

## **President's Report**

### **February 2018**

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through February! It would be wonderful to see an early spring as the weather has surely tested us these last few weeks. I want to give a shout out to all those in Roads and Grounds, Custodial, Maintenance and Engineering in our Facilities area who have put in many, many hours to assure we were safe and warm on the campus. Many of our Facilities employees were on campus early mornings, late nights and over the weekends to assure the grounds, roadways and buildings were ready to support the Harper community and all the activities that are scheduled on campus. Thanks to all of them for doing a great job!

Trustee Bill Kelley, Student Trustee Niki Safakas and I traveled to the ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. Bill and Niki will discuss their observations at the Board meeting this month. It appears that the ACCT/AACC legislative agenda will focus on DACA students and Pell eligibility and so called "risk taking" rules related to Pell. Bill will share some publications regarding the full agenda at the Board meeting and we will discuss DACA and Pell, as well.

With March quickly approaching, the College is making final preparations for the visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation team. Visiting us on March 5 and 6, will be a team of five, plus some observers who are HLC staffers. Our campus team, led by Darlene Schlenbecker and Julie Ellefson, have prepared an exceptionally fine assurance argument for re-accreditation and the College is prepped and ready to go. All the hard work over the last several years will be on full display during this visit. We look forward to hearing from the visiting team with respect to their observations.

Josh Wyner from the Aspen Institute will be visiting the College on March 21 to facilitate a workshop for the Board focused on developing and executing a successful search plan for the sixth President of William Rainey Harper College. Mr. Wyner has forwarded copies of "Crisis and Opportunity: Aligning the Community College Presidency with Student Success" and "Hiring Exceptional Community College Presidents" for Board review. The Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program has developed these monographs and they reflect the many lessons learned through the evaluation of Aspen Community College Prize finalists and winners.

When the Board reconvenes for the regular April Board meeting, the College will have just hosted the April 14 Community Day. This special day, planned by the 50th Anniversary Committee, welcomes the entire community to the campus for a day filled with activities, information and fun! Our 50th Anniversary Committee has executed a number of outstanding events this year. This, and graduation, will be the biggest and best ever!

The last month has been a busy one on campus.....see below.

## ***Student Success***

- The first ‘nudge campaign’ using insights from the Civitas product, Illume, was implemented in early January to encourage part-time students enrolled in under 6 credit hours to enroll in an additional class since, historically, those enrolled in six or more hours have a higher persistence likelihood. Of those students receiving the email nudge, 57% registered for additional courses after reading the email prompt. This accounts for an additional 289 courses and 898 additional credit hours.
- One Million Degrees (OMD) Works was unveiled in January. OMD Works is a new program for OMD Scholars that explores Areas of Interest with an emphasis on career and technical fields. Current OMD coaches, Mary Beth Ottinger and Katye Speer assisted in the facilitation of the program. Approximately 150 scholars and coaches attended.
- To celebrate “New Year, New Finances, New You!” the campus-wide Financial Literacy team organized a series of workshops to be offered this spring. Students can learn about Credit Basics and Understanding Insurance from outside experts coming to campus. In addition, there are hands-on workshops to help students complete the 2018-2019 financial aid forms and a workshop to learn more scholarship opportunities from the Harper College Educational Foundation staff. These workshops were all topics students wanted to learn more about.
- Jason Altmann was appointed to co-chair the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes’ Adult Education Task Force. The national task force is charged with evaluating developmental education outcomes for college students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and creating best practice recommendations for effective delivery of developmental education for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

## ***Information Technology***

- There was a significant effort to update and prepare podiums, computers and other technologies in classrooms throughout campus for the start of the spring semester. This included updates to desktop operating systems, software updates, and desktop management system upgrades. Preventative maintenance activities also took place to ensure classroom technologies such as projectors, computers, and document cameras were maintained and ready for classes.
- In preparation for the spring semester, student advisor assignments were loaded into the Banner Student Information System (SIS) and the Early Alert system. Starfish was updated to recognize the spring 2018 semester as the current semester. The fall 2019-semester course waitlists were configured in Banner SIS. Updates were made to the wording of the pre-populated email in Harper’s degree planning software, DegreeWorks. The wording was changed to reflect Harper terminology in order to sound familiar to students. The team continues to implement enhancements to the Ellucian portal as part of the Phase II project. During the month of January, LMS (Blackboard) Single Sign On (SSO) with the Student portal was completed.
- A large number of upgrades and modifications to the infrastructure were done in the month of January to prepare for spring semester. There were 35 patches and upgrades installed to keep the network operating systems current.
- The AccuSQL student appointment tracking system was replaced with SARS Track. SARS Track is faster, integrates with Harper’s existing SARS Scheduling system, and provides more robust and reliable reporting.

## ***Facilities Management***

- Harper is a participant in the NRG Demand Response Program, agreeing to reduce our electrical load during peak events. We had no peak events this year, however we did participate in an electric curtailment test and our response resulted in an initial payment of \$24,588, with a second payment of \$24,588 expected in May.
- The College received \$4,200 from Commonwealth Edison for the Building Y Lighting Control project, along with an Early Bird Bonus of \$1,050 for submitting early for a total of \$5,250.
- The scope of work for the Building B tunnel project includes a shallow tunnel from Building B to Building U, steam lines to Building M, and communications cabling from Buildings M and U to Buildings A and Y. Construction has begun.
- Classrooms H166, H184 and H186 will be converted into the new BEST Lab for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology program. Installation of the equipment is complete and the control work is in process.
- 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. To date, the deaerator and piping part of the project are complete.

## ***Advancement***

- Since September, the Foundation has had four scholarships created for a total of \$27,000. Below are the new scholarships:
  - Jacqueline Boyd Memorial Scholarship - Supporting underrepresented Harper students in the area of Health Career Programs
  - Rotary Club of Mt. Prospect and Prospect Heights Scholarship - Supporting students living in Mt. Prospect or Prospect Heights
  - Scholarship for Single Mothers in Health Care or Technology - Supporting single mothers in health care or technology
  - Vistex Scholarship and Vistex Scholarship for Excellence - Supporting underrepresented students in Web Development or Information Technology
- The HOPE Giving Circle is hosting the Women at the Table Breakfast and Panel Discussion on Friday, March 23, 2018 from 7:30 to 9:30 am in the Wojcik Conference Center at Harper College featuring an engaging panel discussion on women and leadership. Hear from four inspiring women as they share their stories and provide insights on how women build leadership skills and advance to leadership roles in the not-for-profit, educational, healthcare and philanthropic sectors.

Diane G. Hill, Harper College Board of Trustees and Chair, Northwest Community Healthcare, will be the keynote speaker accompanied by the following panelists:



Kelley Clancy, Senior Vice President  
Chief Advocacy Officer  
AMITA Health

Tracey Crawford, Executive Director  
Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA)

Nancy Robb, Retired Superintendent  
District 211  
President, EB211  
Harper College Board of Trustee

- In January, the Angel Grants Committee awarded five grants in the amount of \$45,000 to five aspiring entrepreneurs who are clients of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Harper College. The Angel Grant program is underwritten by a donation that supports community and student entrepreneurs with grants to support and expand their businesses.
- On February 14 – 16, Harper College scholarship recipients called or sent notes to over 600 employee donors, community donors, and volunteers thanking them for their support. This is the second year that scholarship recipients have made these calls.

### **Marketing Services**

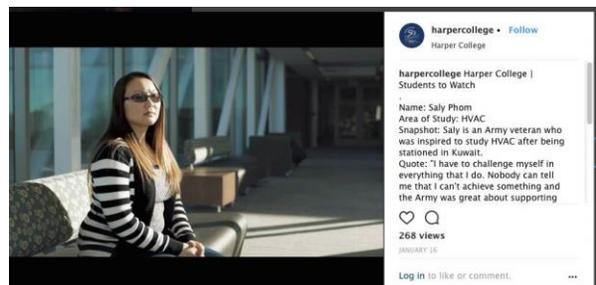
- With Harper's 50th Anniversary is in full swing, we look to Community Day to not only showcase our programs and campus, but also to express our appreciation to faculty, staff and the community. Communication to promote this eventful day will include a mix of radio, print, direct mail, digital advertising, evites, social media and community partnership cross marketing.

#### Tactic Highlights

- All-district postcard invitation
- Reflejos two-page spread
- CE Catalog two-page spread
- Google display and responsive ads / social media ads
- Social Media videos teasing Community Day events
- Event website: <https://www.harpercollege.edu/50/events/community-day.php>

- Students to Watch

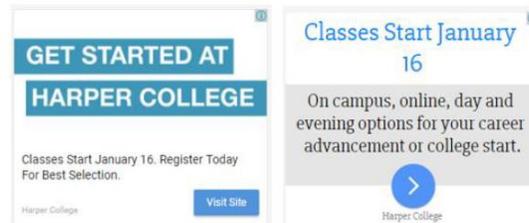
In January, Harper launched "Student's to Watch," a new initiative as part of its strategic storytelling plan showcasing student success. The first installment featured Saly Phom, HVAC student and army veteran. Sally's story was published on Harper's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds and its Harper Stories blog. Read Saly's story: <https://www.harpercollege.edu/stories/posts/students-to-watch-saly-phom.php>



- Spring Digital Enrollment Communication Update - In addition to traditional TV, radio and direct mail, Harper ran a spring digital spring enrollment campaign from December 16, 2017 – January 15, 2018.

This mix of digital tactics was designed to increase spring registration among the general population and included Google search, Google display and Facebook/Instagram ads.

- Highlights:
  - Campaign attracted a high percentage of new visitors to College website (3,458).
  - High engagement for Instagram app ads – users who left the Instagram app to interact with the Harper ad remained on the College website for more than one minute.
  - Total number of ads run: 1,853,596
  - Total clicks to site: 8,108
  - Total new visitors: 3,458
  - Sample Ads:



## Communications

- In a continuation of the “Power of Moments” theme introduced at the Spring 2018 President’s All Campus Meeting, a story about a recent graduate was shared as a thanks to a powerful moment with a staff member. This student came to realize “I am someone.” This story was featured in InsideHarper, and the Faculty/Staff newsletter.

### **A Powerful Moment: When “Why You?” Became “Why Not You?”**

Imagine sitting down with your high school counselor and announcing you wanted to take German only to hear, “Why you? Why would you want to take a foreign language? You’ll never amount to anything.” That’s awfully hard to bounce back from.

True, in high school, Bill Zuber was not an especially strong or confident student. He was in special education classes and bullied by his classmates. He felt his high school had failed to teach him how to learn, and he lacked direction. All of this left Bill feeling hopeless..

He began taking courses at Harper, rather randomly, but found he did not have the will to succeed in most of them. A low GPA and academic probation proved it. So, he took a year off to figure out what he wanted from life. Bill came to believe that if he persevered, there had to be something more for him. “I knew I could earn my success, so I returned to Harper and started taking a few philosophy and psychology classes.” Along the way, he ended up taking an accounting class – a very challenging accounting class. Several students dropped the class, but Bill was determined to earn a good grade in the class and found himself enjoying the material. His perseverance paid off and triggered Bill to change his focus to business with an emphasis on accounting. And then he met Professor Mark Healy.



*Bill Zuber, Harper graduate and soon to be DePaul graduate*

Professor Healy was his economics teacher, and it was through his class that Bill started to put concepts together, opening his eyes to the world of business and changing his outlook on life. This spark gave Bill the courage to “take a chance” and apply to be a Supplemental Instruction Leader for Professor Healy’s class, even though he knew very little of what it entailed.

He then met Ellen Fisher, Manager of Academic Support Centers, and the person in charge of the Supplemental Instruction Leaders. It was through his conversations with Ellen that he unearthed his passion for helping his fellow students grasp difficult concepts. When he would walk into the Academic Support Center, he found it to be warm and inviting. “I felt zero weight on my shoulders when I was in the Center,” said Bill. “I started opening up to Ellen and sharing my apprehensions and my ideas. Would my strategies to help students work? Could I do it? As we talked it out, Ellen would ask me, ‘Why not you?’” This vote of confidence was Bill’s powerful moment that helped put him on a path to success. He completed his associate degree in 2015; in June, he will be graduating from DePaul University with a double major in accounting and finance; he had an internship at Deloitte; and he continues to tutor students.

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

- The HLC Assurance Argument was submitted on Friday, February 2. The College continues its preparations for the Comprehensive Evaluation Visit on March 5-6, 2018.
- The Outcomes Assessment Office published the annual Outcomes Assessment Report. This report summarizes the assessment work of faculty and staff, highlighting the use of assessment results to improve student learning and department effectiveness. General education assessment information is also included in the report. For the first time, 100% of programs, courses, and non-academic areas involved in assessment completed the assessment cycle for the year reported.
- Julie Lamping, Institutional Effectiveness Analyst, was recognized for her completion of Association for Institutional Research (AIR) courses through the Data and Decisions Academy Presidential Scholarship.

### ***Workforce Solutions***

- Harper’s InZone Program is being featured at several area expos and showcases. These events expose this program to new audiences. Examples include the Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented (BCGT) "Summer Showcase" February 27; Kids Expo at the Schaumburg Convention Center, March 4; and Friends of Gifted Education Summer Enrichment Fair-Thursday, April 5.
- It has been a busy start of the spring 2018 semester for the Mobile Unit on-campus and throughout the community! Beginning last month, Brian Hamm, Mobile Unit Specialist, had the unique opportunity to provide an informative presentation to the Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Rotary and a tour of the Mobile Unit afterwards. January also marked the start of STEM fairs at Joyce Kilmer Elementary and at the Barrington Area Library. Ambassador Tours for the local junior high schools and elementary schools include an interactive activity onboard the mobile unit beginning in February with 16 dates scheduled. In March, School District 214 has CompTIA IT certification testing for its Hersey and Rolling Meadows High School students, and a Scholarship Day promotion being held near the entrance of Avante’ is planned for students to submit applications from the Mobile Unit’s 12 internet connected computers. The list below provides a glimpse as to where the Mobile Unit was and will be showcased and serve as a computer lab resource:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Friday, January 12, 2018    | Schaumburg/Hoffman Rotary Presentation |
| ▪ Wednesday, January 17, 2018 | STEM Kilmer Elementary                 |
| ▪ Wednesday, February 7, 2018 | Mobile Unit Open House                 |
| ▪ Saturday, February 10, 2018 | Creator Fair@Barrington Area Library   |
| ▪ Friday, February 16, 2018   | Ambassador Tour                        |
| ▪ Friday, February 23, 2018   | Ambassador Tour                        |
- Dr. Mark Mrozinski, Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development, has been elected to the governing board of Business and Career Services (BCS). BCS is a nonprofit organization that coordinates and delivers services at the IDES WorkNet Center in Arlington Heights. Harper College is one of the 17 partners that provide services to the unemployed through the one-stop WorkNet Center.
  - Evelyn M. Seiler, Administrative Coordinator for the Division of Workforce Solutions, had her abstract “Learning Communities and Phenomenon-Based Learning” published in January 2018 edition of League Connections, by the League of Innovation in Community Colleges. This research was part of her Doctoral Studies in Community College Leadership with Ferris State University.

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

- On January 30, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion launched a new workshop that expands on the D & I Dialogues initiated in fall 2016. The first year of workshops focused on becoming aware of our own biases and impacted 472 employees. This semester the D & I Dialogues have expanded to focus on micro-inequities/micro-affirmations and the training needed to become an effective ally for under-represented groups.
- College campuses across this nation are struggling to manage the challenges of creating an environment that allows us to respectfully hear all perspectives. Harper's award-winning Speech and Debate Team will tackle this intellectually and emotionally charged topic on Wednesday, February 28 in an event called Free Speech: The Debate. There will be two sessions: 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. or 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center Amphitheater. Thus far, approximately 110 faculty, students, and staff have registered to attend.
- On March 12, an event titled *50 Years of Diversity & Inclusion at Harper College* will take place at the Wojcik Conference Center from 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. This daylong event will include roundtable conversations, student performances, and a reflection room, which will feature a short video about Harper's history in diversity and inclusion. The reflection room will also contain an art installation to capture viewers written responses to the video.

### ***Community Relations and Legislative Affairs***

- As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, Community Relations and the Life Long Learning Institute are partnering with various community organizations to provide Harper displays and history discussions. Various archives are currently on display at the Arlington Heights Library through the end of February. On February 7, Jim Edstrom conducted a Harper History discussion through Harper's Life Long Learning program at The Garlands in Barrington. Residents were also able to view a historical timeline leading up the presentation. The timeline has also been displayed at the Palatine Library, Schaumburg Library, Friendship Village in Schaumburg and the Arlington Heights Senior Center. Upcoming history discussions will take place at Our Saviors Church and the Barrington Area Library through the Harper Life Long Learning program and the

Barrington Area Council on Aging. Jim Edstrom will also be the Inspire U keynote speaker at Harper's Community Day on April 14.

- On February 7, Ruth Morales and Brayan Acquire spoke to students at Lake Louise Elementary about challenges they have faced in their lives and how they overcame these challenges to

today to tell their stories of resiliency, persistence, and optimism. Two amazing college students that provided a lot of inspiration for our students. Thank you Harper College for your partnership!  
@D15Schools @HarperCollege



8:48 PM - 7 Feb 2018

become successful Harper students. They also talked about their career goals and hopes for the future. Ruth and Brayan are both Foundation scholarship recipients and are an inspiration to future Harper students. Lake Louise is part of Harper's Ambassador School program.

### ***Legislative Update***

As the State and House are in session there are a number of bills being submitted which have potential impact on community colleges should they be approved. See the following list of senate and house Bills:

- SB2529 amends various acts to remove provisions allowing or requiring licensing authorities to deny, not renew, suspend, or revoke professional licenses for defaulting on an educational loan or scholarship provided by or guaranteed by a state agency, effective immediately.
- SB2597 amends the Board of Higher Education Act, the Public Community College Act, and the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. It increases membership on the Board of Higher Education, makes other changes to the Board's membership, and transfers all of the rights, powers, duties, and functions vested by law in the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to the Board of Higher Education on January 1, 2019. It also abolishes the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and provides for the transfer of personnel and property on that date.
- HB4710 amends various acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. It provides that the Board of Trustees of a public university or community college district in this state may not enter into an agreement or allow any person or group affiliated with the university or district to enter into an agreement with a credit card issuer allowing

the credit card issuer to market credit cards to students. This repeals the Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009 and makes conforming changes in the Freedom of Information Act.

- SB2653 amends various acts to remove provisions allowing or requiring licensing authorities to deny, not renew, suspend, or revoke professional licenses for defaulting on an educational loan or scholarship provided by or guaranteed by a state agency, effective immediately.
- HB 4261 amends the state budget law and provides that for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019, 2020, and 2021, no state funded agency, board, commission, department, university, or other entity organized within State government shall expend any funds on specified nonessential items and travel, effective immediately.
- HB 4300 amends the Public Community College Act by removing a provision providing that the variable tuition rates and fees established by the board of trustees of a community college district for students not exceed 1/3 of the per capita cost of the college.
- HB 4503 amends various acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois and the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. It provides that a student who meets the requirements of being an Illinois resident for tuition purposes, is eligible to receive consideration for any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State, state agencies, public institutions, or the university, including scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room and board, tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance, excluding Monetary Award Program grants. It prohibits each university and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission from denying a scholarship, grant, or loan to a person who has been convicted of illegal possession or sale of cannabis, controlled substances, or methamphetamine if he or she otherwise qualifies for the scholarship, grant, or loan.

## **President's Priorities Update**

### **1. First Year Seminar and Education Plan**

- More than 7,000 students are now assigned to an advisor or counselor for individual case management.

### **2. Advocates for Students**

- 90% of first time in college students who were enrolled in an FYS and met with an advisor or counselor had an electronic, educational plan completed during fall 2017.

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

- **Building F Renovations** – The construction is substantially complete. The furniture installation is complete, with the contractor working on punch list items. IT equipment installation has begun.
- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – Drywall installation is complete, along with the south fitness center addition. The shell space for Northwest Community Hospital is substantially complete and the interior build-out will begin in March. The contractor is currently working on the erection of the steel for the elevated track, ceilings, doors and interior windows throughout the building.

- **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**

- As of January 31, 2018, total funds raised were \$10,509,656.54 with 617 donors.

As we close this President's Report, I wish to comment on two pressing issues facing our campus. First, we all are focused on the plight of our DACA students and we continue to support those students as best we can. The deadline of March 5, where protections are scheduled to end, looms large and we are looking and hoping for a legislative solution that provides a resolution by that date. Irrespective of the outcome, we will continue to support these students within the boundaries of the law.

Second, we continue to discuss the challenges of supporting the First Amendment on campus. One challenge is informing our campus community about speakers, activities and/or events on campus that may be disagreeable, at best, or traumatizing, at worst, to members of our community, but are within the bounds of free speech. We continue, however, to promote civil discourse on tough and emotional issues. The strength of the academic community is to promote the free exchange of ideas and opinions within an environment that is safe. That is the institution we strive to be. At times, it is not easy; however, the alternative is not acceptable in a free society. Harper's award-winning Speech and Debate Team will tackle this intellectually and emotionally charged topic at a campus event on February 28. I encourage everyone to attend.

Think good thoughts!

*Ken*