

## **President's Report**

### **September 2017**

The month of September is certainly different this year as we are in a celebratory mood in recognition of the College's 50<sup>th</sup> year of serving the citizens of Community College District 512. Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee has done a superb job in organizing and executing the many events that have been occurring in August and September. The College's birthday party, held on September 13, in recognition of when our first classes were held, was a huge success with students, faculty and staff who joined in on the fun activities that were planned. With many more events to look forward to, the positive energy associated with this significant milestone will continue to grow, both on the campus and across the community.

As I compose this report, I am looking forward to this weekend when more than 400 revelers will join us in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our Educational Foundation's Gala event, which will be held in the hangars at Chicago Executive Airport. We are thankful to Charles and Erica Preister and Priester Aviation for making this unique venue available to us. It appears very likely that the event will generate \$1 million in support of our Promise Program, putting us over the \$10 million goal. We are so pleased with this accomplishment; however, we are not yet satisfied. The Foundation Board has accepted the Board of Trustees' challenge to raise an additional \$1 million, thus matching the \$1 million the Board has set aside as a challenge grant. Over these next two years, we hope to add \$4 million to the endowment giving us a minimum of \$14 million in the Promise fund, as the first cohort enrolls at Harper in the fall of 2019.

It was very pleasing to learn recently that the College has been selected to participate in the Dell Foundation's project to develop models for accelerating community college/baccalaureate transfer and increasing the number of graduates from those partnerships. We have partnered with high school District 211 and Northern Illinois University (NIU) to compete for this grant. We were one of four partnerships chosen out of 100 entries to receive the funds. We will leverage our dual credit initiatives with District 211 and our partnership with NIU at our University Center to accelerate the time and reduce costs for associate degree and baccalaureate degree completion. This is another step forward as we attempt to build out a "community" model through a collective impact strategy. We will share more as we proceed through the grant cycle.

We are looking forward to attending the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) annual conference with a number of Trustees and staff from Harper College later this month. We are excited to be recognized by ACCT for our diversity and inclusion initiatives and look forward to accepting the regional award and contend for the national award during the conference. This is a wonderful endorsement of our work and the dedication of our Board and campus community to be a more open, diverse and inclusive community.

Following are activities and significant accomplishments that have transpired over the past month.

### ***Student Success***

- One Million Degrees (OMD) has 51 continuing scholars. The onboarding of 1<sup>st</sup> year scholars is underway. To date, there have been 60 new scholars officially admitted and their intake appointments have been completed. OMD scholars are attending a weekly course facilitated by the Director of OMD and the OMD Academic Advisor. 101 individuals are serving as OMD coaches for this year.
- Fashion Studies Student Aide, Teagan Annesly Schirmbeck, hosted a meeting to share her recent experiences from her studies abroad to Scotland at the Heriot Watt University School of Textile and Design. Her love of textiles led her to Scotland to explore new cultures and challenged her skills. As the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient, Teagan credited Nupur Sharma and Richard Johnson for their support and guidance during this amazing experience.
- In the month of August, Admissions Outreach completed their summer and fall text message campaign to prospective students. In total, more than 17,000 text messages were sent to students about new program updates, enrollment steps, and registration reminders.
- The 2017-18 Dual Credit Orientation was held on Thursday, August 27 at the Harper College Performing Art Center. More than 275 students and parents attended to ask questions of a panel of former dual credit students, confirm their schedules, collect their textbooks and find their classrooms for courses starting the week of August 28.
- Beginning this fall and for the next three years, global education programming, education abroad opportunities, and faculty development at the College will focus on Latin America. The focus began with 16 faculty from 14 different disciplines (representing both transfer and career programs) participating in a professional development course. This fall, those faculty will infuse their courses with global learning outcomes.
- Harper College has been recognized as a Military Friendly college, formal announcement and recognition by Military Partnerships/Victory Media is anticipated in November.
- Center for Student Involvement coordinated a number of events to welcome Harper students back to school. Activities included information tables, an ice cream social and bingo in the Quad where 700-plus students enjoyed coffee, received directions, maps and made other connections to students, staff and services. The week ended with CSI hosting 250 students, staff, community members and families to enjoy an outdoor movie night (Guardians of the Galaxy 2) at the Pavilion.
- On September 13, Center for Student Involvement in collaboration with the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee commemorated the anniversary of the first day of classes at Harper College's Hullabaloo. More than 90 representatives of the College and the community shared information promoting student opportunities and resources.

- The Practical Nursing Program received initial accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Accreditation will be until 2022. Harper's Practical Nursing Program is one out of 155 Practical Nursing Programs accredited by ACEN.
- Harper's HVAC/R program was featured in this month's publication of *Refrigeration Service Engineers Society (RSES) Journal*. RSES is an international HVAC/R education and training organization.

### ***Facilities Management***

- The scope of work for the Building X Dental Hygiene project included replacement of the dental equipment including chairs, stools, monitor mounts, cabinetry, and lighting. The work has been completed.
- Classrooms H166, H184 and H186 in Building H will be converted into the new BEST (Building Energy Systems Technology) Lab for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology program. Installation of the equipment has begun and construction is scheduled to be substantially complete in November 2017.
- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of two boiler burners, chemical treatment system, water softener, deaerator and accompanying piping. The work is underway and construction is scheduled to be substantially complete in November 2017.
- The annual paving and maintenance of sidewalks includes crack filling, striping, and minor repairs in all lots throughout campus and repairs of sidewalks that were damaged over the winter. The work is substantially complete.
- The scope of work includes reconstruction of the wood pergola at the Blue Pool. The lead-time for material has caused the construction of this project to be rescheduled to start in September 2017 and be substantially complete in October 2017.

### ***Finance and Administrative Services***

- Since the summer of 2012, the College has had an agreement with Pepsi to exclusively sell Pepsi based product on campus. Pepsi products also include brands such as Aquafina, Gatorade, Propel, Mountain Dew, Ocean Spray, Lipton and SoBe. After completing a competitive request for proposal process, the College has selected Pepsi to continue as exclusive provider of cold beverages on campus for the next five years. Last year, the College received \$72,561 in fees and products from Pepsi. This agreement will provide value to the College of \$67,250 per year, or \$336,250 over the five years of the agreement.

### ***Advancement***

Congratulations to the 2017 Harper College Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients!

In honor of the College's 50th Anniversary, five standout alumni, one from each decade of the College's history, will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award on November 2, 2017. The reception and awards ceremony will be held in the Wojcik Conference Center from 6-8 p.m. Please save the date and watch for your official invitation coming soon in the mail.

The 2017 Distinguished Alumni Honorees are as follows:

1967-1976

**Ann Ryan**

Retired, Nurse

Retired, Senior Planner

Mitchell Planning Associates

1997-2006

**Royal Hartwig**

Founder and President

The Royal Family Real Estate

1977-1986

**Craig Johnson**

Mayor, Village of Elk Grove

2007-2017

**Dr. Alexander Kantorovich**

Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Advocate Christ Medical Center

1987-1996

**Dr. Susan Grant**

Program Coordinator,

Health Science Core Harper College

- Harper College, along with partners from Northern Illinois University (NIU) and High School District 211, has been selected to participate in the Seamless Transfer Pathways design challenge. The Harper-led cohort was one of four institutions selected from fifty applications representing 100 institutions across twenty-five states. Harper will join Miami Dade College & Florida International University, Collin College & University of North Texas, and Northern Virginia Community College & George Mason University in the intensive one-year Design Challenge beginning this fall.
- In support of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Take 5 subcommittee's goal is to create a sense of community and engage employees with the 50th Anniversary through weekly activities or events from August 2017 – May 2018. The name 'Take 5' refers to the idea that these activities require minimal time commitment and are designed to be short, fun breaks in the week.
- Since mid-August, starting with the Faculty/Staff Orientation Week, the committee has supported five events, with the help of volunteers from across the campus. In the first four weeks, Take 5 already has more than 700 points of engagement with employees.



Book Titleist Mini Golf



Roomba Ball



Great Ice Cream Giveaway



Slap Lights

See more photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/52518257@N08/sets/72157687186475355>

## Marketing Services

- Harper College Birthday: Social Media Snapshot - September 13, 2017  
We shared (for the first time) the “Happy Birthday Harper!” video that was filmed at the College and Career Expo. The video was shared on Facebook and LinkedIn and was also linked to from Harper College’s homepage on the website.
- Harper College’s cover video on Facebook (the banner image at the top of our page) was updated to reflect the “Happy Birthday Harper!” video. The cover video is a continuous loop of confetti falling with the 50th logo in the center. This video was also shared on the College’s Instagram account.
- Earlier this week, the 50th Communications Team reached out to our partners in the community asking them to help us in celebrating our 50th birthday on social media on September 13. We supplied them with assets including the 50th logo and a link to the Happy Birthday Video for them to share and asked that they use the hashtag #Harper50” so that we could find their post. Many replied with an enthusiastic “yes!” and were quick to show their support across all social media channels. Here are some highlights:



- To bring current students, staff, and faculty into the celebration, we went around campus to different departments and at Hullabaloo and got portraits of groups wearing birthday hats and holding up signs that read “Happy Birthday Harper.” Photos can be found on Harper’s Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, and Twitter pages. Here are some highlights:



## ***Planning and Institutional Effectiveness***

- The Learning Assessment Committee shared results of the spring 2017 assessment of the diverse perspectives and cultures general education learning outcome. Students were assessed on their ability to “Examine diverse perspectives and cultures as they relate to the individual, the community, and the global society.” More than 500 student artifacts were assessed. Results indicate that students near completion of a Harper program of study (45+ credit hours) are better able to reflect on assumptions and biases related to the outcome than are students who recently began their work at Harper. This year, the Learning Assessment Committee will develop a plan for improving these assessment results and will also launch a critical thinking general education assessment.
- The FY2018 College Plan has been published and reviewed with the Board. This comprehensive document serves as a one-stop resource for information on the planning activities of the College including the Presidential Priorities, Budget and Capital Plan, 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, and FY2018 Operational Plan.

## ***Workforce Solutions***

- Harper’s Office of Apprenticeships received approval from the Department of Labor for two new registered apprenticeship programs: IT Generalist and Cyber Security. Like Harper’s apprenticeship programs in insurance, these new programs bring the concept of apprenticeship to new and nontraditional career pathways. Harper has led the nation in creating nontraditional registered apprenticeships through the Department of Labor.
- Harper College was visited by a team of six educators from Mississippi Gulf Coast CC to learn how Harper implements registered apprenticeship programs. MGCCC has four campuses—George County Center in Lucedale, West Harrison County Center in Long Beach, Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Center in Gulfport or the Keesler Center at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. They have, for more than 80 years, worked with the Gulf ship builders providing the educational component for their Registered Apprenticeship program. Now they want to expand their Registered Apprenticeship offerings to other types of apprenticeships. Two days of meetings were held to share Harper’s apprenticeship methodology.
- Rebecca Lake, Dean of Workforce Development, authored an article entitled “Community Colleges and Registered Apprenticeships: A Win, Win, Win Scenario”. The article was featured in *Perspectives: Community College Leadership for the 21st Century*, a publication of Ferris State University. The article featured Harper’s work in creating Registered Apprenticeship programs that benefit employers and students, and posed critical questions to help other community colleges in planning and developing registered apprenticeships.
- Amy Vogelgesang, Interim Manager of Harper Business Solutions, was interviewed by Workforce 180 for a nationally broadcast podcast. She discussed the role of community colleges in the workforce as well as how apprenticeships and customized training have a role in the relationships between organizations and their community college partners.
- Harper’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) recently assisted a local software engineer realize his dream of launching his own company. A software developer by day, Jonathan Martin started a side gig several years ago performing drive-by inspections on foreclosed homes. Eventually he started landing more inspections jobs, including verifying the legitimacy and collateral of businesses. Sensing a need for those types of services, Martin founded Genuinsight, a firm that conducts audits and verifies equipment, inventory and property

across the United States. Jonathan has worked with the SBDC at Harper College for the last year and highly recommends their services. "The advisors at the SBDC at Harper College can really steer you in the right direction. If I had not worked with the SBDC at Harper College, I never would have gotten my business started. My advisor helped me incorporate my company, and we talked through specific challenges I was facing. I also learned a lot about resources for minority-owned businesses. The SBDC has phenomenal resources, and they even offer accounting, legal, marketing and other services that can be helpful when you encounter hurdles. And the services are free; all you have to do is use them. —

### ***Diversity and Inclusion***

- A committee of faculty and staff has been convened this term to plan a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diversity and Inclusion event for Spring 2018 with a focus on diversity and inclusion over the first 50 years of Harper's history. The committee is chaired by Pearl Ratunil, the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion.

### ***Community Relations***

- On Monday, August 21, Harper hosted an Eclipse Viewing Event. The event was a collaboration across the division of Mathematics and Science with several professors across disciplines planning the activities together. Continuing Education also added to the festivities by providing a livestream from NASA in the Harper Mobile Unit. More than 40 Harper students volunteered at the event. Community Relations assisted in sharing the information with the community including area schools. Through the ambassador school program, Rupley elementary in Elk Grove Village was able to send more than 120 third and fourth grade students to experience the events. People who attended the event were able to participate in different activities learning about the sun. The event featured demonstrations of plasma, ultraviolet bead experiments, and solar telescopes. Participants were also able to utilize safety pinhole viewers, where an image of the sun is projected onto a screen through a small viewing hole. The event utilized the unusual, real-world opportunity to build excitement around learning. Rupley third-grader Kessiah B., who said she never saw "the sun and the moon pass by together at the same time," agreed. "I like how Harper College gave us the opportunity to take a field trip to come here and see the eclipse and do all the crafts that we made. It's the coolest thing we ever did in school." Various articles highlighted the event and the experience of the Rupley students.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20170829/rupley-students-watch-solar-eclipse-at-harper>

<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20170821/constable-eclipse-cool-enough-to-celebrate-at-harper>

[http://www.journal-topics.com/news/article\\_f9f101ee-88e9-11e7-a19f-574a3393fb4a.html](http://www.journal-topics.com/news/article_f9f101ee-88e9-11e7-a19f-574a3393fb4a.html)

- August is the official kick off for the Harper 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary traveling timeline. Throughout the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a timeline highlighting historical events will be displayed at various libraries, senior organizations and other events. Palatine Library is the first organization to display the timeline. The library celebrated by highlighting the timeline on Facebook. The timeline is an opportunity for community members to reminisce about how Harper has affected their lives and see how much Harper has achieved with the support of our community. The display will wrap up on September 28 with a history discussion conducted by Jim Edstrom highlighting the book Harper College: the First 50 Years.

## **Legislative Relations**

### **Federal**

The Trump administration formally announced an end of the Deferred Action for Children Arrivals program—known as DACA, placing an expiration date on the legal protections granted to approximately 800,000 individuals also called “DREAMers,” who were brought to the United States illegally as children. Homeland Security indicated the program will expire in six months, placing the responsibility on Congress to find a solution. The Department of Justice determined after reviewing the constitutionality of the program that there was a conflict with existing immigration laws. No new initial requests or associated applications will be acted upon.

The program did not provide lawful immigration status. Instead, it granted a deferral from possibly being removed from the U.S. to those who qualified and were granted work permits. The deferrals and permits were granted for two year periods and could be renewed for additional two year periods.

### **State**

The Illinois Legislature recently approved bipartisan legislation to establish a new education formula designed to direct the bulk of state aid to the neediest K-12 school districts. A special session was convened by the Illinois General Assembly the week of August 28. Both chambers approved the bill, which creates a new way to distribute state funding. Governor Rauner signed the bill on the last day of the month.

The final compromise made up the majority of Senate Bill 1 as it passed the Senate. Some of the other changes to the bill include:

- A tax credit for private school scholarship donations. This will be a 5-year pilot project where individuals and businesses could receive a 75 cent tax credit for each dollar donated capped at \$1 million. No more than \$75 million in tax credits would be awarded annually. The tax credits will take effect during the 2018-2019 school year.
- The minimum funding level will be maintained, but in subsequent years allows \$50 million to be used to reduce local property taxes.
- CPS pensions are to be paid out under the State Pension Code rather than through the education funding formula. This adjustment will allocate an additional \$221 million for Chicago Public Schools.
- Special education funding is also included in the provisions.
- CPS resources calculations to be utilized by all other districts.
- Simplifies the mandated waiver process for Physical Education and Drivers Education.
- High property-tax wealth school districts can initiate a referendum to reduce school district tax levies, if 10% of registered voters sign a petition.

The Illinois Senate voted to make Senate Republican Bill Brady’s new position as Republican leader permanent. Brady has been acting as the “Republican Leader designee” since former Senate Republican Leader Radgono resigned on July 1.

Democratic State Representative Dan Beiser announced that he will not be seeking re-election in 2018. Beiser is expected to serve the remainder of his term in office.

An official veto session calendar has not yet been released. The Illinois General Assembly traditionally convenes in the late fall to consider action on Gubernatorial vetoes.

## **Media Relations**

- The *Daily Herald* ran two articles last week on Harper's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first highlights September 13, 1967, the first day Harper held classes. The second, "How Harper College got its start 50 years ago," includes reflections from retired professors Trygve Thoreson and John Muchmore about the College's early growing pains, explosive enrollment growth and how Harper got its name.
- *Crain's* ran a commentary from Harper alum Rafael Robles, who gave a first-hand account of his experience as a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) beneficiary. Robles transferred to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and started his own business, which he describes as an impact-oriented architectural design organization seeking to help marginalized communities and build more equitable cities.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about the recent Board of Trustees vote to set aside \$1 million for the Promise Scholarship Program as a fundraising challenge to the Educational Foundation. The new fundraising challenge, which was also approved by the Foundation Board, would begin after the Foundation hits its current \$10 million goal for Promise. Dr. Ender said the Foundation will have one year to try to reach the dollar-for-dollar match.
- Despite the somewhat overcast skies, Harper's recent solar eclipse viewing was a big success, drawing an estimated 1,000 people to the lawn in front of Avanté. *Daily Herald* columnist Burt Constable came out and spoke with several students, community members and event organizer Raeghan Graessle. The newspaper's coverage included a photo gallery and video. Reporter Jamie Sotonoff previewed Harper's eclipse viewing event, which included pinhole camera making stations; Harper was included in yet another article about the cloudy forecast and its potential impact on eclipse day, and finally an article ran about how 59 students from Rupley Elementary School in Elk Grove Village came to Harper's viewing event.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper's small budget increase in fiscal year 2018.
- A press release about Accenture expanding its professional services apprenticeships based on the model Aon has with Harper and City Colleges was picked up by numerous outlets including *Financial Buzz* and *Nasdaq*.

The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about Harper alum Isaac Jean-Paul, a legally blind high jumper who just won gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in London. He said former track and field coach Renee Zellner introduced him to the Paralympics.

- The *Chicago Tribune's* Shout Out column featured artist Barbara Cooper, who taught sculpture and drawing at Harper.
- *Chicagotribune.com*, *Patch* and the *Daily Herald* previewed Harper's outdoor movie screening.
- *Printing News* ran an article about Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's visit to Fujifilm North America Corp. in Hanover Park. The article mentions the company's partnership with Harper graphic arts students.
- CE Instructor Jacqui Neurauter wrote an article for *Yoga Chicago*. Her meditation course, "Resilience to Stress with iRest Meditation," begins October 16.

- The *Daily Herald* and *Peoria Journal Star* ran articles about the death of former Harper coach Ron Cregier, who was killed in a car crash in downstate Roanoke. A *Daily Herald* sports columnist followed up the news story with a nice column about Cregier leaving a “legacy of caring and class.”
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran an article about the women’s volleyball team and its number one preseason ranking.

### ***President’s Priorities Update***

#### 1. Advocates for Students

- Our new case management advising model was officially launched with more than 5,500 students being assigned to an advisor or counselor, exceeding the target of 3,000. This has been a herculean effort involving many offices from across campus, especially Information Technology, to help with the infrastructure to support this model. All assigned students received an introductory email from their advisor/counselor during the second week of class. The welcome email included an invitation to complete a brief intake survey (holistic assessment) to help advisors/counselors get better acquainted with their assigned students. This week, new students will be getting a reminder about attending an Educational Planning Workshop. Advisors and counselors are beginning to track their caseloads paying attention to key factors such as whether or not the students enrolled in their developmental coursework, when needed. In addition, this week the first early alert survey in Starfish, monitoring at-risk and high-stakes students, was launched. As flags of concern start to be raised, advisors and counselors will be reaching out to their assigned students to develop success strategies.

#### 2. First Year Seminar and Educational Plan

- Student Development launched a brand-new career assessment tool for new students, Focus 2, and user rates have been very strong. As of August 29, more 800 new students have completed one or more assessments – to support their introduction to college life and provide information about careers and areas of interest. Advisors in Orientation were able to use the results in initial advising sessions to assist students in identifying Start Smart options. For those students who were undecided about an area of interest, Student Development created a “Focus on Your Future” First Year Seminar class and is running 13 sections this fall semester.
- Student Development has been coordinating efforts to assist new students in getting ready to create their individualized educational plan. As a first step, students are directed to attend a 45-minute Educational Planning Workshop to help them better understand Harper degrees, certificates, the basics of scheduling and reintroduce them to Degree Works. The workshops are being led by the new academic advisors and for students in Start Smart classes, the workshops can be delivered right in the classroom; 30 additional workshops are being offered at a variety of times and days for other new students. Thanks to the funding of the Comevo software through the Frontier Set Grant, an online version of the workshop has been created as well. At the workshop, the student can schedule an individual appointment with his/her assigned advisor or counselor to develop his/her personalized educational plan.

### 3. Buildings F, M and Canning Center

- Building F Renovations – The second floor interior wall construction is complete and the contractor is currently working on the second and third floor ceilings and carpet, first floor interior walls, exterior curtain wall and the atrium stair.
- Building M Renovations and Addition – The site excavation is complete and the contractor is currently working on foundations, masonry restoration, upper level interior walls, and HVAC and electrical rough-ins.
- Canning Center – The State of Illinois has approved the appropriation of the funding for the Canning Center project. The Capital Development Board (CDB) staff has requested authorization to proceed with an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) that would allow the College to proceed with the review of the plans and budget prior to the funds being released. This IGA is required by the CDB to proceed with the project.

### 4. Promise Program Funding

- Total funds raised to-date \$8,704,352.19
- Goal \$10,000,000 87% to goal
- 480 donors

As I close this report, we should note that during the month of October many of us will be involved in a series of community meetings as we share progress on our campus master plan and engage in conversations about future needs for our buildings and infrastructure. These educational sessions are designed to help us determine our citizens' satisfaction with our work to date and receive their recommendations about future needs. We anticipate a broad range of opinions and look forward to the input. We shall report the outcomes of these discussions to the Board at a future meeting.

Happy Birthday Harper College!

*Ken*