

The

sider

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LRC Sets New Direction

Watch for a new direction at Harper's Learning Resources Center! Last year the center's faculty members were asked to prepare a position paper detailing the direction that they wanted the center to take. They agreed that they wanted to take on two major tasks. The first is to assist faculty members in coordinating course content while teaching students to research more effectively; the second is to step up media capabilities.

In addressing the first goal, LRC instructor Dorothy McCabe explains that in the past the library served as a locator service. But, she adds, that focus has changed. "Because information can now be accessed so quickly, students are in 'information overload.'" The task of the LRC staff, therefore, is to help students locate information and then evaluate their sources for appropriateness. Associate Professor Linda Glover notes, "As we work more closely with the faculty to integrate literacy skills with information literacy, we'll be able to teach the students how to evaluate articles and books—looking for bias, for example. This helps them become more active learners."

To train for this new emphasis, the LRC faculty has attended conferences and participated in the critical thinking workshops on campus and in the Great Teaching Seminars.

The second thrust of the LRC change involves its role as a center for promoting and using the instructional technology that is now available. The staff of the LRC will work with Information Services to help faculty stay current with the latest in multimedia instructional technology. The LRC is also pursuing a media management system through which faculty can request films and audiovisual equipment using their personal computers.

The LRC Media Services also plans to equip each classroom with overhead projectors, televisions and VCRs and to renovate Building F to include two multimedia classrooms.

"There is some new thinking going on," Vogel notes. "And you can expect some changes. We're no longer just a library—we're continuing our movement toward a total Learning Resources Center."

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The President's Message

As we begin this academic year—having just completed our Silver Anniversary celebration—I cannot help but note that our goals of more than twenty-five years ago so closely parallel those of 1993. These goals call for Harper College to respond to the needs of the community. Through the past quarter century, however, these needs have changed. We have to be sensitive to changes and adjust our teaching and learning strategies accordingly.

The increased diversity in our classrooms is an obvious example. Today's students vary in their cultural backgrounds, their ability levels and their interests. As a result, it becomes more of a challenge to meet and address differences. This challenge is even more pronounced in the community college setting, where our open door policy welcomes students with varying degrees of academic preparedness, experiences and acculturation.

Because Harper's students are so diverse, we need to determine their preparedness accurately so they are placed in courses where they have the opportunity to learn and succeed. Along with this is the importance of monitoring progress to ensure that they are *truly* succeeding. Assessing outcomes is now a standard expectation of the North Central Association, our regional accrediting body. We will be asked to demonstrate how effective

our assessment strategies are when representatives of the association visit our campus in three years.

Both of these strategies have been addressed by Harper's Student Success Committee, formerly the Retention Committee, which began meeting last year. Chaired by Music Professor Bob Tillotson, the committee is charged with creating an educational environment that enables all students to achieve their educational goals. This year the committee is emphasizing teaching and learning. The faculty/administration retreat on August 17 highlighted efforts we can employ to enhance our learning environment.

Last month's Great Teaching Seminar also focused on diversity as one of its teaching/learning concerns. The seminar, attended by faculty members who were recommended by their peers and deans, allows participants to pinpoint issues that either concern them or that they would like to learn more about. This year, along with issues such as teaching critical thinking in the classroom and determining responsibility for student motivation, the issue of diversity emerged.

"I believe that the community college educators' role is more difficult than any other in higher education."

--Paul N. Thompson

I believe that the community college educators' role is more difficult than any other in higher education. However, we can say with pride that Harper has consistently met this challenge—we continue to respond to the needs of our community, the task this community asked us to take on at our inception. This year's focus on teaching and learning is proof of Harper's primary commitment.



FOCUS ON

Architectural Technology

Architecture assistant professor Carl Dittburner notes that training in his field has changed significantly since he was a student in Harper's architectural technology program just 15 years ago. Last summer, in response to these changes, the department tracked down other program graduates who are licensed architects, builders and general contractors. "We invited them back for a reunion and to keep in contact," Dittburner explains. "That way we can pick their brains and see what we need to teach!"

The department is committed to keeping abreast of changes in the field. An advisory committee, made up of professionals in the field, oversees course offerings and recommends changes. During the past few years, for example, the department has added courses to offer more training in computer-aided drafting.

Harper's architectural department offers two options, a two-year architectural technology program that leads to an Associate in Applied Science degree and a certificate program. Students opting for the two-year program find that their coursework transfers to more than 60 colleges and universities offering bachelor's degrees in construction technology or architecture.

The program's enrollment stands at about 150 students, about half of whom are traditional-aged students with the other half returning to update skills or train for new positions.

Because many firms hire freelancers to complete CAD projects, Dittburner notes that students are often surprised to learn that drafting software can be purchased and installed on at-home personal computers, enabling students who have completed drafting coursework to freelance or operate drafting businesses from their homes.

As the program responds to changes in technology, its curriculum will continue to change. But Dittburner and program coordinator Joe Yohanan both stress that these changes will help keep Harper's Architectural Technology graduates in the forefront of their profession.



During a reception honoring program graduates, full-time Architectural Technology faculty members took time out for a group picture. George Dorner, dean of TM/PS, and President Paul Thompson (standing, from left) are joined by Carl Dittburner (standing right) and (seated from left) Joe Yohanan, Gertrude Kerbis and retired faculty member Meyer Rudoff.

INSIDER'S VIEW

James Bly

James Bly admits that growing up as the son of an army officer has helped shape the man and professional he is today. "The stereotype of the outgoing, gregarious army brat is true," he says. "Each time we moved my dad took the stance that we *would* go out and that we *would* fit in." This philosophy has paid off in his role as Harper's telecommunications manager in Information Systems, a position he accepted in June.

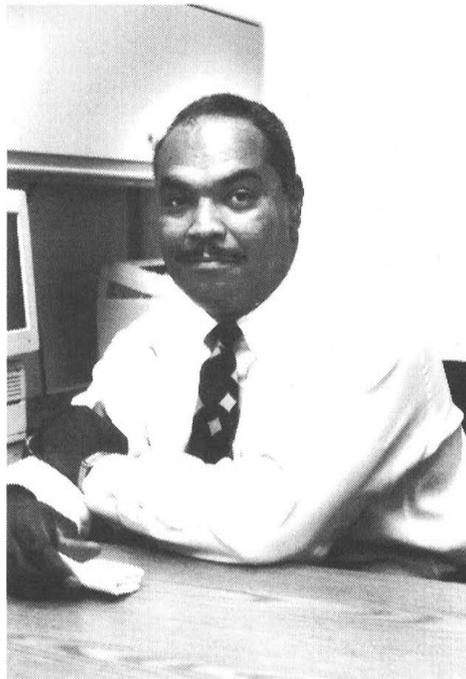
Bly's career in telecommunications began with Illinois Bell, where he worked first in customer evaluation and later as a regulatory engineer. He then joined Kemper Financial Services, serving as that company's telecommunications manager and later as its vice president of telecommunications.

After seven years with Kemper Financial, several of Bly's college friends who were affiliated with the Reagan and Bush administrations presented him with an opportunity of a lifetime—a major consulting contract to go to Southern Africa to conduct business development/economic aid analyses for the United States State Department.

"Secretary of State James Baker was looking for nontraditional ways that the United States could offer economic assistance without actually writing out a check," Bly explains. Bly's job, therefore, was to travel throughout the Southern Africa Development Council region—South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe—to identify and quantify potential businesses and economic opportunities and then funnel these leads

back to American investors and corporations. Foremost among these were energy, telecommunications and transportation. Bly completed the project by designing Zimbabwe's national phone network.

He plans to continue to use these varied skills now that he's joined the Harper staff, where he's responsible for the College's telephones, cabling, personal computer installations and hardware support. He adds that once he's settled in, he also plans to take a course or two on campus—starting with piano lessons through the Music Academy!



James Bly

Born: Fort Bragg, NC

Education: B.S. Business Economics, Purdue University

Family: Wife, Vanita, an attorney for Allstate

Interests: Avid college football and basketball fan; international travel

Best advice my parents gave me: Treat all people with respect; expect the same in return.

If time and money were not a problem: I'd contribute more to charitable causes and travel.

I would like to learn: piano

I don't care for: disrespectful acts.

One thing I've learned in life: Hard work and enthusiasm will win every time.

Favorite food: a good beef stew

Favorite movie: *The Longest Day*

Book I'm currently reading: *The Time Tables of History* by Bernard Grun

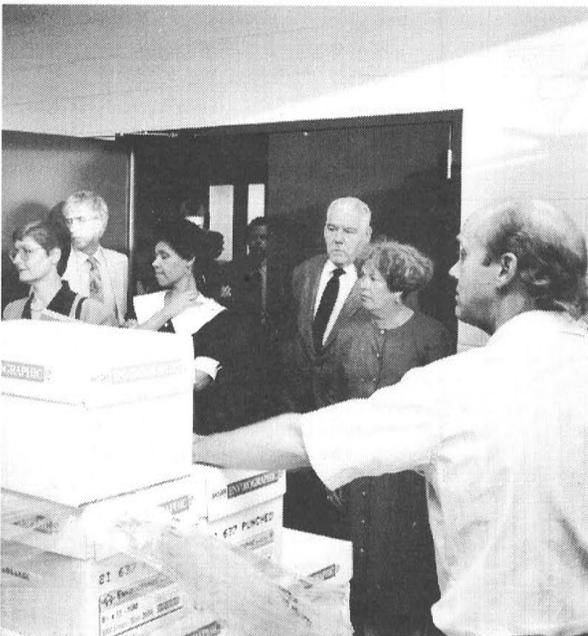
Inside Harper



Board of Trustees Chairman Molly Norwood cuts the ribbon and officially dedicates Harper's new Building S...



...after which Trustees Kris Howard and Sarah Born (from left) joined Vice President of Administrative Services Vern Manke and ACE Fellow Pat Kier for a tour of the mailroom.



This was followed by a look at the new Print Shop. Here Supervisor Peter Gart (right) shows his facility to (from left) Pat Kier, PEAR Dean Jerry Gotham, Molly Norwood and Trustees Richard Gillette and Sarah Born.

Retirees' Corner

Custodian Charles Stokes accepted an early retirement option on August 30 after 13 years of service to the College. He will now work for a college in Janesville, Wisconsin, closer to his home.

Departmental Developments

Congratulations are in order for **Lee Vogel**, dean of the LRC, who earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Loyola University, Chicago. Her dissertation is entitled, "Perceptions of Administrative Support of Teaching in Illinois Colleges" ...We also congratulate **Jaci Carroll**, computer lab manager, User Services, who earned a Bachelor of General Studies degree with a concentration in computer studies from Roosevelt University...and **Jim Zabout**, senior programmer/analyst in Administrative Systems, who earned a Master of Science degree in the management of information systems from North Central College.

Amy Hauenstein, ADM OUT, presented a session on community colleges to participants of the Illinois Association of College Admissions Counselors' Summer Institute. The institute is a training session for new college admissions counselors. Hauenstein also served on its planning committee...**Robert Getz**, PHY PLT, was the featured speaker at the Association of Physical Plant Administrators' 1993 Educational Conference and 80th Annual Meeting. He spoke on "The APPA Custodial Staffing Guidelines After a Year at Work: Six Case Studies."

Pat Beach, DIN SER, served on the conference host committee and as a paper reviewer and presenter at the Council of Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Educators last month. He spoke on "Labor Turnover and Organizational Commitment in Fine Dining Restaurants" and moderated a panel entitled "Human Resources: Empowerment and Burnout."

Harley Chapman and **Jerome Stone**, LIB ARTS, presented papers at the Second International Conference on Philosophical Theology at St. Andrews University, St. Andrews, Scotland, this summer. Chapman's paper was entitled "Natural Piety Reprised" and Stone's was "Caring for the Web of Life: Towards a Public Ecotheology." The two also presented at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago last month. Chapman presented "Natural Piety as a Spiritual Discipline" and Stone repeated his first presentation.

With the purchase of our new administrative computer system and related hardware, members of the Information Systems staff completed numerous workshops and training sessions. The following employees have participated: from Administrative Services, **Geetha Murthy, Jim Zabout, Don Malzahn, Elena Pokot, Hazel Rilki, Mark Johnson, Bill Wunschel, Bonnie Zoellner, Ray Stone, Shawn Pfaff** and **Azim Husain**; from Technical Services, **Bob Brown, Steve Hill, Keith Jauch, Bill Neumann** and **Scot Milford**; and from User Services, **Della Allen** and **Michelle Ehrlich**.

Harper interpreters **Stephanie Wootten-Austin, Judy McPherson Schumacher** and **Lauren Whitman** passed the written part of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) exam for certification, **Karen Hale** received her certificate of transliteration from RID, and **Sharon Moore** completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Theology from Berean College, Springfield, Missouri.

Staff members from the **Northeast Center** contributed to flood relief efforts in the Midwest this summer. The staff pooled together and collected \$250—a sum matched by the McCormick Tribune Foundation. The money was sent directly to the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Second Harvest National Food Bank.

We welcome new staff members who have joined the Harper staff this summer and congratulate those who have changed their status. New employees include **Charlene Padovani**, wellness coordinator, HLTH SER, and **Edward Salvadore**, maintenance helper, PHY PLT. Status changes include **Jennifer Lesiak**, child care attendant, Child Learning Center; **James Ryan**, intramurals coordinator and PEAR supervisor, PEAR; and **Norma Wiley**, user support specialist, **Della Allen**, supervisor-user support, and **Adele Krueger**, administrative secretary, IS.

The Harper
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