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## College Celebrates Fifteenth Annual Women's History Week

"The need to learn about women's history is as great now as it was 15 years ago," says Sharon Alter, professor of history and political science. "People tend to focus on events in the now without understanding their historical perspective." Harper College understands this need, and for the past 15 years has observed Women's History Week each March. The event coincides with the observance of International Women's Day on March 8.

The country's first Women's History Week celebration was held in Sonoma County, California, in 1978. Sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women, this event was shared with other women's organizations during the Women's History Institute held at Sarah Lawrence College in 1979. The institute was designed to help women better understand their history and then take this information and incorporate it into their own organizations.

Trustee Kris Howard, who had attended the institute as a representative of Girl Scouts of the USA, brought the idea back to Harper and worked with Rena Trevor of the Women's Program to plan the College's first celebration. It was held in March of 1980. She notes, "Women of whatever age and from whatever culture or career can learn much from the experiences of women who have preceded them." She adds that Harper's Women's History Week programs explore how women have related to their families, the world of work, the political process, the arts and their physical environments.

"History," she stresses, "when viewed from a woman's perspective, has much to teach about women's successes and failures and their changing roles and expectations. Understanding this background benefits not only contemporary women, but also those men who wish to relate effectively to them."

To plan the event, the Women's History Week committee, which comprises Harper faculty and staff and representatives from sponsoring community groups, meets to brainstorm ideas that will highlight women's contributions to life in the United States. Alter, who has been on the committee for its full 15 years, then translates these ideas into actual programs by researching and contacting various sources. "I keep my eyes and ears open all the time!" she explains.

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## The President's Message

During the past year the Illinois Community College System recognized the importance of charting a strategic plan for its 49 member colleges. To accomplish this the system implemented a process similar to the one Harper followed as we developed our Preferred Future document.

The procedure began after participants of the Illinois Community College System's fall 1992 Accountability Conference identified major issues that would affect community colleges over the next few years. It culminated in *Vision 2000: Charting a Course for the Future*, a document that outlines the Illinois Community Colleges' direction for the new millennium.

As a member of the Presidents Council, I served on the steering committee formed to lead the process. To begin, we hosted 13 town meetings around the state that were designed to provide input from civic, governmental and business leaders; community activists; and representatives from other educational institutions.

During the process five major issues surfaced—Teaching/Learning, Student Access and Opportunity, Accountability, Community and Resources. We then developed a vision statement and mission statement supported by goals, objectives and strategies that would guide the colleges to achieve this plan. The

final document was presented at the dedication of the new Wilbur Wright Community College in Chicago in December.

I am especially pleased with the level of participation from Harper College during this process. Many of our faculty, staff, Board of Trustees and Foundation Board members attended the town meeting and assisted in other ways. The final document, in fact, was designed and produced by Harper's Publications and Communication Services staff. Then Barbara Radebaugh, Kris Howard, Dick Kolze, Bruce Mueller, Dom Magno and Dudley Powell joined me at Wilbur Wright for the presentation.

Because many of the issues identified during this process are already included in our Preferred Future document, we feel confident that Harper College will be able to meet these goals. In fact, we are well on our way to implementing many of them. To assure this, however, we held a panel discussion in early January that was moderated by Bill Howard. At this time College personnel who had questions about our responses to the plan were able to direct questions and concerns to panel participants Larry Moats, Kris Howard, Ed Dolan, Dom Magno, Diane Callin and Barbara Radebaugh.

I thank all of you for your input and assistance during this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.



*"Do not follow  
where the path may  
lead. Go instead  
where there is  
no path and leave  
a trail."*

Quoted in the  
Illinois Community College  
System Vision 2000  
Statement

## *CAD and Manufacturing Center*

"We focus on giving our students the professional skills and efficiencies that area industry needs," says Pat Coleman of Harper's CAD and Manufacturing Center. The Center offers continuing education courses and workshops in fields as varied as Computer-Aided Design (CAD), quality assurance and automation skills—such as electronics, machining, hydraulics and safe refrigerant handling.

In order to provide these courses, however, Coleman cautions that Harper must stay a step ahead of the workforce. "Developing courses is very entrepreneurial," she explains. "We watch manufacturing trends and labor statistics and participate in professional associations." In addition, because the Center is an authorized Autodesk Training Center, the staff must update equipment, curriculum and software regularly.

Coleman adds that many of the faculty members who teach the CAD and manufacturing courses are professionals employed in the field. "They use these skills daily," she says, adding that this helps keep the curriculum updated.

Even Harper's 1988 move into the manufacturing realm was a gamble. "While trends showed that manufacturing was on a downtrend, we recognized that the United States would have to return to making goods," Coleman notes. "And now we're starting to see that this was a

good move." The classes are filled with professionals and entry-level students who want to learn state-of-the-art techniques using updated equipment.

Mel Hampton, who coordinates the Center's Unix offerings, stresses that all classes are tailor made—designed to provide training that area industry requests. "We keep our class sizes small—fewer than 10 students—to provide a work station for each student," he says. "We also concentrate our courses into four weeks so that students learn faster." He notes that enrollments have been good and that the Center intends to offer more sections of Unix training.

For details on the Center's offerings, call extension 6996.



**Harper's CAD and Manufacturing Center is staffed by (from left) Bonnie Kurth, Mel Hampton and Pat Coleman.**

## INSIDER'S VIEW

### Peg Smith

"It's going gangbusters!" That's what Peg Smith has to say about Harper's Certified Professional Secretary program. "People need to update their skills and be able to show their employer that they've done this."

The CPS program, which prepares students to pass the national certifying exam, is one of six certificate programs that Smith coordinates in the Office Careers department—along with administrative assistant, word processing, general office assistant, secretarial and legal secretary. In addition, she also coordinates the legal secretary and executive secretary degree programs.

"We have a real mix of students in our classes," she says. "Some are fresh out of high school while others are professionals with many years of experience in the field." In addition, Smith notes that area corporations have expressed a need for the department's offerings. In response, she has worked closely with Harper's Corporate Services to arrange on-site classes.

But Smith's interests are not confined to the office! When not at work she spends plenty of time outdoors, with interests as varied as kayaking and cross country skiing to gardening and dog walking. In fact, you'll probably meet her with her daughter and husband on the trails of Deer Grove Forest Preserve this winter.

**Place of birth:** Harvey, IL

**Education:** B.S. Business Education, M.S. Business Education, Northern Illinois University

**Family:** Husband, Mark, and daughter, Jessica, 12

**Interests:** Playing piano, kayaking, bicycling, cross country skiing, gardening, traveling, spending time with my family and walking my miniature long-haired dachshund.

**Best advice my parents gave me:** Hang in there!

**If time and money were not a problem:** I'd travel; move to Provence, France; and become an activist to improve the Lithuanian economy.

**I would like to learn:** How to bottle a child's energy and enthusiasm for life.

**Favorite food:** a Provencal salad made in an outdoor cafe in Brignoles, Provence. Perhaps it was the atmosphere combined with the food, but it was incomparable!

**Favorite movies:** *Somewhere in Time* and *Dr. Zhivago*

**Book I'm currently recommending:** *Word Processing Exercises* by Bob Zilkowski



Peg Smith

# Inside Harper



**Bill Howard introduced Vision 2000, the Illinois Community College System's Strategic Plan, to the College on January 14. The vision was conceived after a series of statewide meetings with educators; civic, business and governmental leaders; and community activists. For details see this month's President's Message.**



**Liz McKay, left, dean of the Academic Enrichment and Language Studies division presents the Fred C. Rutz Award to Professor Barbara Olson, STU DEV. The award recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to promote the academic success of disadvantaged students. Olson has provided active leadership in Standards of Academic Performance (SOAP), a program that provides support for underachieving students.**

*continued from page 1*  
 Highlights of this year's program are listed on this page. The keynote speaker is Ruth Rothstein, chief of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services and director of the Cook County Hospital. Entitled "A Woman on the Move: From Labor Organizer to Health Care CEO," Rothstein's talk will trace her 20-year career in the health care field. Cost for this event is \$23 and includes dinner and a reception. Other events are free.

**Monday, March 7**  
**Dinner and Reception-6:00 pm**  
**Keynote Address-8:00 pm**  
**Building A Dining Hall**  
**"A Woman on the Move: From Labor Organizer to Health Care CEO"**  
**Ruth Rothstein, Chief, Cook County Bureau of Health Services and Hospital Director, Cook County Hospital**

**Tuesday, March 8**  
**International Women's Day**  
**Immigrant Women: A Century of Benefits and Burdens**

**Wednesday, March 9**  
**Daytime Program**  
**Women in the Arts: Behind the Lens, the Light and Baton**  
**Evening Program**  
**Chicago Women: A Tradition of Leadership and Philanthropy**

**Thursday, March 10**  
**First Ladies: Expectations and Influence**

## Departmental Developments

Congratulations to **Pat Coleman**, CAD/MFG, who earned her master of science degree in adult continuing education in December from Northern Illinois University. She is now entering the university's doctoral program in Leadership and Policy Studies... **Cathy Albergo**, Music, has been elected to a three-year term as president of the Illinois Music Teachers Association.

Faculty and staff members from the Center for Students with Disabilities are giving several presentations this semester. **Beth Krueger** is presenting "Braille 'n' Speak: Hands on Training" at the Technology and Persons with Disabilities conference; **Pascuala Herrera** is participating on a panel of "Post-secondary Options for Learning Disabilities Students" at the the Learning Disabilities Association of America; and **Tom Thompson** is speaking on the Americans with Disabilities Act at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. In addition, **Pam Grady** will attend the National Association of Developmental Education as part of a Teaching and Learning mini-grant project.

Articles on Harper's Partnership in Education were published in *Park and Grounds Management* and *Landscape Management*. The articles, one of which was written by Physical Plant Director **Bob Getz**, cited the success of the internship program that links the College's Parks and Grounds Management program, coordinated by **Randy Illg**, with the Roads and Grounds workforce, supervised by **Chuck Gura**.

We welcome **Gwen Tsuyuka Baggs Ito**, who joins the ESL faculty as an instructor, and we congratulate **Janice Schleser** on her promotion to administrative assistant in the Development Office.

We also send our congratulations to **Mike Knudsen**, Graphics, and his wife, Merche, on the birth of their son, Daniel David, and to **Julie Ellefson Kuehn**, TM/PS, and her husband, Joe, on the birth of their son, Taylor Christian.

We offer our condolences to **Julianne Seely**, PERSNL, on the death of her father and to **Lorel Kelson**, Print Shop, on the death of her father.



The Harper  
**in**sider

*The Harper Insider* is the monthly Harper College newsletter produced by Publications and Communication Services. We cordially invite all employees to contribute stories and information before the twenty-fifth of the month for the issue published the following month. Please send contributions to PUB, S101c, or call extension 6125.

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## Retirees Corner

Recent retirees Warren Hill, PHY PLT, Carrie Dobbs, AE/LS, Fran Larue, CNS, and Patricia Schneider, ACCT SER, were honored during a holiday celebration on December 9. In January, Bridget Kurtz, DIN SER, and Gwen Brown, LRC, also retired. We congratulate them all and wish them well.