

President's Report

December 2017

It's beginning to look a lot like the holiday season! As I write this report, the snow is falling and the wind is blowing, just in time to get us all in a festive spirit.

However, before we break for the holidays, we have some unfinished business at the College. Students are prepping for exams, faculty are reading papers and reviewing final projects to finalize their classes. The close of the fall semester is always a bit stressful. Not only are students preparing and worrying about a good finish, most are working and preparing for the holiday season, as well. Everyone is certainly busy and will benefit from the holiday break.

As we finish this fall semester and prepare for the spring, the College will begin the process of selecting the next president. We were particularly pleased that Dr. Josh Wyner, Director of the Community College Excellence Program at the Aspen Institute, will be assisting the Board with preliminary preparations for the search. Dr. Wyner is well respected across the higher education and community college landscapes and will be a valuable resource to the Board. Dr. Wyner has specified a timetable and a set of outcomes for his work with Harper. Materials from Dr. Wyner can be found in the correspondence section of the December Board packet.

We look forward to welcoming the Harper Men's and Women's Cross Country teams to the Board meeting this month as we celebrate their national championships. Over the last several seasons, the teams have had so much success, both in their regional meets and at the national level. We look forward to welcoming and honoring them.

It was certainly an honor and privilege to visit Zurich North American headquarters in Schaumburg last week to salute the first class of graduating apprentices in the insurance sector. This program was launched three years ago and supported with a \$2.5 million grant from the Department of Labor. Harper has nationally certified apprenticeship programs in four employment sectors and will soon add two more. Special thanks to Dr. Rebecca Lake for her leadership of this program.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of former Harper Trustee Barbara Barton who served the College as a Board member from 1985 – 2004. She also served as ICCTA president from 1991-1992. Barbara will be honored at the March ICCTA meeting, as well as the annual ACCT conference in fall 2018.

We have many students, staff and faculty to honor and praise. The following is a snapshot of the wonderful accomplishments over the last month.

Student Success

- The women's volleyball team finished the season as national runners-up. The team went undefeated in conference play, and Ellie Burzlaff was named conference MVP. Five other players were named to the all-conference team. Coach Bob Vilsoet was awarded with the distinction of the Midwest Region Two-Year College Coach of the Year. Ellie Burzlaff, Sarah Udoni and Ariana Chelini were named as National Junior College Athletic Association Division III First Team All-Americans.
- The Fire Science Department collaborated with fire departments from Palatine, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, and Rolling Meadows to provide students in Fire Science 101 with first-hand experience on the use of five different types of fire department equipment.
- Harper College's Chemistry Club visited Argonne National Laboratory on November 17. Students toured the Advanced Photon Source, a facility where high-energy, highly penetrating x-ray beams are generated to study the arrangements of molecules and atoms and nanoscale chemical processes. Students had the opportunity to visit the Structural Biology Center where they saw data collection, in real time, used to generate a 3D image of a crystallized protein. The trip was organized by chemistry faculty Frank Rotella and Karen Dailey.
- Agnes Szemborski, Transfer Coordinator, has been elected to serve as co-chair of the State of Illinois Transfer Coordinator group. Agnes will soon appear on WGN to talk about Harper's new University Center and Harper's partnership with DePaul University, Roosevelt University and Northern Illinois University. The interview will air live on WGN's morning news on December 14.
- On Friday, November 17, the Graphic Arts Program hosted a Print Expo that featured various graphic arts print professionals and representatives from four-year institutions to bring awareness about college and career opportunities in the field. Approximately 120 high school students came to visit the booths of professionals and listen to a presentation from students who have graduated from the program at Harper College.
- The nursing pinning ceremony will be held on December 12 and will honor the Harper College Nursing Program graduates who are completing their program this semester.

Finance and Administrative Services

- On December 6, the College completed the refunding of approximately \$125 million in outstanding general obligation bonds, which district residents originally approved in a 2008 referendum to fund construction and infrastructure improvements. As a result of the refunding, taxpayers will benefit from lower borrowing costs due to current market conditions and Harper's Aaa bond rating – the highest rating possible by Moody's Investors Services. Last month, Moody's reaffirmed Harper's rating for this bond issuance, saying the College maintains "sound financial operations," citing its strong management team, limited reliance on state funding, modest debt profile, and large and diverse tax base. The bonds are being refunded at an interest rate of 2.16 percent and will save taxpayers in Harper's district approximately \$19.6 million through 2028.
- Paul LeBreck is retiring after 12 years of service with Harper, effective December 31, 2017. He started with Harper in February 2005 as Deputy Chief of Police, and became Chief of Police in December 2014.

- The Village of Wheeling recently approved a surplus distribution on two of their TIF districts, resulting in \$95,277 for Harper College. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a way for local governments to subsidize needed economic development and municipal projects in a defined district by freezing property tax values and the related distributions to taxing bodies, like Harper College. The funding comes from the increase in property values and the incremental property taxes generated by the development. If the increase in new property taxes exceeds the expenditures on the project there is a surplus, which can be distributed to the taxing authorities.
- The League for Innovation in the Community College (League) is an international nonprofit organization with a mission to cultivate innovation in the community college environment. League monthly publications highlight innovative practices in the community colleges, which are featured in the League's monthly newsletter, *League Connections*, and in the Innovation Library. Rich Seiler, Manager of Auxiliary Services at Harper, will be published in the Leadership Abstracts in December 2017 on the League for Innovation in the Community College website. Rich's article is titled "Simulations for Grow Your Own Professional Development Programs."

Facilities Management

- There was a steam shutdown for piping repairs in the Utility Service Tunnel over the Thanksgiving weekend, from Thursday, November 23 through Saturday, November 25. Construction is complete.
- 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 continues. Substantial completion is scheduled for January 2018.
- 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. Work continues on the installation of the burner on boiler number one and the installation of the deaerator. Substantial completion is scheduled for February 2018.
- Reconstruction of the wood pergola at the Blue Pool is substantially complete.

Information Technology

- Five systems were upgraded in November. The data sent to Harper's early alert system, Starfish, was enhanced to include Fast Track attributes. DegreeWorks, the degree planning software, was updated in preparation for the spring 2018 semester. An upgrade was completed to the postal address verification software, QAS. This upgrade was necessary for Harper to keep current with changes made by the US Post Office. The Operational Data Store (ODS) and Cognos were upgraded. The upgrade of these two systems will improve reporting functionality to Harper's degree planning data.
- The Network, Database and Telecomm teams implemented and updated network and phone systems over the Thanksgiving weekend. The Database and Application Support team implemented 32 patches to systems and databases to enhance security and improve systems. They also installed three new telecommunications systems to keep Harper up to date. The Network and Servers Technical Support team implemented four upgrades to the telecommunication systems, along with additional patches for these systems. Patches were also installed on SharePoint, Microsoft Windows servers, and Cisco edge switches.

Advancement

- The Educational Foundation Board Meeting will be held on December 12. At the meeting the board is expected to approve the nomination of Rafael Malpica to join the Foundation board for a three year term. Rafael is the Director of Community and Guest Relations at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. Prior to joining Advocate, Rafael was the Manager of Community Affairs for Walgreens in Deerfield.
- At the December 12 Foundation Board meeting, the Glenn Reich Memorial Faculty Award will be presented to Associate Professor in Kinesiology and Health Education Pardess Mitchell.
- The Foundation recognized about 50 Harper alumni during a reception on November 29 at NCH through its Stand Up and Be Counted program, an initiative that celebrates area employers that hire Harper alumni. Harper alumni working as allied health professionals, administrators and support personnel can be found throughout all facets of the Northwest Community Healthcare (NCH) system, which in addition to the Arlington Heights hospital includes multiple immediate care centers and physician offices at more than 20 northwest suburban locations.
- In late November, the Harper College Educational Foundation celebrated Giving Tuesday, the worldwide day of philanthropy. Community members, volunteers, alumni, faculty, and staff rallied together to raise \$14,796.13 in support of Harper College and its students. \$9,256.31 donated was restricted to the Harper College Promise Scholarship, and will be matched dollar for dollar by the College's Match My Gift program. Some interesting facts regarding this initiative include:
 - 75% more donors joined in supporting Harper College on Giving Tuesday than in 2016.
 - On average, donors gave 15% more than just one year ago.
 - Harper's Giving Tuesday materials were shared, liked, and reposted on social media more than 1,500 times.
 - 16 individuals chose to support Harper College philanthropically for the first time on Giving Tuesday.
 - Community members watched the Believe music video more than 22,600 times, and our social media posts reached nearly 150,000 individuals.
 - Alumni donors accounted for about 30% of the total number of donors
 - Alumni giving increased by 256% from last year's campaign (from \$955 to \$3,401.13)

Marketing Services

- In addition to several targeted online, email, social and direct mail campaigns, Harper College spring enrollment marketing includes a mass media campaign as follows:
 - WGN-TV Live, On-Air Interviews with Harper Spokespersons
 - 12/14, Agnes Szemborski, Topic: University Center
 - 12/18, Ferdinand Alfajora, Topic: Veterans Center and Outreach
 - 12/20, Mark Mrozinski, Topic: Fast Track
 - These interviews will also be highlighted on Harper web and social channels following the interviews.
 - Broadcast TV News Commercials, December 4-January 9
 - 425 early, morning, mid-day, evening and late news commercials on WGN, WFLD, WLS, WCIU, WMAQ

- No cost bonus spots include, but are not limited to late, night news/Jimmy Fallon, Post –NFL late news on Thursday/Sunday and a 3-minute live on air interview on WCIU morning news program.
- Radio Commercials. November 27- January 9
 - 652 commercials on stations including WTMX, WSHE, WSCR, WBBM, WDRV.
 - Commercials highlight Fast Track info session and a variety of career programs such as surgical technology, accounting and manufacturing.
 - This plan reaches 80% of in-district target audience at least six times.
- In summer of 2017, Laura Pulio Colbert approached Marketing with her idea for a photo display on the upper windows of the Drama Lab Theatre. She wanted a strong statement to highlight the arts at Harper and spark students' interest in theatre. Laura worked with designer Jan Elbert to choose photos from theatre performances that portrayed the excitement and intensity of varied dramatic themes. With images of shows from past seasons to present, directed by different faculty members, the graphics were installed in October 2017. Viewers are drawn to the windows, where they can look down into the Drama Lab (aka Black Box Theatre). The windows are located in the 2nd-floor hallway across from the bookstore in Building L.



Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- Student focus groups were conducted in conjunction with Student Development and Marketing Services. The focus groups were designed to inform development of a map that will visualize a student's journey from the time they first consider Harper through graduation. Students discussed what information would be helpful to them as they transition from high school to college and pursue their goals. A final depiction of the graphic will be finalized in the spring term.

Workforce Solutions

- The Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC), located in the Wojcik Conference Center wanted to reach out to students across campus. They have had success in opening a “pop-up” (i.e., mobile) office across campus in D139 on Mondays to attract more students to use their services. This additional location has increased awareness of their office and has become a popular option for students.

- Dr. Rebecca Lake made the following presentations on behalf of the Harper College Apprenticeship Program:
 - American Management Association Conference November 10, *"Apprenticeships, One Way to Create a Talent Pipeline."*
 - Presentation at Missouri Community College Association meeting, *"Harper College Transitioning from TAACCCT Grants to Registered Apprentices,"* November 2-3, 2017.
 - Two presentations along with Melissa MacGregor, manager of workforce grants, at the National Council of Workforce Education, *"Innovative Employer Outreach Plan and Activities Result in Increased Apprentice Hiring"* and *"Collaborative Initiative: Ways WIOA and Community Colleges Can Work to Grow Registered Apprentices,"* on October 24 – 27, 2017.
 - Consumer Action's 8th Annual National Consumer Empowerment Conference meeting, *"Registered Apprenticeships: A Win for Employers and Jobseekers,"* on November 15 - 16, 2017.
 - Co-presenter in American Association of Community College's November 2 webinar *"From Design to Implementation, Flexible Apprenticeship Models that Work."*
- Myra Taylor, from Lakeland College, visited the Office of Apprenticeships to learn about Harper College's implementation of registered apprenticeship programs, lessons learned, and best practices.
- The Office of Apprenticeships hosted the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IL DCEO) state meeting on establishing a truck drivers (CDL) Registered Apprenticeship program, on November 6, 2017.
- Melissa MacGregor, manager of workforce grants, presented at McHenry County Workforce Network, *"Apprenticeships Benefit Employers, Students, and Community,"* on November 14, 2017.
- The Office of Apprenticeships held an Employer Breakfast Information Session on October 18.
- The Harper College Mobile Unit has been seen throughout the community this fall semester. The computer classroom on wheels enables access to technology learning anywhere, and at any time! The Mobile Unit participated in numerous events including the Made in Elk Grove Manufacturing & Technology Expo event, in-district elementary school STEM Fairs, and a Ribbon Cutting Event for the Enclave Entrepreneur Center. This list provides a snapshot as to where the Mobile Unit has been this semester as well as future events:
 - Creator Fair-CAD/3D Printing - Game Design/App Development @ Barrington Area Library
 - Mobile Unit Presentation - Schaumburg Rotary at Chandlers
 - Office 365 Workshop at Main Campus
 - Forest View/John Jay/Juliette Low Elementary Ambassador Tour at Harper Main Campus
 - Barrington Area Library - Staff Day CAD/3D Printing at Barrington Area Library
 - Veterans as Entrepreneurs at Enclave O'Hare
 - STEM Fair/Coding for Kids at Central Road Elementary
 - Trunk or Treat - Game Design/ Coding for Kids at Higgins Educational Center
 - Friendship JHS - Coding for Kids/ Ambassador Tour at Harper Main Campus
 - Lincoln Elementary School - Coding for Kids/ Ambassador Tour at Harper Main Campus
 - Lincoln Elementary School STEM Fair - Coding for Kids/ Ambassador Tour at Lincoln Elementary
 - Rupley Elementary - Coding for Kids/ Ambassador Tour at Harper Main Campus
 - Take 5 at Starbucks - Tuesday 9/26

- Holmes JHS Ambassador Tour at Harper Main Campus
- Harper Board Meeting at Harper Professional Center
- Barrington Street Fest at downtown Barrington
- SBA Manufacturing Summit at Amada Inc.
- Eclipse Community Viewing - Live NASA Stream at Avante

Diversity and Inclusion

- The Diversity & Inclusion Dialogue Workshops continued this semester to meet the training and educational needs of the campus. There were 38 participants in the D & I Dialogue Workshops offered this fall; to date, 275 employees have participated. This initial workshop will be referred to as part 1 as plans are underway for a part 2 D & I Dialogue. The part 2 session will include hands-on, practical strategies for bias awareness, intersectionality, micro-aggressions and micro-affirmations, and ally-ship. Completion of part 1 will be a requirement to participate in the part 2 workshop.
- Dr. Pearl Ratunil was invited to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) convening summit, which was held in Washington, DC December 10-11. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of chief diversity officers in a community college, the factors that led each college to the development of these positions, the opportunities and issues the colleges faced when considering these roles, the professional and leadership developmental needs for community college CDOs, and prospective future collaborations.

Community and Legislative Relations

- The first semester elementary and middle schools tours wrapped up on Friday, December 8. More than 1,400 students from 15 district schools have visited campus since September. Students range from 3rd grade to 8th grade. For many students this field trip is their first visit to a college campus. By engaging these students in interactive activities in our labs and classrooms, we are creating an early interest in higher education. A very big thank you to the faculty, staff and students who helped make the fall semester tours a huge success.
- Harper was featured in two Schaumburg Business Association events last month. On November 9, Kristyn Meyer and Fredia Martin hosted an information table at the SBA Women in Business lunch. Attendees learned about the HOPE Giving Circle and the important role it has played in helping female Harper students. Brian Hamm and Katy McGuinnis discussed the Harper Mobile Unit and Business Solutions with area business leaders at the SBA Good Morning Schaumburg event on November 14.
- The Celebration of Giving was a huge success again this year. Thanks to the generosity of Harper's faculty, staff and students, we will once again be donating many toys and winter clothes to the families at Salt Creek Elementary School. Salt Creek is one of our ambassador schools which means more than 50% of their students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Many of their families cannot afford to buy gifts for their children. Thank you to everyone who donated an item.



Legislative Affairs

- State and local: The State issued \$750 million in general obligation bonds for 2018 capital expenditures. Bond proceeds will be used to fund major capital construction projects and finance information technology projects; however, it remains unclear exactly which projects, such as the Canning Center, will benefit.
- The filing period for candidates to submit petitions to the Illinois State Board of Elections closed December 4. All constitutional officers, including Gov. Bruce Rauner, will be up for election in November. In the General Assembly, all 118 state House seats will be up for election as well as 39 of the 59 state Senate seats. Most of the local primary races are uncontested. One exception in Harper's district is the Illinois 53rd House District, where State Rep. David Harris (R-Arlington Heights) is retiring. Candidates Katie Miller, who is backed by Dan Proft, and Eddie Corrigan, outreach coordinator for Congressman Peter Roskam, will square off in the GOP primary in March. Gov. Bruce Rauner also officially has a primary challenger with State Rep. Jeanne Ives filing petitions.
- The Illinois House and Senate are scheduled to be in session next at the end of January.
- Federal: Earlier this month, the U.S. Senate narrowly approved major tax legislation largely opposed by higher education leaders and student groups. This action sets up negotiations with House leaders over substantial differences between the two bills. Both bills create potential new tax burdens for higher education institutions and would, college leaders predict, adversely affect state budgets. In addition, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce released a bill reauthorizing the Higher Education Act. Officials say the act would significantly change federal student aid.

Communications

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper naming Building D the Duchossois Family Educational Center in recognition of Kim Duchossois' generous support of the College – particularly the Promise Scholarship Program and Dream Big-Angel Grant program.
- In an editorial, the *Daily Herald Editorial Board* lauded the Building M private-partnership with Palatine Park District and Northwest Community Healthcare as an example of how collaboration can benefit communities.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article (and 3 photos) about Harper's Giving Tuesday music video, written by Kevin Prchal, digital content specialist in marketing services. *CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education)* ran an article on its blog about the creative fundraising initiative.
- *Politico's* daily Illinois Playbook included the Daily Herald article on the priority capital projects outlined in Harper's updated campus master plan.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper's resolution urging Congress to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program or similar education to support Dreamers. *Community College Daily* ran the article in its headlines wrap-up.
- A *Daily Herald* spread on its popular Cook of the Week contest points out that judge Jimmy Nicolau earned a degree from Harper while finalist Joe Wachter teaches chemistry here.

- The *PayScale* blog featured Harper's apprenticeship program in an article about the benefits of apprenticeships to the American workforce.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune.com* and *Patch* ran an article previewing the Clay Guild's fall sale.
- The *Vidette*, Illinois State University's student newspaper, ran a glowing profile on Harper alumnus Kimberly Butler. Butler has become a leader on the ISU campus and founded the Transfer Redbirds organization to help ease the transition for fellow transfer students.
- Chicago Sun-Times columnist Neil Steinberg's recent visit to Harper was mentioned on the *Sirott and Murciano* radio show on WLS.
- The *Chicago Tribune* in its Shout Out column highlighted Harper student Justin Chon, an apprentice in the general insurance program with Aon.
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran an article about the women's volleyball team finishing second in the national championship, as well as a brief about first-year student Julia Szylyke scoring 36 goals for the women's soccer team this fall, making her the No. 1 scorer in the nation at the community college level.

President's Priorities Update

1. First Year Seminar and Education Plan

Staff visited seven First Year Seminar classes during the fall semester to host a "Game of Life" activity for students. The Game of Life was developed by the Harper College Financial Literacy Team. The students use the career and related salary that they identified in a prior FYS class session to create a budget that includes paying taxes and making decisions about the costs for life's necessities and wants. Different budget strategies are discussed and students walk away with their own personal financial goal. Students are engaged in this eye opening experience about making good choices and saving money and also introduced to the Financial Aid webpage and support services Harper College offers.

More than 800 students participated in a Start Smart or First Year Seminar experience in fall 2017. To accommodate new students in the spring and current first year students who are seeking the guidance and support these courses offer, 21 sections are open to first year students for spring 2018 enrollment.

2. Advocates for Students

As we wrap up the fall semester with the new case management advising model, counselors and advisors are busy meeting with students for educational planning, preparing for finals and providing support during this stressful time in the semester. Advisors and counselors continue to reach out to students in their caseloads to encourage them to make an appointment for spring educational planning.

3. Building F, M and Canning Center

- **Building F Renovations** – The construction is substantially complete with the contractor working on punch list items and furniture installation.

- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – The contractor is currently working on the exterior wall at the additions, foundations at the west vestibule addition, interior partitions, and HVAC, plumbing and electrical rough-ins.
- **Canning Center** – The State of Illinois has approved the appropriation of the funding for the Canning Center project. No funding has been released by the Governor to date.

4. Promise Program Funding

As of November 30, 2017 total contributions raised \$10,087,055.61 with 588 total donors, (this does not include interest earnings for November).

In closing, let me share a topic that has been occupying my thoughts for the last few months, and one I plan to discuss with the College when we return from holiday break: “free speech” versus “hate speech.” As the Board may be aware, as a public institution, the College is required to identify “free speech” zones on campus that groups may reserve to distribute information about a particular point of view. Some individuals on campus become stressed by the presence of certain groups. Whether we agree or not, we cannot prohibit individuals and/or groups from expressing their opinions, even if those opinions are contrary to our own beliefs and vehemently opposed by others. Some would call for the College to ban these groups from campus. We intend to have a robust campus conversation about free speech on campus in our upcoming spring term, to better understand how to have a respectful dialog when opinions and viewpoints differ, and help our students do the same. We will reach out to the campus community and ask that everyone be involved in this important discussion.

Finally, Cathy and I extend our warmest *Seasons Greetings* to all. This is such a special time of the year as we gather with family and friends to rejoice in the spirit of the season and enjoy the company of family and friends.

Happy Holidays!

Ken