First annual homecoming week events open to all; alumni especially urged to attend

For the first time in the history of Harper College, former students will return to the campus to take part in Homecoming festivities this fall, October 13 through 16.

The occasion should be of particular interest to former students who attended Harper before the college had a campus of its own.

Homecoming is sponsored by the Harper student senate in cooperation with the athletic department and cultural arts committee and is administered by the student activities office headed by Frank Bocelli.

Highlighting the four-day celebration will be the football game Saturday evening, October 16, with Illinois Valley Community College. The game, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will be played at Fremd High School in Palatine, since Harper as yet has no spectator facilities.

Harper football coach John Eliaistik expects Illinois Valley to be a good opponent. He says, "Our team is capable of winning -- but unpredictable because it is a new team and the players are young."

As a prologue to Homecoming, there will be a faculty chamber concert Tuesday evening, October 12, with The Harper String Quartet and special piano, vocal, and guitar selections.

Homecoming events include a lecture October 13 by author Joseph Heller, a concert by the "Fresno State College Marching Band" on October 14, a coffee house concert by folk-guitarist Walt Conley on October 15, and a homecoming dance following the Saturday evening football game on October 16 (see Homecoming Events in next column). These special events are open to the public at a minimum charge. The chamber concert is free.

Help make Harper's first annual Homecoming a success. Plan to attend some of the events scheduled for Homecoming week.

Student Provest is communications link between students, faculty, administration

Student provost for the 1971-72 academic year, Richard Cook of Arlington Heights, can be found almost any day in his office in the student activities area of the college.

In his position as student provost, Rich's responsibility is communicating with students. He also administers student opinion polls, seeks to solve grievances, and keeps the lines of communication open between students, administrators, and faculty.

Rich is a graduate of Arlington High School. He spent four years in the air force, where he attained the rank of staff sergeant. Last year he was a student senator at Harper and vice president of the Newman Community at the college.

His involvement in student activities at Harper and his leadership ability as evidenced by his achieving the rank of staff sergeant in the air force were the main reasons he was chosen for the provost position.

Rich took office July 1. One of his first projects was to organize the freshman orientation program for the fall semester.

At the close of registration on September 17, the 1971 fall enrollment at Harper stood at 9,193 for all students attending the community college.

Harper's student population this year is 16.3 per cent greater than the fall 1970 total student head count of 7,985.

The 9,130 total for this year includes 7,188 full and part time credit students plus 1,942 continuing education (non-credit) and 176 university extension students.

Harper's actual enrollment outstrips expectations. It exceeds by 3,500 students the original projections made in 1966, one year after Harper was established.

An analysis of the 1971 enrollment reveals that credit students age 26 years and older represent 26 per cent of the community college's student body. Combining this statistic with the 66 per cent increase in non-credit evening courses -- from 1,354 in 1970 to 1,924 this year -- indicates that the programs and services of the college are appealing to greater numbers of mature citizens.

Harper students of "traditional" college age, from 17 through 21, represent 53.7 per cent of the current student body.

Indication that the community college's reputation is growing among residents of the Harper district (512) can be found in the 23.3 per cent increase of in-district students this year over fall 1970. At the same time, out-of-district enrollments have decreased 11.4 per cent, principally because Olaton Community College is absorbing more students.

Harper's registrar, Dean B. Ransbury, notes that "there are 240 students attending Harper from the Olaton district as 'charge-backs' compared to 784 from that district one year ago."

Further analysis of Harper's fall enrollment shows that student preferences in studies lean heavily toward the health and biological sciences, the humanities and fine arts. Twenty and 16 per cent increases in full-time equivalency enrollments were scored respectively for these areas compared to last year.

The educational plans of students enrolled in credit courses at Harper are ambitious. Nearly 65 per cent state they are degree bound, either toward a bachelor's degree through transferring to a four-year institution or toward a two-year associate degree from Harper. Twenty-four per cent of Harper's credit students have had some previous college experience.

Harper trustee to join educator and expert in management on "accountability" panel

Harper College board member D. Eugene Nugent of Palatine has accepted an invitation to participate in the 38th annual convention program of the Council of North Central Community-Junior Colleges to be held at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel October 10-12.

Nugent, president of American Louver Company in Bloomingdale, will be one of two "reactionists" to a presentation entitled "How Does A Chief Executive Assess Accountability of His Organization?" Presenters will be John L. Butler of Ernst & Ernst, Chicago, and John Prince, president of Maricopa Junior College, Phoenix, Arizona.

The Council, founded in 1927 as a liaison between individual two-year colleges and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, currently serves a membership of nearly 300 community-junior colleges in nineteen states.

Council president and co-host of the convention in Robert E. Libby, president of Harper College.