

The

insider

inside

insider

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Great balls of fire!

Astronomy Professor Paul Sipiera believes that Public Astronomy is Harper's most popular *non-funded* program. It appeared that way on March 26, when an estimated 700 people came to the Harper Observatory hoping to view Comet Hyakutake.

Three telescopes, with the comet in their sights, were set up outside the building. Indoor viewing featured the moon. And, in spite of the frigid temperature, the public waited in long lines for a chance to climb to the top of the observatory and view the sky through the DuPont telescope.

The telescope is named for the donor, John DuPont. Sipiera says, "It's a Newtonian reflector—a beautiful tool." The historic scope is 114 years old and the oldest in continuous public use. Since being donated to the College seven years ago, it has been used by an estimated 15,000 people.

"It's incredibly gratifying to have such attendance, and it's an indication of just how much interest there is in science and astronomy," noted Sipiera.

President's Message

This month I asked Bonnie Henry, Vice President of Student Affairs, to share with you her views concerning three key issues: Underprepared Students, Academic Honesty and Cultural Diversity. Following is her message:

Bonnie Henry



A few years ago Harper adopted a philosophy of student success. Standards were put in place to help flag students who were weak in academic areas; intervention strategies were developed; certain courses were mandated to ensure students would be prepared for specific classes; and more services, such as counseling and mandatory advising, were made available. Harper is somewhat unique in putting such a high value on services for students, but we believe it is essential in order to assist our students in achieving success.

We continue to have students who are underprepared for college work. We have become direct and proactive in addressing those students' deficiencies. Our goal at Harper is to help each student be successful—however he or she defines success. Sometimes that means helping them achieve college-level academic standards through developmental courses. Other times it means providing tutoring or specialized assistance from faculty. Sometimes it means helping students determine more about their values, goals and life expectations. Deciding what kind of career a student wants to pursue can be a major college decision. The College Orientation Program provides an early opportunity for identifying what needs our students have. For those students who take advantage of these opportunities, our measures show significant gains.

Unfortunately, the lack of honesty and academic integrity in the classroom has been a problem throughout the United

States and at Harper for some time. Faculty must be ever vigilant and insist upon academic honesty in course work as well as in examinations. This insistence protects the rights of the honest student and promotes the value of integrity in the lives of all students.

We also need to be aware of who our students are and how we can best meet their expectations. Our student body is becoming very diverse. It is important that we learn more about people from different cultures and that we help these students get to know us as well. The change in our campus community brings us many opportunities for growth and development. The Multicultural Center, as well as the English as a Second Language offices, serve as areas where both students and staff can learn more about making these transitions. The cultural diversity can be a wonderful strength.

Our goal is that students will learn, grow and develop as a result of all their experiences at Harper. We know that learning takes place both in and outside of the classroom, and that what we do can and often does make a difference in the lives of our students. I continue to be impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and dedication that our faculty and staff bring to students while helping them achieve their goals.

Insider's View of Paula S. Blacker

Call waiting? Not at Harper. Paula S. Blacker, Chief Switchboard Operator, and her capable staff ensure that all calls are connected.

Blacker came to Harper with the intention of working just long enough to earn extra holiday money. Having prior experience with Ohio Bell, Blacker began here as an operator and was quickly promoted to Chief Switchboard Operator. Now, 15 years later, she jokes, "I guess I haven't paid off Christmas yet!"

Who gets the most calls? It varies depending on the time of year, but generally it is the Business Division. When callers dial 925-6000, they are answered by the Automated Attendant. Since the callers usually don't know exactly what extension they need, they either dial 0 or default to the switchboard. For this reason it is important for Blacker to know what is going on at Harper, and so each division should keep her updated on their particular activities and courses. She has developed a customized filing system filled with press releases, registration and other information. "It's not uncommon for someone to call about a class they saw on cable last night, wondering who can tell them more about it."

Over the years her job responsibilities have grown. Blacker now supervises two full-time and two part-time operators, and fills in on the switchboard when needed. But most of her day is spent programming telephones. Blacker actually builds the phones. This includes installing the software required to operate the phone and cross-connecting the building cabling to the main phone system. "It can get very dirty crawling around under the desk, but I really, really like my job. Dealing with people is the best part of the job. During the last three years I have been able to work face to face with more people."

Blacker belongs to the Association of College and University Telecommunications Administrators (ACUTA). It provides information on telecommunications systems in other colleges.

Blacker's three children are all married and live in the area. "They're only a phone call away!" Blacker says her family is the most important part of her life. A few years ago she and her husband built a log cabin in Wisconsin for their whole family to enjoy. Yes, it has a phone.

And, Blacker is known campus-wide for her Famous Turkey Dip which she prepares for each major holiday. If you want the recipe you'll have to dial 0.

Born: Akron, Ohio

Family: married (for 31 years), three children

Education: attended Kent State University

Interests: home and family (including my pets); backyard birdwatching and water gardening.

If time and money were not a problem: I'd travel to Ireland to trace our family history

I don't care for: people who cheat "the system" and get away with it

I would like to learn: sign language

One thing I've learned in life: A little kindness goes a long way.

Favorite food: anything Mexican

Favorite movie: *On Golden Pond*

Favorite authors: James Michener and Danielle Steel



Focus on Sign Language Studies and

What student hasn't experienced an off day and hoped to get through the class without being noticed by the instructor? This would be impossible for students in the Sign Language Studies Department. Because American Sign Language is a visual, gestural language, students actively learning it are constantly demonstrating new material and vocabulary. "Our students put their newly acquired language skills on the line by continuously showing what they know and understand," says Sally Koziar, Professor and Chair of the Sign Language Studies and Sign Language Interpreting Program.

American Sign Language (ASL) is accepted academically as a natural language and it meets foreign language requirements in Illinois public high schools. Harper offers five levels of sign language and a Deaf culture class. Most students enrolled in ASL courses are hearing people who want to learn a second language; some students are adults who have recently lost their hearing; and a few are deaf individuals who want to learn more about the language and culture of the Deaf community. Harper students may take ASL classes to meet the College's humanities requirements. Many of the students who study ASL do it as a prerequisite for a separate program, Sign Language Interpreting.

The Sign Language Interpreting Program (SLIP) prepares graduates for entry-level positions in various interpreting settings. With so much attention on the need to communicate in the workplace, the demand for well-trained sign language interpreters has increased. "We cover some highly

specialized vocabulary in our program, but our primary focus is preparing students for careers in general areas, categories such as business, education and social service," explains Koziar. The faculty strongly believes that graduates should be nationally certified before they interpret in some settings, such as in the legal or medical/psychiatric field. Students who graduate from SLIP receive a certificate. Many students then go on to take a written test administered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). Ninety-five percent of Harper's graduates who have taken the RID examination have passed.

This small department consists of three full-time faculty and two staff members. They are supplemented as needed by eight to 12 additional adjunct faculty.

The curriculum is presented through a combination of videotape, handouts, workbooks and textbooks.



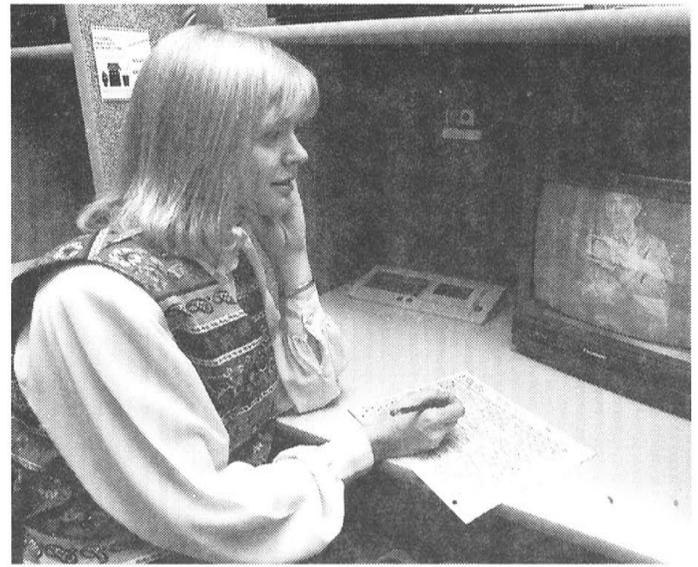
Professor Koziar points out the department's video resources.

State-of-the-art video equipment is key to both programs. The equipment allows students to view tapes of others



Amy Dixon-Kolar and Bob Paul review the day's coursework.

Sign Language Interpreting Program



Using audio and video equipment, Joan Fiske is able to monitor each student's responses as well as communicate directly and privately with them. Cindy Aaron demonstrates the equipment from the student's perspective; she is able to watch a tape, and if she chooses, videotape her responses or audiotape herself interpreting different materials.

signing, while simultaneously watching themselves sign. In addition, they have the capabilities to record their own responses for further study.

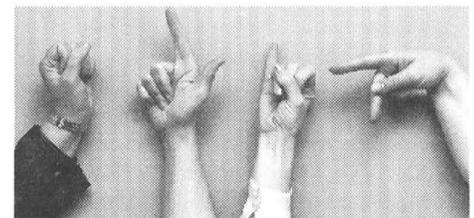
Both of Koziar's parents were deaf, so she grew up with ASL as her first language and English as her second. Koziar, who is a nationally certified interpreter, has been in interpreter education for 16 years, 12 of those at Harper.

Joan Fiske, Lab Supervisor and Materials Specialist, is also a nationally certified interpreter. Fiske took her first sign language class at William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri; and coincidentally, her instructor was Sally's father, Stephen W. Koziar. Fiske graduated from Harper's program six years ago. Joan jokes, "My instructors of yesteryear are my colleagues of today."

Cindy Aaron is the department's Bilingual Secretary. She was recently accepted into the Interpreting Program. "Because I sign, I'm able to communicate with both our students and our deaf instructors. My love of this field has rubbed off; one of my children is now studying sign language at college."

Amy Dixon-Kolar is also a nationally certified interpreter and has been a full-time faculty member for three years. "I was initially attracted to Harper because it was so well-respected in the Deaf and interpreting community."

Full-time faculty member Bob Paul has worked at Harper for seven years. Among the courses he has taught are Linguistics of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture. Bob believes that being a member of the Deaf culture is an advantage in teaching students



S L I P

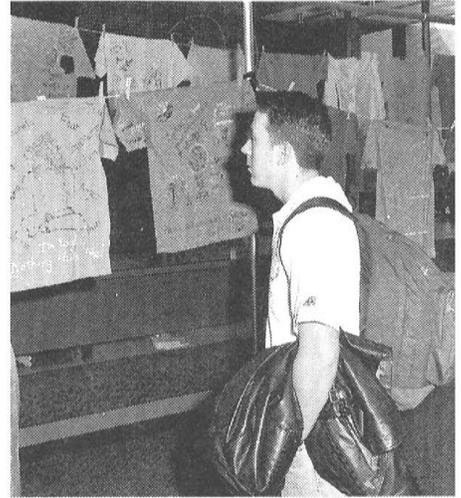
about the Deaf community. "One of the things I enjoy about working at Harper is that this College is supportive of the program and philosophy of teaching American Sign Language and that this College respects diversity." Due in part to Paul's efforts, this year's Commencement ceremony will be closed-captioned.

Photos by Stefan Adam

Harper Happenings



Patricia G. Bourke, Dean, LS/HS, is the recipient of the Cook County Unsung Heroine Award. The award acknowledges women who have made major contributions to their community without recognition. Bourke was selected for her commitment to providing access to health care for the people of the northwest suburbs.



In March, the Harper College Program Board presented *The Clothesline Project: Telling Our Stories*. This three-dimensional display addressed the serious subject of violence against women. An estimated 500 people visited the one-day exhibit.

On April 1, AE/LS hosted a reception honoring Dr. Svetlana Ter-Minasova of Moscow State University. A frequent international speaker on languages and linguistics, Ter-Minasova was in the United States as a visiting scholar, and to speak at the Thirtieth Annual International Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference.



Marie Griffin, WK PR/DV, recently attended a party honoring Democratic strategist and author James Carville. Griffin's son, Paul, is a law student at Georgetown University and an associate of Carville's. Pictured with Marie (center) are Robert Reich, Vice President Al Gore, George Stephanopolus, Paul Griffin, Al Franken, Suzanne Griffin (Paul's wife), First Lady Hillary Clinton and James Carville.

Composite created by Mike Knudsen

Harper College Retiree News

A general meeting of the Harper College Annuitants Association was held on January 26 at Harper College. The turnout was excellent. More than 60 people attended to hear speakers from SURS and Social Security discuss their programs. Many attendees had their individual questions answered by the very knowledgeable presenters. A big thanks to the program chairs, Roger Mussell and Anna Harshbarger for their outstanding work on this event.

The next general meeting will be held on April 26, 1996, at 1:00 p.m., in room E106, at Harper College. Health care for all Harper College retirees and those about to retire in a few years will be the topic. The program features a presentation by a representative from a large health insurance brokerage house. Also, Susan Cumpata from the Harper College Personnel Office will be available to answer individual questions. Don't miss this important meeting!

You can become a member of the Harper College Annuitants Association (HCAA) by sending a check for \$20.00 to: Harper College Personnel Office (HCAA), ATTN: Rose Trunk, 1200 West Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois, 60067. Make check payable to Harper College Annuitants Association, HCAA. Note: You do not have to be retired to become a member. If you are 55 years of age and contribute to SURS, you can join HCAA now!

—Al Dunikoski

Harper College Annuitants Association (HCAA) Membership Form

Name: _____
last

_____ first initial

Address: _____
street

_____ city state zip

Phone: _____

Type of Member:

Annuitant Still employed at Harper College
(Age 55 years+)

Membership dues for full year are \$20.00.
(Sept. 1, 1996 to Aug. 31, 1997)

Make check payable to:

Harper College Annuitants Association

Mail to:

Harper College Personnel Office, HCAA

Attn: Rose Trunk

1200 West Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067

Spring Retirement Party

The College will be honoring the following employees at a retirement celebration on Friday, May 10, at 1:00 p.m. in the fireplace area of Building A:

<i>Martha Bolt</i>	<i>WHP</i>	<i>John Lucas</i>	<i>PLG RES</i>	<i>Don Sedik</i>	<i>BUS/SS</i>
<i>Lou Buchenot</i>	<i>FD SER</i>	<i>Vern Manke</i>	<i>ADM SER</i>	<i>James Seeck</i>	<i>BUS/SS</i>
<i>Daniel Cohen</i>	<i>BUS/SS</i>	<i>Cal Meltesen</i>	<i>PLG RES</i>	<i>Sherilyn Sorem</i>	<i>WHP</i>
<i>Frances Dionisio</i>	<i>LIB SER</i>	<i>Ray Moehrlin</i>	<i>TM/PS</i>	<i>Lillian Thiel</i>	<i>TM/PS</i>
<i>William Hack</i>	<i>TM/PS</i>	<i>Roy Mottla</i>	<i>LIB ARTS</i>	<i>Gilbert Tierney</i>	<i>LIB ARTS</i>
<i>Gertrude Lempp-Kerbis</i>	<i>TM/PS</i>	<i>Roger Mussell</i>	<i>TM/PS</i>	<i>Janet Tredre</i>	<i>IS/TS</i>
<i>Ed Liska</i>	<i>STU DEV</i>	<i>Nicolas Nicoulakos</i>	<i>PHY PLT</i>	<i>Rose Trunk</i>	<i>BUS/SS</i>
<i>V. Jean Longhurst</i>	<i>BUS/SS</i>	<i>Michael Ostrowski</i>	<i>BUS/SS</i>	<i>Gretchen Vancura</i>	<i>LS/HS</i>

We invite you to attend this celebration and wish your co-workers and friends well.

Departmental Developments

Shirley Hipwell, MUS/ART, was a judge in the handbell choir competition at the Lutheran School Fine Arts Festival held in March. Hipwell directs the Harper Community Handbell Choir, and has worked with Little City to help them form their own handbell choir. The Harper Handbell Choir was chosen to perform a solo at the International Handbell Symposium which will be held August 1-5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

During March, **Steve Suvada**, MUS/ART, presented a workshop on *Computers in the Schools* for In-and-About Music Educators of Chicago.

Jerome Stone, LIB ARTS, has been invited to speak to a graduate seminar at Princeton University where his book, *The Minimalist Vision of Transcendence*, is being discussed.

Cathy Albergo, MUS/ART, has recently published the second edition of *Handbook for Teachers*.

An exhibit titled *New Work*, by **Julia Morrisroe**, MUS/ART, is presently on display at the ARC Gallery in Chicago.

The Harper College Transfer book received a Paragon Award from the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations. This was a collaborative effort by **John Callahan**, PHOTO, **Michael Chomiczewski**, GRAPHICS, and **Rochelle Corso**, ADM OUT.

Harper welcomes three new employees: **Joy Ducksworth**, TM/PS, **Kathy Shine**, PERS, and **Dale Peifer**, PHYS PLT.

Congratulations to the following faculty who have been promoted to Assistant Professor: **Linda Campbell**, BUS/SS, **Nancy Davis**, LIB ARTS, **Karin Lacour-Rivers**, STU DEV, **Daniel Loprieno**, TM/PS, **Diane Mach**, LS/HS, **Susan Overland**, WHP, **Wallis Sloat**, AE/LS. Congratulations to the following faculty who have been promoted to Associate Professor: **Dianne Batzkall**, LIB ARTS, **Juliann Fleenor**, LIB ARTS, **Mark Healy**, BUS/SS, **Mark Zelman**, LS/HS. Congratulations to **Sally Koziar**, AE/LS and **Peter Sherer**, LIB ARTS, who were both promoted to Professor.

Janice Cook, PLG/RES, has been very busy this month. As a member of the Hoffman Estates Sister Cities Professional Exchange Commission, Cook and her husband Ed welcomed visitors from Angouleme, France.

Sheila Quirk, WK PR/DV, and her husband John have a new son, Jacob Michael. He was born April 10. **Linda Sorenson**, ACCT SER, is enjoying her new twin grandsons, Joshua and Bradley. Her daughter Sandy gave birth in February. **Carol Schweitzer**, REG OFF, also has a new grandson. Her daughter Tricia gave birth to Ryden Timothy in March.

Retirees' corner

Our sincere gratitude to **Ambrose Easterly**, **John Gelch**, **Lester Harvey**, **Larry S. King**, **James J. McGrath**, **Beverly Strauss** and **Donovan Wachlin** for responding so generously to the Educational Foundation major gifts campaign!

• The Harper
insider

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