

The

Insider

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*A work in progress*

Art student Suzann Sweig works diligently sculpting a "candy dish" in the ceramics studio. Sweig, who is a student of Sam Rosby, was one of the many people who were happy the fall semester ran as scheduled.

## President's Message



**Many of you have not yet had the opportunity to meet Judy Thorson, our new vice president of administrative services. This month I invited Judy to address the College community through this column.**

*Paul Thompson*

The friendly greetings of Harper faculty and staff have been ringing in my ears for the last few months. I have felt a warm and gracious spirit reaching out to welcome me to the Harper family. I was able to watch this same warm spirit flow as you said farewell to Vern. I heard many tributes to Vern, both as a man and as the Harper vice president for administrative services. Many of the Harper family have assisted me in the adjustments any newcomer must make in adapting to the culture of a new organization. Thank you.

I am proud to have been selected as your new vice president and look

forward to getting to know many of you. The transition with Vern gave me an opportunity to observe the deep commitment he had to Harper and his role at Harper. I know that I am different from Vern in many ways and together we will discover the differences. I expect the gifts I bring to Harper will enrich the institutional fabric. I also expect there will be days when you will long for Vern and his ways of doing the job at hand. The excitement for me is that together we will build the story of Harper from 1996 forward.

If I were asked to describe myself, I would say I am a "Fort Builder." Remember those forts you built in the backyard when you were a kid, maybe from chairs and a blanket, maybe something more elaborate? They were wonderful because you built them from materials around you and they created an environment where your imagination was free to run in all directions. I have made a number of professional moves in my career and each move has been like building the fort in the backyard. I love using the things in a new environment to create a shared future. I love getting to know a whole new set of people and becoming part of them. I love living with this new set of people until they are no longer new, but friends.

When I began my search for the next step along my career path, I established a number of criteria which were my guideposts for finding the right fit between myself and the institution. I believe that higher education has yet to face the toughest challenges of its history and not all colleges will survive. I wanted to find a college which was addressing the issues of the day in a meaningful way. Harper met

many of the criteria and I was pleased when I was offered the job.

The last few months have been spent getting to know employees of the Administrative Services division and building a rapport with each department. I have had many positive experiences, but the day spent with the Physical Plant staff working through various team building exercises was a highlight of the summer. This day was important to me because I believe that working in teams and supporting one another is one of the keys to Harper's future. The Administrative Services area needs to assess its strengths and weaknesses and that process has begun. Once the assessment is complete we will be putting forth plans to support the strengths and to correct the weaknesses.

The passing of Steve Dudek last year left a large hole in the operation of the Accounting Office. The search for a replacement took two efforts, but I am pleased to report that Roberta Lindenthaler will be the new Controller effective September 3. Roberta comes to Harper from Roosevelt University where she developed an impressive skill set which matches well with the needs of the Harper Business Office.

I now know many of the Harper staff by name, but only a few faculty members. I am looking forward to the fall and the start of school when there will be more opportunities to meet and get to know faculty.

My office door is always open, please stop by and introduce yourself. I am always eager to meet new Harper colleagues.

## Insider's View of Mark Clancy

High school students can relate to Mark Clancy. He's entertaining, energetic and not much older than they are.

As Admissions Outreach coordinator, Clancy's job involves visiting the 13 high schools in Harper's district. Knowing that students meet representatives from many other colleges throughout the year, Clancy believes it is very important for his presentation to be entertaining. "It doesn't work to just stand there and lecture them about Harper. If I'm able to get the students to participate, they'll have fun and I'll have their attention. They quickly see that I am interested in them as students, and not just there to sell them education."

Clancy knows firsthand what it takes to attract students. He was recruited by many schools and eventually chose Northern Illinois University where he had been offered an athletic scholarship for football. While a student at NIU, Clancy was asked to be a student admissions representative, which is similar to Harper's student ambassador position. "I enjoyed talking about student life. After I graduated, I was hired as the assistant director for admissions at NIU." While working at NIU, he earned his master's in Adult Continuing Education.

Because football is a college activity, students are often interested in Clancy's team experience. "Sports are a respected culture in our society. Tell someone that you were part of a sports program and it gives you instant credibility."

Clancy points out that many high school students identify more with a school's athletic team than with their academic departments. "When I ask the students what schools they are considering, I notice they're wearing a Michigan Wolverine shirt and a Florida State Seminoles hat. But athletics have always been an important part of higher education. Even William Rainey Harper made it a priority to create a strong football program at the University of Chicago. He brought in Amos Alonzo Stagg to build the program while the school's academic reputation was just being established."

Athletics is just one way to reach students. Clancy believes in looking outside of the education arena for insight into the youth culture. "Listen to their music, be aware of what they're into. Then you can communicate your message effectively."

Clancy's enthusiasm is contagious and genuine. At Harper since April, he is anxious for the first complete school year to begin. "The Admissions Outreach office is filled with energy! We're very excited about recruitment of students. After all, one out of every three high school graduates in our district continues their education at Harper."

**Born:** Chicago, IL

**Family:** My parents and brother, and I am the proud father of a newborn daughter, Kayla

**Education:** BS and MS Ed from Northern Illinois University

**Interests:** weightlifting, reading! Reading! And more reading!

**Best advice my parents gave me:** It's useless to put your best foot forward and then drag the other!

**If time and money were not a problem I would:** travel to Africa and study animal wildlife.

**I don't care for:** closed-minded individuals. Ironically, they tend to think they know it all.

**I would like to learn:** sign language and a martial art.

**One thing I've learned in life:** You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future.

**Favorite food:** chicken (baked, broiled, fried, grilled...)

**Favorite movie:** *The Shawshank Redemption*

**Book I'm currently reading:** *Showing My Color*, by Clarence Page



## Dedication Ceremonies



Faculty, staff, family and other friends gathered together to remember two beloved Harper colleagues.

Funds from the Harper College Educational Foundation were used to purchase and plant a white hawthorne tree in memory of Diane Callin. Mary Jo Willis spoke of missing "Diane's vision, dedication and passion." Janet Friend-Westney (*pictured above*) imagined that "Diane would be blushing and gushing and loving every minute of this very deserved tribute." Harley Chapman pointed out the symbolism between planting a tree and the tree of knowledge and the tree of life.

Roy Kearns' widow, Darlene, and daughters Patti Clousing and Sally Caeser, son Steve and the Kearns' grandchildren attended the dedication of the Roy G. Kearns Aquatic Center. Roger Bechtold was pleased that Kearns was honored so appropriately since Kearns had developed Harper's aquatic program. He described Kearns as "a man with a heart of gold."