

President's Report

April 2012

The campus is hurtling toward the finish of the academic year! We all are looking forward to the next several weeks leading up to graduation. For the Harper campus, this is a time of finishing projects, checking off goals, looking forward to the many student celebrations that will be conducted, and nervously thinking about the one thing no one can control, the weather on graduation day. It's hard to believe graduation will be held in five short weeks. Needless to say, it is high energy time on the campus.

In this last month we began the first of many college events that celebrate student success and achievement. We inducted the spring class of students into Phi Theta Kappa, our national community college honors organization, for which 300 students were eligible for induction. These students have a minimum 3.5 grade point average and have completed at least 12 hours of academic credit. There was a very nice assembly of students, faculty, staff, parents, and others who participated in the ceremony. Assistant Professor Kevin Long served as the keynote speaker and he did an excellent job.

Annually in April, our speech and debate team attends the national competition for community colleges. This year's event was held at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center and 72 colleges from around the country participated. Harper placed third in the nation for the second year in a row! We received four gold medals, three silver medals, and six bronze medals. One Harper student was crowned a national champion. Specific results are included later in the report. I attended some of the event and was very impressed and proud of our students. Many thanks are extended to Jeff Przybylo, Margaret Bilos, and Josh Sunderbruch who have spent endless hours coaching the team. Coinciding with the annual competition, we hosted a reunion of all our alumni who have been on Harper speech teams. Well over 100 former students attended the event hosted at Chicago Prime and it was a wonderful occasion. These former students are bound to Harper and each other through their association with the team, the faculty, and the coaches. It truly was a celebration of success and Cathy and I were honored to greet and spend time with the impressive group!

This is also the time of year that position searches are reaching their conclusion with a number of faculty and staff searches coming to a close. Judy Marwick is very excited about the caliber of our faculty applicants, as well as the pool of candidates for the Dean of Liberal Arts position. We will be closing these searches and extending offers soon. The search for the Chief Advancement Officer/Executive Director of the Education Foundation is also well underway. The Committee has met, the position description and organizational design have been finalized and the advertisements have been placed. We are shooting for a July hire.

The Advancement staff and Foundation Board members are working hard to finalize the golf outing scheduled for June 11, and are busy soliciting sponsorships for the President's Ball which will help celebrate Harper's 45th Anniversary on September 22. The theme is *Stars of the past.....Stars of the future*. Lisa Dietlin and her staff are providing excellent service and support to these events.

Later this month we anticipate the beginning of construction for the Euclid and Roselle entrances. This is a project that must be completed this summer, so we will begin prior to graduation. Tom Crylen and his staff are doing a great job anticipating the traffic issues associated with a large event like graduation and I am confident that the congestion that day will be minimized.

Here is a summary of key events and accomplishments:

Student Success

- Harper's speech and debate team placed third in the country for the second year in a row. Here are the specific results from the national competition. Kudos to all!

Craig Nelson- Impromptu National Champion (low cum)
Craig Nelson- 4th Overall Sweeps
Craig Nelson- Extemporaneous Speaking, Gold Medal
Kyle Larson- Informative Speaking, Gold Medal
Shauna Jungdahl- Speech to Entertain, Gold Medal
Kyle Larson- Impromptu Speaking, Silver Medal
Kyle Larson- Extemporaneous Speaking, Silver Medal
Craig Nelson, Speech to Entertain, Silver Medal

Bronze Medals:

Sonia Sherwani- Informative Speaking
Natalie Garcia- Impromptu
Bridie Damish- Communication Analysis
Elisa Galvan- Parliamentary Debate
Craig Nelson- Parliamentary Debate
Shauna Jungdahl- Duet
Julio Reyes- Duet
Shauna Jungdahl- Dramatic Interp

- Congratulations to Adrienne Kellum McDay from Enrollment Services who was elected as President of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).
- Maria Moten, Dean of Enrollment Services, presented at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) 2012 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The session "Building Community through Student Success" provided the audience with information about Harper College's newly developed strategic plan specifically created to meet the new challenges of the 21st century with a strong commitment to student success and student completion.

- Records of nearly 950 high school dual credit, credit by exam and concurrent high school students—an 86 percent increase over last year—were recently updated in the Banner system, so that they can be included in the new student orientation invitation process and subsequently seamlessly enroll as Harper students.
- The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation wrote to thank Colleen Tomanek, multicultural counselor, and the students from the Indian Pakistani Student Association for volunteering their time and effort to support the 2012 Bank of America's Shamrock Shuffle five mile race to raise money for Chicago's fallen Police Officers and those who have been seriously injured in the line of duty.
- Reviewers from the National Council of Instructional Administrators and the National Council on Student Development have selected Harper's academic advising program as one of the most exemplary/outstanding programs in the nation's community colleges. Details on Harper's program and its connection to student success will be published in a chapter in the American Association of Community Colleges monograph *Academic Advising: The Key to Student Success*, edited by Terry O'Banion, President Emeritus, League for Innovation.
- Scott Friedman, Director of Access & Disability Services, recently had two items published. The first is an article in the NASPA Ignite Leadership Influence Change annual publication entitled, "Understanding Universal Design for Learning Principles: Faculty Partnerships that Influence Improved Teaching and Learning". The article included information about innovative projects completed by Harper College Professors Linda Campbell and Linda Frank. The second is a chapter entitled, "Effective Library Professional Development: A University Partnership for Improving Access and Inclusion for Patrons with Disabilities." The chapter can be found in the new book *Environments for Student Growth and Development: Libraries and Student Affairs in Collaboration*. The chapter was co-authored with colleagues from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- Diane Martling, assistant professor of mathematics, was recognized by her colleagues statewide with the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community College's Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented each year to an Illinois community college mathematics faculty member who has served the discipline and excelled in mathematics teaching and learning.
- The Athletics Department hosted the Winter Sports Banquet on March 19. The following student athletes were honored as Most Valuable Players by their team and coaching staff:

Men's Basketball MVP- Jordan Mack
 Women's Basketball MVP- Mitshi Ishioka
 Wrestling MVP- Curtis Blaydes

Two student athletes received Academic Awards based on the completion of two seasons while maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0:

Men's Basketball - Jordan Mack (3.52)
 Women's Basketball - Mitshi Ishioka (4.0)

- Harper College's student newspaper, *The Harbinger*, won three awards in the Division I Illinois Community College Journalism Association (ICCJA) competition, on March 30. We received a first place for layout design (Sean Pedersen), first place for freehand cartoon (Katy Lamatsch), and third place for news story (Teagan Ferraresi).
- Harper College inducted over 300 new members into Phi Theta Kappa. This was Harper's largest induction class. Of these new inductees, about 90 took part in a formal induction ceremony in the Performing Arts Center.
- Dr. Alina Pajtek, Assistant Professor in ESL, demonstrated the use of corpus tools in her technology showcase presentation at the Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages – Bilingual Education (ITBE) Convention in February.
- Access & Disability Services staff, along with student leaders from the ADS Success Club, hosted a table to promote Autism Awareness. Students and staff visited the table to learn more about World Autism Awareness Day and the Autism Speaks "Light It Up Blue" campaign.
- Bob Forrest, Star of VH1's "Celebrity Rehab" had a strong impact on Harper's students, staff and community members during his visit. He spent the day learning about Harper's campus culture, spending time with students, and meeting with Shannon Lengerich, Assistant Dean and Director of Health Services and Bridget Cahill, Nurse Practitioner. His views and experiences contributed to their body of knowledge regarding alcohol and drug prevention on campus. Bob's evening presentation included two songs and a Q & A session, and he stayed after to meet with individuals who shared their personal battles with addiction.

Information Technology

- Self-service degree audit was enabled in the Student Information System (Banner). The function is now available to students who are able to view degree requirements and progress towards completion via the web.
- Preparations for opening summer and fall enrollment to students were completed, including loading the personal identification numbers (PINs) for Limited Enrollment and InZone. This provides students with early registration access.
- An externally-facing Harper College directory is now active that is available via the website and mobile app.
- Infrastructure Updates include operating system updates for a number of servers including those supporting COMPASS, Raiser's Edge, and Virtual Ticket systems. Server systems supporting credit card processing in Dining Services and Box Office were also moved to a new restricted network to provide additional data protection in support of PCI Compliance requirements (credit card security).
- During the break, the Technical Services team took advantage of the ability of classrooms to perform preventative maintenance on various technologies that are used

throughout our learning environments. Hundreds of pieces of equipment were cleaned, tested, and/or updated to ensure reliable operation.

Public Safety

- The Palatine Fire Department conducted practice drills in Buildings G and H. A number of emergency vehicles and officers were on campus for this training.

Human Resources

- The Human Resources Department received notification from the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board (IELRB) that the Illinois Council of Police (ICOP) has filed a Majority Interest Position seeking to add to their current representation the College's part-time community service officers for the purpose of collective bargaining. The current initial Majority Interest Petition is under review by the IELRB to consider subsequent amendments requested by the ICOP unit to correct erroneous information included in its initial submission. The College will meet any obligations associated with this action once it has been amended and re-filed.

Physical Plant

- Tom Crylen has been invited to present the College's Campus Master Plan to the Palatine Village Council.

Finance

- Ron Ally visited the Rio Salado Community College in Phoenix, Arizona as part of a Higher Learning Commission Accreditation site visit.

Institutional Effectiveness and Outcomes Assessment

- Harper's Institutional Outcomes Assessment Committee hosted the 3rd Annual Assessment Conference. The event was attended by over 100 faculty and staff. Lynn Priddy, Ph.D., Vice President for Accreditation Services, Higher Learning Commission presented the keynote "Staying Focused on Student Learning: Where is Higher Education Going?" The keynote was followed by breakout sessions which included topics on authentic assessment, student performance in online classes, how counseling complements general education, assessment with adjunct faculty, and concept mapping. The conference also included a share fair/poster presentation. Posters presented by Harper College faculty and staff included Assessing Student Learning in Chemistry Laboratories, Choice Scholars, Fashion Department Jury Show - Annual Assessment of Student Work by Industry Professionals, Measuring Learning Outcomes in Introductory Astronomy, Project Success and Spring Into Wellness: A Pilot Program Using S.M.A.R.T. Goals to Assess Participants' Progress.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- Several initiatives are underway to support ongoing workforce needs in advanced manufacturing. The Manufacturing Task Force made up of employers, College administration, high school partners, economic development officers, and manufacturing association personnel are meeting regularly to address workforce needs and develop an enhanced image of the industry.
- Strategic opportunities are underway with US Foods, a major food wholesaler, UPS, and Hamburger University (McDonald's Corporation).
- Professionals from CareerBuilder have been engaged to determine if a partnership could assist Harper students, graduates, and alumni with job search opportunities.

Finally, we included in the correspondence section of the Board packet the results of the election for the American Association of Community College (AACC) Board of Directors. I was honored by my colleagues to be elected as a Director. AACC is the primary professional policy and advocacy association of community colleges. I was elected to a three-year term which begins in August, 2012. I look forward to this new role.

We're heading towards the finish line! This is the most exciting time of the year.

Ken