And They’re Off

Destination: China

Art Bowers, Director of Computer Services, will take a developmental leave to China, where he will exchange information about community colleges with Chinese officials. The Chinese government and World Bank will build 100 or more community colleges divided between use of home television and classroom teaching. Bowers was invited by members of the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People International.

Destination: Seattle

Betty Windham, Physics Department, will be a visiting professor at the University of Washington in Seattle for 1987-88. Windham hopes to live close by the campus and is looking forward to the change of pace and the mild climate of the Northwest. She will be directly responsible for an in-service program geared to high school and middle school teachers of physics and physical science. The other half of the assignment is to apply the knowledge gathered from the in-service experience to benefit students, especially those underprepared in the sciences.

Windham looks forward to becoming acquainted with new research in physics education, including use of computer programs for problem solving. Ultimately, she hopes to sift out those methods and materials relevant and useful to the community college faculty and students.

After 31 years of teaching, with 19 of those at Harper, Diane Callin, Professor of English, looks forward to a semester of digging around libraries and universities for research and publication of information about a favorite woman author. In addition to publishing articles in scholarly journals, she hopes that magazines might be interested in information on this modern author.

Callin’s interest was a natural progression from the broad body of knowledge that she developed when researching sexual stereotyping of women in literature for her Ph.D. The general interest turned into a specific interest and a natural curiosity about the author of eight novels who also edited Crisis Magazine for 40 years. In addition to adding a body of knowledge to women’s literature, Callin hopes to turn Harper into a repository for her research subject’s books and papers.

Sound like all work and no play? Not quite. The research will take Callin to the Library of Congress in Washington, NAACP headquarters in Baltimore (where she will meet with Director Benjamin Hooks), New York City and to Boston, a nice fall location, where she will peruse the Radcliffe and Harvard Libraries.
The London Connection

Hello and welcome back to Ben Dallas and Gene Kimmert, the first faculty members from Harper involved in the International Studies Program. Dallas said, "I went with the idea that I could bring back the place to my students and I feel that, in my own way, I've accomplished that." Kimmert says, "I enjoyed and profited from the trip even more than I thought I would." Both teachers discussed how the trip affected their own professional development and how the semester abroad would ultimately transfer to their students.

The experience in London provided Kimmert with a framework for understanding our own country even better. The traveling provided an added perspective and broadened his own view of the "diversity and complexity of people." He feels strongly that an individual who broadens his own knowledge base makes a better teacher, one who learns and uses new approaches in the classroom. Kimmert was most impressed by the British sense of history. "It's as if they feel it in their bones." He refers to the readiness of the English to talk about their country, past and present, to travelers who are interested, especially in the pubs which Kimmert discovered as a good place to engage in conversation with area residents.

Ben Dallas hoped to become fully acclimated to his new environment, to become comfortably familiar with the people and the area and to take a new look at himself. He likened the experience to that of returning to graduate school. The richness of art and culture, the diversity of the people and the increased physical activity, ability to walk to most places, helped him to add to his own knowledge and refresh both body and spirit.

Farewell to Mary Jo Willis and Mike Nejman who will spend fall semester in London. A nice sense of continuity arises from the fact that Willis will stay in the same flat Ben Dallas had rented during the spring semester. Willis, who teaches speech and theatre, aims to "soak myself in the atmosphere" of England for personal growth and renewal. She is grateful for this "once in a lifetime opportunity" to have the time to watch others perform and observe some of the best sets, costumes and theatre designs in the world. She expects to return to Harper with renewed vigor and full of new ideas and material for her students. Willis already has tickets to see "Phantom of the Opera," "Les Miserables," and "Les Liaisons Dangereuse" in London's West End, the equivalent of New York's Broadway. She will also attend performances at the government-funded National Theatre and is signed up for several workshop sessions with the actors and directors in the London-based Shakespeare company. The Covent Garden Theatre Museum is another "must see" for Willis who credits the College administration and Board for their wisdom in knowing how important sabbaticals are to the faculty.

Mike Nejman, Student Activities Coordinator, heartily agrees with that assessment. He will be acting as Residency Hall Coordinator for the Illinois Consortium for International Studies. Nejman will acclimate the students in the program to London and provide them with a solid social and cultural London experience. He is excited about the prospects of developing an internship program for future student groups. In addition to his official duties, the London trip will "provide me with both an opportunity to learn in an exciting, electrified environment and some rejuvenation time." Nejman and Willis recognize the value of London history and appreciate the city as a rich source of culture.

Mike Nejman — Student Activities

They are joined in their appraisal by Betty Hull who will teach three women's literature courses in the spring International Studies Program. Although Hull has visited London before, she has never stayed for more than a week. The four-month tour allows her a more in-depth experience and the "ability to teach and try on a different role" within the comfort of her own familiar courses. Hull feels that London is the perfect place to teach drama and is looking forward to a "theatre pigout" in a city where theatre is more affordable than in New York and Chicago. The trip also allows her the opportunity to expand another interest, the writing of science fiction. While American science fiction does dominate the world, British science fiction is a close second. Having published science fiction in 42 countries, both Betty and her husband, Frederik Pohl, are renowned in the field and the trip will be an opportunity to meet with fellow writers. A trip to Moscow to attend an international symposium on science fiction in the future is also cause for excitement for the pair. The Writer's Union has invited them to join the Eighth Congress to help formulate the group's five-year plan. Only two other Americans were invited. Travel and literature are combining to make 1987-88 a special year for this talented couple.

Betty Hull, Mike Nejman and Mary Jo Willis agree that the change will "recharge their batteries." Just talking to Ben Dallas and Gene Kimmert who have returned from London leaves no doubt that the experience is one that is very worthwhile.
Department Developments

The beginning of a new academic year is a good time to renew acquaintances, catch up with everyone's summer activities and welcome the newest members of the faculty and staff. We're happy to see the following new faces and some old friends in new places around campus: Mary J. Becker, IMPS; Donna Reiter Brandwein, SP/S; Daniel Abi, Mail Center; Gail Karch, Admissions; Judith Longmore, LAC; Lowie Smith, Placement; Janet Callahan, Student Development; Karen Boswell, LAC; Patricia Best, SP/S; Susan Farmer, LAC; Kathleen Gianaris, LAC; Louise Gustafson, LAC; Marsha Litrenta, Liberal Arts; Linda Nelson, SP/S; Lillian Thiel, IMPS; Karen Lamb, LRC; Diana Lehman, C.E.; Richard Will, LRC; Marco Arroyo, IMPS; Stephen Malkus, PEAR; Mary Beth Weiss, Public Safety; Gwen Hisey, C.E.; Risa Goch, Finance; and Julia Guiney, Personnel.

Members of the Harper community are active in many ways. Nicki Salmons, PEAR, is author of a chapter entitled "Fiber" in the Manual of Clinical Dietetics and Laura Adams of PEAR has received certification as an Exercise Specialist from the American College of Sports Medicine. Judy Dinch is working on a marketing project as a result of her participation in a workshop given by the National Institute for Leadership Development. Susan Cussack, ESL, and Ellen Kaufman, D.S.S., were invited to the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee to give a presentation on "Using an ESL approach for teaching Hearing Impaired Students." Steve Cattin and Art Bowers gave a presentation on Fourth Generation Computer Languages at the annual meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. Congratulations on recent promotions to Karen Villano, Food Service; Kathy Buttstadt, LS/HS; Mary Jane Austensen, LS/HS; David Hanson and Lynette Dickens, Print Shop; Max Netzband, Public Safety; and Laura Cole, C.E. Our best wishes to Lottie Mazur, Food Services. Enjoy your retirement!

A wonderful reunion occurred on July 17. Daniela Kowalska, AES, at the Northeast Center, welcomed her 14-year-old daughter Anna, to Chicago after 12½ years of separation. The two have been waiting for Polish authorities to allow Anna to join her mother here in the U.S.A. We will have more of this heartwarming story in the September Insider.

The Harper Insider, a monthly publication of the Institutional Communications Office, has been developed as part of the College Relations Departmental program of information for the college community and produced with assistance from LRC Media Services.

Employee groups and individual administrators, faculty and staff members are cordially invited to contribute stories and information before the first of the month for the issue published at midmonth. Please contact Patty Roberts, Institutional Communications, A302, extension 2628.

For Your Information

A pre-retirement planning seminar will be offered on September 24, 1987 for individuals who are five to ten years away from retirement at Harper. The seminar is similar to those conducted by SURS in Champaign and will cover areas such as financial planning, trusts and wills and calculation of retirement annuity. The seminar will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at a cost of $20 per person or $32 per couple and includes lunch and a retirement planning book. Your reservation form can be picked up in the Personnel Office. Registration deadline is September 11, 1987.

The Harper family recently suffered the loss of two of our members. Ken Jauch came to Harper in September 1968 and was an Associate Professor of Electronics. He died in an airplane crash on May 21, 1987. Carol Zack, Coordinator, Financial Aid/Veterans Affairs had been at Harper since March 1970. Carol underwent cardiac surgery on June 26 to replace a valve in the aorta. Carol's death occurred on June 27, 1987, in Evanston Hospital. We all feel the loss of good friends and colleagues and express condolences to their families.

Tom Zack gave permission to reprint this note on behalf of his family.

Mr. McGrath:

On behalf of the Zack family, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the entire staff of Harper College for the profound expression of sympathy extended to us at this time of sorrow. The outpouring of cards, donations and other acts of generosity has truly overwhelmed us. We will always feel that we have many friends at Harper, and their thoughtfulness will never be forgotten.

As Father Shields pointed out at the funeral mass, family members are often unaware of the extent and richness of the life lived outside of the home. Although we were all aware that Mother was well-respected at Harper, we were deeply impressed with the sincerity of the esteem accorded her. That the college flew its flags at half-mast in her honor was a tribute that greatly moved her family. And as a family that has always put a high value on academic education, the endowment started in her name is a fitting acknowledgement of her life-long concerns. Your recognition of her service reminded us that Mother played a vital role in a much larger community than just her home.

After speaking to the many people from Harper who attended the wake, I know that you all truly share in our sense of loss. As unconventional as it may be, I would like to express our sympathy to you on your privation. I know you will find Mother very difficult to replace. While you will very probably find someone to match her professional credentials, I suspect you'll be hard pressed to find someone who can discharge her duties with the fairness, sense of humor and sheer unflappability that will be remembered as Mother's legacy. As her son, I realize of course that I'm biased, but I suspect you'll agree that Carol Zack was a truly rare individual: generous, intelligent and a delight to work with. We wish you the best of luck in filling her vacancy.

Please keep us informed of your plans for a memorial service for Mother. We would also like to be kept up on the fortunes and recipients of the endowment, if that can be arranged without difficulty. Once again, let me thank you and the many good and decent people on your staff for your thoughtfulness. I know my mother would be honored.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Zack

Thank You

A note from Joe Torroll of Life Source thanked all the Harper people who participated in the July Blood Drive. The blood collected will serve more than 100 patients who need various components in the course of treatment, a real "gift of life." Gift givers will again be sought and appreciated for the September 16 drive on campus.
From the Chair

Sabbatical Leave Committee

Chaired by Frances Brantley, the sabbatical leave committee reviews all faculty requests for sabbatical leaves. The deadline for sabbatical proposals is November 1. The seven-member committee reviews the proposals, interviews the candidates, and submits them to the Vice President of Academic Affairs with a rating of highly recommended, recommended or not recommended. Considerations include the impact of the proposed leave on the professional stature of the applicant, the contribution of the sabbatical leave to the individual and the College and the urgency of need for sabbatical leave.

Faculty members are eligible for sabbaticals after six years of service. The sabbatical can be granted for a full year at half-pay or one semester at full pay. The Committee conveys its recommendations to the President of the College. The Board of Trustees takes action on recommendations for sabbatical leaves each year at the February Board meeting.

Chairperson Brantley says that the most difficult part of the job is knowing that all the outstanding proposals for leave from deserving people cannot be granted. However, that should not deter applicants. The Committee invites inquiries about proposals or the Committee process.

Tenure Committee

The Tenure Committee has recently been reactivated. According to State Law and the faculty contract, a committee of faculty members is required to review evaluation materials of all third-year teachers and present tenure recommendations to the President of the College. Chairperson Jack Gallagher and the committee members were elected to serve on this committee due to an interest in the tenure process. Gallagher wants to “see that the College has the best faculty that it can have” and also hopes to be supportive of new faculty members. The Committee will meet in the spring to review evaluations of first and second-year teachers, with the purpose of assisting those faculty members through the tenure process. Gallagher comments that the Tenure Committee does not want to add any additional “hoops” for teachers to go through and feels that the Committee’s job will be aided by good evaluation techniques. The Committee will appear before the Faculty Senate to explain which evaluation instruments it will be using and how they will be used. Gallagher is enthusiastic about the reactivation of the Committee, especially since the staff is growing.

Faculty Evaluation Committee

Chairperson Ann Dico and 12 Committee members meet four or five times a year. In November, 1986, the Faculty Evaluation Committee surveyed the faculty and administrators to determine satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the present evaluation system.

Common concerns included the feeling that the present evaluation system “had no teeth” regarding unsatisfactory evaluators and some concern with the instruments used in student and peer evaluations. The committee reviews the evaluation system and keeps faculty and administration informed of the findings. There have been no drastic changes in the evaluation system over the last ten years. The goal of the Committee is to present suggestions and recommendations to ensure a fair and effective evaluation system.

Sabbaticals

Traveling

Paul Sipiera, astronomy, physics and physical science faculty member, has traveled to Antarctica on sabbatical and, more recently, on a College-sponsored trip to Hawaii with students. He feels strongly that faculty members need to be active researchers in their fields. In addition to personal development, the travel and hands-on experience that sabbaticals and college-sponsored trips provide, enrich the educational environment for faculty and students.

“There are so many concepts in the books. A teacher who has seen a lava flow couldn’t convey the actual experience and make it real.” Two of Sipiera's students who traveled to Hawaii were filled with enthusiasm as they reported on their trip at a recent Educational Foundation meeting. Sipiera feels that type of enthusiasm is vicariously enjoyed by peers who weren’t able to go on the trip. What’s next for Sipiera? “Maybe we’ll take students to space camp.” And closer to home, a planetarium at Harper would be a dream come true for the astronomy professor. “It could be a focal point of community activity, a cultural as much as a science center.” For Sipiera, whose enthusiasm for teaching and his field is evident, there is no limit to learning and growing.

Research

As a result of Jerry Stone's sabbatical (spring, 1988), he plans to increase his knowledge about naturalist John Dewey, and publish results of a comparative study of John Dewey and Dewey researcher and critic, Langdon Gilkey. Stone has worked closely with Gilkey and has great respect for his knowledge and criticism. Most of Stone’s research will keep him relatively close to home, but he is looking forward to traveling to Oxford University next summer with associate Harley Chapman. He has been invited to present the results of his sabbatical at the biennial meeting of the Highland's Institute, an association of 60 philosophy and religion educators.

Richard Bernstein, professor of electronics, has taught at Harper for 19 years. He will use his fall sabbatical to do an independent study aimed at the development of teaching techniques to be used in presenting automation-related topics, and to determine the extent of a future curriculum in Electronics Automation Technology. The viability of a two-year program for automation and robotics will be considered. Bernstein authored papers in curriculum design and teaching techniques on microprocessors which led to Harper’s having the first program in the state. In addition to enhancing his own professional knowledge, this sabbatical will aid Bernstein as a career counselor to students interested in the field of automation.