

The

Insider

A Publication for Employees of William Rainey Harper College
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in

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Employees bring children to work



Student Development counselor Karin Lacour-Rivers facilitates *Follow the Yellow Brick Road*, a career exploration exercise, for the children of Harper employees who attended *Bring Your Child to Work Day*, April 27. Thirty-seven children participated in the event.



John Antal, counselor for Harper's Center for Students with Disabilities and a member of the adjunct faculty for sign language, introduces the Deaf culture to the children. He is accompanied by Debby Sampson, right, also of the CSD staff, who brought her dog, Bo, to the event. Bo has been trained by the Maryland Training Center to alert Sampson to noises such as a baby's cry, doorbells, telephones or fire alarms.

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President's Message

Last month, as 900 students received their degrees from the College, they were greeted by remarks from Tony Zimmerman, an alum of Harper's criminal justice program. "Go forward," he encouraged, "succeed."

Tony has done just that. He was 31 years old when he enrolled at Harper in the mid '70s. At that time, he had served in a community policing role for the Chicago Police Department and had recently accepted a position as lieutenant commander in the records division of the Crystal Lake Police Department. He decided that to succeed in this career, he would need more education, so he enrolled in Harper's criminal justice certificate program. As he completed his coursework, his professors encouraged him to continue his education. He juggled family, career and community responsibilities—he was stretched pretty thin sometimes—but today he holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in law enforcement administration. In addition to his police work, he is also a member of our adjunct faculty.

Tony's inspirational words echo those of many of our students, who, like him, are reaching for their dreams. In fact, some of the students on campus today might one day return—like Tony—to deliver the commencement address. As this academic year draws to a close, I'd like to share some of their stories with you.

First, meet Mari Solarte, our recently elected student trustee. In addition to this honor, Mari serves as secretary of the Student Senate; as a member of the leadership team for Brothers

and Sisters in Christ; and as an Americorps volunteer for the American Red Cross. She has just completed her freshman year at the College.

Paul Casbarian is an attorney who lives in Schaumburg. He attended Harper to update his teaching certificate—and ended up discovering a love for writing. In an essay written for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Student Essay Contest on *How My Community College Is Changing My Life*, Paul wrote that he had felt burned out in his profession and welcomed the creativity and excitement that his writing classes at the College offered.

In addition to this honor, 18 students were awarded scholarships to Roosevelt University, seven received transfer scholarships from DePaul University and three athletes—Rodney McCollum, Wilbur McDonald and Tom Gilson—have been recognized as All-American student athletes, based on their academic and athletic performances.

We are also proud of Sue Macheca of Wheeling, a recent GED graduate. This spring Sue was selected as one of ten outstanding adult literacy students in Illinois. In addition, she was also honored by IBM and the Illinois Literacy Foundation to receive the *1995 Spotlight on Literacy Achievement Award*, presented by Secretary of State George Ryan during ceremonies in Springfield last month. Sue entered the GED program in August 1993. The mother of eight adopted interracial children ranging in age from 11-32, she proved to be an outstanding student—and earning the

diploma changed her immeasurably. She described her transition in the poem that follows.

That Paper In My Hand

*They put a paper in my hand,
That said I had achieved,
A diploma with my name on it,
So now I can believe . . .
Believe in myself and all the things,
That I think I could be,
It seems I waited oh so long,
For the belief was hard for me.*

*When they put that paper in my hand,
It stilled the echo in my head,
You know the one I'm referring to,
The cruel things people said,
Words like you'll never amount to much,
You can't accomplish, so don't try,
You feel defeated before you start,
The words began a mournful cry.*

*They put that paper in my hand,
And joy sprung up from deep within,
Only I can stop me now,
I hold my head up high again,
Where deep inside the pain once lurked,
Hope now springs eternally,
Dignity was again restored,
The day I got my GED.*

—Sue Macheca

Like Tony, all these students have exciting careers ahead. We are proud of the work they—and others like them—have done. They reflect well on the College and the good work we do.



Focus on Adult Educational Development

Last fall, Harper's department of Adult Educational Development received an "overall exemplary" rating from the Illinois State Board of Higher Education. This exceptional rating has been awarded only one other time in the past five years, but a look at the department's diverse activities offers a glimpse at why this award was merited!

Each year the department provides instruction and services in literacy, pre-GED, GED, nonnative literacy, citizenship and pre-employment skills to 2,000 students ranging in age from 17 to 80 or 90. Some are in the program for a single course, while others take several. In order to place these students in courses that are the right level, each student is tested and placed by the department's staff.

"Our faculty and staff members are committed to service," says Pat Mulcrone, department chair. She adds that they sit on many College committees and task forces and regularly attend departmental, regional, state and national staff development programs.

"This exposure enables us to bring back ideas at all levels and share our successes with others," Mulcrone explains, noting that the department's faculty members often facilitate workshops and make presentations at professional conferences.

This year the department has also taken on other projects. For example, the faculty has been working to link nonnative literacy courses (designed for students who have completed six years of schooling or fewer in their native lands) with career programs

such as hospitality and electronics. By linking these courses, AED faculty members can develop concepts and prepare vocabulary so nonnative speakers better understand the coursework—and will succeed!

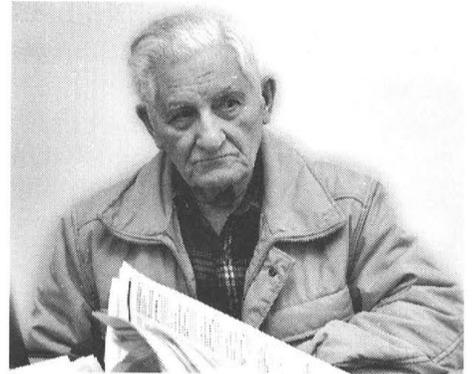
This spring the department also published a collection of Harper student writings entitled *All the Things . . . That I Think I Could Be*. (For a sample of the type of work included in this publication, see this month's *President's Message* on page 2.)

But the department's influence extends off campus as well. The Police Neighborhood Resource Center, for example, which provides services in an area apartment complex, has continued to win accolades, and its concept is being replicated throughout the state and nation.

"In higher-security-risk, lower-income apartment complexes, residents need a variety of services in order to make significant changes in their lives," Mulcrone explains. "This concept provides police security and educational and social services in one central location." Harper offers courses and is involved with the renovation of the PNRC by Northwest Community Hospital to add a low-cost medical clinic.

The department also offers a personal touch to its students by arranging lectures and talks on current issues—such as banking services, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and immigration issues. Much of the department's programming is supplemented by federal and state grants earmarked for special populations

and by private grants from area business, industry and civic organizations. The department continues to win grants each year—and with its top-ranked award from the State Board of Education, it's no wonder!



Pride in earning a GED can come at any age. Frank Portuese, 81, mulls over some of the course options that are available through Harper's program. He earned his certificate last December.



One-on-one and small group instruction are key components of courses offered through Harper's Adult Educational Development Department. Here, adjunct faculty member Consuelo Alexander assists students in the nonnative literacy program who attend classes at the Northeast Center.

Insider's View of Don Wille

"I've had a good life," says Don Wille of Harper's maintenance department. "I've been fortunate!" As he prepares to retire after 41 years as a cabinet maker—13 of which were spent here at the College—Wille reflects on his career and his life's path up to this point.

Before settling down to a career and raising a family, Wille served as a crew chief in the Air Force. In this position, he performed overall maintenance on fighter bomber interceptors (in Europe) during the Korean conflict. He served for four years, and then returned to the Elmhurst area to start his career as a cabinet maker. He accepted a job as an apprentice for Automatic Electric, stayed there for 28 years, then worked briefly for DeSoto Labs before joining the Harper staff.

"Being a cabinet maker is challenging," he says. "I love what I do and I have never minded going to work." Wille, along with other staff members in his department, is responsible for crafting the custom-built furniture and cabinetry on campus. "When you need something made rather than bought," he says, "I give it to you!" (Some well recognized samples of his handiwork include the silverware and condiment islands and recycling bins in the College cafeteria.)

Wille has also raised eight children, and he is now grandfather to 16. His children live throughout the United States. "My kids have done well," he says, "and I'm very proud of that."

Later this month, Wille will retire. He plans to spend some time fishing in Broadwater Bay, Minnesota, a spot where he and his family vacationed for 28 years. He expects to bring home enough bluegills and sunfish for an old-fashioned fish fry—complete with homemade french fries, coleslaw and his own special batter (made from scratch) for frying fish!

Born: Elmhurst, IL

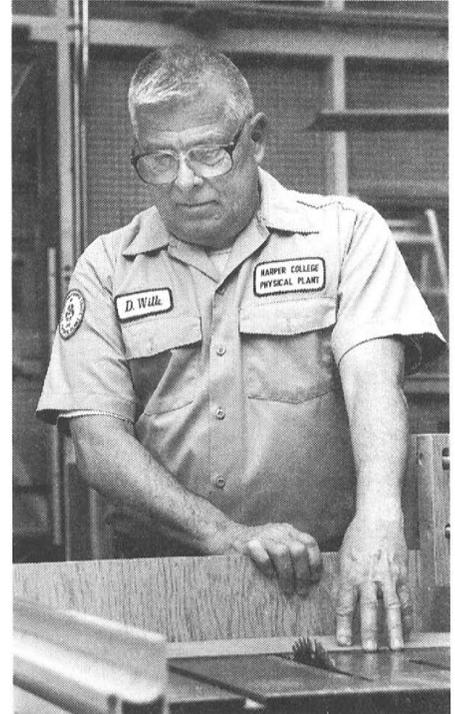
Family: Wife, Joann; daughters, Dona Jo, Juliann, Patrica and Christine; sons, Timothy, Donald, Daniel and Eric; sons- and daughters-in-law and 16 grandchildren.

Interests: Fishing, building the old stick model airplanes

Best advice my parents gave me: Always do your best.

If time and money were not a problem: I'd buy a small shop and make grandfather and grandmother clocks.

I would like to learn: the latest in laser technology and apply it to wood-working.



Don Wille

I don't care for: the way people of all ages disregard safety on the highway.

One thing I've learned in life: You have to change with the times or be left behind.

Favorite food: fish and Chinese food

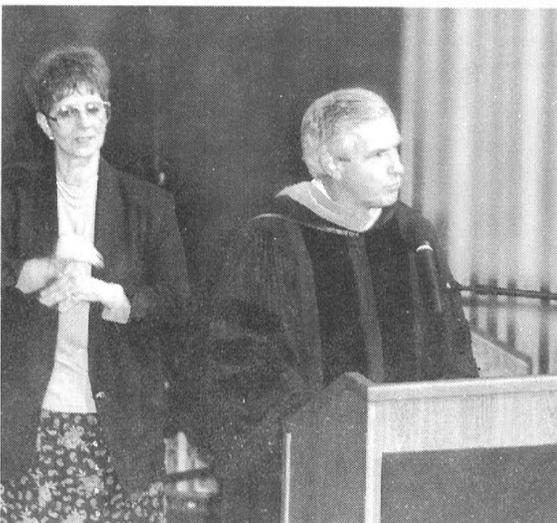
Favorite movie: *Quiet Man*

Inside Harper

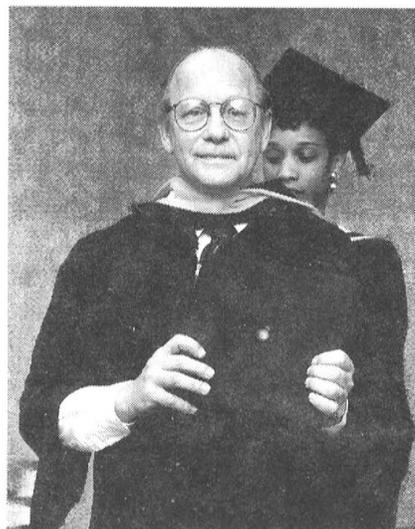
95 directions



The Harper's Bizarre Fashion Show, held May 5, featured the creations of 65 student designers. Deborah Ann's creations featured leather with a laced fringe.



Foundation member Alan Herbert, managing director of Amersham Healthcare Worldwide, was awarded the James J. McGrath Recognition Award for his contributions to the College. It was presented during convocation ceremonies held May 2. His remarks were interpreted by Karen Hale, CSD, supervisor of support services.



Professor of economics Dennis Brennen was awarded the distinguished faculty award during commencement ceremonies, May 21. Stephanie Burrell, of the STU DEV faculty, adjusts his robes before the presentation.

Departmental Developments

Congratulations are in order for **Bob Moriarty**, PHY PLT, who has received departmental recognition for efforts "above and beyond the call of duty" in Building L. **Jeanne Pankanin**, STU ACT, presented "The Verdict is In: We Do Good Work and Can Prove It!" at the national conference of the Association of College Unions International. In addition, she has had two articles published. They include "Community Service: Getting the Most Impact from Your Time Investment" and "Research Report: The Lifetime Impact of Student Activities Involvement."

Martha Simonsen, English, and **Jacque Mott**, interior design, have been selected to spend five weeks in Zimbabwe this summer as part of a ICISP-coordinated *Fulbright Group Project Abroad to Zimbabwe*. **Julie Fleenor**, English, will attend the 1995 National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar "Uncle Tom's Cabin and American Culture: The Slave Narrative, Indian Captivity Narrative, Puritan Sermon and Sentimental Fiction." **Greg Herriges**, English, will participate in the *Ploughshares* Sixth Annual International Fiction Writing Seminar to be held at Kasteel Well, the Netherlands.

We congratulate **Ted Agresta**, BUS OFF, who earned a Master of Science Degree in Education (School Business Management) from Northern Illinois University.

New faces on campus include faculty members **Michael Harkins**, instructor, history; **Charles Brown**, instructor, philosophy; **Xilao Li**, assistant professor, English; **Laura Pulio**, instructor, speech/theatre; **John Gold**, assistant professor, chemistry; and **Sunil Koswatta**, assistant professor, and **Alan Olsen**, instructor, mathematics. We also welcome **Ron Shellhase**, IS/US, advanced technology analyst, **Linda Brinkman**, CORP SER, corporate services coordinator, and **Jill Connor**, ADM, applications clerk.

Retirees' Corner

Thanks to the retirees who have written to us with news of their activities. This month we heard from **George Makas**, professor of music, who retired in 1982. Makas is now living in Rockford and enjoys painting, photography, motorhoming and working with computers. He and his wife, Jean, also volunteer for Wycliffe Bible Translators. If you would like to contact him, please call the Publications Office for his address and phone number.

Pauline Jenness wrote that she now lives in Portland, Maine, where she enjoys reading, sewing, golfing and volunteering at the Portland Public Library. Jenness retired in 1987 after serving the College for 19 years as associate professor in TM/PS and Special Services.

We also heard from **Warren Hill**, who retired from the custodial staff in 1994. He wrote that he continues to show his 1970 Buick Electra convertible at regional and national competitions. He and his wife, Karla, of Harper's Planning and Research department, plan to exhibit—and take top honors—in the national show to be held in Lisle, Illinois, in July.

Congratulations are in order for **Lynn Secrest**, AE/LS, who has been hired as faculty development coordinator and CE liaison in a departmental reorganization, and to **Mike Held**, REG OFF, who has been promoted to coordinator of registration and information.

We congratulate **Sandy Rea**, BUS OFF, on the birth of her daughter, Tylie; **Kathryn Powell**, AED faculty, and her husband, Alain Kacimi, on the birth of their daughter, Sarah; **Dennis Brennen**, economics faculty, and his wife, Connie, on the birth of their daughter, Elisabeth; and **Kathy Setser**, CE registration, on the birth of her grandson, James.

We send our condolences to **Billie Jo Walker**, WK/PR DEV, on the death of her daughter, and to **Marlene Hunt**, graphics, **Sahar Mikhail**, LRC, and **Sue Witt**, payroll, on the deaths of their fathers.

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