

## **President's Report**

**March 2013**

Even though Spring Break is a week away, some are wondering.....where is spring? What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time there was an abundance of warm sunny days, so the onions, peas and potatoes in the Ender garden were already planted. This year we are hoping the snow will melt so the garden can be planted by April! My hope is that our students who are headed south for Spring Break will truly feel vindicated in their choice to do whatever it took to get to a beach!

Students will return from Spring Break in April. A few short weeks thereafter, we will celebrate what some consider the most important event of the year, commencement. Once again this year we will see impressive numbers in this regard. Our completion agenda is still generating impressive results; we should see another 3,500 plus students earn certificates and degrees. With seven years remaining to reach our goal of 10,604 additional completions, these early wins are extremely important. We are excited about our momentum and look forward to continued success.

Looking ahead, the completion agenda will be heavily dependent on our capacity to leverage the potential of technology that better connects our students with College services and enhanced pedagogy. There is tremendous potential to develop a host of tools — analytical, intervention, and support — via technology. We also could significantly increase access to courses, certificates and degrees through more intentional use of technology-enhanced program delivery. Just this past week, we hosted Dr. Diana Oblinger, President and CEO of *Educause* and editor of the book *Game Changer*, who helped us explore these topics in some depth. Following her visit, Dr. Oblinger invited Harper to apply for membership in a cohort of colleges who will participate in a two-year Gates Foundation-funded initiative to develop “Breakthrough Models” via an incubator experience that focuses on enhancing practices through technology. Institutions selected will receive \$150,000 from the Gates Foundation to support their participation. We will apply, hoping to be one of eight colleges that will be selected nationally. If we are chosen, we will ask Chair Hill will join our campus team in attending the incubator launch in Seattle at the Gates Foundation. Demonstrating Board support for this project will be extremely important and Diane will make a strong addition to our team. We were honored to be invited to apply to this program and plan to develop a compelling application.

Circling back to graduation, we want to remind the Board that we will be hosting a dinner on the evening of May 17 to honor Deputy Secretary of Labor Jane Oates, our commencement

speaker and honorary degree recipient. That dinner will be held on the eve of the commencement ceremony. In addition to the Board, Harper's Foundation Board, campus leaders, and members of the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership Board will be included. Deputy Secretary Oates will be invited to provide remarks that put our local efforts in a contextualized national perspective. It should be a very informative evening and an excellent opportunity for many community leaders to meet and become familiar with the workforce efforts of the College.

Many campus-wide projects are nearing completion. Taskforces focusing on Shared Governance, Inclusion and Diversity, Job Placement and the Harper Leadership Institute have been very busy responding to the work they have been asked to complete by the end of the spring semester. We fully expect recommendations and strategies will emerge from each of these groups in alignment with their charges. A complete summary of these results will be reflected in the College's Annual Report and President's Annual Evaluation.

In campus news, the following are noted.

### ***Student Success***

- The Black Teen Symposium was held in the Wojcik Conference Center for in-district African-American students. Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows, Wheeling, Hoffman Estates and Conant High Schools all participated in the event, bringing a total of 97 students to Harper's campus. The guest speaker, Sherlyn Dorsey, delivered the message of "Overcoming Obstacles: Becoming a No-Limit Person" to the group. The theme of the event was the importance of college readiness and transitioning from high school to college. The event was also supported by presentations from LaVonya Williams, DuBoi McCarty and Michelé Robinson.
- The Early Childhood Education department held the ECE High School Conference. District high school students enrolled in child development and preschool lab classes were invited to attend this conference where they learned about Harper's program, attended two curriculum workshops and concluded with a large group songfest. This year was the largest group yet with 178 high school students in attendance. A special workshop for the high school faculty was held at the same time.
- The Student Development Division coordinated two fairs for Harper students to connect with transfer institutions. At the first Transfer College Fair, 700+ students met with representatives from 75 colleges and universities. The second Transfer Fair was designed specifically for adult students. Approximately 100-125 students met with representatives from 21 colleges and universities who provide adult-friendly baccalaureate completion options.
- The International Studies Program hosted approximately 50 faculty and staff from six local colleges and universities at its third annual International Education Summit. Presentations focused on aspects of language immersion through study abroad and how those experiences enhance not only a student's language skills but also campus internationalization. The keynote speaker, Dr. Lance Askildson, Assistant Provost for Internationalization at the University of Notre Dame, offered a challenging new perspective on language instruction in his address, "The Role of Foreign Language

Study in Internationalization: A Paradigm Shift for the New Century.” In one breakout session, Dr. Li-hua Yu, Professor of Sociology at the College of Lake County, provided an overview of grants available for language instruction through the U.S. Department of Education. In another session, Dr. Chris Cartwright, Director of Intercultural Assessment at the Intercultural Communication Institute, facilitated an interactive workshop on “Developing Intercultural Competence as Educators in an Interconnected and Diverse World.” The summit concluded with an informative demonstration of “Developing Students’ Intercultural Competence in the Language Class with Online Intercultural Exchanges,” by Professor Sabine Levet, Senior Lecturer in French, Foreign Languages, and Literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- Harper hosted the NJCAA Region IV DIII Men’s and Women’s Basketball Championship Tournament in the Wellness and Sports Center. Fans were treated to halftime entertainment provided by the Harper Pom and Dance Team and a halftime performance for the women’s championship game was provided by Harper alum, Katie Knepler, along with the Wynning Teams professional dance company.
- Please help us congratulate Juanita Bassler on her commitment to students in district high schools, and her passion to help students succeed. She was honored by District 214 with the Distinguished Service Award for her volunteer service.
- Men’s Basketball Coach, Tony Amarino, is being inducted in to the NJCAA Region IV Hall of Fame. He has been the head coach at Harper for the last six years, and served as head coach at Morton College for the prior fifteen years. He is among the elite with over 300 career wins at the community college level. Tony also served as a high school boys’ basketball coach for nine years.
- The Harper College Speech and Debate Team traveled to Northern Illinois University to compete in the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association Tournament. The tournament hosts all Illinois 2-year and 4-year schools’ speech teams for competition. This year, Harper finished third in the two-year division, and boasts state championships in Dramatic Interpretation, Persuasion, Extemporaneous Speaking and Parliamentary Debate. Twelve of Harper’s 34 speeches advanced to finals (top 6).

Coaches Jeff Przybylo, Josh Sunderbruch and Margaret Bilos are proud of the team's development. Alumni coaches Jake Sadoff, Charlie Mulvey, Sarah Goldenberg, and Maham Khan provided valuable support. Next up for the Harper Speech Hawks is the national tournament in April. This year’s contest is in Los Angeles CA. Below is a summary of the results.

- State Champions: Kate Fundarek – Dramatic Interpretation, Patrick Halpin – Persuasion, Elisa Galvan – Extemporaneous Speaking, Elisa Galvan and Brianna Bitout – Parliamentary Debate
- Dramatic Interpretation: Kate Fundarek – 1<sup>st</sup>,
- Communication Analysis: Kate Fundarek – 6<sup>th</sup>
- Impromptu Speaking: Elisa Galvan – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Program Oral Interpretation: Elisa Galvan – 4<sup>th</sup>, Jackie Van Lysebettens – 6<sup>th</sup>
- Extemporaneous Speaking: Elisa Galvan – 1<sup>st</sup>, Brianna Bitout – 4<sup>th</sup>, Patrick Halpin – 5<sup>th</sup>
- Persuasion: Patrick Halpin – 1<sup>st</sup>, Kate Fundarek – 6<sup>th</sup>
- Parliamentary Debate (2-Year Division): Elisa Galvan and Brianna Bitout – 1<sup>st</sup>

- Parliamentary Debate (Open Division): Miguel Melgar and Melissa Bleile – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The wrestling team finished the National Tournament in second place among non-scholarship teams and 10<sup>th</sup> place overall. There were 40 teams represented at Nationals. Two wrestlers earned All American honors: Josh Tardy 149 lbs. - National Champion and Steve Dewitt 157 lbs. - Fifth Place.

### ***Physical Plant***

- Physical Plant is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to put their snow removal equipment back in storage, and get back to making more exciting changes on campus. Last summer, significant improvements were made to vehicular and pedestrian safety on the north side of campus. As soon as weather permits, the balance of landscaping associated with that project will be completed and will further enhance the beautiful surroundings we already enjoy on campus.
- As many may have noticed, construction fences have been erected around Building D, and pedestrian traffic is being redirected through signage placed at key locations. Power Construction is near completion of preliminary staging work and is ready to begin major construction in earnest. Phase I will focus on the new 30,000 square foot addition on the east side of the building which is expected to be completed in Fall, 2014. Phase II will begin shortly thereafter.
- With regard to Building H, the College has executed and returned the *Recommendation to Award (RTA)* document required by the Capital Development Board. This is the final step before construction can begin. We have transferred an additional \$5,451,361 of our total local share of \$17.8M into the trust account that was set up for this project in 2010. The Capital Development Board is currently projecting a late-April groundbreaking. Barring any other delays, this would allow Building H to be completed in the same Fall, 2014 timeframe as Building D.

Physical Plant is doing everything possible to minimize disruptions to daily operations, but construction of this magnitude brings new challenges. The portal is updated weekly, which proactively addresses items that may be of concern to our faculty, staff, students, and others on campus.

### ***Information Technology***

- The project to upgrade the NetCommunity system to the latest release was completed providing the College Foundation with the most current tools for integrated online marketing and fundraising. The system provides features for online donation, event registration forms, and email marketing tools and templates.
- Development and implementation of phase two of the Continuing Education FlexReg system was completed. Phase two included: capability for priority registration for InZone summer program registrants, a customization to allow for multiple CE students to share the same email address, an enhanced quick admit application, and the expansion of the use of permanent links that take the student directly to a web page of course information

to register for a class or for some other activity, thereby allowing (among other benefits) targeted marketing of CE classes to community members.

- The project to create an interface between the Student Information System (Banner) and PyraMED was completed. This is the system of record for Health and Psychological Services and brings current student names and IDs into PyraMED so staff can more easily manage student records.
- The Technical Services team deployed and/or upgraded several server systems including units that support Financial Aid processing, Continuing Education registration, R25 room scheduling, and the wireless management system. The network team coordinated with construction staff to relocate a major network distribution closet that serves the East side of D Building. This closet had to be relocated in preparation for the first phase of the D Building construction project and involved hundreds of network connections serving computers, printers and phones throughout the east portion of the building.
- Harper College hosted visitors from Northern Illinois University and North Park University who are interested in our unique approach to classroom technology. Harper has updated four classrooms with new, state-of-the-art smart classroom technology. The goal of the new classroom technology architecture is to simplify and enhance the faculty experience by leveraging network based audio and high definition video technologies combined with a new, software-based control system that operates over the campus local area network. This new infrastructure increases the capabilities of our smart classrooms while eliminating expensive proprietary hardware. This provides the flexibility to easily and quickly adapt to new instructional technologies. These universities (and others) are visiting Harper to learn about our new leading edge software/network-based solutions.

### ***Finance***

- After going through a competitive bid process on March 7, Harper sold \$4,705,000 of General Obligations Limited Bonds. Based on the strength of the renewed Aaa Moody's rating, the true interest cost on the bonds is only .49%. The bonds were issued to fund necessary expenditures utilizing the debt service extension base, and will be paid off within three years.

### ***Human Resources***

- Paula Saltzman has been appointed to serve a three-year term as a member of the National Conference for Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE®) National Advisory Council. This is Harper College's second appointment to the NCORE Advisory Board. Tonya Dixon, Instructor of Nursing, is currently serving a three-year term, which began in 2012.

### ***Workforce and Strategic Alliances***

- The FlexReg Banner enhancement was successfully implemented and Continuing Education clients were able to seamlessly register for classes.
- The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) hosted their Regional Manufacturing Cluster Forum. Dr. Ender offered opening comments for this event which opened an ongoing dialog and partnership between economic development specialists, businesses and education. It provided a framework for cooperation between public and private sectors to build momentum for advanced manufacturing in the region.
- Ongoing planning continues for the upcoming Aligning Skills event which will be hosted by the College. During a meeting of the HR Policy Association Roundtable in Orlando, a workforce skills presentation by Burning Glass was previewed. A similar presentation will be made at Harper's conference.
- The Fast Track office was pleased to help host the Adult Transfer Fair at the Harper Professional Center (HPC) in Schaumburg. Hosting the Fair at the HPC allowed Fast Track students to speak with four-year colleges and universities to plan the next phase of their educational progression—the completion of a bachelor's degree.

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

- Harper's Institutional Outcomes Assessment Committee hosted the 4th Annual Assessment Conference. The event was attended by over 65 faculty and staff. Catherine Wehlberg, Ph.D., Texas Christian University presented the keynote "Transformative and Integrative Assessment: Using Results to Make a Difference." The keynote was followed by breakout sessions which included topics on aligning assessment practices, summative course assessment, enhancing student learning, measuring learning outcomes and using assessment results for improvement. The conference also included a share fair/poster presentation. Posters presented by Harper College faculty and staff included Course-Level Outcomes Assessment in the Oral Communication Classroom, National League for Nursing Competencies, General Education Outcomes Assessment Project - Writing Assessment Pilot, and Using Milestones and Momentum Points to Assess Student Progress.
- The Community Survey was launched. The survey includes a special section focusing on the perceptions and needs of businesses. The results of the survey will be used to inform the ongoing assessment of the community relations function at the College.
- Planning continued for the upcoming annual Strategic Plan update conference. The Champion Team met to review the progress of the goal teams and agenda for the conference. Harper's AtD coaches will attend to review our activities and provide their assessment of our progress.

## **Advancement Office**

- Two events were hosted over the past month. First, Jack Ablin from BMO Harris Bank provided an economic update that included the need for post-secondary credentials for almost all positions. In addition, the Latino Networking event featured Anne Pramaggiore, CEO and President of Commonwealth Edison as the keynote speaker. These events brought many guests to Harper College for the first time.
- Foundation Board member Mark Cleary and his colleagues from Northrop Grumman hosted Harper's Engineering students and faculty involved in the NASA rocket launch project. Northrop provided a tour and presented the students with a check in support of their work.
- The Foundation Board met during its quarterly meeting. Goals were reviewed and reports provided on upcoming events including the opening of *Parade*, the Small Works Exhibit and Annual Golf Outing. The Foundation Board also heard a presentation on the new scholarship software that has been implemented which will streamline the awarding of funds to students. In addition, a video featuring the launch of the rocket by Harper Engineering students was highlighted.

## **Media Relations**

- More than 45 placements or stories in progress.
- A Reuters story that focused on Harper's Advanced Manufacturing program and highlighted state funding issues was published on both the U.S. and U.K. Reuters websites. It was picked up by Yahoo! News, MSN, CNBC, the *Chicago Tribune* and a number of other newspapers, radio stations and news aggregation sites worldwide. The Reuters reporter spent a day on our campus speaking with Dr. Ender, administrators and students.
- Harper stories or experts appeared in or on NBC 5, the *Daily Herald*, the *Barrington Courier-Review*, Business News Daily (national business news website), TribLocal, Patch.com and *Inside Arlington Heights* magazine. Pieces are in progress with the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Chicago Tribune* (among others).
- Highlights:
  - Reuters story, as mentioned above;
  - *Barrington Courier-Review* story on our NASA rocket-building students;
  - *Daily Herald* editorial on the success of our high school partnership, followed by a positive letter to the editor from a UNLV professor.

## **Community Relations**

- A team of Harper's culinary students, under the direction of Professor Pat Beach, served up tasty food and performed live cooking demonstrations at the Dine-a-Palooza event, hosted by the Woodfield Chicago Northwest Convention Bureau.
- Harper sponsored, and had six attendees – including Dr. Ender – at the Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Rotary Classic Gala on March 9.

- Harper hosted 180 middle school students in February as part of our field trips programming, and will host 120 fifth- and sixth-graders from MacArthur Middle School in Schaumburg on Friday, March 22. These tours include interactive stops in our Simulation Hospital, Welding Lab and more.
- Harper's Hospitality Management Department hosted a group of Schaumburg High School culinary students, offering them a tour of our classrooms and serving them lunch in the Harper Dining Room.

### ***Legislative Relations***

- The General Assembly has been moving forward with a series of pension reform measures this month.
  - On the House side, representatives have been voting on a series of amendments contained in the in the “Nekritz-Bliss” pension reform bill. Many of those amendments were rejected, but the House approved limits on the salary where a pension can be earned to the Social Security wage cap, which is currently \$113,700. They also approved increasing the retirement age on a sliding scale. A worker age 46 or older would see no change, but some workers 34 and younger would have to work five years longer to earn full pensions.
  - On the Senate side, Senate President John Cullerton is pushing a two-part bill. Part A is the Nekritz-Bliss bill. Part B is Cullerton’s own plan where workers would have to choose between state-subsidized health insurance in retirement and a lesser cost of living increase (COLA), or keeping the same retirement COLA and giving up the insurance. Cullerton believes offering retirees a choice is the only way pension reform can survive a constitutional challenge. He wants lawmakers to pass his two-part bill. If the courts strike down Part A, Part B will already be on the books without further action by the General Assembly. Critics say Cullerton’s plan, even if it is declared constitutional, won’t save enough money.
  - Pension reform is critical in developing the new state budget. The state’s pension payment next year will be \$6.1 billion, which is an increase of \$929 million over this year’s payment. \$6.1 billion represents nearly 20 percent of the Governor Quinn’s proposed \$31.2 billion General Funds budget for FY14.

We are looking forward to hosting the “Aligning Skills” conference on April 11 and 12. The event is being sponsored by the Auto Communities Consortium (community colleges focused on workforce development initiatives) and the HR Policy Association. As you may recall, the Auto Communities Consortium, HR Policy Association and Motorola Solutions are helping underwrite this invitation only event. We are delighted that ADM, Caterpillar, CDW, Motorola Solutions, Hospria, Boeing, US Foods, and the Gap have all confirmed their attendance and will be making skills presentations on behalf of their sectors. These industry groups will be engaged with 20 community college teams from across the nation. The Aspen Institute, AACC, the National Association of Manufacturing and others will join us. The goal of this convening is to uncover emerging skill needs in five sectors, explore credentialing systems aligned with those skills and

foster greater collaboration and partnerships between the private sector and community colleges. We are honored to host this meeting and look forward to using the information we receive to inform our curricula planning and program delivery.

So.....think Spring! Cathy, the dogs and I are hoping to find a little warmer weather in Virginia during Spring Break week and ready ourselves for the mad dash of activities that are always associated with April and May.

*Ken*