise is a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting mark on Harper's campus, while at the same time supporting future generations of Harper students. Proceeds from your purchase will benefit the Harper College Promise Scholarship.

Be among the alumni, faculty, students, parents, staff and friends to purchase a personalized commemorative brick for yourself, a loved one, a favorite professor, your graduating class or someone who has been a significant influence in your life.



Your decorative brick pavers will be engraved with your selected name or phrase and will become a lasting tribute, paving the way for generations to come.

Order your paver online at: harpercollege.edu/foundation or contact Brenda Stiff at **847.925.6468**.



Please join us at Inverness Golf Club for the 29th Annual Golf Open on June 12, 2017. This annual event raises funds for student scholarships and emerging programs at Harper College.

For more information about the event or sponsorship opportunities please contact the Harper College Educational Foundation at: **847-925-6490** or **foundation@harpercollege.edu**

CALLING HARPER ALUMNI

There are many reasons to become involved with the Alumni Program at Harper College. Here are five:

- Stay up-to-date on fellow alumni and the College by receiving our quarterly alumni eNews.
- Join the Harper College Alumni group on LinkedIn to connect and network.
- Attend alumni and networking events hosted by the College, Alumni Committee and Educational Foundation.
- Volunteer at College events and make a difference in the lives of current students
- Explore exclusive scholarship opportunities for Harper alumni – like the Elmhurst College/Harper College Alumni Scholarship.

Visit harpercollege.edu and search **Resources for Alumni**.

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Harper College Educational Foundation scholarship recipients thank donors at the annual Realizing Dreams breakfast. The Foundation distributed over 450 scholarship awards during the 2016-17 academic year.

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