

The

insider

insider

A Publication for Employees of William Rainey Harper College
 Volume 13, Number 3
 April 1998

inside

- 2
Jennifer Jensen
- 3
Distance Learning
- Spring Planting
- 4
Departmental
Developments



Harper hardware

It was a great season for Coach Jennifer Jensen. By leading Harper's women's basketball team to their first trip to the nationals (one trophy), Jensen earned the Coach of the Year for the N4C Conference (second trophy). Competing against all Division III community colleges, Harper finished fourth in the nation (third trophy) and Jensen was voted the Region H Coach of the Year (another trophy). See story inside.

Jennifer Jensen—she got game!

It's quite a challenge being a college basketball coach. Many coaches at four-year schools admit to the frustration of working with freshmen, especially with those who don't have exceptional talent. These coaches have a growing appreciation for the role of the two-year college program. By helping to develop the potential of these young players, two-year college teams prepare the student athletes so that upon transferring they are able to make immediate contributions to their new team.

This year's performance by Coach Jennifer Jensen was quite remarkable. Working with a small but talented team of seven students, Jensen led the Lady Hawks to their first national tournament. Jensen was picked Coach of the Year for the N4C Conference and Region H Coach of the Year.

Equally rewarding is the fact that all five of her sophomore players will continue at four-year schools. Jensen pushes hard to make sure her team has a 100 percent graduation rate. Through mass mailings, Jensen promotes her sophomores to coaches throughout the United States. This year she sent out more than 200 packets of information. "All of the girls had schools scouting them out of high school, but not such large schools or as many. This year, our leading scorer Heather Kusch, has been contacted by 20 schools."

With only two players returning to next year's team, where will Coach Jensen look for new Hawks? "Our conference rule is that we can only recruit from the 13 high schools within our district."

The recruitment process starts at the beginning of each season when Jensen sends all high school coaches in the district a letter detailing the benefits of Harper's athletic and academic programs. Seniors who are prospective student athletes are contacted personally. Jensen and assistant coach, Jeff Jedd, attend several games of all the schools in the conference and keep the schools' rosters on file.

"Harper is a non-scholarship school so athletes have to come here for other reasons," explains Jensen. "For some it's word of mouth. For example, we've had several girls from Conant. The high school team will follow their progress at Harper, so if one player has a great experience the message gets back to the team. Another reason they choose Harper is because there are many young people out there who are undecided about



Pictured above are the 1997-98 Women's Basketball Coaches and Players: (back) Jennifer Jensen, Tracy Schaefer, Heather Kusch, Erin Brown, Melissa Kwasniewski, Jeff Jedd, (front) Kerri Olivar-Mytych, Jenny Molitor, Brooke DiSario, and Kristen Wilson

what they want to study. Harper is a good place to start, to get those core courses out of the way. And, another good reason for athletes to come here is playing time. For example, this year with only seven players on the women's basketball team, everyone had playing time in every game. That's really important. Many of our student athletes, while they have had good careers here, probably would not have seen as much playing time if they had gone directly to a four-year school. Now, they find four-year schools looking to them to transfer in as prepared and experienced players."

However, it's also likely that with the recent success of Harper's program, players and coaches from outside the district will be the ones to contact Jensen.

When asked why the basketball program is important to Harper, Jensen explained, "You have to be disciplined to be on a team. The rigorous practice schedule and intense games build commitment to achieving a goal. I believe that those are important life skills."

Will Harper go the distance?

"The original distance learning classes began as correspondence courses in the late 1800s. The mail was the highway and now the T1 line is the highway," explains Lee Vogel, Dean of Distance Learning and Media Services.

At Harper the term, "distance learning" is the umbrella for many delivery methods, which include telecourses, interactive video and internet courses, each serving a specific population with specific instructional needs.

"Telecourses have been offered at Harper since 1982," says Vogel. "A typical telecourse is one that is offered on video, usually accompanied by a study guide and text book. The student is expected to view the videos, read the text and take tests at the Testing Center. We have almost 2000 students a year and expect that to increase as we move to interactive telecourses, which could be structured several ways, including web-based activities, e-mail and on-line discussions between students and teachers to enhance their interactivity.

Interactive Video courses are more similar to traditional classroom teaching because they are held live, at specified times with students at two or more sites being led by an instructor at one of the sites. Using video and audio equipment with voice-activated cameras, an instructor on one campus teaches students at another campus. "Using the state supplied equipment, we send building codes, secretarial, paralegal, marketing and child development courses live to other community colleges with which we have joint agreements," says Vogel. In turn, we receive courses not offered at Harper, such as a bed

and breakfast class from Oakton Community College or a library assistant program from CLC." With the statewide connectivity project completed soon, Harper will be connected to every college and university in the state.

"We are beginning to have some Web-based learning via the internet," states Joan Kirkwood, instructional designer in Media Services. "An effective internet course will have a balance of different media. Many textbook publishers are leading the way in providing media and Web-based activities. Some textbooks now include a CD that contains the graphics found in the book enhanced with animations, videos and interactive exercises. Teachers using the text are given their own Web page where they can place lessons and tutorials and integrate hyperlinks to pertinent materials on other Web sites. Discussion forums are set up, allowing two or more people to send messages to each other in real time and e-mail capability is provided for their students."

But could all this pedagogical input from corporations lead to a diminished value of faculty? "Don't confuse this with not needing faculty," warns Kirkwood. "The faculty member is the facilitator and key to the process. Technology is being used to enhance the learning situation."

Vogel points out, "The learner becomes the center of the experience. Internet courses allow for interactivity, feedback, the kind of learning scenes that I think good teachers have been doing all along. It's just that technology supports that so much better."

Sharper Harper

The rumors about the Physical Plant making drastic cuts are true—it's called rejuvenational pruning. In order to correct shearing damage on shrubs, Roads and Ground will be severely cutting them back. While it may appear a bit drastic, it is best for the health of the plant. Roads and Grounds will also be managing most of the turf renovation. Watch for them to regrade and reseed along the curbs and walks.

Kay Turner and three interns will be maintaining the higher profile plantings areas. Their plans include removing all declining and or diseased plant material and following up with an extensive site evaluation to determine what to plant in the future. They will remove the old junipers in front of Building A and sod the circle area with wildflowers. Three picea omorikia (weeping Siberian spruce) trees will be planted by students as part of the Earth Day celebration.

Here's hoping for a great growing season in '98!

Departmental Developments

Helmet Publ, LIB ARTS, is included in the fifth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 1998*. Publ was nominated by a former Harper student who is now in graduate school at Northern Illinois University.

The Steering Committee for the National Science Foundation-funded project, *The Integral Role of the Two-Year College in the Science and Mathematics Preparation of Prospective Teachers* selected Harper College as one of 11 two-year colleges with "exemplary activities in the area of teacher preparation." Representing Harper at the national conference in March were **Mercedes McGowen**, **Pat Traynor** and **Nancy Vrooman** (all of TM/PS).

In March, **Linda Soto**, BUS/SS CE, and **Vic Lattan**, a counselor of the Small Business Development Center, spoke at the *Open Forum for Entrepreneurs* sponsored by the Northwest Banker's Association. Linda Soto was also featured in *Non-Credit Learning News*, the national newsletter for continuing education directors and marketers.

As part of their ongoing efforts to build awareness of Harper within the community, **Mark Clancy**, **Rochelle Corso**, **Bev Hoffman** and **Debbie Michelini** led 50 sixth grade students from Cooper Middle School in Buffalo Grove on a tour of Harper's communication areas. **Tom Knoff** showed them the distance learning classroom, the head end of the cable channel and the post-production facility for video production. **John Callahan** and **Stefan Adam** introduced them to digital photography; and **Peter Gart** and **Tony Garcia** demonstrated two-color printing. **Mike Chomiczewski** and **Mike Knudsen** explained multi-media and web-based software applications. **Paula Blacker** showed them the telephone equipment room, the main computer room for the campus and the HELP Desk. **Becky Benton**, of the journalism department, gave the students a hands-on lesson building the front page of a newspaper; and **Dave Dluger** demonstrated equipment in the radio station.

The paintings of **Festus Johnson**, Tutoring Center, were featured in the presentation, "The Art of Kuumba." Kuumba means creativity and it is one of the seven principles of Kwanza. Johnson's artwork was viewed during the African American Student Association sponsored event, *Young, Gifted and Black, A Celebration of History and Culture* in the Student Center on February 25.



Joyce Schoonover and her husband, **Dick**, are completing their 19th season as directors of the Cross Court News mixed doubles tennis league. As players they have placed first five times, and been second twice. With seven of 22 sessions to be played this season, they are currently ranked fourth.

Coaches Norm Lovelace and **Dan Loprieno** led the men's wrestling team to the nationals where they placed third. Lovelace, who retires this year, was honored with the NCAA Award for 25 Years of Service.

Roger Bechtold is the latest WHP staffer to enter the Hall of Fame. Bechtold is the NJCAA Region IV Hall of Fame Athletic Coordinator of 1998.

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations recognized Harper College with the Silver 1998 Paragon Award in the category of Print Advertisement, Series. The award was for the "College...Not Just for Kids Anymore," ad campaign. The team that worked on this ad was **John Callahan**, **Mike Chomiczewski**, **Rochelle Corso** and **Joellen Freeding**. In addition, the *Admissions Marketing Report* awarded Chomiczewski and Corso the bronze award for a direct mail piece; and a silver award for a radio commercial that was a joint effort between the marketing team and Hammerman and Morse Advertising.