

THE PHILANTHROPIC
MAGAZINE OF
HARPER COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

CATALYST

SUMMER 2020

“A community that is engaged
and working **together**
can be a powerful force.”

— Idowu Koyenika



We are Harper. We are doing this together.

FROM THE DESK OF
BILL KESLER
HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the world, our nation, state, city and Harper College. Every member of our community has been asked to take unprecedented actions to respond to this health challenge.

In recent weeks, I have witnessed an outpouring of care from every corner of our Harper College supporters and ambassadors. So many have reached out to ask: How can I help? As we continue to chart a path forward together, I feel honored to be part of this community.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, faculty and friends, the Educational Foundation and Harper College together have been able to access needed funding to assist those members of the Harper family most in need. Every gift, no matter the size, makes an incredible difference. So far, we have provided more than 500 students with emergency financial support and raised over \$250,000.

In difficult periods like these, we are reminded of the resilience, strength and compassion of our Harper College community. Your help ensures we are able to meet the most pressing needs of our students both today and in the future.

I recognize, deeply, the anxiety and uncertainty this crisis is creating in all of our lives. I greatly appreciate your understanding, your care for others, and your willingness to navigate these many disruptions to protect the health and safety of our community.

Thank you for ensuring those who learn and work at Harper College continue to flourish.

Bill Kesler

25: Average age of Harper student

15,824: Number of students taking credit classes (spring 2019)

73% of students who work full or part time (about 30% work more than 30 hours a week)

53% of Harper students who self-identified as first generation

\$4,005: average annual cost of tuition for a full-time student

1,600+: students applying for a Foundation scholarship

98% of Foundation scholarships awarded

\$1,190,276:

Total awarded in 2018–2019 by the Foundation in scholarships, grants and awards

563: number of students receiving a scholarship, grant or award

HARPER
by the **NUMBERS**

Rivers Casino Foundation Scholarship: Making a Difference for Area Veterans

Rivers Casino is committed to being a great community partner and strives to fulfill this promise every day. Each year, Rivers Casino donates thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars to help make Chicagoland a better place to live and work. They know that when our community flourishes, we all succeed. (Mission Statement, 2017)

In November 2019, Rivers Casino Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Harper College Educational Foundation to provide scholarships to veteran and military-connected students enrolled at Harper College.

This new scholarship will provide financial assistance with tuition and fees for two semesters for up to 10 veteran and military-connected students enrolled on a full- or part-time basis, and also fund 20 \$500 textbook and supplies scholarships. Harper has nearly 300 students enrolled each term who either receive GI Bill® benefits from the Veterans Administration or who self-identify as veterans, active duty, spouses or family members.

"When Rivers Casino opened its doors almost nine years ago, we made a commitment to be a community partner and invest back in our community. Two areas we feel very passionate about

are education and military and veterans. This scholarship is a perfect fit for us. We are so happy and honored to be a part of it," said Kristin Kaloyanides, Community and Public Relations Manager for Rivers Casino.

Blake Hansen, a United States Marine Corps veteran, is one of the first recipients of the **Rivers Casino Foundation Scholarship**.

Blake is studying geographic information systems (GIS) at Harper College. Blake said that receiving the scholarship "(M)eans something rather profound to me in non-pecuniary terms. It tells me I'm on the right track. It tells me to stay on the right track. It tells me somebody else, without knowing me as a person, already believes I'm on the right track. It tells me somebody believes in my success and wants to invest

in me as a contributing, forward-moving agent in society because of the experiences they know I've had as a veteran."



"Two areas we feel very passionate about are education and military and veterans."

Kristin Kaloyanides,
Community and Public Relations Manager, Rivers Casino

Alexian Brothers Health System Nursing Scholarship



The **Alexian Brothers Health System Nursing Scholarship** is for underrepresented Harper nursing students with bilingual fluency, preference given to Latino applicants. The scholarship was started in 2011 and was endowed immediately with a gift of \$100,000.

Andrea Hernandez is one of three students who received this scholarship during the 2019–2020 academic year. Andrea is an adult student enrolled in the Registered Nursing Associate in Applied Science program. She is in her fourth semester of the program and plans on obtaining her Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Coincidentally, Andrea has had three clinical rotations with the Alexian Brothers Health System. The scholarship covered most of her tuition.

"The nursing program suggests that you don't work while in the program, because of the time commitment and the time needed to study. Unfortunately, I need to work to support myself, and I work at least 30 hours at a restaurant. Because of this scholarship, I am able to focus on my studies and just be a student. It has taken the burden of wondering how I would pay for my tuition and instead given me the opportunity to better myself."

Dr. Polly Davenport is Senior Vice President and Regional Operating Officer for the Northwest region, which includes AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center Elk Grove Village, AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Women & Children's Hospital, among many others. She joined the Harper College Educational Foundation Board in the fall of 2019 and met Andrea at the Foundation's March board meeting. Polly shared with Andrea, "Amita wants to represent the diversity of our patients, and we're very excited to support this scholarship now and going forward."

PROMISE Update

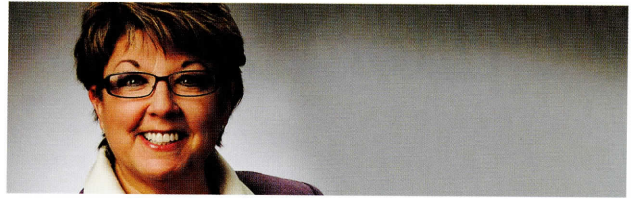
from Promise student Emina Abdic

What are your future plans?

I plan on majoring in Chemical Engineering. After Harper, I will be transferring to the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.



FROM THE DESK OF
LAURA J. BROWN



Dear Donors, Alumni and Friends of Harper College Educational Foundation:

In the best of times, we at Harper College Educational Foundation wish you and your loved ones the utmost health and happiness. At extraordinary moments such as this, the sentiment takes on new meaning. With the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in a global public health challenge, the life as you once knew has changed.

Life at Harper College has changed, too, but it has not stopped. As you most likely know, Harper College remains open, providing remote instruction to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff. Our staff at the Educational Foundation is working remotely as well.

These were not easy decisions to make, as conditions continue to change hourly. For our students, these changes often bring complications—lost wages, transportation issues, food insecurity and more. Many of you have reached out with offers of assistance and expressions of concern. We thank

you for those offers. Your gifts helped to provide emergency aid funds for students at Harper College.

It has been inspiring to witness the Harper College community come together on behalf of one another and in service to the greater good. We will continue to work together to help address this crisis.

In this historic moment, each of us has an extraordinary opportunity to reimagine our purpose, pursue new passions and explore new modes for creating community. Thank you for your resilience and kindness and for being a constant in a time of rapid change.

Please stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura J. Brown".

Laura J. Brown
Chief Advancement Officer
Harper College Educational Foundation

What has been your experience at Harper so far?

I like the easy access to the professors. The professors make time for students to answer questions and go over difficult concepts.

What does the Promise Program mean to you?

I am so grateful for the Promise Program because it is an amazing opportunity for determined students to save their family from debt and pursue their education without money being an obstacle.

Education is important in today's society, but it is almost impossible for younger generations to succeed due to ridiculous tuition prices.

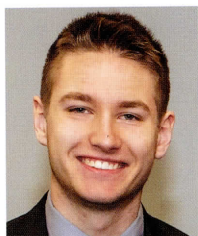
How is the transition to remote learning?

Learning remotely has not been difficult for me. The key to successful online learning is organization. I have an agenda book where I record all due dates and tasks I need to complete. The most challenging is trying to submit different forms of exams. Some teachers require pictures of answered test questions, which takes a while to upload.

Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence

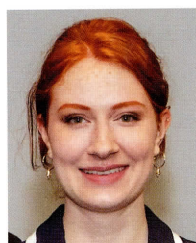
Since 1981, Motorola has sponsored its **Award for Excellence**, which is among the highest honor a Harper College student can earn. The award honors a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in STEM academics, extracurricular activities and community service while attending Harper College.

The 2019–2020 recipients of the Motorola Award for Excellence given through the Harper College Educational Foundation were **James Coombes** and **Emma Law**. These students received awards for \$5,000 each. Both James and Emma have earned a 4.0 GPA during their education at Harper and work at the Academic Support Center as peer tutors.



James Coombes is studying computer science. He is a member of WISE (Women in Science and Engineering). He was accepted to the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign for computer science and was offered a cyber-security internship at Argonne National Laboratory

as a part of the US Department of Energy's community college internship program. Of receiving the scholarship, James said, "There are so many talented students here and that you all believe in me to give me the honor of this scholarship is amazing. It motivated me to work even harder."



Emma Law is currently working on completing two degrees, an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Science. She plans to apply to medical school or earn her doctorate in chemistry. Emma served as the vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society

of two-year colleges, where she presented at regional conferences and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team. As Emma reflects on her time at Harper, she says, "All of the amazing opportunities I had at Harper started from one thing—your scholarship. Your generosity has had a big impact on my life."

Dee Beaubien Honored as James McGrath Award Recipient

Former Harper College President James McGrath started the **James McGrath Award** 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 34 recipients since its inception in 1986. The 2020 recipient for the McGrath Award is **Dee Beaubien**.

Dee has served on the Harper College Educational Foundation Board since 2013. In 2014, Dee and her family established the Beaubien Family Scholarship Fund to help first-generation college students from District 220.

Dee is a retired mental health counselor and consultant who worked for more than 29 years with persons with brain disorders and their families. Dee has also been involved in community service for more than 40 years, serving as a volunteer leader for dozens of not-for-profit organizations including JourneyCare, Mano a Mano Family Resource Center and Personal PAC in Chicago.



Harper Alumna Receives Motorola Solutions Foundation Distinguished Faculty Award

Professor Patricia Hamlen is the 2020 recipient of the **Motorola Solutions Foundation Distinguished Faculty Award**, the highest faculty honor at Harper College.

A full-time faculty member since 2001, Hamlen first enrolled at Harper College as a part-time student in 1983, taking night classes while working a full-time job and raising a family. She eventually transferred to Northern Illinois University, where she graduated magna cum laude in 1990. Three years later, she had a Master's degree in anthropology and went to work in her field, doing private contract archeology and teaching classes as an adjunct faculty member.

Then, in 2001, Harper hired Hamlen as a full-time faculty member. She still calls this event one of the happiest days of her life.

"To be able to say that I'm teaching where I went as a student, that was an exciting moment," Hamlen said.

Not only is Hamlen able to share the love of her subject matter and first-hand experience in her discipline from her days in the private sector, but her background as a student attending Harper gives her some unique insight. From trying to take classes while working full time to balancing the responsibilities of schoolwork with raising a family, Hamlen said that her background has allowed her to understand the challenges of non-traditional students.

"I know who these students are and what they face. I want to allow them to meet their full potential because that's what this institution gave me," she said. "What we do here is to prepare students to choose to graduate at the top of their class. You can do it because I did it."

Professor Hamlen earned the Motorola Solutions Foundation Distinguished Award because of her continued dedication to students in and out of the classroom, her willingness to serve the department and division and her engagement in professional development. Hamlen recently developed and taught the first online class in her department. She has participated in three Global Regions of Focus, served as a Fulbright Scholar in Brazil

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I want to allow them to meet their full potential because that's what this institution gave me.

Patricia Hamlen

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and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in Peru. Each of these experiences has influenced her teaching and allowed her to share different cultures with her students. She was recognized and served as the keynote speaker during Harper's virtual commencement ceremony on May 16.

When she started taking classes in 1983, Hamlen didn't know what she wanted to do for a career. Though she was sure she wanted to work in anthropology or archeology, teaching never entered her mind. Now, she said she can't imagine doing anything else.

"This is my dream job, and I live it every day."



Congratulations GRADUATES!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS.



Harper College celebrated
its Class of 2019–2020 in

a virtual commencement ceremony that
lauded graduates for their resilience and
underscored the importance
of connectedness.

Though it wasn't the celebration anyone had
envisioned before the COVID-19 pandemic,
graduates embraced opportunities to
create online profile pages, decorate caps
and receive congratulatory messages from
friends, family, Harper employees and even
celebrities among the likes of Ne-Yo, Todrick
Hall and Mandy Moore.

Among the approximately 3,300 graduates
to earn a degree or certificate was Melania
Toczko, who graduated with an Associate
of Arts and took part in the Speech and
Debate Team, Pi Kappa Delta and the Phi
Theta Kappa honors society. Melania said
she appreciated the effort that went into
the virtual celebration.

"I enjoyed putting together my profile since
it gave me an opportunity to look back
on the last two years and think hard about
how grateful I am toward everyone who has
helped me along my educational journey,"
said Melania, of Hoffman Estates, who
plans to transfer to DePaul University
and study communication and media.

HARPER COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2020

3,300

Graduates

From 15

countries

1,005

Health Care students

63

Veterans

16–71

Age range

1,555

First-Generation Students

10

National Junior College Athletic Association All-Americans

"It's a great way to immortalize this part of our lives."

The virtual ceremony, which livestreamed May 16, opened with remarks from President Dr. Avis Proctor, who acknowledged what unprecedented times these are. While the economy has put many professional plans into jeopardy, Dr. Proctor said that Harper graduates are building within themselves a resiliency that will help them to meet challenges.

"You now have insight into just how connected we all are, and how that connectedness can help lift the human spirit," said Dr. Proctor, adding that "approaching life through a lens of care and compassion will help you and those around you get through this stronger than ever before."

Dr. Proctor shared that like 1,555 of Harper's newest alumni, she too was a first-generation college student. She also recognized the more than 1,000 Harper

graduates who are positioning themselves to become first responders and healthcare workers.

The graduation ceremony included remarks from Farah Khan, president of the Student Government Association, who urged graduates to try and tackle challenges together.

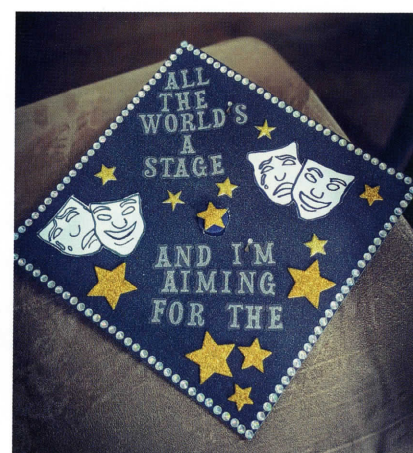
"We are Harper, and our greatest strengths come not alone, but through our community," Farah said. "And those new communities we enter, whether through new schools, new families, or new careers,

will depend on us and our hard work to rebuild and thrive in coming years."

Pat Stack, chair of the Harper College Board of Trustees, thanked faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts during these challenging times and offered graduates a congratulatory message.

"Your final year has been unlike any other," Stack said. "Your ability to reach this point is a result of your individual determination, resilience and grit. These are qualities that will serve you well as you progress toward your next milestone, whatever that may be."

The live stream had 1,456 unique views and graduation-related web content had 22,269 unduplicated views with family, friends and faculty/staff leaving 2,801 messages on graduate profile pages.



Visit Harper's Facebook page to see more decorated caps and how our graduates celebrated their successes and graduation this year.

Thank You

Esmeralda Zamora thinks of her paycheck a lot differently these days.

Up until a couple of months ago, the 20-year-old Harper College student would use her earnings as a cashier at a major retailer for expenses like gas, her cell phone bill and going out. Today, she's helping pay her family's rent, utilities and groceries.

"My dad is the main household provider, but he recently lost his job, and my brother and I have had our hours cut at work," Esmeralda, of Carpentersville, said. "We're kind of just pushing through right now, making the best of the situation."

Esmeralda is grateful for the assistance she received through the Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund. She's among the more than 550 students (as of May 1) at Harper to receive funding so far, and applications continue to come in.

To date, more than \$250,000 has been committed to the Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund between about 350 individual donors, the Harper College Educational Foundation board and Harper College institutional funds.

More than **550 students** already benefiting from Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund

For Esmeralda, the assistance she received is allowing her to stay more focused on her coursework. She's studying forensic science and plans to transfer this fall to Roosevelt University's criminal justice program at Harper College's University Center. She aspires to become a crime scene investigator or detective.

"My goal is really to focus on my grades so that I can get a scholarship to Roosevelt, and the emergency money is helping relieve some stress," Esmeralda said. "I'm confident that I'll be that much closer to my dream job and be able to help others in the future."

The need is only expected to grow. Nearly three-fourths of Harper students work while attending classes, and many like Esmeralda are dealing with reduced hours or job loss.

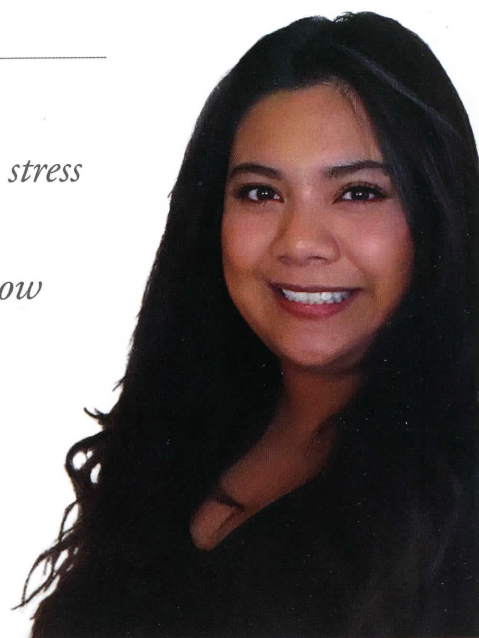
To learn how to help these students and make a financial contribution, please email foundation@harpercollege.edu or visit harpercollege.edu/foundation.

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Thank you so much for the donation! This will help me use my stress for good things such as school and not distract me by worrying about the financial aspect of life. Today it was me, and tomorrow it will be someone else. I know I will do good one day because I was able to get my degree and use it to have the dream job I always wanted, and I will do well financially to help someone else in the future!

— Esmeralda

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Harper College Student Emergency RELIEF FUND



554

Students Served

\$261,000

Amount Raised

\$22,000

Amount Raised

by Harper College alumni

\$440

Average

Award Amount

416

Number of Donors

154

Number of

brand new donors
to Harper College

\$190

Average Donation

as of 6.2.2020

Harper Alumni Give Back

In our students' time of need, the Harper alumni community stepped forward and gave back to Harper to support students in big ways. A very special group of former scholarship recipients chose to help current Harper students. Here are two of their stories.

As a recent alumnus, **Nick Wenzel (A.A.S. '17)** knows the importance of being able to make ends meet while in school.



Nick, a former Harper College Educational Foundation scholarship recipient himself, recalls that he wouldn't have been able to continue his education without the generous scholarship gifts from donors who wanted to make it possible for the next generation. Now he feels it's his turn, and his recent gift to the Harper College Emergency Fund was a no brainer.

"It wasn't long ago that I was a student at Harper and working several jobs to make ends meet," said Nick. "If I had lost work then, it surely would've postponed my education. My heart goes out to the Harper students and families impacted through no fault of their own. The least I can do is look after my Harper Family, just as others did for me."

After leaving a successful career at AT&T to care for three terminally ill family members, **Judy Blaylock** found it challenging to reenter her field. She turned to Harper College and enrolled in Six Sigma courses, skills that helped her get hired at her dream job. A Harper College Educational Foundation scholarship helped her pay for the classes. Just a few years later, Judy donated to the Harper Emergency Student Relief Fund.



"It has always been my intention to give back to the institution that was there for me when I needed a helping hand and a second chance in life. I delayed my givings due to embarrassment about the size of the amount I could currently give. When I received an email to give to the Harper Emergency Student Relief Fund, I put my pride aside and put my faith in that no amount could be too small to help one of our students. It was not so much in what I could do by myself, but what we could do collectively as alumni."

HOPE Giving Circle

Female business owners share challenges, successes at Women at the Table



Panelists Ana Santos-Vitelo, Melanie Santostefano, and Dr. Amy Derick discuss and reflect on female business leadership.

A group of successful female entrepreneurs offered their stories, insights and some advice to an engaged audience at the HOPE Giving Circle's annual Women at the Table event.

Dr. Amy Derick, the founder and owner of Derick Dermatology, served as the keynote speaker at the Harper College Educational Foundation gathering, which took place in early March at Westwood Tavern in Schaumburg.

Derick reflected on how an unpleasant encounter with a receptionist during a routine doctor's appointment sparked her desire to improve patient service. She said the medical field's focus on efficiency in the early 2000s often resulted in poor treatment.

"There was a supply-demand asymmetry," Derick said. "People had enough patients but didn't feel the need to be nice to them."

Derick's rapidly growing practice generates some of the highest patient satisfaction scores in the country. She's also been named Top Doctor for Cancer by Chicago Magazine and received the 2019 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Midwest award, among other accolades.

Derick, who discussed her commitment to melanoma prevention and detection, highlighted her company's emphasis on hiring women — 90% are female, in fact, and many of them mothers. As a young doctor and parent herself, she frequently juggled childcare with overseeing visits and understands the importance of maternity leave and flexible working hours.

"I am a big proponent of women helping other women," Derick said. "It's important that you surround yourself with your tribe."

After her keynote, Derick joined a panel of fellow business owners including Melanie Santostefano, founder and president of Vicarious Multimedia in Arlington Heights; Ana Santos-Vitelo, co-owner of Brazil Express in Schaumburg; and Brenda Knox, founder, and president of Financial Elements Inc. in Rolling Meadows.

Santostefano spoke about the challenges she faced as an aspiring business owner and recognized the importance of building a strong support system for women who see themselves having a future in business.

"I'm really into talking with younger women who are contemplating business ownership," Santostefano said. "I can pretty much guarantee that if you find something you love, you will find success."

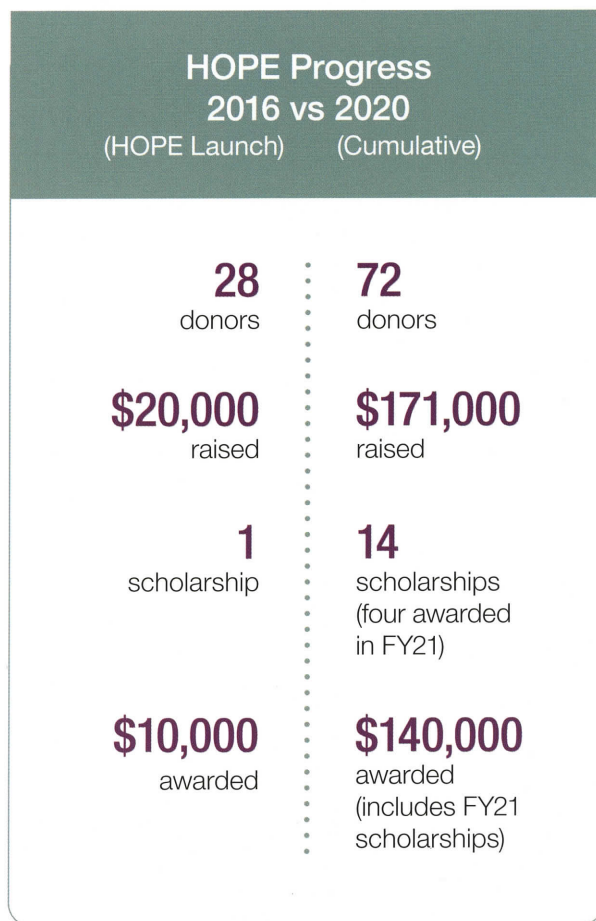
Santos-Vitelo shared her struggles as a budding entrepreneur and advised turning to others for guidance.

"We have to be humble and look for knowledge we don't have," she said. "Look for people that know more than you do and ask questions. People are willing to help you while asking nothing in exchange."

Panelists also discussed combating outdated stereotypes about women at home and in the workplace, defining their values early in their careers, and learning from their mistakes.

"It's not a disadvantage to be a woman," Knox said. "If anything, I've benefitted in my field by being one. Being an empathetic listener and having the ability to weave relationships with facts and figures makes me successful at what I do."

Since the HOPE Giving Circle formed in 2015, the women's affinity group has raised \$165,000 in funds and awarded \$10,000 scholarships to 10 young women to pay for their education at Harper and their transfer school. To learn more, please visit harpercollege.edu/foundation and click on HOPE Giving Circle.



WHCM Radio Drive Celebrated 20 Years on the FM Frequency

To celebrate its 20th anniversary as an FM station, Harper College's student radio station WHCM held its second annual Alumni and Friends Membership Drive in March. The drive raised over \$3,500 to support WHCM students in their development activities and expanding college radio.

The documentation isn't so great, so there's some debate over when WHCM began. Tom Schnecke, a Harper alum and the vice president and director of engineering at CBS 2 in Chicago, started at Harper a few years after the station began. He estimated WHCM first hit Harper the airwaves between 1970 and '73.

In the beginning WHCM broadcast across the college via physical wires that ran from building to building. Students could listen on the cafeteria's speakers, and the station used the radio technology of the day: a few turntables and some tape cartridges.

"Mostly, you played vinyl," Schnecke said.

For most of the station's history, WHCM wasn't connected to any academic program, said Brian Shelton, assistant professor of mass communication and the station's current advisor. Since 2014, students take radio courses and use the station as a lab space.

Erik Bonilla, who graduated from Harper in May, started at WHCM in fall 2017. Since then, he worked his way up to program director.

Thanks to his time at the station, Bonilla realized that his future will be in the technical aspects of broadcasting – not teaching high school geography, as he initially thought.

"Harper radio dramatically improved my time at Harper College," Bonilla said. "The radio station began as a place for me to spend my time and pursue a hobby but resulted in a realization of, 'Wow, I really like the work I do here. I would love to do this professionally.'"

For most of its time at 88.3, WHCM was a part-time radio station, but in 2017, Harper began broadcasting full-time, seven days a week. Today, listeners tune in from across the globe. The student DJs create their own formatting, Shelton said, from sports shows to talk shows.

During WHCM's early days, Schnecke said, he remembered fewer talk shows and more music – primarily Top 40 tunes. "I think it's great how the station is still viable [while] the media landscape has changed," Schnecke said. "It's great that the facility is still flourishing as a place for students to get a first experience in the media."



Glenn Reich Memorial Faculty Award



The Glenn Reich Memorial Faculty

Award was established in 1999 through a generous gift made by Lori Reich in memory of her late husband, Glenn Reich, former Director of User Services at Harper. Glenn wanted to share his love of computers with students and faculty members. He encouraged faculty and staff to invest their energy in the technology that he knew would dramatically affect our world. Glenn believed every academic discipline should expose students to technology and assist them in becoming more comfortable with it. This award is devoted to realizing and carrying forward that vision.

Professor Mark Healy was honored with The Glenn Reich Memorial Faculty Award for Instructional Technology this year. Professor Healy was also the inaugural recipient of this award. In learning that he received the award 20 years later, he wrote, "I had the great opportunity to work with Glenn. Many years ago, he taught me that technology should not determine what we do in our classes, but rather, we are to use technology to accomplish what

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These annual awards have highlighted what is being done at Harper and thereby have encouraged faculty to continue to explore how they can use technology to help our students.

— Mark Healy

” —

we want to do. That changed the way I thought about technology and how I could use it to help my students. I received the first Glenn Reich Award in the year 2000. These annual awards have highlighted what is being done at Harper and thereby have encouraged faculty to continue to explore how they can use technology to help our students. I think Glenn would be proud of what he started."

Healy received this award for his work in creating an app for his courses that gives his students access to a wide variety of course materials. Mark describes his impetus for this creation, "About five years

ago as I was walking down the hallway, I noticed that nearly all students were on their cell phones. I then realized that most likely, they were not studying for my economics course, because I had not made it easy for them to access my course materials on mobile devices. I decided that I needed a course app. They are web-based applications (not a native app available at an app store) that give my students access to a wide variety of my course materials."

We congratulate Mark Healy as the 2019–2020 Glenn Reich Memorial Faculty Award for Instructional Technology.

Resource for Excellence Grants: Making a Difference Through Innovation

Through Resource for Excellence (RFE) grants, the Harper College Educational Foundation encourages innovation and creativity among Harper faculty and staff. Funded by donations to the Harper College Educational Foundation, RFE grants are awarded through an annual competitive process and selected by members of the Educational Foundation Board of Directors. Since the inception of RFE grants in 1993, more than \$1.8 million has been awarded to nearly 200 innovative projects at Harper College.

This year, 10 projects were recommended for funding. The RFE committee met virtually with each project team. Each team gave a presentation, and committee members were able to engage

Since the inception of RFE grants in 1993, more than **\$1.8 million** has been awarded to nearly **200 innovative projects** at Harper College.

in Q&A sessions with the teams, which created an environment for the exchange of ideas, sharing of comments, and lively discussions about how the COVID-19 pandemic response may impact the projects.

The FY21 awards include:

1. Equitable Access to Health Occupations Career Observations — Assist 40 students who cannot enroll in this course because the health clearance fees are cost-prohibitive.
2. Harper College Alumni — Provide funding for Graduway, an alumni virtual networking platform, to build lifelong connections with alumni and connect alumni to current students to enhance the student experience.
3. Digital Art Pen Displays — Funding to purchase specialty and professional-grade equipment for the Art and Design Department to ensure students are fully prepared to transfer or enter the workforce using the tools currently used in digital and animation fields.
4. Space Matters: Transforming Learning Environments to Facilitate Philosophical Inquiry — Fund philosophy reference materials and learning resources as faculty and students explore the convergence of pedagogy, environment, technology, and innovation in the classroom.
5. Career Skills Institute Program Classroom Laptops — Fund purchase of 15 Chromebooks for use by CSI students in the classroom to more efficiently access curriculum and resources to build academic and vocational skills.
6. Disability Culture Program — Provide support for establishing a mindset on campus where faculty, staff and administrators share ownership in serving students with disabilities and increasing engagement of students with disabilities.
7. Expansion of Hawks Care Services — Augment current services with fresh food and educational programming related to self-advocacy, financial knowledge, nutrition and creativity in the kitchen.
8. AllenForce Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies — Support veterans' successful transition from military service to college, particularly through fitness, networking and camaraderie-building activities.
9. Textbook Loan and Scholarships for Veterans and Military-Connected Students — Assist with textbook expenses for student veterans experiencing hardships and/or financial delay in receiving GI Bill benefits.
10. Creating a Culture of Interprofessional Practice — Support team-based training for faculty to facilitate and create a culture of inquiry, scholarship and interprofessional collaboration in health careers.

Thank You to Our Business Champions

The Harper College Educational Foundation is grateful for the sponsorship support of our 2019–2020 Business Champions. To learn more, email Kristyn Meyer at kmeyer@harpercollege.edu.

\$10,000 +

AMITA HEALTH[®]



\$7,500 +

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Sponsors secured as of June 2, 2020.

WAYS TO GIVE: PLANNED GIFTS

The Harper College Educational Foundation is committed to ensuring that financial uncertainty is not a deterrent to our students. There are ways to support Harper College students during this unprecedented time that may not affect your current financial situation.

Include Harper College in your will or trust

- You can include a gift (unrestricted or restricted) to the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation in your will or trust.
- Indicate a specific amount or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate or trust.
- Please tell us about your gift so we may celebrate your generosity now.

Donor-Advised Fund

- If you have a donor advised fund, make a grant to the Harper College Educational Foundation.

Gifts of Stock or Appreciated Assets

- You transfer appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares you have owned for more than one year to Harper College Educational Foundation. We sell your securities.
- You receive an income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer when the stock is sold.

If you want to make a cash donation, the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act passed by Congress includes an above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions of up to \$300 for individuals and \$600 for households. It also lifts the existing cap on contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60% of the adjusted gross income to 100%. Only gifts made during 2020 qualify.

We can work with you to customize your gift and interests. Please contact Heather Zoldak at hzoldak@harpercollege.edu or **847.925.6319** for more information.

NEW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

WELCOME

The Harper College Educational Foundation welcomes

Georgeanna Mehr and **Sam Oliver** back to the Harper College Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

Georgeanna Mehr is the Retired President of Hoffman Estates Community Bank, a branch of Barrington Bank & Trust Company, N.A. She holds an Associate degree from College of Lake County and her Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Elmhurst College and started her Certified Financial Planner certification at Harper College. Georgeanna has been actively involved in the Barrington Area United Way, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital as a Governing Council and Quality Council member, Friends of HE Parks, Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and the Hoffman Estates Economic Development Commission. Georgeanna lives in Barrington with her husband, Gregg.

Sam Oliver has served on the Board of Directors of Barrington School District 220, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, the Midwest Affiliate of the American Heart Association, the Heart Association of Metropolitan Chicago, Barrington Area Historical Society, Buehler YMCA, Elgin Academy, Friends of Harper College and was one of the founders of JourneyCare. For 31 years, she was the Director of Citizens for Conservation, based in Barrington, and is now a CFC consultant. In 2018 she was inducted into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame. She and her husband Bob, live in North Barrington.

RETIRING

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

The Harper College Educational Foundation thanks **Young Chung** and **Jim Moehling** for their years of service on the Foundation Board. Young and Jim will be ending their terms as Board members on June 30, 2020. Both have been strong advocates for Harper College students, helping the Foundation to grow in its ability to serve Harper College students as they pursue their goals and dreams. We graciously thank them for their service!

2019–2020 BOARD MEMBERS

* Deceased

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Community members, Harper faculty and staff, alumni and current students came together to help Harper students in need. Together, your generosity gave hope and support to over 550 Harper students. And our students are so grateful.

To learn about the impact you made with your donations to the Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund, see pages 10 and 11.

“Thank you for **bringing** my family and I **some hope** in this time of despair.”

“Thank you for the support and for **allowing me to eat** every day.”

“Thank you so much for helping through these tough times, I cannot tell you how much this means to me as a future nurse that **plans to give back to the community** as well.”